

Our ref: DOC20/856792

Senders ref: SSD-8847

Lander Robinson
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Energy & Resources Division, Planning and Assessment Group
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
lander.robinson@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Lander,

Dunedoo Solar Farm

Thank you for your email dated 15 October 2020 to the Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate (BCS) requesting comments on the Dunedoo Solar Farm.

BCS has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the accompanying Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) and Flood Impact Assessment, and note that in addition to the solar farm and transmission line to Dunedoo substation, the development includes construction of a passing bay along All Weather Road and upgrade to the Castlereagh Highway and All Weather Road junction.

BCS is satisfied that the BDAR adequately assesses the impacts to biodiversity of the development in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM), noting that a total of 19 or 20 ecosystem credits (depending on the final transmission route) will be generated by the development.

The planning proposal is fully consistent with the *NSW Flood Prone Land Policy* and the principles of the *Floodplain Development Manual 2005* as well as the *Guideline on Development Controls on Low Flood Risk Areas*.

The proposed development does not change the overall inundation extent within the floodplain and so no impacts with regards to environmentally beneficial flooding are expected. Flood inundation frequency and duration will remain consistent with the existing conditions. There are minimal changes to the modelled flood velocities, which are also remote from the local watercourses. Therefore, no changes to the geomorphological regime will result from the development, such as siltation, erosion, bank stability or the resultant implications for riparian vegetation.

BCS would like to highlight that several requirements of the BAM were not met at the time of lodgement. In order to facilitate a thorough and timely assessment of a development the BAM requires the proponent to provide digital shape files for all maps and spatial data as well as plot field data. It is also a requirement of the BAM that the credit calculator be submitted at the time the BDAR is lodged. The shapefiles, field data sheets and access to the calculator were subsequently provided at the request of BSC on 19 and 20 October 2020.

Should you require further clarification on the items above please contact David Geering, Senior Conservation Planning Officer, via david.geering@environment.nsw.gov.au or 02 6883 5335.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samantha Wynn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Samantha Wynn
Senior Team Leader Planning North West
Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate

4 November 2020