



NAME REDACTED		COMMENT	Submission No: 188717
Organisation:	ACT Environment Protection Authority	Key issues: Water, Noise	
Location:	Australian Capital Territory 2602		
Submitter Type:	other		
Attachment:	Wallaroo solar Farm - submission ACT EPA to NSW IPC - final.pdf		

Submission date: 7/26/2024 4:47:28 PM

The ACT Environment Protection Authority (ACT EPA) has provided comments to the proposed solar farm at Wallaroo through the comments provided by the ACT Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) on the draft Conditions of Consent on 5 June 2024.

The following matters were raised by the ACT EPA:

â€¢ Noise:

The Noise assessment provided in the EIS for the Wallaroo Solar Farm has assessed noise at the nearest residential receiver. For the ACT their compliance points were situated in Dunlop and Macgregor at existing residences. The Ginninderry Future Urban Area (FUA) with zoning for high density residential is located less than 300 m from the proposed solar farm. The ACT EPA therefore requires noise levels to comply on the ACT/NSW border with the noise zone limit of 45/35 dB for the operational phase of the development.

â€¢ Water:

There appears to be no assessment of water runoff from fire extinguishing in the case of on-site fires. Given the close proximity of the site to Ginninderry Creek and the Murrumbidgee River, there is a risk that contaminated water can be dispersed into these waterways during and after firefighting activities. The ACT EPA requests more information and/or conditions on how this will be managed (for instance through the construction of a retention pond).

The ACT EPA considers that the matters raised in their comments were not adequately addressed by the applicant in the RFI response of 27 June 2024. The following is provided as additional information and clarification for this.

â€¢ There was no response to the issue of run-off water from fire suppression.

Battery fires can lead to environmental pollution and runoff contamination. When lithium-ion batteries catch fire they can release toxic substances into the air, soil and water.

The ACT EPA requests that the applicant provide information on fire suppressing activities in case of battery fires and how the runoff of this will be handled in order to prevent pollution of the nearby waterways.

â€¢ The issue of noise compliance was not adequately addressed by the applicant in the RFI response to entitiesâ€™ comments from 27 June 2024.

The applicant stated that the submitted noise assessment (appendix E.8 in the EIS) has covered all noise impacts. However, that report measured noise at the nearest existing residence in the ACT, the closest of which is in Dunlop at 680m from the solar farm.



*The ACT Environment Protection Regulation 2005 stipulates that noise measurements must be taken at the compliance point which is as near as practicable to the boundary of the parcel of land where the noise is generated.*

*The area in the ACT across the border from the proposed solar farm falls under noise zone G which has a noise limit of 45dB daytime and 35dB nighttime. Because of the future urban area (FUA) for the new suburb in Ginninderry (See Belconnen map of ACT Territory Plan, as of 5 July 2024), there would be residential development within proximity of the proposed solar farm, at less than 300m as the crow flies.*

*Compliance with noise zone limits at the block boundary/ACT border therefore is warranted. Noise pollution can cause harm to human health, and it is better to attenuate through planning and design than to retrofit after complaints are received.*

*EPA requests that a noise assessment is submitted showing that compliance with noise zone standards for zone G can be achieved at the block boundary (i.e. ACT/NSW border) while the facility is in use.*

*For further information and engagement, please contact the ACT EPA Planning Liaison Officer at [epaplanningliaison@act.gov.au](mailto:epaplanningliaison@act.gov.au).*

*Yours sincerely,*

*ACT Environment Protection Authority*

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NSW Government, Independent Planning Commission  
Panel Chair: Andrew Mills

**Reference number:** SSD-9261283  
**From:** ACT Environment Protection Authority  
**Contact:** [epaplanningliaison@act.gov.au](mailto:epaplanningliaison@act.gov.au)

Dear Sir, Madam,

**SUBJECT:** DEVELOPMENT OF A 100 MW SOLAR FARM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING BATTERY STORAGE AT WALLAROO.

The ACT Environment Protection Authority (ACT EPA) has provided comments to the proposed solar farm at Wallaroo through the comments provided by the ACT Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) on the draft Conditions of Consent on 5 June 2024.

The following matters were raised by the ACT EPA:

- **Noise:**

The Noise assessment provided in the EIS for the Wallaroo Solar Farm has assessed noise at the nearest residential receiver. For the ACT their compliance points were situated in Dunlop and Macgregor at existing residences. The Ginninderry Future Urban Area (FUA) with zoning for high density residential is located less than 300 m from the proposed solar farm. The ACT EPA therefore requires noise levels to comply on the ACT/NSW border with the noise zone limit of 45/35 dB for the operational phase of the development.

- **Water:**

There appears to be no assessment of water runoff from fire extinguishing in the case of on-site fires. Given the close proximity of the site to Ginninderry Creek and the Murrumbidgee River, there is a risk that contaminated water can be dispersed into these waterways during and after firefighting activities. The ACT EPA requests more information and/or conditions on how this will be managed (for instance through the construction of a retention pond).

The ACT EPA considers that the matters raised in their comments were not adequately addressed by the applicant in the RFI response of 27 June 2024. The following is provided as additional information and clarification for this.

- ***There was no response to the issue of run-off water from fire suppression.***

Battery fires can lead to environmental pollution and runoff contamination. When lithium-ion batteries catch fire they can release toxic substances into the air, soil and water. *The ACT EPA requests that the applicant provide information on fire suppressing activities in case of battery fires and how the runoff of this will be handled in order to prevent pollution of the nearby waterways.*

- ***The issue of noise compliance was not adequately addressed by the applicant in the RFI response to entities' comments from 27 June 2024.***

The applicant stated that the submitted noise assessment (appendix E.8 in the EIS) has covered all noise impacts. However, that report measured noise at the nearest existing residence in the ACT, the closest of which is in Dunlop at 680m from the solar farm. The ACT *Environment Protection Regulation 2005* stipulates that noise measurements must be taken at the compliance point which is as near as practicable to the boundary of the parcel of land where the noise is generated.

The area in the ACT across the border from the proposed solar farm falls under noise zone G which has a noise limit of 45dB daytime and 35dB nighttime. Because of the future urban area (FUA) for the new suburb in Ginninderry (See Belconnen map of [ACT Territory Plan, as of 5 July 2024](#)), there would be residential development within proximity of the proposed solar farm, at less than 300m as the crow flies.

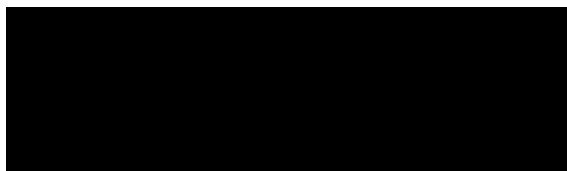


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*EPA requests that a noise assessment is submitted showing that compliance with noise zone standards for zone G can be achieved at the block boundary (i.e. ACT/NSW border) while the facility is in use.*

For further information and engagement, please contact the ACT EPA Planning Liaison Officer at [epaplanningliaison@act.gov.au](mailto:epaplanningliaison@act.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Kamarul  
Environment Protection Authority

Date: 26 July 2024