



Australian Government
Civil Aviation Safety Authority

AIR NAVIGATION, AIRSPACE AND AERODROMES

File Ref: F16/3626-3

11 January 2018

Ms Rose-Anne Hawkeswood
Senior Planning Officer
NSW Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Hawkeswood,

Re: Jemalong Solar Farm Project (SSD 8803)

Thank you for referring the Jemalong Solar Farm Project to CASA for review.

CASA is aware that modern solar panels are designed to absorb light, and not to reflect it. The solar farm is sufficiently distant from Forbes Aerodrome to not be of concern. The small airstrip immediately adjacent the solar farm is not subject to CASA regulation and CASA can only provide advice on potential impact.

It is possible that pilots using the private strip could be negatively impacted by the solar farm due to low level after image glare from the panels when they are rotated towards the east in early morning and also in the late afternoon when the panels are rotated towards the west. There is also the potential for turbulence to be created by convection currents created by the panels (p168 EIS) which could negatively impact aircraft operations to and from the airstrip.

Given that there are only approximately two flights per year to and from this private strip (p167 EIS) the level of risk is low and it remains the pilots responsibility to ensure that he / she is aware of the risks associated with flying near the solar farm and takes measures to reduce that risk.

CASA has no objection to the proposal on the condition that the panels are treated with an anti-reflective coating. The owners of the airstrip should also be advised of the potential risks described above so that aircraft operators using the strip can be advised of those potential risks.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Windebank'.

Matthew Windebank
Aerodrome Engineer