



OUT21/739

Mr Javier Canon
Major Projects Assessment
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

C/- Major Projects Planning Portal

Dear Mr Canon

Stubbo Solar Farm (SSD-10452) – Request for Advice on EIS

Thank you for your correspondence dated 18 December 2020 regarding the above request.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) Agriculture is committed to the protection and growth of agricultural industries, and the land and resources upon which these industries depend.

As noted in response to SEARs for this project, the requirements have all be addressed except for the need to consider clarifying the need for the site requiring a full soil assessment. The desktop analysis and field inspection in the EIS notes the high risk of erosion already evidenced on site and the nature of the soils that show characterises that can have impacts on site stability as well as plant growth following construction.

We recognise the commitment to a soil survey in Appendix E (Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment) where a baseline soil survey will be undertaken prior to construction if the proposal is approved. We consider that undertaking a soil survey in association with a geotechnical assessment preconstruction is essential to deal with confirming construction limitations and assists to identify any potential amelioration that is required so as to ensure erosion is minimised, plant growth establishment potential is maximised etc. The information that is gained out of this work can be used for final rehabilitation as part of the decommissioning work that will assist in recovering land to its original land and soil capability or better.

Should you require clarification on any of the information contained in this response, please contact me Mary Kovac, Agricultural Land Use Planning Officer, on phone number 68811250 or mobile 0427949987 or by email at landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Kovac'.

Mary Kovac
Agricultural Land Use Planning Officer
Central West and Orana
27 January 2021