



Department of Primary Industries

OUT16/43059

Ms Melanie Prior
Resource Assessments
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Melanie.prior@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Prior

Goonumbra Solar Farm (SSD 7618) Comment on the Environmental Impact Statement

I refer to your email of 28 September 2016 to the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in respect to the above matter. Comment has been sought from relevant divisions of DPI. Views were also sought from NSW Department of Industry - Lands that are now a division of the broader Department and no longer within NSW DPI. Any further referrals to DPI can be sent by email to landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

DPI has reviewed the application and Environmental Impact Statement and provides the following comments and recommendations:

- There is insufficient information to support the outcome of agricultural land restoration. The proponent should incorporate strategies for returning the land to agricultural production at decommission of the project. Further detail to assist the proponent has been included at **Attachment A**.
- The proponent should prepare a Soil and Water Management Plan in consultation with DPI Water prior to commencement of activities.
- Department of Industry - Lands is currently in negotiation with Parkes Shire Council in transferring a Crown road that dissects the site to ensure that it can be maintained as an access for a rural residential property. Goonumbra Solar Farm Pty Ltd will be required, before construction, to review the situation to determine the relevant agency to apply for the easements.
- The access road across Currajong Travelling Stock Reserve will require permanent fencing to ensure safety to both travelling stock and vehicles.
- Goonumbra Solar Farm Pty Ltd would also need to review the legal route across this Reserve to ensure access to the development site. The

Department of Industry -Lands is currently in negotiation with Parkes Solar Farm regarding a potential easement benefitting this site only. For further information please contact Paul Crain, Natural Resource Management Project Officer on (02) 6391 4312.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Isaacs', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mitchell Isaacs

Director, Planning Policy & Assessment Advice

10 November 2016

DPI appreciates your help to improve our advice to you. Please complete this three minute survey about the advice we have provided to you, here:

<https://goo.gl/o8TXWz>

Attachment A

Goonumbla Solar Farm (SSD 7618) Comment on the Environmental Impact Statement Detailed comments – DPI Agriculture

DPI Agriculture suggests additional recommendations in the Decommissioning Management Plan which address final land rehabilitation.

8.9 MITIGATION MEASURES

8.9.1 Baseline Soil Agronomics

As well as undertaking agronomic characteristics of the soil resource, a complete soil survey should also be undertaken as described in the Australian Soil and Land Survey Handbook (CSIRO). Soil testing should include clay content, electrical conductivity and exchangeable cation capacity for both top and subsoils. This will assist in final soil rehabilitation and identify if any ameliorants should be incorporated at construction stage during cable laying in sodic soils to prevent tunnel erosion or final soil placement.

Suggested Condition: That a soil survey be conducted over the disturbed area that includes representative sampling and testing of the soils that make up the three soil landscapes. Gypsum be applied to all soils where cables will be laid in sodic soils (Exchangeable Sodium Percentage >6)

The condition is also relevant to 19.4.4 Soil Baseline of the Construction Environmental Management Plan.

19.6.3 DECOMMISSIONING MANAGEMENT PLAN

19.6.3.1 Objective

The objective of the DMP to restore the land capability to its pre-existing agricultural use is noted.

19.6.3.2 Technique

For the land to be used for cropping or pasture improvement purposes post decommissioning, all cables that will not be removed are to be buried at a depth >500mm.

Stated Objective: Restore the land to its pre development capability that it is capable of supporting viable agriculture and ecological land uses.

Suggested Recommendation: Complete a land capability and agricultural productivity assessment at a mapping scale of 1:10 000

Objective: Ensure soil profiles through the replacement of topsoil and subsoil post decommission are consistent with the original soil profiles.

Additional recommendations to be incorporated into this section include:

Restore soil profile functionality by appropriate placement of sub soil and top soil and eliminating compaction. Soil handling procedures should be described in the Soil Management Plan as part of the Projects Rehabilitation or Environmental Management Plan. Details may include:

- Erosion and sediment controls for soil handling works
- Soil stripping techniques
- Soil stockpiling procedures i.e. no more than a 1:2 batter for the stock pile. Maximum stockpile height of 2m

- Weed control procedures for the soil stockpiles
- Procedures for soil amendment rate determination and application (fertiliser, compost etc.) for rehabilitation
- Pasture seed species and rates for rehabilitation

Stated Objective: That the site is structurally stable, and conditions for revegetation and agricultural land use success is achieved.

Recommended condition: Through rehabilitation monitoring show that the site is structurally stable and rehabilitation has been restored to pre disturbance capability.

End Attachment A