



OUT19/16117

Ms Tatsiana Bandaruk
Planning and Assessment Group
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

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Dear Ms Bandaruk

Bonshaw Solar Farm (SSD-9438) (Inverell Shire)

I refer to the above matter that was distributed to the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) for comment on 30 October 2019.

DPI has reviewed the proposal and has the following comments and advice.

All infrastructure on the Bonshaw Solar Farm, including all below ground cabling, must be removed at the end of the project. This position is not reflected in the Bonshaw Solar Farm Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and should be included as a condition of consent if approved.

There is no specific detail about the type of piers for the solar panel mounting structures. The type of piers significantly impacts the land, large concrete footings disturb and displace the soil profile and are significantly harder to rehabilitate, while driven or screw piers will have less disturbance. In the absence of detail DPI advises that as a condition of consent that all piers are to be completely removed on completion of the project and the soil profile be returned to its original sequence so as to minimise loss of future agricultural production post development.

The EIS does not stipulate what type of panel technology are going to be used. If Dual-Glass (Option 2) is used there is no investigation into the long term impacts to agricultural production rates and rehabilitation from the "ground condition improvement for better reflection purposes (i.e. White sand)".

Generally, DPI notes the lack of certainty around the infrastructure design and advises the consent authority to consider confirming a design and specifying the responsible entity for rehabilitation before approval is considered.

For more information on this advice please contact Andrew Scott on 0427 245 313.

The construction of permanent or temporary access tracks or underground cables through watercourses should be in accordance with the 'Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation and Management (Update 2013)' document. This is to ensure that the works are designed and constructed in accordance with best management practice and with minimal impact on the aquatic environment. Please refer to:

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/habitat/publications/pubs/fish-habitat-conservation

For more information on this advice please contact David Ward on 02 6763 1255.

Yours sincerely



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