

8 August 2017

Our ref: DOC17/79211

Mr Anthony Ko
Planning Officer
Resource & Energy Assessments
Planning Services
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001
email: anthony.ko@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Anthony

Re: Proposed Solar Farm development at Hillston

Thank you for your request to provide comment on the above proposed development. Riverina Local Land Services (Riverina LLS) has examined the documents accompanying the request and provides the following feedback.

Riverina LLS is chartered to implement the *Local Lands Act 2013* and Local Land Services Regulation 2014. It also administers the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, *Native Vegetation Act 2003* and *Biodiversity Act 2016* commencing in August 2017.

Please be advised that Kidman Way, at the location of the proposed development, is not considered a 'Stock Route' due to there being no stock watering points and Reserve areas, and there also being an active only partially fenced railway line running parallel to the roadway.

Some other general comments relating to the preliminary investigation documents are that: It was noted in Section 4 'Landholder Engagement' of the Secretary's "Environmental Assessment Requirements" that Local Land Services and the Department of Industry Lands & Forestry were not identified as stakeholders. However, it is acknowledged that Western Local Land Services has assisted with information and advice in the preparation of the preliminary assessment in order for the Development Application to be completed. It should be noted that Local Land Services and the Department of Industry Lands & Forestry have, in most developments, some degree of involvement in decisions made by the consent authority.

Based on the information provided, Riverina LLS can comment that:

- The 'baseline' for impact assessment is reasonable.
- The predictions of impact are robust (and conservative) with suitable sensitivity testing; the assessment considered how to avoid and minimise impacts.
- The proposal includes all reasonably feasible mitigation options.
- The assessed impact would be acceptable within Local Land Services policy context.

../2

Whilst consent from Riverina LLS is not required in this case, it is expected that the proponent would perform its own due diligence regarding any potential impacts on Cultural Heritage and other relevant legislation (eg. removal of native vegetation).

If you require any further information or assistance please contact Peter Beal, Team Leader (Lower District) Riverina Local Land Services on mobile 0428 968 249 or email: peter.beal@lls.nsw.gov.au .

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rob Kelly', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rob Kelly
General Manager