

Jonathan Upson
Director Project Development
Canadian Solar (Australia) Pty Ltd

Via email: jonathan.upsen@canadiansolar.com

13/07/2020

Dear Mr Upson

**Suntop Solar Farm (SSD 8696)
Staging the Development**

I refer to your letter (SSD-8696-PA-16) notifying the Department that the development of the Suntop Solar Farm (SSD 8696) will be staged and seeking the Secretary's approval to commence construction of Stage 1 prior to the retirement of biodiversity credits required under condition 12 of Schedule 3 of the development consent.

The Department has reviewed your proposal to develop the project in two distinct stages:

- Stage 1: Early Transgrid substation works
- Stage 2: Full construction works

The Department notes that:

- staging the development would allow TransGrid to undertake preliminary works for the on-site substation and associated works (Stage 1) prior to the commencement of construction of the remainder of the project (Stage 2); and
- Stage 1 would not impact the vegetation communities requiring the retirement of biodiversity credits under condition 12 of Schedule 3.

Accordingly, the Secretary approves the commencement of construction of Stage 1 prior to the retirement of biodiversity credits required under condition 12 of Schedule 3 of the development consent.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Natasha Homsey on the above details.

Yours sincerely



Mike Young
Executive Director
Energy, Resources and Compliance

As nominee of the Planning
Secretary