



Ms Rose-Anne Hawkeswood  
Planning Officer  
Resource Assessments  
Department of Planning & Environment  
23-33 Bridge Street | GPO Box 39 SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Hawkeswood

**White Rock Solar Farm Project (SSD 7487) – EIS Exhibition**

I refer to your email of 14 March 2016 requesting comments on White Rock Solar Farm Pty Ltd's (the Proponent) White Rock Solar Farm Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) currently on exhibition.

NSW Department of Industry, Division of Resources & Energy (the Division) has reviewed the *White Rock Solar Farm EIS* dated March 2016 and provides the following comments within its area of responsibility.

The proposal is located about 20 km west of Glen Innes. There are no known mineral, petroleum or extractive resources within or adjacent to the project area.

The NSW Government is committed to providing a diverse, affordable and clean energy mix for NSW.

Solar energy diversifies the energy mix and is supported under the Government's cornerstone renewable energy policy, the Renewable Energy Action Plan. Increasing solar energy in NSW will help the NSW Government meet its commitment to contribute to the national Renewable Energy Target of 33,000 gigawatt hours by 2020.

The White Rock Solar Farm is one of eight NSW solar farm projects that have been shortlisted for up to \$30 million of funding per project under the Australian Renewable Energy Agency's (ARENA) Competitive Round for Large-scale Solar PV. The Division is working with proponents to facilitate these projects in line with the Government's commitments under the Renewable Energy Action

The Division and the Renewable Energy Advocate have been working with the Proponent since mid-2015 to facilitate development of the solar farm. The Division has also been involved in facilitating the development of the White Rock Wind Farm on the same site, which is due to commence construction in April 2016.

The Division supports the White Rock Solar Farm as it aligns with Government policy to increase renewable energy generation, jobs and investment in the State. The 20 megawatt solar farm project has an estimated capital investment value of up to \$45 million and is expected to inject considerable funds into the local community of Glen Innes and support up to 50 jobs during construction. In addition, by sharing infrastructure

with the wind farm, the solar farm is expected to unlock co-location savings of over \$5 million.

Should you have any enquires regarding this matter please contact Steve Cozens, Senior Project Officer, Royalty & Advisory Services on 9842 8573.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bryan Whitlock', written over the printed name.

Bryan Whitlock

**A/Manager**

**Royalties & Advisory Services**

21/4/16