

OUT17/46519

Mr Tim Stuckey
Resources and Energy Assessments
NSW Department of Planning and Environment

Tim.stuckey@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Stuckey

**Currawarra solar Farm Project (SSD 8437)
Comment on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

I refer to your email of 20 November 2017 to the Department of Industry in respect to the above matter. Comment has been sought from relevant branches of Crown Lands & Water and Department of Primary Industries.

Any further referrals to Department of Industry can be sent by email to landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

The department has reviewed the EIS and provides the following recommendations:

- There are Crown roads within/adjoining the site which will need to be closed and purchased or transferred to Edward River council prior to commencement of activities.
- The proponent should provide detailed information on proposed indicators to guide the return of the land on site back to agricultural production and the monitoring and mitigation proposed to be implemented to aid rehabilitation actions.
- The EIS outlines a commitment to bury cables and pipes to a depth of 500mm, this should be revised to a depth of 800mm to best allow agricultural activities to continue.
- The proponent should assess biosecurity threats to nearby properties associated with construction and operation activities.
- As the land is largely classified as Class 3 under the Land and Soil Capability Mapping for NSW, the department considers the land to be Important Agricultural Land, fulfilling the criteria of "highly suitable for important agricultural industries at a local and regional scale". The proponent should revise the assessment with reference to A Guideline to Identifying Important Agricultural Lands in NSW (2017) and acknowledging Important Agricultural Land on the site.
- The proponent should provide details of water licenses and any movement of water entitlement required for the project, including whether the proposed use of water from irrigation channels under "landowners' farm rights" is associated with an existing licensed entitlement or a water right associated with the landholding.
- The proponent should confirm agreement to access the necessary water supplies and volumes in order to eliminate water supply as a commercial risk to the project.

- The proponent should provide details about the management of existing on-site dams during the construction and operation of the project. Should any water storage dams be proposed to be decommissioned, details of the decommissioning of the storage should be provided.
- Any approval of the project should include a condition of consent requiring that the proponent prepare a Construction Environmental Management Plan in consultation with Crown Lands & Water (water.referrals@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alex King', written in a cursive style.

Alex King
A/Director, Planning Policy & Assessment Advice
20 December 2017