

19 October 2017

SWT17/00078
SF2017/122457
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The Manager
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Tim Stuckey

SSD-8540 - PROPOSED FINLEY SOLAR FARM, LOTS 133, 134 & 136 DP752299, CANALLA ROAD, FINLEY.

I refer to your correspondence regarding the subject Application which was referred to the Roads and Maritime Services for assessment and comment.

Roads and Maritime Services has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by RPS Australia for the Finley Solar project. From the information provided it is understood that the proposal is for the establishment and operation of a 170 MW solar photovoltaic (PV) plant and associated infrastructure on the subject site. The subject site has frontage and access to Canalla Road, which is classed as a local road, within a 100 km/h speed zone.

The development will comprise of a series of photovoltaic modules (up to 500,000) erected on the site producing up to approximately 430,000 MWh/year of renewable electricity. It is noted from the documentation that various options are being considered for the mounting of the panels however it is understood that each of the options have relatively comparable footprints, visual and environmental impacts. Under the various options for the panel structures the height of the modules would not exceed 4 metre above ground level.

The site does not have frontage to the Riverina Highway but will rely access via the intersection of Canalla Road with the Riverina Highway during both the construction and operational phases of the project. The Riverina Highway is an approved B-Double route whereas Canalla Road is restricted to general access vehicles (up to and including semi-trailers). As access to the site is proposed from Canalla Road any access driveway should be consistent with the requirements of Council.

It is understood that the anticipated construction period will be up to 9 months. Due to the characteristics of such a development the significant proportion of traffic generation (for both light and heavy vehicles) occurs during the construction and decommissioning stages of the development with the operational phase of the development generating limited traffic. The submitted documentation considers the heavy and light vehicle traffic generation for construction of the facility. The documentation does not finalise the preferred route for the delivery of components to the development site or the source of other products, such as the aggregate, water and sand. The submitted reports acknowledge that this development will require the preparation of an

appropriate Construction Traffic Management Plan. As the proposal relies on access via the classified and local road network this plan should be finalised in consultation with the relevant road authorities, in this case being both the Roads and Maritime Services and Council.

The submitted documentation indicates that access to the development site is proposed from Canalla Road and through its intersection with the Riverina Highway. The submitted reports acknowledge that due to the potential traffic generation, including light vehicles, as a minimum a Basic Right Turn (BAR) and Basic Left Turn (BAL) treatment is required at the intersection of the Riverina Highway and Canalla Road. The intersections of Canalla Road and Marantellis Road with the Riverina Highway form a staggered-T intersection with the Riverina Highway. Each of these intersections currently include an Auxiliary Left Turn (AUL) treatment from the Riverina Highway. These Auxiliary Left Turn (AUL) treatments in turn essentially provide a Basic Right Turn (BAR) treatment on the highway for the other road.

Currently Canalla Road is an unsealed road. To address dust generation and loose material being dragged onto the Riverina Highway particularly during the construction phase of the development Canalla Road is to be sealed for at least 50 metres from its intersection with the sealed carriageway of the Riverina Highway.

It is proposed that approximately 200 construction personnel would be required on site during the peak construction period. The submitted documentation indicates that the construction workforce is proposed to be housed within the local area including Finley, Berrigan, Tocomwal and surrounding localities. The submitted documentation refers to buses being organised to transport personnel between the development site and Finley.

The development site is remote from the Riverina Highway however the development proposes to address any perceived impact on visual amenity or glint/glare for motorists by the establishment of plantings to screen the development from view from the Riverina Highway. This is proposed to shield the facility from the most frequent and direct views from the Riverina Highway and will minimise distraction of the motorist.

Roads and Maritime is mainly concerned with the provision of safe access between the subject site and the public road network and the impact of the development on the safety and efficiency of the road network. Roads and Maritime emphasises the need, particularly during the construction phase of this development, to minimise the impacts on the existing road network. As the subject site is to be accessed via an intersection with the Riverina Highway which is located within a 100 km/h speed zone the following conditions are proposed for road safety reasons.

Roads and Maritime Services has assessed the Development Application based on the documentation provided and would raise no objection to the development proposal subject to the Consent Authority ensuring that the development is undertaken in accordance with the information submitted as amended by the inclusion of the following as conditions of consent (if approved):-

1. A Traffic Management Plan shall be prepared in consultation with the relevant road authorities (Council and Roads and Maritime Services) to outline measures to manage traffic related issues associated with the development, particularly during the construction and decommission processes. The appointed transport contractor shall be involved in the preparation of this plan. The plan shall address all light and heavy traffic generation to the development site and detail the potential impacts associated with the development, the mitigation measures to be implemented, and the procedures to monitor and ensure compliance. This plan shall address, but not necessarily be limited to the following;
 - i) Require that all vehicular access to the site be via the approved access route.
 - ii) Details of traffic routes to be used by heavy and light vehicles, and any associated impacts and any road-specific mitigation measures.
 - iii) Details of measures to be employed to ensure safety of road users and minimise potential conflict with project generated traffic,
 - iv) Proposed hours for construction activities, as night time construction presents additional traffic related issues to be considered.

- v) The management and coordination of the movement of vehicles for construction and worker related access to the site and to limit disruption to other motorists, emergency vehicles, school bus timetables and school zone operating times,
 - vi) loads, weights and lengths of haulage and construction related vehicles and the number of movements of such vehicles,
 - vii) procedures for informing the public where any road access will be restricted as a result of the project,
 - viii) any proposed precautionary measures such as signage to warn road users such as motorists about the construction activities for the project,
 - ix) a Driver Code of Conduct to address such items as; appropriate driver behaviour including adherence to all traffic regulations and speed limits, safe overtaking and maintaining appropriate distances between vehicles, etc and appropriate penalties for infringements of the Code,
 - x) details of procedures for receiving and addressing complaints from the community concerning traffic issues associated with truck movements to and from the site,
2. The Proponent must engage an appropriately qualified person to prepare a Road Dilapidation Report for all road routes to be used during the construction (and decommissioning) activities, in consultation with the relevant road authority (Roads and Maritime Services and Council). This report is to address all road related infrastructure. Reports must be prepared prior commencement of, and after completion of, construction (and decommissioning). Any damage resulting from the construction (or decommissioning) traffic, except that resulting from normal wear and tear, must be repaired at the Proponent's cost. The applicant is accountable for this process, rather than the proposed haulage contractor. Such work shall be undertaken at a time as agreed upon between the Proponent and relevant road authorities.
 3. Prior to the commencement of construction on-site, the Proponent must undertake all works to upgrade any road, its associated road reserve and any public infrastructure in that road reserve, to a standard suitable for use by heavy vehicles to meet any reasonable requirements that may be specified by the relevant roads authority. The design and specifications, and construction, of these works must be completed and certified by an appropriately qualified person to be to a standard to accommodate the traffic generating requirements of the project. On Classified Roads the geometric road design and pavement design must be to the satisfaction of the Roads and Maritime Services.
 4. As a minimum the intersection of the Riverina Highway and Canalla Road is to be constructed and the roadside maintained to the satisfaction of Roads and Maritime Services to comply with the following:
 - i) Provide for the required Sight Distance requirements for a reaction time of 2.5 seconds for the intersection of Canalla Road with the Riverina Highway in accordance with the Austroads Publications as amended by the supplements adopted by Roads and Maritime Services for the posted speed limit. Compliance with this requirement is to be certified by an appropriately qualified person prior to construction of the vehicular access.
 - ii) The construction of Canalla Road to provide for 2 travel lanes and be sealed for at least 50 metres from its intersection with the Riverina Highway. The intersection shall be designed and constructed so that vehicles turning between the Riverina Highway and Canalla Road are not required to cross to the opposing travel lane in order to perform a turn manoeuvre. The intersection shall be line marked in accordance with Australian standards.
 5. A management plan to provide measures to suppress dust generation from the development site and the transportation route shall be prepared and implemented to the satisfaction of Council and Roads and Maritime Services.
 6. Glint and glare from the solar panels shall not cause a nuisance, disturbance or hazard to the travelling public on the public road network. In the event of glint or glare from the solar plant being evident from a public road, the proponent shall immediately implement glare mitigation

measures such as construction of a barrier (e.g. fence) or other approved device to remove any nuisance, distraction and/or hazard caused as a result of glare from the solar panels.

7. Any works within the road reserve of the Riverina Highway requires approval under Section 138 of the Roads Act, 1993 from the road authority (Council) and concurrence from Roads and Maritime Services prior to commencement of any such works. The developer is responsible for all public utility adjustment/relocation works, necessitated by the development and as required by the various public utility authorities and/or their agents.
8. All works associated with the project shall be at no cost to the Roads and Maritime Services.

Under the provisions of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act the Consent Authority is responsible to consider any likely impacts on the natural or built environment. Depending on the level of environmental assessment undertaken to date and nature of the works it may be necessary for the developer to undertake further environmental assessment for any ancillary road works required as a condition on the development.

Any enquiries regarding this correspondence may be referred to the Manager, Land Use for Roads and Maritime Services (South West Region), Maurice Morgan, phone (02) 6923 6611.

Please forward a copy of the Notice of Determination for this Development Application to the Roads and Maritime Services at the same time as advising the applicant.

Yours faithfully



Per:
Mitch Judd
Acting Director
South West NSW