



OUT20/1824

Rob Beckett  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
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Dear Mr Beckett

**Culcairn Solar farm (SSD10288) – Greater Hume Shire**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Culcairn Solar farm proposal. DPI Agriculture (DPI) is charged with building stronger primary industries, one component of our work focuses on enhancing the productive and sustainable use of NSW's agricultural resources.

In general DPI does not raise concerns with this proposal, noting its contribution to the Governments target of net zero emissions by 2050. In assessing this proposal we ask that DPIE Planning and Assessments consider the impacts to the cropping industries vertical supply chain. Secondary industries have not been addressed in detail in the economic impact report and impacts on critical mass can result in a complete failure of that industry in region.

In relation to DPI's comments during the SEAR's process it is noted that a land use conflict risk assessment and soil survey have been completed.

It is understood that the subdivision of this land is required to enable the lease of the land for solar purposes. DPI does not object to this provided the lots created do not increase the number of dwelling opportunities on the subject land. If further dwelling opportunities are created it is requested a condition of consent require consolidation of the subject allotments during the decommissioning phase.

In relation to the decommissioning, it is requested full removal of underground infrastructure be required, either as a condition of consent or, by amendment to the decommissioning plan. This was originally committed to in the scoping report, and is required noting in the EIS that the subject land is deep ripped to support cropping. Leaving infrastructure below 500mm below ground will impede this use resuming.

In relation to the strategic grazing program during the operation of the farm; this is supported by DPI and has been undertaken successfully on a number of solar farms across the State.

Should you require clarification on the information contained in this response, or the above assistance, please contact Lilian Parker on 02 69381906.

Yours sincerely

**Kate Lorimer- Ward**  
**Deputy Director General, Agriculture**