



## NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



The Secretary  
NSW Planning & Environment  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

Your Ref: SSD 8882  
Our Ref: D17/4386  
DA17113010609 AB

**ATTENTION: Tatsiana Bandaruk**

**20 June 2018**

Dear Ms Bandaruk

**Agency Comment:- Environmental Impact Statement Public Exhibition; Orange Grove Solar Farm Project (SSD 8882) Various Lots, Orange Grove Road Gunnedah**

I refer to your correspondence dated 30 May 2018 seeking NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) advice and recommended conditions for the above State Significant Development (SSD) proposal.

The SSD application is for 110MW Solar Farm consisting of the following components:

- *installation of up to 330,000 solar photovoltaic (PV) modules in regular arrays;*
- *a network of PV solar panel arrays including supporting structures and tracker system;*
- *an internal network of electrical collection and distribution systems including electrical inverters;*
- *an internal network of communications and control cabling and systems;*
- *switchyard including electrical switching, control and monitoring equipment, electrical transformation system*
- *and operational and control room;*
- *electrical connection and communications cabling from the on-site switchyard and transformation area to the*
- *TransGrid 132 kV electrical network;*
- *a management hub, including material storage areas, demountable offices, amenities and equipment sheds;*
- *provision of land area within the development footprint for possible future energy storage and network support devices; and*

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- *fencing, access roads from adjacent public roadways, on-site parking and internal access roads.*

The subject land is not mapped bush fire prone by Gunnedah Shire Council however it is noted the land and surrounding lands may contain a grassland vegetation formation. Further the NSW RFS is the primary response agency for fighting fires within the site.

The NSW RFS has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and notes that the EIS included commitments to addressing the impacts of bush and structural fires on the facility.

As such, the NSW RFS has no objection to the proposal and provides the following recommended conditions to be included to any consent granted.

1. A Fire Management Plan (FMP) shall be prepared in consultation with NSW RFS Liverpool Plains Fire Control Centre. The FMP shall include:
  - 24 hour emergency contact details including alternative telephone contact;
  - Site infrastructure plan;
  - Fire fighting water supply plan;
  - Site access and internal road plan;
  - Construction of Asset Protection Zones (APZ) and their continued maintenance;
  - Location of hazards (Physical, Chemical and Electrical) that will affect fire fighting operations and procedures to manage identified hazards during fire fighting operations;
  - Such additional matters as required by the NSW RFS District Office (FMP review and updates).
2. The entire solar array development footprint to be managed as an Asset Protection Zone as outlined within section 4.1.3 and Appendix 5 of 'Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006' and the NSW Rural Fire Service's document 'Standards for Asset Protection Zones'.
3. A 20,000 litre water supply (tank) fitted with a 65mm storz fitting shall be located adjoining the internal property access road within the required APZ.
4. To allow for emergency service personnel to undertake property protection activities, a 10 metre defensible space (APZ) that permits a minimum 4 metre wide, unobstructed vehicle access is to be provided around the perimeter of the solar array and associated infrastructure.

For any queries regarding this correspondence please contact Alan Bawden on 1300 NSW RFS.

Yours Sincerely



John Ball

**Manager – Planning and Environment Services North**

*The RFS has made getting information easier. For general information on 'Planning for Bush Fire Protection, 2006', visit the RFS web page at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) and search under 'Planning for Bush Fire Protection, 2006'.*