



Environmental Management Strategy

New England Solar Farm – Stage 1 2x200MW AC

Document Reference No. NESF1-SMEC-EN-00GRL-PLN-001
Prepared for Green Light Contractors Pty Ltd – Elecnor Group S.A.
28 January 2021

Document Control

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Document: | Environmental Management Strategy |
| File Location: | \\aubnfsv006.sjgroup.local\Power\$\Projects\30018016 - New England SF Design\080 RSE\083 Environment\002 EMS |
| Project Name: | New England Solar Farm – Stage 1 2x200MW AC |
| Project Number: | 30018016 |
| Revision Number: | 4 |

Revision History

| Revision No. | Date | Revision Description | Prepared by | Reviewed by | Approved for Issue by |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 0 | 10 September 2020 | For Client Review | Morgan Sejournee | Jessica Miller | Mark Davey |
| 1 | 20 October 2020 | For Client Review | Morgan Sejournee | Jessica Miller | Mark Davey |
| 2 | 29 October 2020 | Final Issue | Morgan Sejournee | Mark Davey | Mark Davey |
| 3 | 25 January 2021 | Update with client and DPIE comments | Jessica Miller | Jessica Miller | Mark Davey |
| 4 | 28 January 2021 | Final with client and DPIE comments | Jessica Miller | Mark Davey | Mark Davey |

Issue Register

| Distribution List | Date Issued | Number of Copies |
|--|-----------------|------------------|
| Green Light Contractors Pty Ltd – Elecnor Group S.A. | 28 January 2021 | 1 |

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1 Introduction

1.1 Approved Project

The New England Solar Farm (NESF) was granted Development Consent from the Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment (DPIE) on 9 March 2020 (SSD 9255). The approved General Layout is shown in Figure 1-1 below.

1.1.1 General project description

The New England Solar Farm is a 720 megawatts (MW) and 200 MW/400 MW-hour (MWh) of battery storage, located approximately 6 kilometres (km) east of the township of Uralla, which lies approximately 19 km south of Armidale in the Uralla Shire local government area (LGA) (the Project). Construction of the Project is anticipated to take approximately 36-40 months, from the commencement of site establishment works to commissioning of both arrays. The Project will be constructed in two stages, with Stage 2 estimated to commence approximately 12-14 months after the commencement of the site establishment works planned as part of Stage 1. The two stages include:

- Stage 1 (approximately 24 months) - construction of the northern array area including the solar array substation and the grid substation
- Stage 2 (approximately 24 months) - construction of the central array area including the solar array substation, and the construction of the battery energy storage system (BESS).

It is expected that Stage 1 construction will commence in Q1 2021, preceded by a few months of early works. The exact timing of each stage, the commencement of Stage 1, the commencement of Stage 2, and the subsequent duration of the overlap between the two stages is still being finalised. Similarly, the overall duration of the Project's construction will be confirmed once the preferred engineering, procurement and construction contractor is selected and the detailed construction schedule is confirmed. The timeframes are conservative and indicative only at this time.

Unless approval has been obtained from the Secretary, construction, upgrading and decommissioning activities on site can only be undertaken between the following hours:

- 7 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday
- 8 am to 1 pm Saturdays
- at no time on Sundays and NSW public holidays.

Key components of the NESF development are summarised in Table 1-1 and Figure 1-1.

Table 1-1 Key components of the NESF

| Aspect | Description |
|----------------------|--|
| NESF project summary | <p>The NESF project includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A generating capacity of approximately 720 (MW), including about 400 MW generated by the northern arrays and 320 MW from the central arrays • Approximately 1.4 million single-axis tracking solar panels (up to 4.3 metres (m) high) and 150 power conversion units (PCU) (up to 2.7 m high) • A grid substation in the northern array area and connection to TransGrid's 330 kilovolt (kV) transmission line • An internal substation in the central array area at one of two locations • A lithium-ion battery storage facility (200 MW/400 MWh) located adjacent to one or both of the substations and within a number of small enclosures (up to 2.9 m high) or larger battery buildings (up to 5.5 m high) • A train unloading area, internal access tracks, staff amenities, maintenance buildings (up to 8 m high), offices, laydown areas, car parking and security fencing; and • Subdivision of land within the site for the grid substation. |

| Aspect | Description |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Project area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site: 3,362 hectares (ha) • Total NESF footprint: 2,061 ha <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Northern array footprint: 1,394 ha — Central array footprint: 624 ha — Electrical cabling and site access corridors: 43 ha. |
| Access route | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All vehicles will access the site via the New England Highway, Barleyfields Road (north of Big Ridge Road). |
| Site entry and road upgrades | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two new site entry points will be constructed on Big Ridge Road with a rural property access type. • Upgrades to the intersection of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The New England Highway and Barleyfields Road, including a Channelised Right Turn (CHR) treatment (pending relevant authority approvals). — Barleyfields Road and Big Ridge Road, including a Basic Left Turn (BAL) treatment. • Upgrades to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Barleyfields Road between the New England Highway and Big Ridge Road, including sealing to a width of 7.2 m and 1 m gravel shoulders — Big Ridge Road including sealing sections to a width of 7.2 m and 1 m gravel shoulders, and upgrading a section with a gravel surface to a width of 8.7 m. |
| Rail transport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction materials may be transported to the site via a combination of road and rail (average of 2 trains per week) • A train unloading area and materials storage area may be constructed adjacent to the Main Northern Railway. Materials will be stored in shipping containers (up to 2.9 m high) until required on-site. |
| Construction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction materials may be transported to the site via a combination of road and rail (average of 2 trains per week) • Construction hours limited to Monday to Friday 7 am to 6 pm, and Saturday 8 am to 1 pm. |
| Operation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The expected operational life of the NESF is approximately 30 years. However, the NESF may involve infrastructure upgrades that could extend the operational life. |
| Decommissioning and rehabilitation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NESF also includes decommissioning at the end of the NESF project life, which will involve removing all infrastructure. |
| Hours of operation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily operations and maintenance will be undertaken Monday to Friday 7 am to 6 pm, and Saturday 8 am to 1 pm. |
| Subdivision | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subdivision of the lots on which the approved grid substation will be located. |
| Employment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 700 construction jobs and up to 15 full-time operational jobs. |
| Capital investment value | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$768 million. |

1.2 Applicant

UPC\AC Renewables Australia Pty Ltd (UPC\AC Renewables) is the NESF Applicant.

1.3 EPC Contractor

Green Light Contractors Pty Ltd (GLC) is the Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractor engaged by UPC\AC Renewables to construct the NESF on 25 September 2020.

1.4 Strategy Function

This Environmental Management Strategy (EMS) has been prepared to satisfy a Condition of Development Consent SSD 9255. Specifically, Condition 4.1 requires:

1. *Prior to commencing the development, the Applicant must prepare an Environmental Management Strategy for the development to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This strategy must:*
 - (a) *provide the strategic framework for environmental management of the development*
 - (b) *identify the statutory approvals that apply to the development*
 - (c) *describe the role, responsibility, authority and accountability of all key personnel involved in the environmental management of the development*
 - (d) *describe the procedures that would be implemented to:*
 - *keep the local community and relevant agencies informed about the operation and environmental performance of the development*
 - *receive, handle, respond to, and record complaints*
 - *resolve any disputes that may arise*
 - *respond to any non-compliance*
 - *respond to emergencies; and*
 - (e) *include:*
 - *references to any plans approved under the conditions of this consent; and*
 - *a clear plan depicting all the monitoring to be carried out in relation to the development*

Following the Secretary's approval, the Applicant must implement the Environmental Management Strategy.

The Development Consent defines 'construction' as:

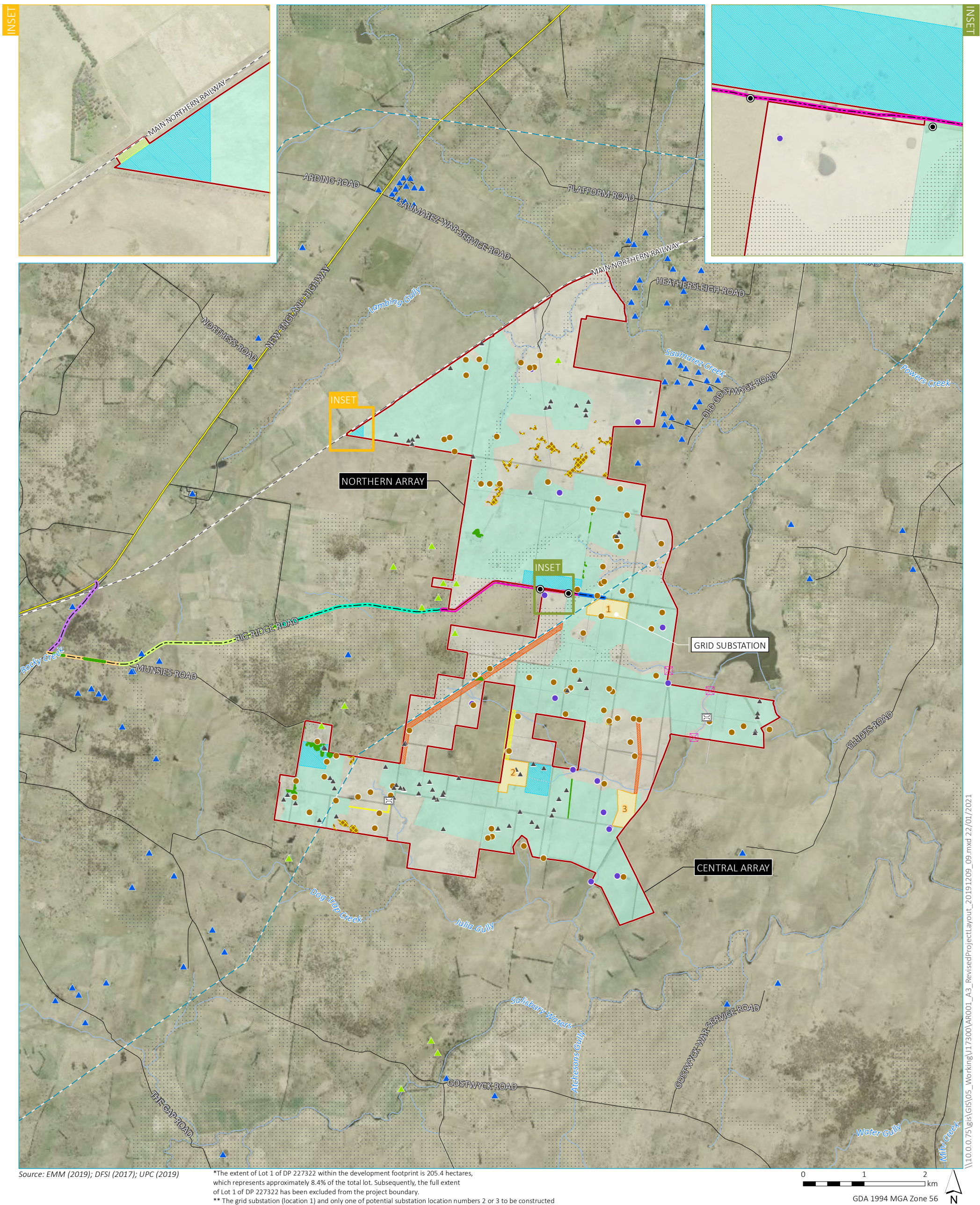
The construction of the development, including but not limited to the carrying out of any earthworks on site and the construction of solar panels and any ancillary infrastructure (but excludes road upgrades or maintenance works to the public road network, building/road dilapidation surveys, installation of fencing, artefact survey and/or salvage, overhead line safety marking and geotechnical drilling and/or surveying).

The Development Consent defines 'operation' as:

The operation of the development, but does not include commissioning, trials of equipment or the use of temporary facilities.

The operation of the NESF in this EMS is taken to mean when NESF is generating electricity into the grid.

The approved works which are specified as being excluded from the Development Consent definition of construction are not included when reference is made to 'construction' within the Development Consent (i.e., the 'excluded early works'). However, for the purposes of reading this EMS, all references to the NESF or the construction and or development of the NESF also encompasses a reference to these excluded early works, unless stated otherwise.



KEY

- Main road
- Local road
- Project boundary *
- Sensitive receptors
 - Project-related
 - Non-project related

- Development footprint
 - Solar array
 - Potential electrical cabling
 - Potential site access/electrical cabling
 - Potential laydown area/site compound
 - Potential substation/BESS footprint (location number) **
 - Hardstand in rail corridor
 - Potential creek crossing
 - Proposed primary site access point
 - Indicative location of security fencing across third order watercourses

- Identified Aboriginal sites
- Historic heritage sites
- Paddock trees requiring offsets
- Plant community requiring offset
- Plant community type avoidance areas
- PCT 510 woodland

- Primary vehicle access route
 - Barleyfields Road
 - Big Ridge Road - segment 1
 - Big Ridge Road - segment 2
 - Big Ridge Road - segment 3
 - Big Ridge Road - segment 4
 - Big Ridge Road - segment 5

Figure 1-1 Approved Layout
(Development Consent 9255)

New England Solar Farm

1.5 Structure

Table 1-2 summarises how the structure and scope of this EMS has been prepared so as to be consistent with the conditions of Development Consent SSD 9255. This cross referencing is to assist with future review, auditing and compliance management of the NESF.

Table 1-2 EMS Structure

| Section | Content |
|---------|---|
| 2 | Provides the strategic framework for the environmental management of the NESF. |
| 3 | Identifies the statutory approvals that apply to the NESF. |
| 4 | Identifies the role, responsibility, authority and accountability of all key personnel involved in the environmental management of the NESF. |
| 5 | Describes the procedures that will be implemented to keep the local community and relevant agencies informed about the operation and environmental performance of the NESF. |
| 6 | Specifies the procedures that will be implemented to receive, handle, respond to and record complaints. |
| 7 | Describes the procedures that will be implemented to resolve any disputes that may arise. |
| 8 | Describes the procedures that will be implemented to respond to any non-compliance. |
| 9 | Describes the notification procedures that will be implemented in the event of an incident. |
| 10 | Describes how and when the Emergency Response Plan will be prepared so that there are procedures to respond to emergencies. |
| 11 | Explains the program for the conduct and reporting of monitoring to be carried out in relation to the NESF. |

1.6 Strategy Revision

GLC and UPCVAC Renewables will update this EMS and associated plan to the satisfaction of the Secretary prior to carrying out any upgrade or decommissioning activities at the site.

This EMS and associated plans will also be reviewed and, if necessary revised within one month of:

- An incident report being reporting to DPIE (refer to Section 9 below)
- Any modification to the existing Development Consent.

Any changes to the management plans will be approved by the Secretary, before implementing those changes, and in consultation with relevant agencies.

2 Strategic Framework

2.1 Environmental Strategy

A strategy is a plan of action designed to achieve an overall aim. GLC and UPC\AC Renewables' aim is to design, construct, operate, upgrade and decommission the NESF in full compliance with Development Consent SSD 9255.

Condition 2.2 states:

The Applicant must carry out the development:

- (a) generally in accordance with the EIS; and*
- (b) in accordance with the conditions of this consent.*

Note: The general layout of the development is shown in Appendix 1 (this is also shown in Figure 1-1 within Section 1.3 of this EMS).

In the context above, Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) includes the Mitigation Measures (MM) made in the

- *New England Solar Farm – EIS* (EMM, February 2019)
- *New England Solar Farm – Submissions Report* (EMM, June 2019)
- *New England Solar Farm – Amendment Report* (EMM, June 2019)
- *New England Solar Farm – Additional Information* (EMM, October 2019)
- *New England Solar Farm – Additional Information* (EMM, December 2019).

The EMS objective is to therefore comply with all Conditions of the Development Consent and MM.

Table 11-3 within Section 11.3 below sets out in further detail the various environmental plans and strategies required by either the Development Consent or the MMs identified in the Response to Submissions (EMM, June 2019), all of which sit under the ultimate direction of this EMS.

As the NESF Applicant, it is UPC\AC Renewables' ultimate responsibility to ensure the NESF is designed, built, operated, upgraded and decommissioned according to the Development Consent. UPC\AC Renewables Australia's Environmental Policy (refer to Appendix A) sets out commitments to:

- *Comply with environmental laws and regulations in all work locations as an absolute minimum* (refer to Section 3 of this EMS, and the *Construction Environmental Management Plan New England Solar Farm – Stage 1 2x200MW AC* (SMEC, 2020) which sits under this overall EMS)
- *Understand and manage potential environmental risks at all work locations* (refer to Sections 4.5, 9.4, Error! Reference source not found. and the *Construction Environmental Management Plan New England Solar Farm – Stage 1 2x200MW AC* (SMEC, 2020) which sits under this overall EMS)
- *Contribute to the overall health and resiliency of ecosystems in all work locations* (refer to the *Biodiversity Management Plan New England Solar Farm – Stage 1 2x200MW AC* (SMEC, 2020) which sits under this overall EMS)
- *Participate in integrated approaches to land use planning* (the Project will be undertaken as per Development Consent SSD 9255)
- *Identify and implement opportunities for efficient energy and water usage* (refer to erosion and sediment controls as per the *Soil and Water Management Plan New England Solar Farm – Stage 1 2x200MW AC* (SMEC, 2020))
- *Identify and implement opportunities for waste avoidance and minimisation* (refer to the *Waste Management Plan New England Solar Farm – Stage 1 2x200MW AC* (SMEC, 2020) which sits under this overall EMS)
- *Report annually to all stakeholders on our environmental activities* (refer to Section 5.2).

Green Light has its own Environmental Policy (refer to Appendix B) which will assist it in ensuring these policy measures of the Applicant are met during the Project. The mechanism for achieving this is for a clear delineation of contractually enforced responsibilities between the Applicant (UPC\AC Renewables) and the EPC Contractor (GLC). Figure 2-1 below shows how the EMS sits within the overall relationships between the relevant parties.

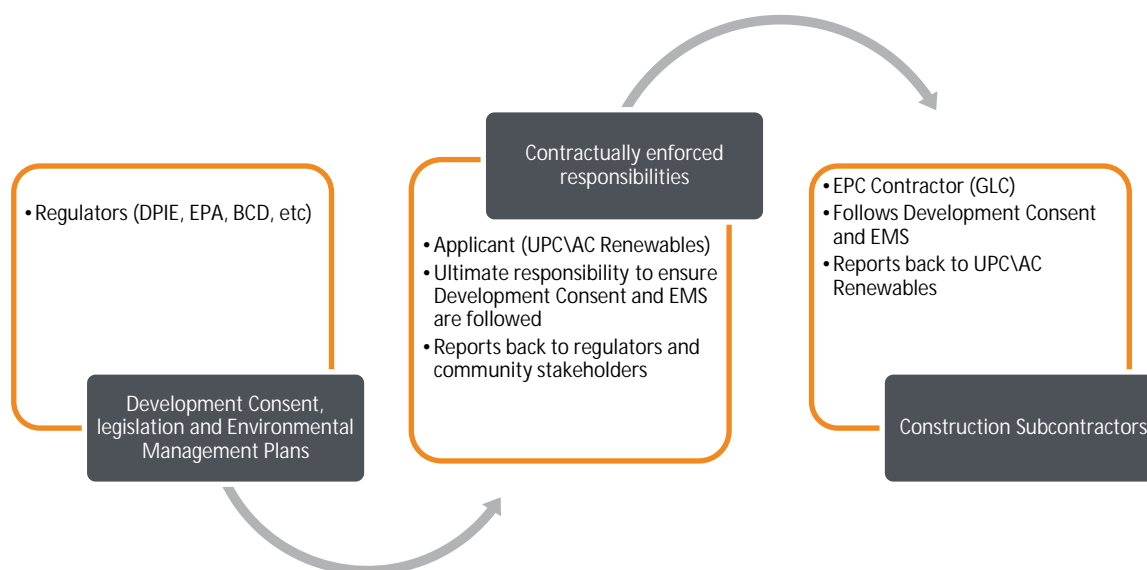


Figure 2-1 EMS Structure

2.2 Plan of Action

The plan of action is to identify all Conditions of the Development Consent and MM that require an environmental deliverable and ensure that these are prepared at the appropriate stage of the NESF, prepared in consultation with relevant stakeholders, permitted under the requisite approvals, then diligently implemented.

The mechanism for achieving this is for a clear delineation of contractually enforced responsibilities between the Applicant (UPC\AC Renewables) and the EPC Contractor (GLC) and to identify key environmental hold-points that must be achieved (e.g., approved management plans, obtaining any necessary licences, permits etc.) before the NESF can be built, operated, upgraded and decommissioned.

Table 2-1 below provides a summary of these key hold points. It provides a full and complete listing of all plans/actions that must be prepared and/or undertaken throughout the life of the NESF. It includes clarification of what third party consultation and/or approval is required in the preparation and sign-off on these plans, and is based on compliance with the Conditions of Development Consent and MM.

These hold points provide the framework and reference for checks that obligations (within the Development Consent) and commitments (MM) are known and acted upon.

Table 2-1 Environmental Hold Points

| Plan | Reference | Compliance Requirement | Actions to Implement |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Prior to Construction | | | |
| Obligation to minimise harm to the environment | Development Consent Condition 2.1 | <p>In meeting the specific environmental performance criteria established under this consent, the Applicant must implement all reasonable and feasible measures to prevent and/or minimise any material harm to the environment that may result from the construction, operation, upgrading or decommissioning of the development.</p> <p>Note: "Material harm" is harm that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> involves actual or potential harm to the health or safety of human beings or to ecosystems that is not trivial; or results in actual or potential loss or property damage of an amount, or amounts in aggregate, exceeding \$10,000 (such loss includes the reasonable costs and expenses that would be incurred in taking all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent, mitigate or make good harm to the environment). <p>Note: "Incident" is a set of circumstances that causes or threatens to cause material harm to the environment.</p> | As per the actions identified within this EMS and its sub-plans (refer to Table 11-3 within Section 11.3 below), including the <i>Construction Environmental Management Plan New England Solar Farm – Stage 1 2x200MW AC</i> (GFW, 2020). |
| Structural Adequacy | Development Consent Condition 2.6 | <p>The Applicant must ensure that all new buildings and structures, and any alterations or additions to existing buildings and structures, are constructed in accordance with the relevant requirements of the <i>Building Code of Australia</i></p> <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Under Part 6 of the EP&A Act, the Applicant is required to obtain construction and occupation certificates for the development</i> <p><i>Part 8 of the EP&A Regulation sets out the requirements of the certificate of the development.</i></p> | Ensure appropriate Construction Certificates and Operation Certificates are obtained at each development stage. |

| Plan | Reference | Compliance Requirement | Actions to Implement |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Demolition | Development Consent Condition 2.7 | The Applicant must ensure that all demolition work on site is carried out in accordance with Australian Standard AS 2601-2001.' The Demolition of Structures, or its latest version. | Ensure relevant demolition standard is set out within any demolition subcontractor's work specifications. |
| Protection of public infrastructure | Development Consent Condition 2.8 | Unless the Applicant and the applicable authority agree otherwise, the Applicant must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) repair, or pay the full costs associated with repairing, any public infrastructure that is damaged by the development, and (b) relocate, or pay the full costs associated with relocating, any public infrastructure that needs to be relocated as a result of the development. | Ensure the dilapidation survey captures the status of the public roads prior to development and that the corrective measures are in place after the construction. |
| Operation of plant equipment | Development Consent Condition 2.9 | The Applicant must ensure that all plant and equipment used on site, or in connection with the development, is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) maintained in a proper and efficient condition; and (b) operated in a proper and efficient manner. | Ensure plant and equipment are maintained and operated in a proper and efficient manner, and ensure staff, contractors and workers are suitably trained regarding these requirements. |
| Subdivision Plan | Development Consent Condition 2.10 | The Applicant may subdivide the site to create new allotments for the proposed substation, in accordance with the layout approved in Schedule 4 - Condition 5, and with the requirements of the EP&A Act and EP&A Regulation, and generally in accordance with the figure in Appendix 3 [of the Conditions of Consent]. Prior to subdividing the site, the Applicant must prepare and submit detailed subdivision plans to the Secretary for approval. Under Part 6 of the EP&A Act, the Applicant is required to obtain a subdivision certificate for a plan of subdivision. Division 4 of Part 8 of the EP&A Regulation sets out the application requirements for subdivision certificates | Applicant to prepare Plans of Subdivision and obtain Subdivision Certificate. |
| Access Route | Development Consent Condition 3.3 | All vehicles associated with the development must travel to and from the site via the New England Highway, Barleyfields Road, Big Ridge Road and the two site access points off Big Ridge Road, as identified in the figure in Appendix 4 of the SSD9255 approval. | These matters are contained within the <i>Traffic Management Plan New England Solar Farm</i> (SMEC, 2020). |

| Plan | Reference | Compliance Requirement | Actions to Implement |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| | | Note: The Applicant is required to obtain relevant permits under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (NSW) for the use of over-dimensional vehicles on the road network. | |
| Road Upgrades and Site Access | Development Consent Condition 3.4 | Prior to commencing construction, the Applicant must implement the road upgrades identified in Appendix 4 of SSD 9925 approval. These upgrades must be carried out to the satisfaction of the relevant roads authority, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise. | Applicant to implement required road upgrades to the satisfaction of the roads authority/s (i.e. Council and/or TfNSW). Applicant to ensure Council and/or TfNSW is satisfied with these upgrades. |
| Traffic Management Plan | Development Consent Condition 3.6 | <p>Prior to commencing the development, the Applicant must prepare a Traffic Management Plan for the development in consultation with RMS and Council, and to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This plan must include:</p> <p>(a) details of the transport route to be used for all development-related traffic,</p> <p>(b) a protocol for undertaking independent dilapidation surveys to assess the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> existing condition of Barleyfields Road and Big Ridge Road on the access route, prior to construction, upgrading or decommissioning activities, and condition of Barleyfields Road and Big Ridge Road on the access route, following construction, upgrading or decommissioning activities, <p>(c) a protocol for the repair of Barleyfields Road and Big Ridge Road on the access route, if dilapidation surveys identify these roads to be damaged during construction, upgrading or decommissioning works, (d) details of the road works required by condition 4 of Schedule 3 to this consent,</p> <p>(e) a protocol for the maintenance of segments 4 and 5 of Big Ridge Road required by condition 5(f) of Schedule 3 to this consent,</p> | These matters are contained within the <i>Traffic Management Plan New England Solar Farm</i> (SMEC, 2020). |

| Plan | Reference | Compliance Requirement | Actions to Implement |
|------|-----------|--|----------------------|
| | | <p>(f) details of the measures that would be implemented to minimise traffic impacts during construction, upgrading or decommissioning works, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • temporary traffic controls, including detours and Signage, • notifying the local community about project-related traffic impacts, • procedures for receiving and addressing complaints from the community about development-related traffic, • minimising potential for conflict with school buses, other motorists, road users and rail services as far as practicable, implement measures to minimise dirt tracked onto the public road network from development- • related traffic, details of the employee shuttle bus service and measures to encourage employee use of this service, scheduling of haulage vehicle movements to minimise convoy length or platoons, responding to local climate conditions that may affect road safety such as fog, dust, wet weather and flooding, • responding to any emergency repair or maintenance requirements, and • a traffic management system for managing over-dimensional vehicles, <p>(g) a driver's code of conduct that addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • travelling speeds, • driver fatigue, • procedures to ensure that drivers adhere to the designated transport routes, and • procedures to ensure that drivers implement safe driving practices, including consideration of other road users, and | |

| Plan | Reference | Compliance Requirement | Actions to Implement |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| | | (h) a program to ensure drivers working on the development receive suitable training on the code of conduct and any other relevant obligations under the Traffic Management Plan. Following the Secretary's approval, the Applicant must implement the Traffic Management Plan. | |
| Final Layout Plans | Development Consent Condition 4.5 | Prior to commencing construction, the Applicant must submit detailed plans of the final layout of the development to the Secretary, including details on the siting of solar panels and ancillary infrastructure, via the Major Projects website. | Submit detailed plans of final layout of the development. |
| Construction Environmental Management Plan | MM | Preparation of a Construction Environmental Management Plan, inclusive of a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A specific creek crossing sub-plan • Historic Heritage Management Plan • Implementation of ESC measures in accordance with Landcom (2004). • Construction Noise Management Plan | <i>Construction Environmental Management Plan New England Solar Farm – Stage 1 2x200MW AC</i> (SMEC, 2020) has been prepared for the Project, and sits under this overall EMS. |
| Within 3 months of commencing construction | | | |
| Independent audit | Development Consent Condition 4.9 | The Applicant must commission and pay the full cost of Independent Environmental Audits of the development. The audits must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be prepared in accordance with the relevant <i>Independent Audit Post Approval</i> requirements (DPE 218) • Be led and conducted by a suitably qualified, experienced and independent team of experts whose appointment has been endorsed by the Secretary • Be prepared, unless otherwise agreed with the Secretary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Within three months of commencing construction | Undertake Independent Environmental Audit once endorsed to do so by the Secretary of DPIE and as per these Conditions of Consent and implement any resulting recommendations. Retain copies of relevant audit documentation and related consultation with regulators. |

| Plan | Reference | Compliance Requirement | Actions to Implement |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Within three months of commencement of operations ○ As directed by the Secretary • Be carried out in consultation with the relevant agencies • Assess whether the development complies with the relevant requirements in this consent, and any strategy, plan or program required under this consent • Recommend appropriate measures or actions to improve the environmental performance of the development and any strategy, plan or program required under this consent. <p>Within 3 months of commencing an Independent Environmental Audit, or unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary, a copy of the audit report must be submitted to the Secretary, and any other NSW agency that requests it, together with a response to any recommendations contained in the audit report, and timetable for the implementation of the recommendations.</p> <p>The recommendations of the Independent Environment Audit must be implemented to the satisfaction of the Secretary.</p> | |
| Prior to Operation | | | |
| Upgrading of solar panels and ancillary infrastructure | Development Consent Condition 2.5 | Over time, the Applicant may upgrade the solar panels and ancillary infrastructure on site provided these upgrades remain within the approved development footprint of the site. Prior to carrying out any such upgrades, the Applicant must provide revised layout plans and project details of the development to the Secretary incorporating the proposed upgrades. | Retain evidence of having submitted revised layout plans and project details of the development to the Secretary via the Major Projects website. |
| Work as Executed Plans | Development Consent Condition 4.6 | Prior to commencing operations, or following the upgrades of any solar panels or ancillary infrastructure, the Applicant must submit work as executed plans of the development to the Secretary. | Retain evidence of having submitted work as executed plans to the Secretary via the Major Projects website. |

3 Statutory Approvals

Statutory approvals include licences, permits, consents and/or authorisations that are required, pursuant to legislative obligations, prior to undertaking specific activities. Approvals relevant to the NESF are listed below in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1 Statutory approvals

| Approval | Act | Comment |
|--|--|---|
| Section 4.38 | <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> | Development Consent SSD 9255 was granted by DPIE on 9 March 2020 (refer to Appendix C). |
| Section 68 Approvals | <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> | UPC\AC Renewables would require approvals under Section 68 of the Local Government Act 1993 to connect to Uralla Shire Council's water and sewerage networks. |
| Construction and Occupation Certificates | <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> | UPC\AC Renewables is required to obtain a Construction Certificate prior to developing the NESF (including prior to commencing the 'excluded early works'). UPC\AC Renewables is also required to obtain an Occupation Certificate prior to commencing the operation of the NESF. |
| Section 99 Exemption during Total Fire Ban | <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> | If proposed, prior to conducting any Hot Works during a Total Fire Ban period, an exemption must be obtained from the Commissioner of the NSW Rural Fire Service. |
| Section 45 of Notice Proposal | <i>Electricity Supply Act 1995</i> | Work carried out by a network operator and comprising the erection, installation, extension or alteration of electricity works on any land is exempt from the requirement for an approval under the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> , except in relation to buildings. However, no such work (other than routine repairs or maintenance work) may be carried out unless: notice of the proposal to carry out the work has been given to the local council, and the local council has been given a reasonable opportunity (being not less than 40 days from the date on which the notice was given) to make submissions to the network operator in relation to the proposal, and the network operator has given due consideration to any submissions so made. |
| Access Route | <i>Heavy Vehicle (Adoption of National Law) Act 2013</i> | All vehicles associated with the development must travel to and from the site via the New England Highway, Barleyfields Road, Big Ridge Road and the two site access points off Big Ridge Road, as identified in the figure in Appendix 4 of the SSD9255 approval. Note: The Applicant is required to obtain relevant permits under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (NSW) for the use of over-dimensional vehicles on the road network. |
| Section 138 Certificate (Work on Public Lands) | <i>Roads Act 1993</i> | UPC\AC Renewables will be required to lodge a Section 138 Certificate (Work on Public Lands) for approval before any future road work for the intersection improvement is carried out. |
| Section 34 Road Closure Permit | | UPC\AC Renewables will be required to lodge and finalise any outstanding Road Closure permits for Crown Lands roads within the site (noting that these are managed under the <i>Roads Act 1993</i> as a form of public road). |

| Approval | Act | Comment |
|--|--|---|
| Lease Agreements | <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> | Each of the Lease Agreements with the project landholders contains reference to the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> and requires the solar farm operator to develop site-specific biosecurity measures to control biosecurity risk during the term of the lease. |
| Water Access Licence | <i>Water Sharing Plan for the Macleay Unregulated and Alluvial Water Source 2016</i> | Where water is to be taken from an offsite surface water system and brought to site to be used for construction activities/process water, a Water Access Licence may be required to be obtained from the Natural Resources Regulator under the <i>Water Sharing Plan for the Macleay Unregulated and Alluvial Water Source 2016</i> |
| Water Access Licence | <i>Water Sharing Plan for the North Coast Fractured and Porous Rock Groundwater Sources 2016</i> | Where water is to be taken from an offsite groundwater system and brought to site to be used for construction activities/process water, a Water Access Licence may be required to be obtained from the Natural Resources Regulator under the <i>Water Sharing Plan for the North Coast Fractured and Porous Rock Groundwater Sources 2016</i> |
| Section 92 Water Supply Work Approval and Water Use Approval | <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> | Where a new bore is constructed to access groundwater to support the NESF, a Water Supply Work Approval is required. Where existing onsite water is proposed to be used for a purpose such as irrigation, a Water Use Approval is required: https://www.waternsw.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/129996/Application-for-a-water-supply-works-and-or-water-use-approval.pdf . |
| Section 6.27 Retirement of Biodiversity Credits | <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> | As per Condition 3.10 of the Development Consent, UPC\AC Renewables must retire biodiversity credits as specified in the Development Consent, to the satisfaction of BCD, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise, and in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme. However, it is noted that the quantum and mechanism for retiring ecosystem credits is now different to those identified in Condition 3.10. UPC\AC Renewables must nevertheless consult with DPIE and the BCD to bring about the appropriate biodiversity credit regime for the NESF. |

4 Environmental Management

4.1 Requirement

This Section 4 of the EMS identifies the roles, responsibility, authority and accountability of all key personnel involved in the environmental management of the NESF.

Table 4-1 summarises the roles and responsibilities of key parties, which are further detailed within Sections 4.2-4.4 below.

Table 4-1 Roles and responsibilities of key personnel

| Role | Responsibility | Accountable to |
|---|---|-------------------|
| UPC\AC Renewables' Project Manager | Ensure NESF is designed, built, operated, upgraded and decommissioned according to Development Consent SSD 9255. | UPC\AC Renewables |
| GLC's Project Manager | Engineering, Procurement and Construction Contractor with the responsibility to design, procure, build and commission the NESF for UPC\AC Renewables. | UPC\AC Renewables |
| GLC's Community Liaison Officer | Recording and actioning of complaints during construction. | GLC |
| Parties TBC – not yet engaged on the NESF project | Responsible for operating, upgrading and decommissioning the NESF. Will assume relevant responsibilities and accountability to either operate, upgrade or decommission the NESF in compliance with the existing Development Consent (refer to Appendix C). Will be specified and incorporated into the Operations Environmental Management Plan and Decommissioning Management Plan prior to the NESF either being operated, upgraded or decommissioned. | UPC\AC Renewables |

4.2 Development Applicant

4.2.1 Ultimate Responsibility

UPC\AC Renewables is the NESF Applicant and as such has ultimate responsibility and accountability to ensure that the NESF is designed, built, operated, upgraded and decommissioned in accordance with the Development Consent.

UPC\AC Renewables' Project Manager has full authority to ensure these obligations are met.

A copy of UPC\AC Renewables' Environmental Policy is provided in Appendix A.

4.2.2 Website

UPC\AC Renewables also has responsibility to provide up to date information on the NESF on its dedicated website (refer to Section 5.3 below):

<https://www.newenglandsolarfarm.com.au/>

4.3 GLC

GLC is the Engineering, Procurement and Construction Contractor with the responsibility to design, procure, build and commission the NESF for UPC\AC Renewables.

GLC's contractual obligations do not extend to the operation, upgrading or decommissioning of the NESF. The contractual requirements do, however, extend to the design and construction of the NESF in compliance with UPC\AC Renewables' Development Consent. This responsibility extends to all employees and/or sub-contractors engaged by Green Light to build the NESF.

GLC's Project Manager has full authority to ensure these obligations are met.

A copy of GLC's Environmental Policy is provided in Appendix B.

4.4 Future Responsibilities

The entities that will have responsibilities to operate, upgrade and decommission the NESF are yet to be engaged by UPC\AC Renewables.

Notwithstanding, those entities will assume relevant responsibilities and accountability to either operate, upgrade or decommission the NESF in compliance with the existing Development Consent (refer to Appendix C).

These responsibilities will be specified and incorporated into the Operations Environmental Management Plan and Decommissioning Management Plan prior to the NESF either being operated, upgraded or decommissioned.

4.5 Training, awareness and competence

To ensure that this EMS is effectively implemented, each level of management is responsible for ensuring that all personnel reporting to them are aware of the requirements of this strategy. The Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Manager will coordinate the environmental training in conjunction with other training and development activities (e.g. safety).

4.5.1 Environmental induction

Prior to working on site all personnel and sub-contractors will undertake an online site-specific induction covering environmental aspects. This is done to ensure all personnel involved in the Project are aware of the requirements of the EMS, and to ensure the implementation of environmental management measures.

Short-term visitors to site for purposes such as deliveries will be required to be accompanied by inducted personnel at all times.

The HSE Manager will conduct the environmental component of the site inductions. The environmental induction will address a range of issues including, but not limited to:

- Purpose and objectives of EMS.
- Requirements of due diligence and duty of care.
- Roles and responsibilities.
- Typical project environmental hazards and risks, including:
 - No go and exclusion zones
 - Location of sensitive environmental areas
 - Community sensitivities
- Environmental emergency and incident procedures and locations of emergency spill kits.
- Management and reporting process for environmental incidents.

A record of all environment inductions will be maintained and kept on-site.

The HSE Manager is a member of the GLC team and will review and approve the induction program and monitor implementation.

4.5.2 Toolbox talks, training and awareness

Toolbox talks will be one method used to raise awareness and educate personnel on issues related to environmental risks. Discussion of environmental issues will be a standard agenda item on all toolbox talks.

From time to time, specific topics will be selected for more detailed discussion. Toolbox talks will be prepared and delivered by the HSE Manager (or delegate). A register of toolbox talks will be kept on site and maintained by the HSE.

Typical environmental topics discussed at toolbox talks include:

- Vegetation clearing and protection
- Erosion and sedimentation management
- Noise, vibration, and air quality management
- Management of identified heritage items
- Emergency procedures.

4.5.3 Environmental awareness training

In addition to inductions and toolbox talks, select employees and sub-contractors may be provided with additional environmental awareness training. Formal qualifications for specialist staff may be required in relation to activities such as animal handling and the design of erosion and sedimentation control plans.

Targeted environmental awareness training will be provided to individuals or groups of workers with a specific authority or responsibility for environmental management or those undertaking an activity with a high risk of environmental impact.

This training may be delivered by external providers or by the HSE Manager. Daily pre-start meetings will occur during construction. The pre-start meeting is a tool for informing the workforce of the day's activities. Safe work practices, environmental protection practices, work area restrictions, activities that may affect the works, coordination with other trades, hazards and other information that may be relevant to the day's work are discussed.

Any potential non-compliance, notifiable incident or other matter which comes to light during the construction of the Project would be advised to staff at the next pre-start meeting. This could include information which comes to light as a result of a community complaint.

The Site Managers or their delegates will conduct a daily pre-start meeting with the site workforce before the commencement of work each day (or shift) or where changes occur during a shift. Daily pre-start meetings are generally succinct and take approximately 10-15 minutes.

The environmental component of pre-starts will be determined by relevant foreman and environmental personnel and will include any environmental issues that could potentially be impacted by, or impact on, the day's activities. All attendees will be required to sign on to the pre-start and acknowledge their understanding of the issues explained.

5 Communication

5.1 Internal communication

Clear lines of communication through all levels and functions (e.g. management, staff and sub-contractors), is key to minimise environmental impacts and achieving continual improvements in environmental performance.

5.1.1 Daily onsite communication

The HSE will meet daily as part of Project construction meetings to discuss any issues with environmental management onsite, any amendments to plans that may be required or any new/changes to construction activities.

5.1.2 Monthly environmental inspections

Monthly environmental inspections will be undertaken with the HSE and relevant Project staff. The purpose of these inspections is to communicate internally ongoing environmental performance and to identify any issues to be addressed. Compliance Reports are to be provided on the NESF website (refer to Section 5.3 below).

5.1.3 Monthly project review meetings

Monthly Project review meetings will be attended by UPC\AC Renewables, Green Light Contractors and any other significant parties. The meetings will discuss the progress of the Project and will review significant environmental risks. Stakeholders and the broader community would be made aware of relevant project progress discussed at these meetings via the methods identified in Section 5.2 below, as relevant.

5.2 Access to Information

As the first point of call, UPC\AC Renewables will keep the local community and relevant agencies informed about the operation and environmental performance of the NESF by providing up to date information on the NESF on its dedicated website: <https://www.newenglandsolarfarm.com.au/>.

Specifically, the following information will be made available on this project website:

- The EIS
- The final layout plans for the development (Schedule 4 Condition 5)
- Current statutory approvals for the development
- Approved strategies, plans or programs required under the conditions of this consent
- The proposed staging plans for the development if the construction, operation or decommissioning of the development is to be staged
- How complaints about the development can be made
- A complaints register
- Compliance reports
- Any independent environmental audit, and the Applicant's response to the recommendations in any audit
- Any other matter required by the Secretary.

This information will also be kept up to date.

Table 5-1 below sets out further engagement options for various types of external stakeholders which will be utilised in order to keep the broader community informed.

Table 5-1 Engagement delivery method for each stakeholder group

| Engagement Tools and Techniques | Requirements | Stakeholder Applicability ¹ |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Website | Provide plans and locations of the Project, Project milestones, high level work program with identified roads, community infrastructure to be affected. Provide contract details for information and feedback. | Tiers 1, 2 and 3 |
| Facebook Page @newenglandsolarfarm | Immediate forum to receive feedback, outline milestones, planned works. | Tiers 1, 2 and 3 |

| Engagement Tools and Techniques | Requirements | Stakeholder Applicability ¹ |
|---|---|--|
| Council Website | Provide information on road impacts, link to Project website, Project milestones. Advertise community events being supported. CSBI grants – opening dates and those awarded | Tiers 1, 2 and 3 |
| Community Advisory Group | May include representatives from Uralla Shire Council, local business owners, Project and adjoining landholder. This Group may provide UPC and GLC with a means to communicate the timing of upcoming construction activities, provide local businesses with advance notice of resource needs and allow the businesses to plan for material needs variation in demand. It could also provide community representatives with a forum for voicing concerns. | Tier 1 |
| Community Engagement Database Management | Identifies and records engagements with all stakeholders | Tiers 1, 2 and 3 |
| UPC Email Address info@newenglandsolarfarm.com.au | Continue to make available to receive feedback/ complaints | Tiers 1, 2 and 3 |
| Website Feedback | Continue to make available to receive feedback/ complaints | Tiers 1, 2 and 3 |
| Mailing list – email/mail | Provide regular updates via information sheet | Tier 1 |
| Complaints Register and management | Internal register to record and manage complaints received | Tier 1 |
| UPC Shopfront/Office drop-in centre Uralla | Project updates, general information, Project location, clean energy, where energy will be used, receive feedback one on one, community presence | Tiers 1, 2 and 3 |
| Phone calls/emails | As required, and proactively when new work areas will be commenced. A direct method that UPC and GLC can provide Project information and address outstanding issues from the previous meeting. | Tier 1 |
| One on one consultation | One on one / face to face meetings can be used to address stakeholder specific matters/concerns about the Project. | Tier 1 |
| Media Releases | To allow information to be easily and quickly transmitted to a wider audience. To increase interest and awareness in the Project | Tiers 1, 2 and 3 |
| Advertisements – local paper | Supporting community events and support, Project milestones | Tier 2 |
| Flyers and other Informative content, Project Newsletters | Milestones, scheduled work program, community supported events | Tiers 1 and 2 |
| CSBI Reference group | CSBI Reference group informed of Project milestones, encourages support through local representatives | Tier 2 |
| Site visits for interested groups e.g. councils, landholders, consultative committee. Special interest groups | Firsthand visibility of the Project development, progress | Tiers 1 and 2 |
| Participation in local events | Community support and development, community presence | Tiers 1 and 2 |

¹ Tier 1 Stakeholders refers to project landholders, adjoining landholders, Uralla Shire Council, local businesses, Community Advisory Group, and Members of Parliament

Tier 2 Stakeholders refers to Armidale Regional Council, Walcha Shire Council, Tamworth Regional Council, Uralla Wordsworth, Armidale News, Armidale Express, Radio -Armidale- ABC New England North West, Armidale community radio 2ARM, Local television stations – Nine NBN (NBN News North West) ABC, Southern Cross 10, PRIME7 News North West, NSW Regional Clean Energy Team Leader, Clean Energy Council, NSW Renewable Energy Advocate, CSBI and CSBI Reference Group, Uralla Shire Business Chamber, Zero Net Energy Town (ZNet), Regional Development Australia Northern Inland (RDANI), Interested members of the local community (Uralla, Walcha, Armidale), Office of the Renewable Energy

Regulator, Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), TransGrid, DPIE, EPA, Transport for NSW, Northern Tablelands Local Land Services (LLS), NSW Fire and Rescue, NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS)

Tier 3 Stakeholders refers to local businesses potentially impacted as a partner or to deliver (e.g. hotels, accommodation, food outlets), Print/online media (SMH, Herald Sun, Australian), Radio, Television stations (captured by local media), Armidale Business Chamber, NSW Farmers Association, Residents and businesses of nearby towns e.g. Armidale, Walcha, University of New England (UNE), CSIRO, and Mining/mineral exploration license holders.

At significant timeframes in the Project's development, the following initiatives will be considered:

- Media releases should be prepared for each significant Project milestone
- Notices in local papers should be used for all roadwork information
- Site visits should be coordinated after significant Project milestones have been reached
- Letterbox drops, emails and phone calls should be undertaken prior to work commencing on the site, to the relevant landholders
- The website and complaints register should be updated monthly.

At regular intervals throughout the Project, a review of the following will be undertaken:

- Website - Complaints Register, schedule of activities, contact numbers, email and postal addresses
- Complaints management procedure – to be implemented as per the EMS
- Facebook, contact numbers, email addresses
- Mailing list for stakeholders
- Community Advisory Group function and members.

5.3 Website

The NESF website will make the following information publicly available as relevant to the stage of the NESF:

- EIS
- Final layout plans for the NESF
- Current statutory approvals for the NESF
- Proposed staging plans for the construction, operation or decommissioning (if relevant)
- How complaints about the NESF can be made
- A complaints register
- Compliance reports
- Any other matter required by the Secretary.

6 Complaints Management

6.1 Scope

This Section 6 describes the procedures that will be implemented to receive, handle, respond to and record complaints.

6.2 Means of Making a Complaint

Prior to the commencement of the development, GLC will ensure that the following contact details are available for the community to make a complaint or send an enquiry:

- A 24 hour telephone number
- A postal address to which written complaints may be sent (this would be confirmed prior to commencement)
- An email address to which electronic complaints may be transmitted (the dedicated email address info@newenglandsolarfarm.com has been set aside).

These details will be provided on the NESF website by UPC\AC Renewables. They would also be published in a local newspaper and displayed on a project sign outside of the site in a publicly accessible location.

6.3 How any Complaint will be Handled

6.3.1 Construction

Any complaint received will be immediately logged in a Complaints Register.

As soon as is practicable GLC will investigate the cause of the complaint and identify actions required to avoid a recurrence. Regardless of the circumstance, this initial response will be completed within 24 hours of receiving the complaint.

If so requested when the complaint was received, Green Light will also contact the complainant to discuss the issue, the cause and advise them of the actions taken to avoid a recurrence and any applicable timeframes to resolving the complaint.

This investigation and contact will be fully documented on a Complaint Record maintained by Green Light and the Complaints Register will be updated on an ongoing basis. Each month, the updated Complaints Register will be provided to UPC\AC Renewables for uploading onto the Project website.

The recording and actioning of complaints is the responsibility of GLC's Community Liaison Officer.

Should a complaint lead to the identification of a notifiable incident or other non-compliance, the notification measures outlined in Sections 8.4 and 9.3 would be followed, as relevant.

Any potential non-compliance, notifiable incident or other matter which comes to light during the construction of the Project would be advised to staff at the next pre-start meeting. This could include information which comes to light as a result of a community complaint.

6.3.2 Operation

Any complaint received will be immediately logged in a Complaints Register.

As soon as is practicable, the NESF Operations Manager will investigate the cause of the complaint and identify actions required to avoid a recurrence. Regardless of circumstance, this initial response will be completed with 24 hours of receiving the complaint.

If so requested when the complaint was received, the Operations Manager will also contact the complainant to discuss the cause and advise them of the actions taken to avoid a recurrence.

This investigation and contact will be fully documented on a Complaint Record maintained by the NESF Operations Manager and the Complaints Register will be updated and uploaded by UPC\AC Renewables onto its website.

The entities that will have responsibilities to operate, upgrade and decommission the NESF are yet to be engaged by UPC\AC Renewables. The personnel responsible for recording and actioning complaints received during these project stages will be confirmed at a later date.

Should a complaint lead to the identification of a notifiable incident or other non-compliance, the notification measures outlined in Sections 8.4 and 9.3 would be followed, as relevant.

Any potential non-compliance, notifiable incident or other matter which comes to light during the construction of the Project would be advised to staff at the next pre-start meeting. This could include information which comes to light as a result of a community complaint.

6.4 Recording Complaints

Any and every complaint will be documented through maintaining an up to date Complaints Register (cross referenced against a Complaint Record).

6.4.1 Complaints Register

The Complaints Register will record:

- A complaint reference number
- The date and time the complaint was received
- Whether the complainant wanted to be contacted
- Nature of the complaint
- Status of the resolution of the complaint.

For the life of the NESF the Complaints Register will be updated on a weekly basis and listed on the NESF website.

As the Complaints Register will be a publicly available document, it is not proposed to include details of who the complainant is on this register.

6.4.2 Complaints Record

The Complaints Record will record:

- The date and time of the complaint
- The means by which the complaint was made (telephone, mail or email)
- Any personal details of the complainant that were provided, or if no details were provided a note to that effect
- The nature of the complaint
- Any actions taken in relation to the complaint, including timeframes for implementing the action
- If no action was undertaken in relation to the complaint, the reasons why no action was taken
- If the complainant wanted to be contacted, and if so, whether the action taken was considered acceptable to the complainant.

A copy of every Complaints Record will be filed and held on-site and, on request, be provided to:

- DPIE
- Environment Protection Authority (EPA)
- Uralla Shire Council
- The complainant.

As the Complaints Record will contain information on who made the complaint, it is not proposed to make this information publicly available on the NESF website. As soon as is practicable GLC will investigate the cause of the complaint and identify actions required to avoid a recurrence. Regardless of the circumstance, this initial response will be completed with 24 hours of receiving the complaint. If so requested when the complaint was received, Green Light will also contact the complainant to discuss the issue, the cause and advise them of the actions taken to avoid a recurrence and any applicable timeframes to resolving the complaint.

This investigation and contact will be fully documented on a Complaint Record maintained by Green Light and the Complaints Register will be updated on an ongoing basis. Each month, the updated Complaints Register will be provided to UPC\AC Renewables for uploading onto the Project website.

7 Dispute Resolution

7.1 Commitment

In the first instance, complaint investigations would be internally reviewed, and measures implemented to avoid recurrence of issues in the event of a dispute. Where disputes still cannot be resolved, GLC (during construction) and UPC\AC Renewables (during operations) propose the following:

- Advise both DPIE and Uralla Shire Council that there is a dispute
- Provide both DPIE and Uralla Shire Council with copies of the relevant complaint history, including relevant documentation in the form of Complaints Record(s)
- Engage a specialist with expertise relevant to the issue at hand to investigate the dispute and provide recommendations for resolution
- Advise the third party in dispute, DPIE and Uralla Shire Council, in writing, as to when the dispute investigation will be completed
- Provide the third party, DPIE and Uralla Shire Council a copy of the dispute investigation report, which will include Green Lights/UPC Constructions' intentions with regards to the implementation of the recommendations for resolution.

The timeframes for resolving disputes will vary depending on the nature of the dispute, whether further monitoring is required (e.g. in the case of noise or vibration complaints), whether disputes are influenced by seasonal and meteorological matters, the nature of input received from external regulators, and the possibility of legal action being taken.

However, a 24 hour telephone number is dedicated for the making and receiving of complaints. GLC will also investigate the cause of the complaint and identify actions required to avoid a recurrence as soon as is practicable. Regardless of the circumstance, this initial response will be completed with 24 hours of receiving the complaint.

8 Non-Compliance

8.1 Commitment

A failure to comply with a Condition of Development Consent, MMs or statutory approval will constitute a non-compliance.

8.2 Response

In the event of a non-compliance, GLC (during construction) and UPC\AC Renewables (during operations) will undertake the five steps as outlined within Table 8-1 below, consistent with the guidance advice for ISO 14001 – Environmental management systems.

Table 8-1 Non-compliance Response

| Step | Action |
|----------|--|
| React | <p>React to the non-compliance and, as applicable:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Act to control and correct it 2. Notify and communicate to relevant parties where required (as per Sections 8.4 and 9.3, as relevant. 3. Deal with the consequences, including mitigating adverse environmental impacts. |
| Evaluate | <p>Evaluate the need for action to eliminate the cause of the non-compliance in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reviewing the non-compliances 2. Determining the cause of the non-compliances 3. Determining if similar non-compliances exist or could potentially occur. |
| Act | Implement any action required. |
| Review | Review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken. |
| Change | Make changes to the environmental management plans, if necessary |

8.3 Corrective Action

Any non-compliance will trigger a Corrective Action appropriate to the significance of the effect of the non-compliance. Green Light (during construction) and UPC\AC Renewables (during operations) will retain documented information as evidence of the nature of the non-compliance and any subsequent actions taken, and the results of the Corrective Action.

8.4 Notification

Consistent with Condition 4.4. of the Development Consent, DPIE will be notified in writing via the Major Projects website portal within seven days after GLC/UPC\AC Renewables becomes aware of any non-compliance.

The notification will:

- Identify the development (i.e. as NESF) and the application number (SSD 9255)
- Set out the Condition/s of Development Consent that the NESF is non-compliant with
- The way in which it does not comply
- The reasons for non-compliance (if known)
- What actions have been done, or will be, undertaken to address the non-compliance.

DPIE will also be given prior, written notification via the Major Projects website portal of the date of commencement or cessation of any project phase, including construction, operations, upgrading, decommissioning or cessation of operations, consistent with Condition 4.4. Where any project phase is to be undertaken in stages, DPIE will be given prior written notification identifying the development that would be carried out during the relevant stage.

DPIE can also be contacted via compliance@planning.nsw.gov.au.

9 Incident Management

9.1 Material Harm

The Development Consent defines an incident as:

An occurrence or set of circumstances that causes or threatens to cause material harm.

The Development Consent defines material harm as harm that:

involves actual or potential harm to the health or safety of human beings or to ecosystems that is not trivial; or

results in actual or potential loss of property damage of an amount, or amounts in aggregate, exceeding \$10,000 (such loss includes the reasonable costs and expenses that would be incurred in taking all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent, mitigate or make good harm to the environment).

This definition of 'material harm' is consistent with the definition in Section 147 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* and the associated legal obligations to notify the EPA where a 'pollution' incident occurs such that material harm to the environment is caused or threatened.

9.2 Immediate Response

Any incident that occurs that causes or threatens to cause material harm will be reported immediately to GLC's Construction Manager (during construction)/UPC/AC Renewables' Operation's Manager (during operations).

Upon receiving notification of an incident, the Construction Manager/Operations Manager (or their nominee if off-site at the time of the incident) will immediately attend the incident and:

- Isolate the area affected by the incident
- Stop works around the area
- Implement containment measures to prevent the impact of the incident spreading
- Decide as to whether the incident has caused or threatens to cause material harm.

9.3 External Notifications

9.3.1 Duty to Report

If the Construction Manager/Operations Manager (or their nominee if off-site at the time of the incident) has determined the incident has caused or threatens to cause material harm, he/she will, pursuant to requirements under Section 148 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* immediately notify the EPA, the NSW Ministry of Health, Fire and Rescue NSW and SafeWork NSW by verbal means.

These authorities will be notified (verbally) and provided the following relevant information:

- The time, date, nature, duration and location of the incident
- The location of the place where pollution is occurring or is likely to occur
- The nature, the estimated quantity or volume and the concentration of any pollutants involved, if known
- The circumstances in which the incident occurred (including the cause of the incident, if known)
- The action taken or proposed to be taken to deal with the incident and any resulting pollution or threatened pollution, if known.

The EPA may direct GLC/UPC/AC Renewables to notify such other persons of the incident as the EPA requires.

9.3.2 Notifications

Following EPA notification immediately after becoming aware of an incident, GLC/UPC/AC Renewables will then immediately notify DPIE in writing. Consistent with Condition 4.3 of the Development Consent, notification to DPIE will be in writing via the Major Projects website portal, including the following information:

- Identify the development (i.e. the NESF) and the application number (SSD 9255)

- Set out the location and nature of the incident.

Uralla Shire Council would then be notified verbally of the incident.

The DPIE written notification will be undertaken immediately after the EPA, NSW Ministry of Health, Fire and Rescue NSW and SafeWork NSW have been notified by verbal means, as there is an overriding legislative requirement to notify those parties, immediately.

This initial notification to DPIE and Uralla Shire Council will be for information purposes alone and GLC /UPC/AC Renewables will continue to concentrate on responding to any instruction or request from the EPA in the first instance.

9.4 Incident Investigation

9.4.1 Avoid Recurrence

Corrective actions arising out of incident reports or investigation reports are to be recorded ensuring assignment of relevant responsible party and timeframes for completion. Timeframes shall be based on level of severity. Investigations will be conducted by the HSE Manager or their delegate, and an elected incident investigation team in conjunction with relevant HSRs where the incident is considered to be sufficiently complex so as to require these additional resources. Where possible, investigations shall be completed within 48 hours of the incident occurring.

Investigations involving a level of complexity and requiring additional resources to carry out shall apply the ICAM (Incident Cause Analysis Method). All ICAM investigations shall be performed by a multidisciplinary team and shall be led by a trained and qualified ICAM Lead Investigator.

Where there is a potential consequence of an incident that is deemed to a level of "Major" (as per the Corporate Risk Consequence Table) or above, an Incident Cause Analysis Method (ICAM) level investigation shall be conducted. This will also apply to any other investigation that it is deemed necessary to be conducted as a more thorough process.

The GLC HSE Manager or their delegate shall appoint the ICAM Lead Investigator as appropriate (including themselves). The ICAM Lead Investigator will be independent from the work area where the incident took place.

A member of GLC Management Team will be assigned to the investigation team (as champion), preferably the project Manager. The ICAM Investigation process shall be started immediately on determination of classification.

Investigation reports shall be recorded using the Investigation Report Form. Depending on the nature of the investigation, responsibility for reviewing the report and actioning specific deliverables shall fall to the GLC project Manager.

Consultation processes for any Incident or emergency shall be in place and communicated to the project workforce with HSRs playing a role in formulating the consultation processes.

Corrective actions arising out of incident reports or investigation reports are to be recorded ensuring assignment of relevant responsible party and timeframes for completion. Timeframes shall be based on level of severity. In addition, corrective actions are to include a review and revision of the relevant project Risk Assessment, Risk Assessments, SWMS and JSEAs.

The HSE Manager or their delegate is responsible for keeping all incident data and information and for the production and distribution of health and safety performance reports, including monthly analysis of incident information and trending data. Contractors will provide HSE Monthly Reports on safety statistics and incident information.

9.4.2 Restoration

The other purpose of the incident investigation will be to define the appropriate remediation work required in order to address any bio-physical impact of the incident. The appropriate remediation work (if required) will be determined by the specific circumstances of the incident.

9.5 Incident Reporting

9.5.1 Documentation

Any environmental incident will be recorded on an Environmental Incident Report and an updated Environmental Incidents Register will be maintained. This will include near miss incidents, which are unplanned incidents which had the potential to cause harm to the environmental, personal or property. Each Environmental Incident Report will include details on:

- The date, time and duration of the incident
- Clarify whether there was material harm to the environment
- Detail the nature of the incident
- Climatic conditions
- The location of the incident
- Pollutants involved
- Circumstances in which the incident occurred
- Corrective action taken
- External notification, where applicable.

9.5.2 Dissemination

For an incident in which material harm has or could have resulted and the EPA, WorkSafe NSW, NSW Ministry of Health, Fire and Rescue and DPIE have been notified, the HSE Manager will provide reporting to these entities as may be instructed, in accordance with the timeframes that may be so specified by them.

10 Emergency Response

10.1 Requirement

The Development Consent requires that an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) and Fire Safety Study be prepared in consultation with the Rural Fire Service and Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) prior to commencement of operations.

Table 10-1 below provides a guide to the *Fire and Emergency Response Plan New England Solar Farm – Stage 1 2x200MW AC* (GFW, 2020) (FERP), indicating which specific Emergency Response Procedure (ERP) should be followed in the event of various specific hazards and risks eventuating during the Project. The FERP has been prepared according to the requirements of the Development Consent and the MMs (refer to Table 11-3 within Section 11.3 below).

Table 11-3 below identifies the various environmental plans and strategies required by either the Development Consent or the MMs identified in the Response to Submissions (EMM, June 2019).

Relevant ERPs will be reviewed following the associated training exercise, following the review of an emergency and prior to the development of Stage 2 of the NESF.

Table 10-1 List of emergency response procedures developed for the NESF within the Fire and Emergency Response Plan

| ERP | Section | ERP Number |
|--|--------------------------|------------|
| Building/structure collapse | Section 5.1 of the FERP | ERP 1 |
| Bushfire/grassfire | Section 5.2 of the FERP | ERP 2 |
| Earthquake | Section 5.3 of the FERP | ERP 3 |
| Electrocution | Section 5.4 of the FERP | ERP 4 |
| Explosion | Section 5.5 of the FERP | ERP 5 |
| Extreme temperature/heatwave | Section 5.6 of the FERP | ERP 6 |
| Fire - industrial | Section 5.7 of the FERP | ERP 7 |
| Fire - building | Section 5.8 of the FERP | ERP 8 |
| Fire - smoke | Section 5.9 of the FERP | ERP 9 |
| Flood | Section 5.10 of the FERP | ERP 10 |
| Hazardous substance spill | Section 5.11 of the FERP | ERP 11 |
| LPG leak/Boiling Liquid Expanding Vapour Explosion event | Section 5.12 of the FERP | ERP 12 |
| Personal injury/medical emergency | Section 5.13 of the FERP | ERP 13 |
| Powerline down or vehicle contact | Section 5.14 of the FERP | ERP 14 |
| Severe storm event/lightning | Section 5.15 of the FERP | ERP 15 |
| Site evacuation | Section 5.16 of the FERP | ERP 16 |
| Snake bite | Section 5.17 of the FERP | ERP 17 |
| Trench/excavation collapse | Section 5.18 of the FERP | ERP 18 |
| Vehicle incident | Section 5.19 of the FERP | ERP 19 |

11 Performance Monitoring

11.1 Environmental monitoring and reporting

CoC Condition 1 of Schedule 4 requires that the Environmental Management strategy must:

e) include:

- » *clear plan depicting all the monitoring to be carried out in relation to the development.*

A plan depicting all the monitoring and reporting obligations to be carried out in relation to NESF is provided below (Table 11-2), along with the monitoring and reporting obligations identified in both the CoC and MM along with how these obligations will be met within the EMS.

The objective of the monitoring and reporting will be to validate the impacts predicted for NESF, to measure the effectiveness of environmental controls and implementation of this EMS, and to address specific requirements.

GLC/UPCVAC Renewables will respond in a timely manner to any requests in relation to monitoring or effectiveness of environmental controls and their implementation raised by NSW Government Agencies.

A suite of monitoring will be undertaken for the NESF. This will include:

- Monitoring designed to ensure compliance with the Development Consent and the commitments made in this EMS
- Monitoring designed to ensure that on-ground MMs, procedures and work practices that will be detailed in specific environmental plans are not only being implemented but are effective in achieving requisite environmental outcomes.

Table 11-1 below summarises the monitoring commitments which have been made regarding the Project at the time of preparing this EMS, as per the sub-plans set out in Table 11-3 within Section 11.3 below. Some of the relevant management plans have not been finalised and as such the construction monitoring actions are indicative only.

Table 11-1 Construction monitoring

| Monitoring schedule | Action |
|--|--|
| Attended Noise Monitoring for Construction | |
| During first month of construction | Complete one round of operator-attended 15 minute noise monitoring on separate days at site boundaries and closest residences Carry out equipment noise level checks on all critical items of plant and issue Equipment Noise Certificates |
| During subsequent months of construction period | Carry out equipment noise level checks on any new (untested) items of critical plant and issue Equipment Noise Certificates |
| Biodiversity Monitoring | |
| Regularly as required during clearing activities | Visual inspection of clearance activity to ensure clearing impacts to native PCTs are avoided and minimised where possible. |
| Prior to clearing | Inspection of protected vegetation demarcation to ensure clearing limits are clearly marked to prevent unnecessary clearing beyond the extent of the NESF development footprint. Tree clearing and disturbance will be limited to the development footprint of the NESF development footprint. |
| Prior to clearing | Inspection of signage to ensure appropriate signage such as 'No Go Zone' or 'Environmental Protection Area' is installed. |

| Monitoring schedule | Action |
|---|--|
| At time of induction | Induction signatures used to identify the location of any 'No Go Zones' in site inductions. |
| 6-monthly post clearing | Ecological inspection, quadrats of 2 m x 2 m in barest areas to ensure rehabilitating and revegetating temporary disturbance areas with species that are endemic to the area. |
| Annually for three years post-construction | BAM Plot method of vegetation integrity to manage the remnant vegetation and fauna habitat on site. New plots added at first visit if insufficient numbers remain from the BDAR assessment. |
| Observe salvage at time of clearing, material is used as soon as practical and inspected during rehabilitation monitoring | Inspection during clearing, photographs of relocated logs to maximise the salvage of vegetative and soil resources from clearing activity within the development footprint area for beneficial re-use in the enhancement or the rehabilitation of the site. |
| Prior to construction | Review of detailed design plans to limit removal of trees (including dead trees) to that required within the NESF development footprint in support of the installation of NESF infrastructure. |
| No more than 2 weeks prior to clearing | Ecologists inspection and identification of habitat trees as part of tree preclearance survey to determine if any nesting birds are present. |
| During tree clearance | A suitably trained fauna handler will be present during hollow-bearing tree (including dead hollow-bearing trees) clearing to rescue and relocate displaced fauna if found on-site. Photographs of habitat trees pre and post removal and log of any fauna findings/relocations will be taken. |
| Prior to clearance | Inspection of protected vegetation demarcation to ensure installation of appropriate exclusion fencing around trees and woodland is retained within the NESF development footprint whilst construction is occurring. The radius of TPZ is calculated for each tree by multiplying its DBH by 12 in accordance with the Standards Australia Committee (2009). |
| At time of induction | Induction signatures used to ensure appropriate education is provided to site personnel by site inductions regarding the purpose of exclusion fencing or no-go zones. |
| Plan prior to clearance. | Dates recorded by ecologist within clearing supervision report as part of avoiding the removal of hollow-bearing trees during spring. |
| At all times possible during construction and operation. | Observation of vehicles to ensure speed limits within the NESF development footprint are limited to 40 km/hr and stated in the CEMP. |
| After rain prior to completion of rehabilitation works | Performance of controls monitored to ensure source controls, such as mulching, matting and sediment fences, are utilised where appropriate. |
| Weekly | Inspection of ground-breaking activity to ensure disturbed areas are stabilised and rehabilitated as soon as possible to reduce the exposure period. |
| Completion of construction | Inspection of creek crossings to ensure all creek crossings are to comply with the Policy and Guidelines for Fish Friendly Waterway Crossings. |
| Daily | Inspection of availability and functionality of the facilities to ensure appropriate wash down facilities will be available to clean vehicles and equipment prior to arrival and when leaving |

| Monitoring schedule | Action |
|---|---|
| | site. In particular, ensure soils and seed material isn't transferred in accordance with the measures outlined in the CEMP. |
| Weekly during construction | Inspection during construction and of completed operational light set up to ensure lighting complies with Australian standard AS4282:2019 – Control of Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting. |
| Seasonal checks for high threat weed outbreaks End of construction and annual monitoring | HSE manager seasonal lookout for high threat weeds to control weeds and feral pests. Ecologists weed mapping of priority weeds. |
| Incidental sighting or noted during annual ecological monitoring | Feral sightings recorded – e.g. rabbits to control feral pests. |
| Fire and Emergency Response Monitoring | |
| Regularly | UPC\AC Renewables Manager confirms Fire Management Plan actions have been effectively implemented via a register, as well as regularly monitor the performance of fire management actions. |
| Monthly | UPC\AC Renewables monitor the standing fuel load across the site. |
| Aboriginal Heritage Monitoring | |
| Ongoing, new finds and changed management status | Ensure the NESF Historic Heritage Database is maintained by UPC\AC Renewables to ensure it is a live document of historical heritage resources. |
| Waste Management Monitoring | |
| Weekly | GLC/UPC\AC Renewables Australia to undertake weekly internal waste inspections and record on the environment checklist. |
| Fortnightly | GLC/UPC\AC Renewables Australia to carry out waste management audits to assess extent of waste hierarchy. This should be undertaken at fortnightly intervals during the demolition stage of the work and will be used to assess compliance with waste targets/performance criteria. |
| Monthly | GLC/UPC\AC Renewables Australia to keep records of waste contractors and landfill facilities used to ensure waste management can be traced from cradle to grave. |
| Provision of waste contractor agreement | GLC/UPC\AC Renewables Australia to verify licences and permits for handling, transporting and disposal of wastes. |
| Report monthly | GLC/UPC\AC Renewables Australia collate NESF Contractor waste disposal data and maintain the project waste register. |
| Ongoing | GLC to maintain and document the types and volumes of wastes generated, re-used, recycled and disposed of. |
| Ongoing | GLC to document the locations of stockpiled and stored waste. |

| Monitoring schedule | Action |
|---|--|
| Monthly | A Waste Management Register of all waste collected for disposal and/or recycling will be maintained by GLC on a monthly basis until final completion. |
| When waste is collected and report on a monthly basis | Waste contractor to maintain and document the types and volumes of wastes collected recycled and disposed of. Provide monthly reports on waste removal and disposal activities. |
| Erosion and Sediment Control Monitoring | |
| Ongoing | Frequent monitoring of existing rill erosion is required throughout the Project. All ESC measures are inspected by site personnel: (i) At least daily (when work is occurring on-site) (ii) At least weekly (when work is not occurring on-site) (iii) Within 24 hours of expected rainfall; and (iv) Within 18 hours of a rainfall event of at least 20mm. |
| Daily | Conduct daily visual inspections of waterways, tributaries and drainage lines to check for the presence of sediment or chemical plumes. If visual inspection indicated that sediment discharge from site is occurring, the contractor will be required to undertake sampling to check water quality against performance criteria in Appendix G, IECA 2008. |

Should monitoring lead to the identification of a notifiable incident or other non-compliance, the notification measures outlined in Sections 8.4 and 9.3 would be followed, as relevant. Should monitoring be in response to a received complaint, the complaint response measures outlined in Section 6 would be followed.

11.2 Management Reviews

UPC Renewable will conduct two types of management reviews to ensure compliance with the Development Consent and the commitments made in this EMS.

11.2.1 Programmed Reviews

For the duration of the construction, UPC\AC Renewables will undertake quarterly management compliance reviews. The focus of these reviews will be on the implementation of the commitments made in this EMS and compliance with the Development Consent. Each management review will be documented and posted onto the NESF website.

Post construction, UPC\AC Renewables will undertake annual management compliance reviews.

11.2.2 Triggered Reviews

Separate to these programmed reviews, UPC\AC Renewables will conduct a management review in the event of the following three circumstances:

1. There is an environmental incident with circumstances that have caused or threatened to cause material harm to the environment. Refer to Section 9.1 above for the definition of material harm
2. In the event that the procedure for investigating and responding to a complaint, including the implementation of measures for avoiding a recurrence, cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of a third party, and a dispute has arisen
3. Any modifications to the existing Development Consent (9 March 2020).

Table 11-2 Monitoring and reporting as required under the CoC and MM in relation to NESF

| Item | CoC/MM | Monitoring and reporting requirements | Monitoring proposed |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|
| Project Conditions of Consent | | | |
| Schedule 3 Condition 11 | Biodiversity Management Plan | <p>Prior to commencing the development, the Applicant must prepare a Biodiversity Management Plan for the development in consultation with BCD, and to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This plan must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) include a description of the measures that would be implemented for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting vegetation and fauna habitat outside the approved disturbance areas, • managing the remnant vegetation and fauna habitat on site, • minimising clearing and avoiding unnecessary disturbance of vegetation that is associated with the construction and operation of the development, minimising the impacts to fauna on site and implementing fauna management protocols • avoiding the removal of hollow-bearing trees during spring to avoid the main breeding period for hollow-dependent fauna, rehabilitating and revegetating temporary disturbance areas with species that are endemic to the area • maximising the salvage of vegetative and soil resources within the approved disturbance area for beneficial reuse in the enhancement or the rehabilitation of the site, and • controlling weeds and feral pests, and (b) (include details of who would be responsible for monitoring, reviewing and implementing the plan, and timeframes for completion of actions. <p>Following the Secretary's approval, the Applicant must implement the Biodiversity Management Plan.</p> <p>Note: If the biodiversity credits are retired via a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement, then the Biodiversity Management Plan does not need to include any of the matters that are covered under the Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement.</p> | Table 6.1 of Biodiversity Management Plan |
| Schedule 3 Condition 19 | Heritage Management Plan | <p>"Prior to commencing the development, the Applicant must prepare a Heritage Management Plan for the development to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This plan must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) be prepared by suitably qualified and experienced persons whose appointment has been endorsed by the Secretary, (b) be prepared in consultation with BCD, Aboriginal Stakeholders and Council, (c) include a description of the measures that would be implemented for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting the Aboriginal heritage items identified in Table 1 of Appendix 5 or items located outside the approved development footprint, including fencing off Aboriginal | Heritage Management Plan |

| Item | CoC/MM | Monitoring and reporting requirements | Monitoring proposed |
|----------------------------|--|--|---|
| | | <p>heritage items prior to commencing construction and providing ongoing access and management opportunities for Aboriginal people to NE09 and NE68;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • salvaging and relocating the Aboriginal heritage items located within the approved development footprint, as identified in Table 2 of Appendix 5 [of the Conditions of Consent] • protecting the historic heritage items identified in Table 1 of Appendix 6 or items located outside the approved development footprint • managing the impact of the development on the historic heritage items identified in Table 2 of • Appendix 6 [of the Conditions of Consent], including photographic archival records prepared in accordance with Heritage Council of NSW Guidelines for archival recordings • a contingency plan and reporting procedure if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » previously unidentified heritage items are found, or » Aboriginal skeletal material is discovered, • ensuring workers on site receive suitable heritage inductions prior to carrying out any development on site, and that records are kept of these inductions • ongoing consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders during the implementation of the plan, <p>(d) include a program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of these measures and any heritage impacts of the project.</p> <p>Following the Secretary's approval, the Applicant must implement the Heritage Management Plan."</p> | |
| Schedule 3 Condition 28 | Accommodation and Employment Strategy | <p>Prior to commencing construction, the Applicant must prepare an Accommodation and Employment Strategy for the development in consultation with Council, and to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This strategy must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) propose a strategy to ensure there is sufficient accommodation for the workforce associated with the development, (b) consider the cumulative impacts associated with other State significant development projects in the area, (c) investigate options for prioritising the employment of local workers for the construction and operation of the development, where feasible, (d) include a program to monitor and review the effectiveness of the strategy over the life of the development, including regular monitoring and review during construction. | TBC Accommodation and Employment Strategy |

| Item | CoC/MM | Monitoring and reporting requirements | Monitoring proposed |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|
| | | Following the Secretary's approval, the Applicant must implement the Accommodation and Employment Strategy. | |
| Schedule 3 Condition 29 | Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan | <p>Within 3 years of commencement of operation, the Applicant must prepare a Decommissioning & Rehabilitation Plan for the development which shall be reviewed by the Applicant prior to the cessation of operations, to the satisfaction of the Secretary. The plan must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) include detailed completion criteria for evaluating compliance with the rehabilitation objectives in Table 3 above, (b) describe the measures that would be implemented to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • decommission the development and rehabilitate the site in accordance with the objectives in Table 3, • minimise and manage the waste generated by the decommissioning of the development in accordance with the obligations in condition 27 above, and (c) include a program to monitor and report on the implementation of these measures against the detailed completion criteria. <p>The Applicant must decommission and rehabilitate the site in accordance with the approved Decommissioning & Rehabilitation Plan.</p> | TBC Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan |

11.3 Environmental Plans and Strategies

Table 11-3 below identifies the various environmental plans and strategies required by either the Development Consent or the MMs identified in the Response to Submissions (EMM, June 2019).

Each of these plans will identify procedures and work practices designed to minimise adverse environmental impacts and comply with the Development Consent. They will each include, where appropriate, performance criteria and the targeted monitoring.

Table 11-3 Environmental Plans and Strategies

| Plan | When ^{1, 2} |
|--|---|
| Subdivision Plan | Prior to subdividing the site. |
| Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan | Prior to commencing the development. |
| Waste Management Strategy | Prior to commencing construction. |
| Construction Environmental Management Plan | Prior to commencing construction. |
| Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan | Prior to commencing construction. |
| Accommodation and Employment Strategy | Prior to commencing construction. |
| Final Layout Plans | Prior to commencing construction. |
| Erosion and Sediment Control Plan | Prior to commencing construction. |
| Accommodation and Employment Strategy | Prior to commencing construction. |
| Traffic Management Plan | Prior to commencing the development. |
| Biodiversity Management Plan | Prior to commencing the development. |
| Heritage Management Plan | Prior to commencing the development. |
| Fire Safety Study | Prior to commencing construction of the battery storage facility, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise . |
| Fire and Emergency Response Plan | Prior to commissioning operations. |
| Operational Environmental Management Plan | Prior to commencing operations. |
| Decommissioning & Rehabilitation Plan | Within 3 years of commencement of operation. |

| Plan | When ^{1,2} |
|---|--|
| Upgrading of Solar Panels and Ancillary Infrastructure Revised Layout Plans | Provided these upgrades remain within the approved development footprint of the site. Prior to carrying out any such upgrades, the Applicant must provide revised layout plans and project details of the development to the Secretary incorporating the proposed upgrade. |
| Work as Executed Plans | Prior to commencing operations or following the upgrades of any solar panels or ancillary infrastructure. |

¹"Prior to commencing the development" indicates the requirement must be fulfilled prior to commencing any of works – these included works approved under the Development Consent and the 'excluded early works'.

²"Prior to commencing construction" indicates that the requirement relates only to the works approved under the Development Consent. The 'excluded early works' may commence prior to that commitment being satisfied.

Any changes to these management plans will be approved by the Secretary, before implementing the changes, and in consultation with relevant agencies.

11.4 Monitoring Schedule

As each of the above plans are prepared and approved an updated Monitoring Schedule will be collated and posted onto the NESF website. This Monitoring Schedule will incorporate specific monitoring requirements detailed in each of these plans so as to provide a single reference document that summarises all monitoring requirements associated with the NESF.

11.4.1 Revision of Plans and Strategies

As per SSD 9255, UPC\AC Renewables must:

- (d) *update the strategies, plans or programs required under this consent to the satisfaction of the Secretary prior to carrying out any upgrading or decommissioning activities on site, and*
- (e) *review and, if necessary, revise the strategies, plans or programs required under this consent to the satisfaction of the Secretary within 1 month of the:*
 - *submission of an incident report under condition 7 of Schedule 4,*
 - *submission of an audit report under condition 9 of Schedule 4, or*
 - *any modification to the conditions of this consent.*

12 References

Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources (2004) Guideline for the Preparation of Environmental Management Plans.

International Organization for Standardization (2015) ISO 14001:2015(E) Environmental management systems – Requirements with guidance for use

Appendix A UPC\AC Renewables Environmental Policy

UPC/AC RENEWABLES AUSTRALIA

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

UPC/AC Renewables Australia (UPC/AC) is committed to undertaking our business activities in an environmentally sensitive and forward thinking manner. To achieve this, we will:

- Comply with environmental laws and regulations in all work locations as an absolute minimum,
- Understand and manage potential environmental risks at all work locations,
- Contribute to the overall health and resiliency of ecosystems in all work locations,
- Participate in integrated approaches to land use planning,
- Identify and implement opportunities for efficient energy and water usage,
- Identify and implement opportunities for waste avoidance and minimisation,
- Report annually to all stakeholders on our environmental activities.



Anton Rohner
Chief Executive Officer
April 2019



David Pollington
Chief Operations Officer
April 2019

Appendix B Green Light Environmental Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

Green Light Contractors (GLC) undertakes a reflective, resourceful, inclusive and flexible approach to environmental management, underpinned by a robust ISO 14001 certified integrated management system. We commit to:

LEAD

- Having visible and demonstrated environmental leadership throughout the business to equip, inspire, empower and lead our people to win and deliver environmentally sound projects.
- Ensuring strong and positive leadership engagement with tender and project delivery teams at all levels to understand and resolve the environmental challenges they face.
- Establishing measurable objectives and targets to quantify our environmental performance, committing to and demonstrating continual improvement.

GROW

- Promoting innovative thinking and practices to achieve positive environmental outcomes.
- Understanding our customers, business partners and subcontractors' environmental capabilities and priorities and working together to develop common strategies to achieve shared goals.

DELIVER


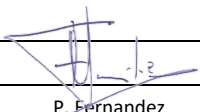
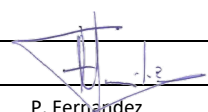
- Identifying and communicating non-conformities, lessons learnt and corrective actions arising from environmental incidents to enhance environmental performance.
- Complying with applicable environmental legislation, regulations, codes of practice, customer and project specific requirements.
- Provision of the necessary resources and management support to achieve environmental goals.

SUSTAIN

- Equipping all employees with the knowledge, skills and resources to achieve our environmental goals. Engaging with employees, subcontractors, customers, and other key stakeholders on environmental issues.
- Monitoring our environmental performance and identifying initiatives that lead to improved environmental outcomes.

PROTECT

- Developing and implementing methods to protect the environment, prevent pollution and eliminate or minimise significant environmental impacts.
- Ensuring the efficient use of resources including energy, water and materials, and providing responsible waste management.

| | | | | |
|----------|------------|--|--|---|
| | | | | |
| 00 | 02/07/2019 |  Mark Donnelly |  P. Fernandez |  P. Fernandez |
| REVISION | DATE | PREPARED | CHECKED | APPROVED |

Appendix C Development Consent SSD 9255

Development Consent

Section 4.38 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*

The Independent Planning Commission of NSW approves consent to the development application referred to in Schedule 1, subject to the conditions in Schedules 2 to 4.

These conditions are required to:

- prevent, minimise and/or offset adverse environmental impacts;
- set standards and performance measures for acceptable environmental performance;
- require regular monitoring and reporting; and
- provide for the ongoing environmental management of the development.



Andrew Hutton (Chair)
Member of the Commission



Professor Zada Lipman
Member of the Commission



Professor Snow Barlow
Member of the Commission

Sydney

9 March 2020

SCHEDULE 1

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Application Number: | SSD 9255 |
| Applicant: | UPC Renewables Australia Pty Ltd |
| Consent Authority: | Independent Planning Commission |
| Land: | See Appendix 2 |
| Development: | New England Solar Farm |

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DEFINITIONS

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Aboriginal stakeholders | Aboriginal stakeholders registered for cultural heritage consultation for the development |
| Ancillary infrastructure | All project infrastructure with the exception of solar panels, including but not limited to collector substations, switching stations, permanent offices, battery storage and site compounds, electricity transmission lines and internal roads |
| Applicant | UPC Renewables Australia Pty Ltd, or any person who seeks to carry out the development approved under this consent |
| Battery storage | Large scale energy storage system |
| BCD | Biodiversity Conservation Division within the Department |
| Cessation of operations | Operation of the development has ceased for a continuous period of 12 months |
| Conditions of this consent | Conditions contained in Schedules 1 to 4 inclusive |
| Construction | The construction of the development, including but not limited to the carrying out of any earthworks on site and the construction of solar panels and any ancillary infrastructure (but excludes road upgrades or maintenance works to the public road network, building/road dilapidation surveys, installation of fencing, artefact survey and/or salvage, overhead line safety marking and geotechnical drilling and/or surveying) |
| Council | Uralla Shire Council |
| Decommissioning | The removal of solar panels and ancillary infrastructure and/or rehabilitation of the site |
| Department | Department of Planning, Industry and Environment |
| Development | The development as described in the EIS |
| Development footprint | The area within the site on which the components of the project will be constructed (shown in Appendix 1) |
| DPIE Water | Water Group within the Department |
| EIS | The Environmental Impact Statement for New England Solar Farm dated February 2019, the Amendment Report dated June 2019, the Response to Submissions dated June 2019, additional information dated 31 October 2019 and 10 December 2019, the subdivision plan (see Appendix 3) and the additional information provided to the Independent Planning Commission of NSW on 7 February 2020 and 18 February 2020 |
| EP&A Act | <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> |
| EP&A Regulation | <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000</i> |
| Feasible | Feasible relates to engineering considerations and what is practical to build or implement |
| FRNSW | Fire and Rescue NSW |
| Heavy vehicle | A vehicle that has a combined Gross Vehicle Mass or Aggregate Trailer Mass of more than 4.5 tonnes |
| Heritage item | An item as defined under the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i> and/or an Aboriginal Object or Aboriginal Place as defined under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> |
| Incident | A set of circumstances that causes or threatens to cause material harm to the environment |
| Material harm | Is harm that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> involves actual or potential harm to the health or safety of human beings or to ecosystems that is not trivial; or results in actual or potential loss or property damage of an amount, or amounts in aggregate, exceeding \$10,000 (such loss includes the reasonable costs and expenses that would be incurred in taking all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent, mitigate or make good harm to the environment) |
| Minister | Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, or delegate |
| Minimise | Implement all reasonable and feasible mitigation measures to reduce the impacts of the development |
| Non-compliance | An occurrence, set of circumstances or development that is a breach of this consent but is not an incident |
| Heritage NSW | Heritage Council of NSW |
| Operation | The operation of the development, but does not include commissioning, trials of equipment or the use of temporary facilities |
| Over-dimensional vehicle | Over-mass and/or over-size/length vehicles |
| POEO Act | <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i> |
| Public infrastructure | Linear and related infrastructure that provides services to the general public, such as roads, railways, water supply, drainage, sewerage, gas supply, electricity, telephone, telecommunications, irrigation channels, drainage channels |
| Reasonable | Reasonable relates to the application of judgement in arriving at a decision, taking into account: mitigation benefits, cost of mitigation versus benefits provided, community views and the nature and extent of potential improvements |

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Rehabilitation | The restoration of land disturbed by the development to a good condition, to ensure it is safe, stable and non-polluting |
| RFS | Rural Fire Service |
| RMS | Roads and Maritime Services |
| Secretary | Secretary of the Department, or nominee |
| Site | As shown in Appendix 1 and listed in Appendix 2 |
| Temporary facilities | Temporary facilities used for the construction, upgrading and/or decommissioning of the development, including but not limited to temporary site offices and compounds, materials storage compounds, maintenance workshops, material stockpiles, laydown areas and parking spaces |
| Upgrading | The augmentation and/or replacement of solar panels and ancillary infrastructure on site (excluding maintenance) |
| Vehicle movement | One vehicle entering and leaving the site |

SCHEDULE 2 ADMINISTRATIVE CONDITIONS

OBLIGATION TO MINIMISE HARM TO THE ENVIRONMENT

1. In meeting the specific environmental performance criteria established under this consent, the Applicant must implement all reasonable and feasible measures to prevent and/or minimise any material harm to the environment that may result from the construction, operation, upgrading or decommissioning of the development.

TERMS OF CONSENT

2. The Applicant must carry out the development:
 - (a) generally in accordance with the EIS; and
 - (b) in accordance with the conditions of this consent.

Note: The general layout of the development is shown in Appendix 1.

3. If there is any inconsistency between the above documents, the most recent document must prevail to the extent of the inconsistency. However, the conditions of this consent must prevail to the extent of any inconsistency.
4. The Applicant must comply with any requirement/s of the Secretary arising from the Department's assessment of:
 - (a) any strategies, plans or correspondence that are submitted in accordance with this consent;
 - (b) any reports, reviews or audits commissioned by the Department regarding compliance with this consent; and
 - (c) the implementation of any actions or measures contained in these documents.

UPGRADING OF SOLAR PANELS AND ANCILLARY INFRASTRUCTURE

5. Over time, the Applicant may upgrade the solar panels and ancillary infrastructure on site provided these upgrades remain within the approved development footprint of the site. Prior to carrying out any such upgrades, the Applicant must provide revised layout plans and project details of the development to the Secretary incorporating the proposed upgrades.

STRUCTURAL ADEQUACY

6. The Applicant must ensure that all new buildings and structures, and any alterations or additions to existing buildings and structures, are constructed in accordance with the relevant requirements of the *Building Code of Australia*.

Notes:

- Under Part 6 of the EP&A Act, the Applicant is required to obtain construction and occupation certificates for the development.
- Part 8 of the EP&A Regulation sets out the requirements for the certification of the development.

DEMOLITION

7. The Applicant must ensure that all demolition work on site is carried out in accordance with *Australian Standard AS 2601-2001: The Demolition of Structures*, or its latest version.

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

8. Unless the Applicant and the applicable authority agree otherwise, the Applicant must:
 - (a) repair, or pay the full costs associated with repairing, any public infrastructure that is damaged by the development; and
 - (b) relocate, or pay the full costs associated with relocating, any public infrastructure that needs to be relocated as a result of the development.

This condition does not apply to the upgrade and maintenance of the road network, which is expressly provided for in the conditions of this consent.

OPERATION OF PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

9. The Applicant must ensure that all plant and equipment used on site, or in connection with the development, is:
- (a) maintained in a proper and efficient condition; and
 - (b) operated in a proper and efficient manner.

SUBDIVISION PLAN

10. The Applicant may subdivide the site to create new allotments for the proposed substation, in accordance with the layout approved in Schedule 4 - Condition 5, and with the requirements of the EP&A Act and EP&A Regulation, and generally in accordance with the figure in Appendix 3.

Prior to subdividing the site, the Applicant must prepare and submit detailed subdivision plans to the Secretary for approval.

Notes:

- Under Part 6 of the EP&A Act, the Applicant is required to obtain a subdivision certificate for a plan of subdivision.
- Division 4 of Part 8 of the EP&A Regulation sets out the application requirements for subdivision certificates

SCHEDULE 3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS – GENERAL

TRANSPORT

Over-Dimensional and Heavy Vehicle Restrictions

1. The Applicant must ensure that the:
 - (a) development does not generate more than:
 - 56 heavy vehicle movements a day during construction, upgrading and decommissioning;
 - 6 over-dimensional vehicle movements during construction, upgrading and decommissioning; and
 - 5 heavy vehicle movements a day during operations; on the public road network;
 - (b) length of any vehicles (excluding over-dimensional vehicles) used for the development does not exceed 26 metres, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise.
2. The Applicant must keep accurate records of the number of over-dimensional and heavy vehicles entering or leaving the site each day for the duration of the project.

Access Route

3. All vehicles associated with the development must travel to and from the site via the New England Highway, Barleyfields Road, Big Ridge Road and the two site access points off Big Ridge Road, as identified in the figure in Appendix 4.

Note: The Applicant is required to obtain relevant permits under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (NSW) for the use of over-dimensional vehicles on the road network.

Road Upgrades and Site Access

4. Prior to commencing construction, the Applicant must implement the road upgrades identified in Appendix 4. These upgrades must be carried out to the satisfaction of the relevant roads authority, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise.

Operating Conditions

5. The Applicant must ensure:
 - (a) the internal roads are constructed as all-weather roads;
 - (b) there is sufficient parking on site for all vehicles, and no parking occurs on the public road network in the vicinity of the site;
 - (c) the capacity of the existing roadside drainage network is not reduced;
 - (d) all vehicles are loaded and unloaded on site, and enter and leave the site in a forward direction;
 - (e) development-related vehicles leaving the site are in a clean condition to minimise dirt being tracked onto the sealed public road network; and
 - (f) segments 4 and 5 of Big Ridge Road, identified in the figure in Appendix 4, are maintained to the standard identified in Appendix 4 at the cost of the Applicant for the life of the development, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise.

Traffic Management Plan

6. Prior to commencing the development, the Applicant must prepare a Traffic Management Plan for the development in consultation with RMS and Council, and to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This plan must include:
 - (a) details of the transport route to be used for all development-related traffic;
 - (b) a protocol for undertaking independent dilapidation surveys to assess the:
 - existing condition of Barleyfields Road and Big Ridge Road on the access route, prior to construction, upgrading or decommissioning activities; and
 - condition of Barleyfields Road and Big Ridge Road on the access route, following construction, upgrading or decommissioning activities;
 - (c) a protocol for the repair of Barleyfields Road and Big Ridge Road on the access route, if dilapidation surveys identify these roads to be damaged during construction, upgrading or decommissioning works;
 - (d) details of the road works required by condition 4 of Schedule 3 to this consent;
 - (e) a protocol for the maintenance of segments 4 and 5 of Big Ridge Road required by condition 5(f) of Schedule 3 to this consent;

- (f) details of the measures that would be implemented to minimise traffic impacts during construction, upgrading or decommissioning works, including:
- temporary traffic controls, including detours and signage;
 - notifying the local community about project-related traffic impacts;
 - procedures for receiving and addressing complaints from the community about development-related traffic;
 - minimising potential for conflict with school buses, other motorists, road users and rail services as far as practicable;
 - implement measures to minimise dirt tracked onto the public road network from development-related traffic;
 - details of the employee shuttle bus service and measures to encourage employee use of this service;
 - scheduling of haulage vehicle movements to minimise convoy length or platoons;
 - responding to local climate conditions that may affect road safety such as fog, dust, wet weather and flooding;
 - responding to any emergency repair or maintenance requirements; and
 - a traffic management system for managing over-dimensional vehicles;
- (g) a driver's code of conduct that addresses:
- travelling speeds;
 - driver fatigue;
 - procedures to ensure that drivers adhere to the designated transport routes; and
 - procedures to ensure that drivers implement safe driving practices, including consideration of other road users; and
- (h) a program to ensure drivers working on the development receive suitable training on the code of conduct and any other relevant obligations under the Traffic Management Plan.

Following the Secretary's approval, the Applicant must implement the Traffic Management Plan.

LANDSCAPING

7. Within 3 years of commencement of construction, the owner of N1 may request in writing that the Applicant to plant a vegetation screen to minimise the visual impacts of the northern array on the N1 property.

Upon receiving such a written request from the owner of N1, the Applicant must implement reasonable and feasible landscape screening in consultation with the owner making the request.

The vegetation screen must:

- (a) be wholly contained within the site;
- (b) consist of native species that facilitate the screening of the view of the solar panels and ancillary infrastructure from within the N1 property;
- (c) be implemented within 12 months of receiving the written request, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise; and
- (d) be properly maintained with appropriate weed management.

If the Applicant and owner of N1 cannot agree on the measures to be implemented, or there is a dispute about the implementation of these measures, then either party may refer the matter to the Secretary for resolution.

LAND MANAGEMENT

8. Following any construction or upgrading on the site, the Applicant must:
- (a) restore the ground cover of the site as soon as practicable;
 - (b) maintain the ground cover with appropriate perennial species; and
 - (c) manage weeds within this ground cover; and
 - (d) manage feral pest species.

BIODIVERSITY

Vegetation Clearance

9. The Applicant must not clear any native vegetation or fauna habitat located outside the approved disturbance footprint described in the EIS.

Biodiversity Offsets

10. Prior to commencing the development under this consent, the Applicant must retire biodiversity credits of a number and class specified in Table 1 and Table 2 below, to the satisfaction of BCD, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise.

The retirement of these credits must be carried out in accordance with the *NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme* and can be achieved by:

- acquiring or retiring 'biodiversity credits' within the meaning of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*;
- making payments into an offset fund that has been developed by the NSW Government; or
- funding a biodiversity conservation action that benefits the entity impacted and is listed in the ancillary rules of the biodiversity offset scheme.

Table 1: Ecosystem Credit Requirements

| Vegetation Community | PCT ID | Credits Required |
|--|---------------|-------------------------|
| Blakely's Red Gum - Yellow Box grassy woodland of the New England Tableland Bioregion | 510 | 85 |
| Blakely's Red Gum - Yellow Box grassy woodland of the New England Tableland Bioregion – Derived Native Grassland | | 5 |
| Silvertop Stringybark open forest of the New England Tableland Bioregion | 1174 | 78 |
| Broad-leaved Stringybark - Yellow Box shrub/grass open forest of the New England Tableland Bioregion | 567 | 10 |

Table 2: Species Credit Requirements

| Vegetation Community | Credits Required |
|--|-------------------------|
| Bluegrass (<i>Dichanthium setosum</i>) | 15 |
| Hawkweed (<i>Picris evae</i>) | 16 |
| Silky Swainson-pea (<i>Swainsona sericea</i>) | 16 |
| Austral Toadflax (<i>Thesium australe</i>) | 12 |
| Pale-headed Snake (<i>Hoplocephalus bitorquatus</i>) | 11 |
| Bush Stone-curlew (<i>Burhinus grallarius</i>) | 11 |
| Glossy Black-Cockatoo (<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i>) | 11 |
| Eastern Pygmy Possum (<i>Cercartetus nanus</i>) | 11 |
| Squirrel Glider (<i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i>) | 11 |
| Koala (<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>) | 11 |

Biodiversity Management Plan

11. Prior to commencing the development, the Applicant must prepare a Biodiversity Management Plan for the development in consultation with BCD, and to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This plan must:
- include a description of the measures that would be implemented for:
 - protecting vegetation and fauna habitat outside the approved disturbance areas;
 - managing the remnant vegetation and fauna habitat on site;
 - minimising clearing and avoiding unnecessary disturbance of vegetation that is associated with the construction and operation of the development;
 - minimising the impacts to fauna on site and implementing fauna management protocols;
 - avoiding the removal of hollow-bearing trees during spring to avoid the main breeding period for hollow-dependent fauna;
 - rehabilitating and revegetating temporary disturbance areas with species that are endemic to the area;
 - maximising the salvage of vegetative and soil resources within the approved disturbance area for beneficial reuse in the enhancement or the rehabilitation of the site; and
 - controlling weeds and feral pests; and
 - include details of who would be responsible for monitoring, reviewing and implementing the plan, and timeframes for completion of actions.

Following the Secretary's approval, the Applicant must implement the Biodiversity Management Plan.

Note: If the biodiversity credits are retired via a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement, then the Biodiversity Management Plan does not need to include any of the matters that are covered under the Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement.

AMENITY

Construction, Upgrading and Decommissioning Hours

12. Unless the Secretary agrees otherwise, the Applicant may only undertake construction, upgrading or decommissioning activities on site between:
- 7 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday;
 - 8 am to 1 pm Saturdays; and
 - at no time on Sundays and NSW public holidays.

The following construction, upgrading or decommissioning activities may be undertaken outside these hours without the approval of the Secretary:

- the delivery of materials as requested by the NSW Police Force or other authorities for safety reasons; or
- emergency work to avoid the loss of life, property and/or material harm to the environment.

Noise

13. The Applicant must minimise the noise generated by any construction, upgrading or decommissioning activities on site in accordance with the best practice requirements outlined in the *Interim Construction Noise Guideline* (DECC, 2009), or its latest version.

Dust

14. The Applicant must ensure all operations and activities occurring at the Site are carried out in a manner that minimises dust including the emission of wind-blown or traffic generated dust.

Visual

15. The Applicant must:
- minimise the off-site visual impacts of the development, including the potential for any glare or reflection;
 - ensure the visual appearance of all ancillary infrastructure (including paint colours) blends in with the surrounding landscape, where reasonable and feasible; and
 - not mount any advertising signs or logos on site, except where this is required for identification or safety purposes.

Lighting

16. The Applicant must:
- minimise the off-site lighting impacts of the development; and
 - ensure that any external lighting associated with the development:
 - is installed as low intensity lighting (except where required for safety or emergency purposes);
 - does not shine above the horizontal; and
 - complies with *Australian Standard AS4282 (INT) 1997 – Control of Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting*, or its latest version.

HERITAGE

17. Prior to the commencing the development, the Applicant must undertake consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders, in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010), or its latest version.

Protection of Heritage Items

18. The Applicant must ensure the development does not cause any direct or indirect impacts on the Aboriginal heritage items identified in Table 1 of Appendix 5 or the historic heritage items identified in Table 1 of Appendix 6, or any Aboriginal or historic heritage items located outside the approved development footprint.

Prior to carrying out any development that could directly or indirectly impact the heritage items identified in Table 2 of Appendix 5, the Applicant must salvage and relocate the item/s that would be impacted to a suitable alternative location, in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW, 2010), or its latest version.

Note: The location of the Aboriginal heritage and historic heritage items referred to in this condition are shown in the figures in Appendix 5 and Appendix 6, respectively.

Heritage Management Plan

19. Prior to commencing the development, the Applicant must prepare a Heritage Management Plan for the development to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This plan must:
- (a) be prepared by suitably qualified and experienced persons whose appointment has been endorsed by the Secretary;
 - (b) be prepared in consultation with BCD, Aboriginal Stakeholders and Council;
 - (c) include a description of the measures that would be implemented for:
 - protecting the Aboriginal heritage items identified in Table 1 of Appendix 5 or items located outside the approved development footprint, including fencing off Aboriginal heritage items prior to commencing construction and providing ongoing access and management opportunities for Aboriginal people to NE09 and NE68;
 - salvaging and relocating the Aboriginal heritage items located within the approved development footprint, as identified in Table 2 of Appendix 5;
 - protecting the historic heritage items identified in Table 1 of Appendix 6 or items located outside the approved development footprint;
 - managing the impact of the development on the historic heritage items identified in Table 2 of Appendix 6, including photographic archival records prepared in accordance with Heritage Council of NSW Guidelines for archival recordings;
 - a contingency plan and reporting procedure if:
 - previously unidentified heritage items are found; or
 - Aboriginal skeletal material is discovered;
 - ensuring workers on site receive suitable heritage inductions prior to carrying out any development on site, and that records are kept of these inductions; and
 - ongoing consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders during the implementation of the plan;
 - (d) include a program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of these measures and any heritage impacts of the project.

Following the Secretary's approval, the Applicant must implement the Heritage Management Plan.

SOIL AND WATER

Water Supply

20. Prior to the commencement of the development the Applicant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the Applicant has sufficient water for all stages of the development, and if necessary, adjust the scale of the development to match its available water supply.

Note: Under the Water Act 1912 and/or the Water Management Act 2000, the Applicant is required to obtain the necessary water licences for the development.

Water Pollution

21. The Applicant must ensure that the development does not cause any water pollution, as defined under Section 120 of the POEO Act.

Operating Conditions

22. The Applicant must:
- (a) minimise the siting of solar panels and ancillary infrastructure (including security fencing) within watercourses within the approved development footprint;
 - (b) ensure the solar panels and ancillary infrastructure (including security fencing) are designed, constructed and maintained to reduce impacts on surface water, flooding and groundwater at the site;
 - (c) minimise any soil erosion associated with the construction, upgrading or decommissioning of the development in accordance with the relevant requirements in the *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction* (Landcom, 2004) manual, or its latest version;
 - (d) ensure the solar panels and ancillary infrastructure are designed, constructed and maintained to avoid causing any erosion on site; and
 - (e) ensure all works are undertaken in accordance with the following, unless otherwise agreed by DPIE Water:
 - *Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land* (NRAR, 2018), or its latest version; and
 - *Why Do Fish Need to Cross the Road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings* (2004), or its latest version.

HAZARDS

Fire Safety Study

23. Prior to commencing construction of the battery storage facility, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise, the Applicant must prepare a Fire Safety Study for the development, in consultation with FRNSW and RFS and to the satisfaction of FRNSW and the Secretary. The study must:
- be consistent with the:
 - Department's *Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 2 'Fire Safety Study'* guideline; and
 - NSW Government's *Best Practice Guidelines for Contaminated Water Retention and Treatment Systems*; and
 - describe the final design of the battery storage facility.

Following the Secretary's approval, the Applicant must implement the measures described in the Fire Safety Study.

Storage and Handling of Dangerous Goods

24. The Applicant must store and handle all chemicals, fuels and oils used on-site in accordance with:
- the requirements of all relevant Australian Standards; and
 - the NSW EPA's *Storing and Handling of Liquids: Environmental Protection – Participants Handbook* if the chemicals are liquids.

In the event of an inconsistency between the requirements listed from (a) to (b) above, the most stringent requirement must prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

Operating Conditions

25. The Applicant must:
- minimise the fire risks of the development, including managing vegetation fuel loads on-site;
 - ensure that the development:
 - includes at least a 10 metre defendable space around the perimeter of the solar array area and battery storage facility that permits unobstructed vehicle access;
 - manages the defendable space and solar array areas as an Asset Protection Zone;
 - complies with the relevant asset protection requirements in the RFS's *Planning for Bushfire Protection 2006 (or equivalent)* and *Standards for Asset Protection Zones*;
 - is suitably equipped to respond to any fires on site including provision of a 20,000 litre water supply tank fitted with a 65mm Storz fitting and a FRNSW compatible suction connection located adjacent to the internal access road;
 - assist the RFS and emergency services as much as practicable if there is a fire in the vicinity of the site; and
 - notify the relevant local emergency management committee following construction of the development, and prior to commencing operations.

Emergency Plan

26. Prior to commissioning operations, the Applicant must develop and implement a comprehensive Emergency Plan and detailed emergency procedures for the development, to the satisfaction of FRNSW and the RFS. The Applicant must keep two copies of the plan on-site in a prominent position adjacent to the site entry points at all times. The plan must:
- be consistent with the Department's *Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 1, 'Emergency Planning'*;
 - identify the fire risks and controls of the development; and
 - include procedures that would be implemented if there is a fire on-site or in the vicinity of the site.

Following approval, the Applicant must implement the Emergency Plan.

WASTE

27. The Applicant must:
- minimise and manage the waste generated by the development in accordance with the EPA's waste hierarchy objectives of avoidance, resource recovery and then disposal;
 - classify all waste generated on site in accordance with the EPA's *Waste Classification Guidelines 2014* (or its latest version);
 - store and handle all waste on site in accordance with its classification;
 - not receive or dispose of any waste on site; and

- (e) remove all waste from the site as soon as practicable, and ensure it is sent to an appropriately licensed waste facility for disposal.

ACCOMMODATION AND EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY

28. Prior to commencing construction, the Applicant must prepare an Accommodation and Employment Strategy for the development in consultation with Council, and to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This strategy must:
- (a) propose a strategy to ensure there is sufficient accommodation for the workforce associated with the development;
 - (b) consider the cumulative impacts associated with other State significant development projects in the area;
 - (c) investigate options for prioritising the employment of local workers for the construction and operation of the development, where feasible;
 - (d) include a program to monitor and review the effectiveness of the strategy over the life of the development, including regular monitoring and review during construction.

Following the Secretary's approval, the Applicant must implement the Accommodation and Employment Strategy.

DECOMMISSIONING AND REHABILITATION

29. Within 18 months of the cessation of operations, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise, the Applicant must rehabilitate the site to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This rehabilitation must comply with the objectives in Table 3.

Table 3: Rehabilitation Objectives

| Feature | Objective |
|---------------------------|--|
| Site | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe, stable and non-polluting • Minimise the visual impact of any above ground ancillary infrastructure agreed to be retained for an alternative use |
| Solar farm infrastructure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be decommissioned and removed, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise |
| Land use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore land capability to pre-existing use (at least Class 3 Land Capability for areas of mapped Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land) |
| Community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure public safety at all times |

30. Within 3 years of commencement of operation, the Applicant must prepare a Decommissioning & Rehabilitation Plan for the development which shall be reviewed by the Applicant prior to the cessation of operations, to the satisfaction of the Secretary. The plan must:
- (a) include detailed completion criteria for evaluating compliance with the rehabilitation objectives in Table 3 above;
 - (b) describe the measures that would be implemented to:
 - decommission the development and rehabilitate the site in accordance with the objectives in Table 3;
 - minimise and manage the waste generated by the decommissioning of the development in accordance with the obligations in condition 27 above; and
 - (c) include a program to monitor and report on the implementation of these measures against the detailed completion criteria.

The Applicant must decommission and rehabilitate the site in accordance with the approved Decommissioning & Rehabilitation Plan.

SCHEDULE 4

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Environmental Management Strategy

1. Prior to commencing the development, the Applicant must prepare an Environmental Management Strategy for the development to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This strategy must:
 - (a) provide the strategic framework for environmental management of the development;
 - (b) identify the statutory approvals that apply to the development;
 - (c) describe the role, responsibility, authority and accountability of all key personnel involved in the environmental management of the development;
 - (d) describe the procedures that would be implemented to:
 - keep the local community and relevant agencies informed about the operation and environmental performance of the development;
 - receive, handle, respond to, and record complaints;
 - resolve any disputes that may arise;
 - respond to any non-compliance;
 - respond to emergencies; and
 - (e) include:
 - references to any plans approved under the conditions of this consent; and
 - a clear plan depicting all the monitoring to be carried out in relation to the development.

Following the Secretary's approval, the Applicant must implement the Environmental Management Strategy.

Revision of Strategies, Plans and Programs

2. The Applicant must:
 - (a) update the strategies, plans or programs required under this consent to the satisfaction of the Secretary prior to carrying out any upgrading or decommissioning activities on site; and
 - (b) review and, if necessary, revise the strategies, plans or programs required under this consent to the satisfaction of the Secretary within 1 month of the:
 - submission of an incident report under condition 7 of Schedule 4;
 - submission of an audit report under condition 9 of Schedule 4; or
 - any modification to the conditions of this consent.

Updating and Staging of Strategies, Plans or Programs

3. With the approval of the Secretary, the Applicant may submit any strategy, plan or program required by this consent on a progressive basis.

To ensure the strategies, plans or programs under the conditions of this consent are updated on a regular basis, the Applicant may at any time submit revised strategies, plans or programs to the Secretary for approval.

With the agreement of the Secretary, the Applicant may prepare any revised strategy, plan or program without undertaking consultation with all the parties referred to under the relevant condition of this consent.

Notes:

- *While any strategy, plan or program may be submitted on a progressive basis, the Applicant must ensure that all development being carried out on site is covered by suitable strategies, plans or programs at all times.*
- *If the submission of any strategy, plan or program is to be staged, then the relevant strategy, plan or program must clearly describe the specific stage to which the strategy, plan or program applies, the relationship of this stage to any future stages, and the trigger for updating the strategy, plan or program.*

NOTIFICATIONS

Notification of Department

4. Prior to commencing the construction, operations, upgrading or decommissioning of the development or the cessation of operations, the Applicant must notify the Department in writing via the Major Projects website portal of the date of commencement, or cessation, of the relevant phase.

If any of these phases of the development are to be staged, then the Applicant must notify the Department in writing prior to commencing the relevant stage, and clearly identify the development that would be carried out during the relevant stage.

Final Layout Plans

5. Prior to commencing construction, the Applicant must submit detailed plans of the final layout of the development to the Secretary, including details on the siting of solar panels and ancillary infrastructure, via the Major Projects website.

Work as Executed Plans

6. Prior to commencing operations, or following the upgrades of any solar panels or ancillary infrastructure, the Applicant must submit work as executed plans of the development to the Secretary, via the Major Projects website.

Incident Notification

7. The Department must be notified in writing via the Major Projects website portal immediately after the Applicant becomes aware of an incident. The notification must identify the development (including the development application number and the name of the development if it has one), and set out the location and nature of the incident.

Non-Compliance Notification

8. The Department must be notified in writing via the Major Projects website portal within 7 days after the Applicant becomes aware of any non-compliance with the conditions of this consent. The notification must identify the development and the application number for it, set out the condition of consent that the development is non-compliant with, the way in which it does not comply and the reasons for the non-compliance (if known) and what actions have been done, or will be, undertaken to address the non-compliance.

INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT

9. The Applicant must commission and pay the full cost of Independent Environmental Audits of the development. The audits must:
 - (a) be prepared in accordance with the relevant *Independent Audit Post Approval* requirements (DPE 2018);
 - (b) be led and conducted by a suitably qualified, experienced and independent team of experts whose appointment has been endorsed by the Secretary;
 - (c) be prepared, unless otherwise agreed with the Secretary:
 - (i) within 3 months of commencing construction;
 - (ii) within 3 months of commencement of operations; and
 - (iii) as directed by the Secretary;
 - (d) be carried out in consultation with the relevant agencies;
 - (e) assess whether the development complies with the relevant requirements in this consent, and any strategy, plan or program required under this consent; and
 - (f) recommend appropriate measures or actions to improve the environmental performance of the development and any strategy, plan or program required under this consent.

Within 3 months of commencing an Independent Environmental Audit, or unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary, a copy of the audit report must be submitted to the Secretary, and any other NSW agency that requests it, together with a response to any recommendations contained in the audit report, and a timetable for the implementation of the recommendations.

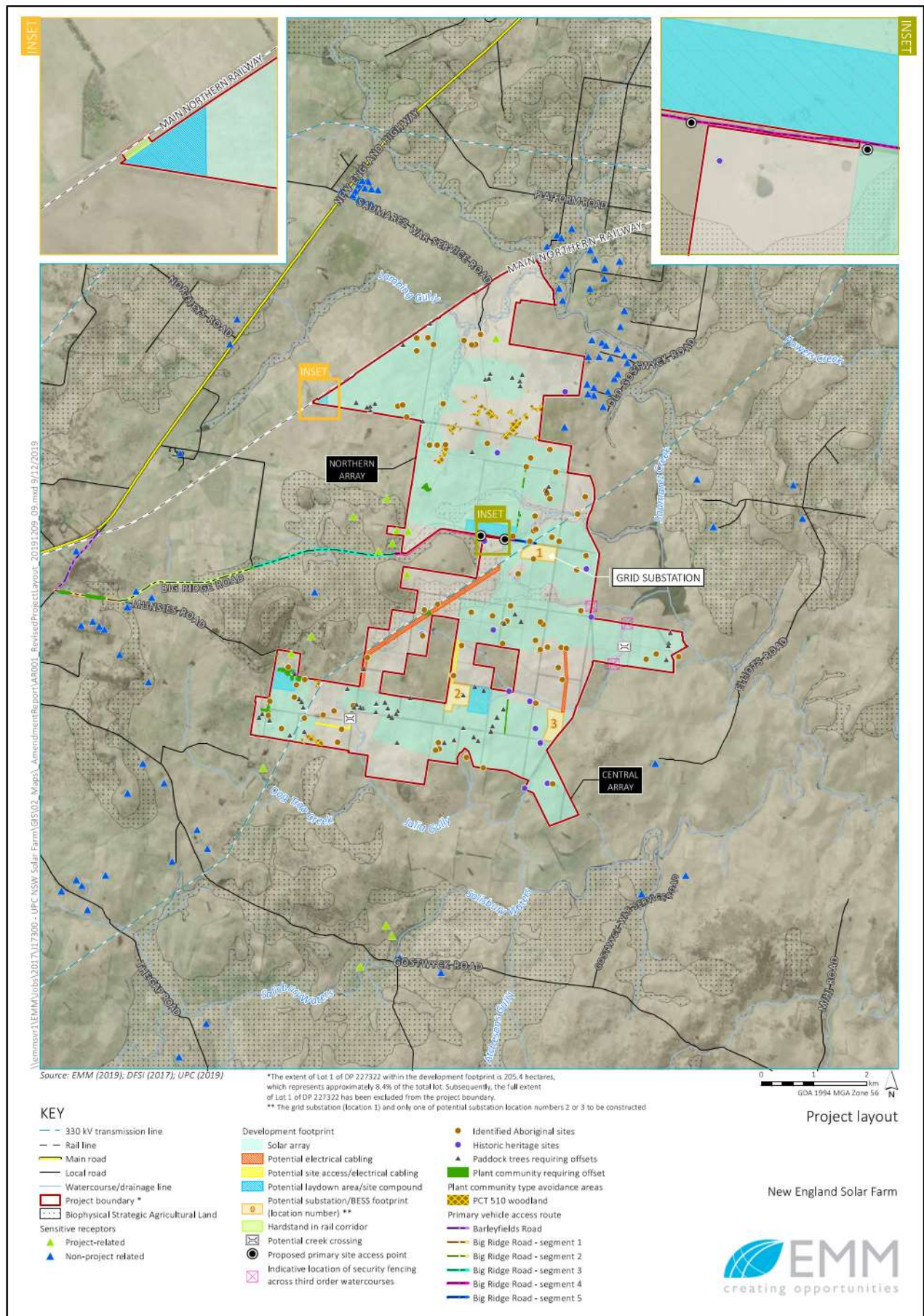
The recommendations of the Independent Environmental Audit must be implemented to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

10. The Applicant must:
 - (a) make the following information publicly available on its website as relevant to the stage of the development:
 - the EIS;
 - the final layout plans for the development (Schedule 4, Condition 5);
 - current statutory approvals for the development;
 - approved strategies, plans or programs required under the conditions of this consent;
 - the proposed staging plans for the development if the construction, operation or decommissioning of the development is to be staged;

- how complaints about the development can be made;
 - a complaints register;
 - compliance reports;
 - any independent environmental audit, and the Applicant's response to the recommendations in any audit; and
 - any other matter required by the Secretary; and
- (b) keep this information up to date.

APPENDIX 1 GENERAL LAYOUT OF DEVELOPMENT



APPENDIX 2 SCHEDULE OF LAND

| <i>Lot</i> | <i>Deposited Plan (DP)</i> | <i>Lot</i> | <i>Deposited Plan (DP)</i> |
|------------|----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 2 | DP567937 | 4 | DP172594 |
| 82 | DP755814 | B | DP172594 |
| 183 | DP755827 | 78 | DP755814 |
| 154 | DP755827 | 84 | DP755814 |
| 79 | DP755814 | 83 | DP755814 |
| 202 | DP755814 | 80 | DP755814 |
| 109 | DP755827 | 181 | DP755827 |
| 108 | DP755827 | 182 | DP755827 |
| 89 | DP755827 | 97 | DP755827 |
| 103 | DP755827 | 2 | DP127777 |
| 101 | DP755827 | 1 | DP127777 |
| 102 | DP755827 | 39 | DP755827 |
| 90 | DP755827 | 38 | DP755827 |
| 113 | DP755827 | 5 | DP127777 |
| 91 | DP755827 | 1 | DP405515 |
| 111 | DP755827 | 37 | DP755827 |
| 110 | DP755827 | 296 | DP755827 |
| 93 | DP755827 | 221 | DP755814 |
| 92 | DP755827 | 2 | DP174053 |
| 98 | DP755827 | 1 (part lot) | DP227322 |
| 122 | DP755827 | 8 | DP173619 |
| 123 | DP755827 | 6 | DP172594 |
| 125 | DP755827 | 21 | DP1167870 |
| 124 | DP755827 | 23 | DP1171290 |
| 126 | DP755827 | 24 | DP1171290 |

Notes:

- The project site will also be taken to include any crown land and road reserves contained within the project site
- The extent of Lot 1 of DP 227322 within the development footprint is 205.4 hectares, which represents approximately 8.4% of the total lot. Subsequently, the full extent of Lot 1 of DP 227322 has been excluded from the project boundary

APPENDIX 3 SUBDIVISION PLAN



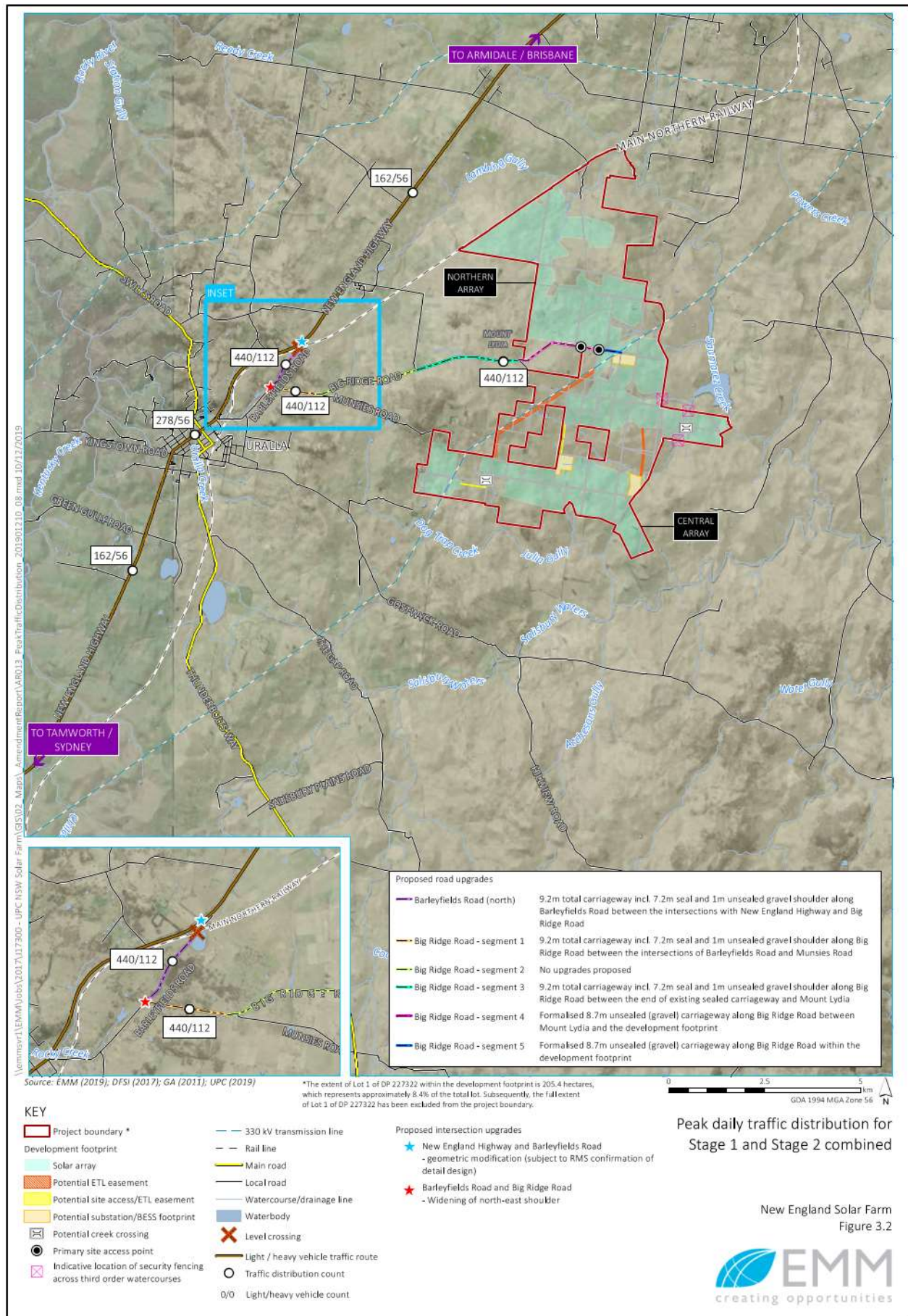
APPENDIX 4

ROAD UPGRADES AND SITE ACCESS

| Road | Location ¹ | Upgrade Requirements | Timing |
|---|--|--|-----------------------|
| New England Highway and Barleyfields Road (north) | Intersection | Channelised Right Turn (CHR) treatment for the largest vehicle assessing the site (excluding over-dimensional vehicles) ² | Prior to construction |
| Barleyfields Road | Between New England Highway and Big Ridge Road | Seal to a width of 7.2 m with 1 m unsealed shoulders (total carriageway 9.2 m) ² | |
| Barleyfields Road and Big Ridge Road | Intersection | Basic Left Turn (BAL) treatment to cater for the largest vehicle accessing the site (excluding over-dimensional vehicles) ² | |
| Big Ridge Road | Segment 1 | Seal to a width of 7.2 m with 1 m unsealed shoulders (total carriageway of 9.2 m) ² | |
| | Segment 3 | | |
| | Segment 4 | Gravel (unsealed) carriageway to a width of 8.7 m | |
| | Segment 5 | | |
| | Site access points | Rural Property Access Type ² | |

¹ Refer to the figure in Appendix 4 for the location and further details of the road upgrades.

² Upgrades must comply with the Austroads Guide to Road Design (as amended by RMS supplements).



APPENDIX 5

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE ITEMS

Table 1: Aboriginal heritage items – avoid impacts

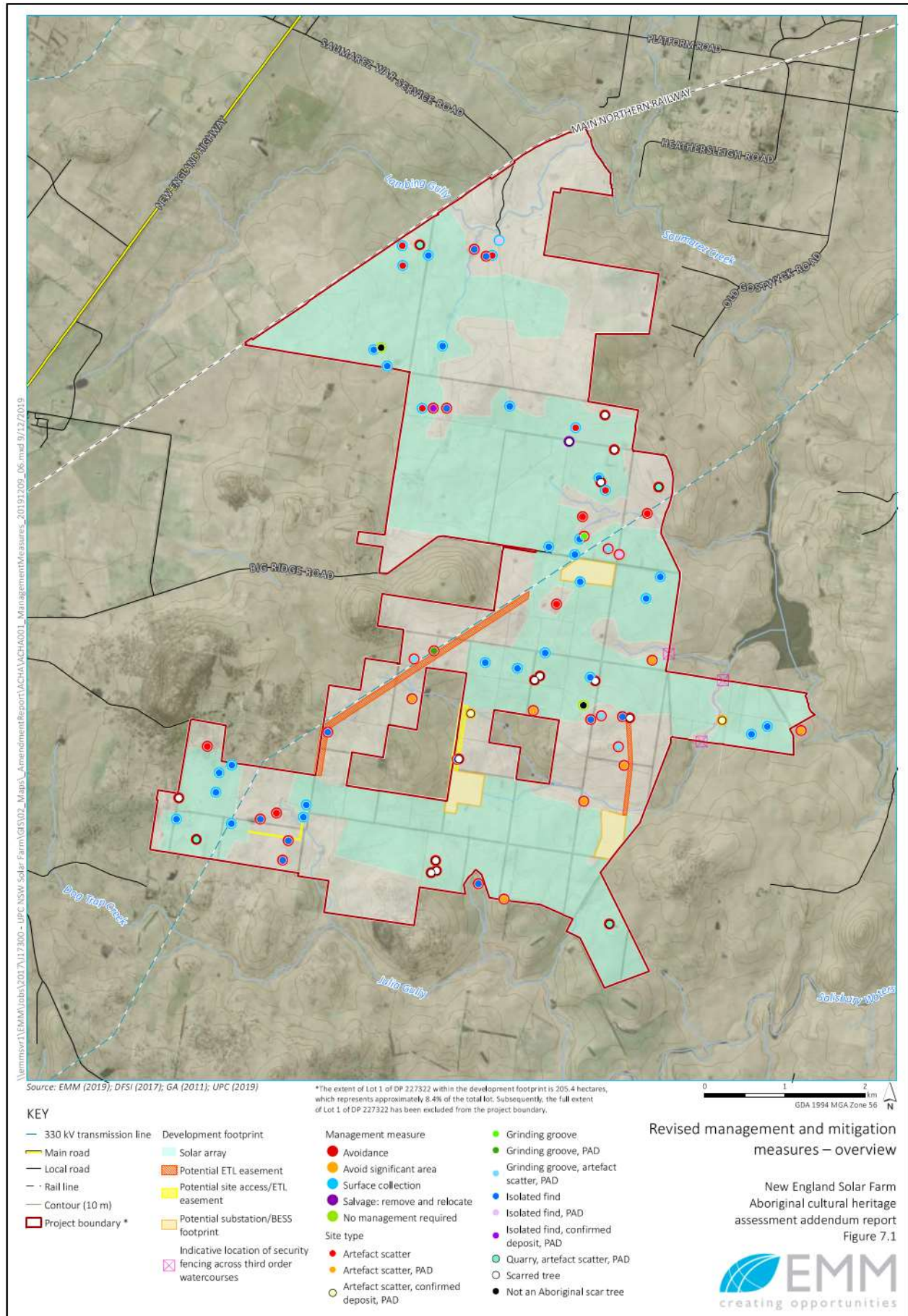
| Site | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| NE01 | NE37 | NE73 |
| NE04 | NE38 | NE77 |
| NE07 | NE39 | NE78 |
| NE09 | NE40 | NE79 |
| NE11 | NE41 | NE80 |
| NE12 | NE43 | NE83 |
| NE14 | NE44 | NE84 |
| NE17 | NE45 | NE86 |
| NE19 | NE47 | NE87 |
| NE20 | NE50 | NE93 |
| NE21 | NE58 | NE94 |
| NE22 | NE67 | NE95 |
| NE23 | NE68 | NE96 |
| NE24 | NE70* | NE97 |
| NE25 | NE71 | NE100 |
| NE26 | NE72 | NE102 |
| NE27* | | |

* Only items outside the development footprint are to be avoided.

Table 2: Aboriginal heritage items – surface collection salvage

| Site | | |
|-------|-------|------|
| NE02 | NE46 | NE74 |
| NE03 | NE48 | NE75 |
| NE05 | NE49 | NE76 |
| NE06 | NE59 | NE82 |
| NE08 | NE60 | NE88 |
| NE10 | NE62 | NE89 |
| NE13 | NE63 | NE90 |
| NE15 | NE64 | NE91 |
| NE16 | NE65 | NE92 |
| NE18 | NE66 | NE98 |
| NE27* | NE69 | NE99 |
| NE42 | NE70* | |

* Only items within the development footprint are to be impacted.



APPENDIX 6 HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEMS

Table 1: Historic heritage items – avoid impacts

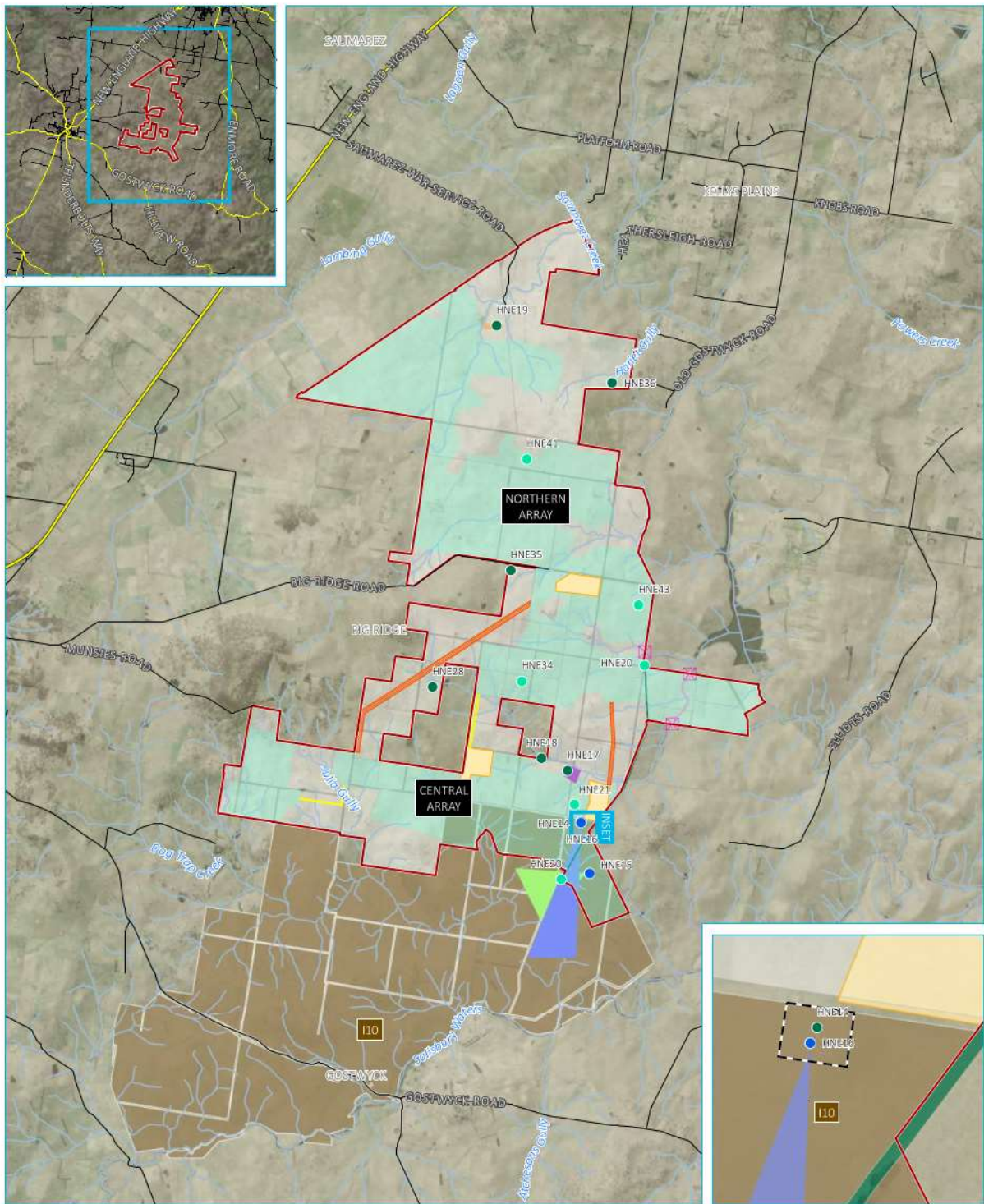
| Site | | Site | |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| HNE14 | Granite tors | HNE19 | Remnant house archaeological site |
| HNE17 | Gostwyck Shepherd's Hut | HNE35 | Old Gostwyck platform 3 |
| HNE18 | Stockyard | HNE36 | Saumarez Hut archaeological site |
| HNE20 | Old Gostwyck Road* | HNE28 | Spring Camp house |

* Only sections of the road outside the development footprint are to be avoided.

Table 2: Historic heritage items – impacted

| Site | | Site | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| HNE15 | View through Gostwyck Station | HNE34 | Former stockyards |
| HNE16 | View from granite tors | HNE41 | Rows of poplars |
| HNE21 | Former fence line | HNE43 | Former fence line |
| HNE20 | Old Gostwyck Road * | | |

* Only sections of the road within the development footprint are to be impacted.



Source: EMM (2019); DFSI (2017); GA (2011); UPC (2019)

*The extent of Lot 1 of DP 227322 within the development footprint is 205.4 hectares, which represents approximately 8.4% of the total lot. Subsequently, the full extent of Lot 1 of DP 227322 has been excluded from the project boundary.

KEY

Project boundary *

Main road

Local road

Watercourse/drainage line

Development footprint

Solar array

Potential electrical cabling

Potential site access/electrical cabling

Potential substation/BESS footprint

Indicative location of security fencing across third order watercourses

Uralla LEP listing - Item

Indicative site boundaries

HNE15

HNE16

HNE17

HNE19

HNE20

Impact type

None

Physical

Visual

Avoidance buffer (HNE14)

Note: HNE37 is not shown as a point as it is representative of the cultural landscape

Project impacts to identified heritage values

New England Solar Farm
Amendment report
Figure 5.3

EMM
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**local people
global experience**

SMEC is recognised for providing technical excellence and consultancy expertise in urban, infrastructure and management advisory. From concept to completion, our core service offering covers the life-cycle of a project and maximises value to our clients and communities. We align global expertise with local knowledge and state-of-the-art processes and systems to deliver innovative solutions to a range of industry sectors.