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File: CW00082

Mr Neville Osborne  
Manager, Energy  
Infrastructure Projects  
Department of Planning and Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

15 April 2013

**Attention: Toby Philp**

Dear Mr Osborne

**Subject: Central West CMA comments on Environmental Impact Statement for Nyngan Solar Plant SSD-5355**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Nyngan Solar Plant (SSD-5355). The Central West CMA (CMA) has previously reviewed the EIS for adequacy against the stated Director General's Requirements (DGRs). In that instance the CMA, whilst determining the document adequate against the DGRs, requested further consideration of the rehabilitation of the site within the EIS.

In particular it was requested that the EIS includes:

- an outline rehabilitation of the site after the project's operational phase with the aim of increasing the environmental values of the site when compared to it's current condition
- a rehabilitation strategy that considers employment of local people in this phase of the project
- a monitoring strategy post rehabilitation to minimise the potential for future degradation

Whilst the EIS does include a short statement to the effect of the above, it still provides no detail. We note the commitment to the development of a rehabilitation plan but consider this insufficient. The CMA strongly recommends a robust and strategic rehabilitation plan be developed in partnership with relevant government agencies. This plan should refer closely to the CMA's Catchment Action Plan 2011 - 2021 (CAP) and strategies aimed at rehabilitating the site should be aligned with management goals and actions within this plan.

The CMA does note the upgrade of the EIS to refer to the current Central West CMA CAP as per our request of November 2012. The proponent can draw on the information within the CAP to

ensure rehabilitation plans and offset strategies developed for this project are consistent with whole of government natural resource management goals within the Nyngan region.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Ambler', with a horizontal line underneath.

Chris Ambler  
A/General Manager  
Central West CMA