



OUT18/8446

Natasha Homsey
Environmental Assessment Officer
Resource & Energy Assessments
NSW Department of Planning and Environment

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Dear Ms Homsey

**Suntop Solar Farm (SSD 8696)
Response to Environmental Impact Statement Exhibition**

I refer to your email of 30 May 2018 to the Department of Industry (DoI) in respect to the above matter. Comment has been sought from relevant branches of Lands & Water and Department of Primary Industries. Any further referrals to DoI can be sent by email to landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au. The department provides the following recommendations for consideration in assessment of the proposal. Detailed comments are provided at **Attachment A**.

Recommendations - Prior to Project Approval

- The water supply sources and security be confirmed and appropriate agreements obtained where required.
- If the bore onsite (on LOT 3 DP 506925) is to be used, an assessment is requested to assess the impact of extracting the proposed volume of water on existing users and the environment and consideration of the rules in the Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Murray Darling Basin Fractured Rock Groundwater Source. The proponent will need to commit to acquiring the relevant water entitlement for the bore and link it to the site prior to its use.

Recommendations - Post Project Approval

- The proponent prepares a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) in consultation with DoI Water prior to commencement of activities.
- Impacts to ephemeral drainage lines are recommended to be managed by adequate buffers, maintenance of vegetation cover and implementation of a Sediment and Erosion Control Plan (SECP). The SECP is to be prepared in accordance with the guideline, *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction: Volume 1 (Landcom)* criteria.
- Works within waterfront land are carried out in accordance with the "[Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land \(NRAR 2018\)](#)".
- Assessment of the current agricultural productivity of the site e.g. crop yields and stocking rates over a minimum of the last 3 years.
- That the pasture species suggested for revegetation and production purposes be further assessed by local agronomic experts.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'alison collaros'.

Alison Collaros
A/Manager, Assessment Advice
Lands and Water - Strategy and Policy
02 July 2018

**Suntop Solar Farm (SSD 8696)
Comment on the Environmental Impact Statement**

Water resources

- The security and relevant approval or agreement requirements of accessing the required volume has not been specified from any water source. The security of accessing water from the farm dams in the current dry conditions needs to be considered, in addition to the potential yield from the bore.
- The bore is not currently authorised for use at the solar farm, and therefore the use of this bore will require further assessment.
- Excavations of trenches during the construction are estimated to be less than 1.2 m, while solar array posts are estimated to be less than 4 m deep. Intersection upgraded excavation depths have not been outlined, if dewatering is required, consultation with the NRAR is deemed necessary. Overall the proposal will not involve large excavations and impacts on groundwater will likely be minimal, with no predicted impacts on licensed water users.
- It appears works will be required across the second order watercourse for construction of the access road and the transmission line. The substation also appears to be within close proximity of this same watercourse. These works and use of buffers should be in accordance with the *Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land (NRAR 2018)*.

Agricultural resources

- Gaining information on the current agricultural productivity of the site would provide a baseline data set to assist in providing agricultural indicators to guide the return of land back to agricultural production for decommissioning purposes.