



Department of Primary Industries

OUT17/9276

Ms Rose-Anne Hawkeswood
Resource Assessments
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
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SYDNEY NSW 2001

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Dear Ms Hawkeswood

Sunraysia Solar Farm (SSD 7680) Comment on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

I refer to your email of 3 February 2017 to the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in respect to the above matter. Comment has been sought from relevant divisions of DPI. Views were also sought from NSW Department of Industry - Lands that are now a division of the broader Department and no longer within NSW DPI. Any further referrals to DPI can be sent by email to landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

DPI has reviewed the EIS and provides the following recommendations:

- The Project Environmental Management Plan should include an Emergency / Bushfire Management Plan based on the safeguards documented in the EIS.
- The proponent should confirm that the landholder has an agreement with the proponent to cover: site and water resource access, operational and farming protocols and risk management, timing of construction, decommissioning and rehabilitation measures.
- The proponent should provide a concept map detailing the proposed installation of canals and water reticulation infrastructure to manage rainfall runoff to enable proper assessment.
- The EIS has identified a number of potential sources for water demand for the project during and post construction, but has not provided an assessment of the security, potential impacts and adequacy of existing water licenses. The proponent should assess and confirm these details prior to project approval to understand the water supply risks and to ensure any requirement for additional licensing is identified early and WMA approvals can be excluded where appropriate under Section 89J of the EP&A Act.
- The proponent should confirm whether 3 dams identified in the EIS within the footprint of the proposed solar arrays are to be removed. If so, an impact assessment should be undertaken.
- The EIS identifies a reserve to be established for 'Roadway'. Appropriate action relating to this road would be to make Application for Closure and Subsequent Disposal.

- The proponent must obtain relevant licensing under the *Water Management Act 2000* before commencing any works which intercept or extract groundwater or surface water.
- Any approval for the project should include the following Condition of Consent:
 - The proponent shall prepare a decommissioning management plan with rehabilitation objectives and strategies for returning the land to rangeland agricultural production in consultation with DPI Agriculture (landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Mitchell Isaacs

Director, Planning Policy & Assessment Advice

1 March 2017

DPI appreciates your help to improve our advice to you. Please complete this three minute survey about the advice we have provided to you, here:

<https://goo.gl/o8TXWz>