



OUT21/3534

Ms May Patterson
Major Projects Assessment
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

C/- Major Projects Planning Portal

Dear Ms Patterson

Oxley Solar Farm EIS (SSD-10346) – Request for Advice on EIS

Thank you for your correspondence dated 10 March 2021 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.

The EIS has addressed DPI Agriculture's environmental assessment requirements outlined in the SEARs for this project.

Improved Rehabilitation Standards:

DPI Agriculture notes that full rehabilitation of the site is not proposed in the EIS as any cabling more than 500mm underground may be left in place. It is preferable that full rehabilitation of the land, including removal of buried infrastructure be undertaken on decommissioning of the development so as not to impede future agricultural practices. Some solar developments have committed to removing all below ground cabling irrespective of depth ensuring that the cost for rehabilitation to remove buried infrastructure is not passed onto future landowners. DPI Agriculture supports this approach.

Where full rehabilitation is not possible due to the risk of environmental degradation or there are no innovative installation solutions, buried infrastructure that is planned to remain should be installed with consideration of DPI Agriculture's Primefact: *Infrastructure proposals on rural land* and in consultation with the land holder.

Should you require any further information, please contact Andrew Scott, Agricultural Land Use Planning Officer on 0427 245 313 or by email at andrew.scott@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

19 March 2021

Paul Garnett
Acting Manager Agricultural Land Use Planning