



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



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

Your Ref: SSD 8658
Our Ref: D17/2574
DA18042312764 AB

ATTENTION: Natasha Homsey

15 May 2018

Dear Ms King

Agency Comment:- Environmental Impact Statement; Gunnedah Solar Farm 765 Orange Grove Road, Gunnedah (Gunnedah LGA)

I refer to your correspondence dated 20 April 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 150MW Solar Farm consisting of the following components:

- *Up to 460,000 PV panels on mounting structures;*
 - *U Electrical connections and inverter stations (where the inverters are within containers at the end of solar PV rows);*
 - *Underground cabling / collection circuits.*
- *Electrical infrastructure including:*
 - *Transmission kiosk;*
 - *A 132kV Substation;*
 - *33kV switchgear;*
 - *Ancillary works on the existing 132kV transmission line adjacent the site (Note: These would be undertaken by TransGrid and subject to separate environmental approvals to be obtained by TransGrid).*
- *An access road;*
- *Ancillary facilities and construction;*
- *Compounds;*
- *Perimeter security fencing;*
- *Two maintenance storage containers;*

Postal address

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- During the construction period, some additional temporary facilities would be located within the Site including:
 - Material laydown area;
 - Construction site offices;
 - Parking area.


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

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 Range 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

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 and search under 'Planning for Bush Fire Protection, 2006'.