

Notice of decision

Section 2.22 and clause 20 of Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

Application type	State significant development
Application number	SSD 9031
Project name	Avonlie Solar Farm
Applicant	RES Australia Pty Ltd
Consent Authority	Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

Decision

On 8 August 2019, the Executive Director granted consent to the development application for the Avonlie Solar Farm subject to conditions, under delegation from the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces and section 4.38 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (**the Act**).

A copy of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Assessment Report and development consent are available [here](#).

Date of decision

8 August 2019

Reasons for decision

The following matters were taken into consideration in making this decision:

- the relevant matters listed in section 4.15 of the Act and the additional matters listed in the statutory context section of the Department's Assessment Report;
- the prescribed matters under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*;
- the objects of the Act;
- the considerations under s 7.14(2) and 7.16(3) of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (NSW);
- all information submitted to the Department during the assessment of the development application and information considered in the Department's Assessment Report; and
- the findings and recommendations in the Department's Assessment Report.

The findings and recommendations set out in the Department's Assessment Report were accepted and adopted as the reasons for making this decision.

The key reasons for granting consent to the development application are as follows:

- the project would provide a range of benefits for the region and the State as a whole, including:
 - contributing to a more diverse local industry;
 - a capital investment of approximately \$250 million;
 - creating up to 200 construction jobs;
 - generating enough electricity to power up to 74,800 homes, saving up to 423,800 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year; and
 - assisting in transitioning the electricity sector from coal and gas fired power stations to renewable energy;
- the project is permissible with development consent under *State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007*;
- the project is consistent with relevant NSW Government policies;
- the impacts on the community and the environment can be appropriately minimised, managed or offset to an acceptable level, subject to the recommended conditions of consent;
- Narrandera Shire Council supports the project and there are no residual concerns from NSW Government agencies;
- no submissions were received from the general public or special interest groups; and
- weighing all relevant considerations, the project is in the public interest.