



Professor Mary O'Kane AC
Chair
Independent Planning Commission
GPO Box 3415
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Professor O'Kane

Orange Grove Solar Farm (SSD 8882)

The Department has completed its assessment of the merits of the application for the Orange Grove Solar Farm (SSD 8882).

The application is referred to the Independent Planning Commission for determination, as there were more than 25 public objections to the proposal.

During the exhibition of the environmental impact statement (EIS), the Department received a total of 86 submissions, including 9 from government agencies, 1 from a special interest group and 76 from the public, of which 66 objected to the project. Gunnedah Shire Council supports the proposal and none of the government agencies object to the proposal.

During the assessment process, the Department visited the site, and consulted with local residents, Council and relevant government agencies.

In assessing the merits of the project, the Department has considered the environmental, social and economic impacts of the project, submissions on the EIS, relevant environmental planning instruments, the suitability of the site for the project, and the public interest, in accordance with the requirements of the EP&A Act.

Based on this assessment, the Department considers that the project is approvable, subject to the recommended conditions of consent.

I have attached a copy of the Department's assessment report and other relevant documents for the Commission's consideration.

For further information or to arrange a briefing, please contact Nicole Brewer, A/Director Resource and Energy Assessments, on (02) 9274 6374.

Yours sincerely

Marcus Ray
**Deputy Secretary
Planning Services**

15/04/2019