



DOC18/897077

Ms Natasha Homsey
Environmental Assessment Officer
Department of Planning and Environment
natasha.homsey@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Natasha

Maryvale Solar Farm - Exhibition of EIS

I refer to your email dated 14 November 2018 seeking comments from the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Maryvale Solar Farm Project.

OEH understands that the proposal involves the construction and operation of a commercial scale photovoltaic (PV) plant with an estimated capacity of 125 megawatts, grid connection and ancillary infrastructure, an access road and upgrade of intersections and existing roads.

OEH has reviewed the EIS and recognises the efforts of the proponent to design the development footprint to avoid remnant native vegetation and Aboriginal cultural heritage. OEH notes that the project has generated an offset requirement for the loss of 0.8 ha of derived native grassland (15 ecosystem credits), 0.4 ha of non-endemic eucalypt plantings (6 credits) and the removal of 109 paddock trees (103.25 credits). This will be acquitted by making a payment of equivalent value to the Biodiversity Conservation Fund.

OEH believes that adequate consultation with the local Aboriginal community has not occurred. OEH has a list of over 18 Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP's) that represents individuals and Aboriginal organisations that may hold Cultural Knowledge relevant to this development. The proponent has only consulted with one of these RAP's, the Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC). Within this particular Aboriginal community not all knowledge is held by the LALC members and not all knowledge holders are associated with the LALC.

OEH recommends that the proponent consult more extensively with the Aboriginal community to ensure adequate consultation has occurred and not just rely of the LALC as the only source of information. The proponent should adhere to the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) -

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/licences/consultation.htm>

Should you require further information regarding issues that are the responsibility of the OEH please contact David Geering on 02 6883 5335 or david.geering@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P. Christie', is positioned above the printed name.

PETER CHRISTIE
Director, North West
Conservation and Regional Delivery

7 December 2018

Contact officer: DAVID GEERING
6883 5335