

Our ref: SSD 9261283

Andrew Mills

Chair

Independent Planning Commission

GPO Box 3415

Sydney NSW 2001

[ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au)

27/06/2024

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Subject: Wallaroo Solar Farm – Referral to the Independent Planning Commission

Dear Mr Mills,

The Department has completed its assessment of the merits of the application for the Wallaroo Solar Farm (SSD 9261283).

The application is referred to the Independent Planning Commission for determination as there were more than 50 unique submissions objecting to the proposal and Yass Valley Council objected to the project.

Wallaroo Solar Farm Pty Ltd (WSF) proposes to develop a new State significant solar farm located adjacent to the New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory (ACT) border, approximately 750 metres (m) north of the ACT and 40 kilometres (km) south west of Yass in the Yass local government area.

The project would have a generating capacity of approximately 100 megawatts (MW) and includes a 45 MW / 90 MW hour battery energy storage system (BESS) and on site substation. The project would connect to an existing 132 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, operated by Transgrid.

During the exhibition of the environmental impact statement (EIS) the Department received a total of 97 unique submissions from the community, in addition to advice from 12 government agencies. The Department also received an objection from Yass Valley Council on the EIS. Of the public submissions received during exhibition of the EIS, 88 objected to the project, five supported the project and four provided comment.

During the assessment process, WSF amended its application to **reduce the project's operational footprint**, establish operational controls to mitigate glint and glare impacts and provided a revised

landscape plan. Under the delegation from the Independent Planning Commission, the Department accepted the amended application for the reasons outlined in the Assessment Report.

WSF also offered to enter into a voluntary planning agreement with Yass Valley Council to contribute a lump sum payment of \$150,000 on commencement of construction and an additional annual payment of \$55,000 during the operation of the project.

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, and the public interest, in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

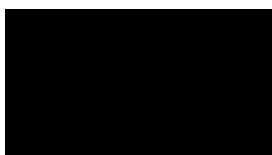
During the assessment process the Department visited the site, and consulted with local residents, Council and relevant government agencies.

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.

If you have any questions, please contact Iwan Davies on [REDACTED] or via email at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Iwan Davies.

Iwan Davies

Director

Energy Assessments