

From: [REDACTED]
To: [IPCN Submissions Mailbox](#)
Subject: Submission For Oxley Solar Farm (SSD-10346)
Date: Thursday, 16 November 2023 7:14:47 PM

Thank you for reopening submissions to the IPC in regard to the proposed OSD.

Having read the latest responses from EnergyCo and the applicant to the OSD, I am now even more supportive of the proposed development of The Oxley Solar Farm.

The reasons for my support, only commenting on the latest responses from EnergyCo and the OSD applicant, are listed below.

EnergyCo Response to IPC

According to the response from EnergyCo the OSD will not materially affect transmission costs and would contribute to downward pressure on energy prices while helping to meet the NSW government goals in regard to the New England REZ while also supporting to meet NSW's net zero objectives. The residents of NSW have for several years been doing it very tough with cost of living pressures and inflation. I like all NSW residents and businesses have had dramatic raises in electricity costs. This has been a huge burden to bear and it has also contributed to national inflation figures and thus rising interest rates.

The OSD will help reduce energy prices which is drastically needed by the people and businesses of NSW.

The applicants response to IPC Issue 1 Landscape Plan

The applicant will be using fast growing pioneer indigenous trees and shrubs and taller growing trees that will last the project lifespan. The combination and planting configuration of these plants will provide a diverse fast growing under story and mid story, which will then over time be capped by the taller growing trees. This will provide a fast growing screen to the development that will be long lasting.

The landscape plan will use best practices for site preparation, timing of planting, mulching, staking, grow bags, soil tests and additives if so required. This will minimise plant losses, which will be replaced if needed, maximise plant height and width growth in a timely manner.

The best practices will negate any perceived detriment to views from landholders whose property face the proposed development in a timely manner.

Issue 2

The photo montages for R3 and R201 clearly show the timely growth rate of the vegetation screens and how they will block views to the solar panels and infrastructure in a timely manner.

Issue 3 Water required for vegetative screens for the life of the project.

Once again best practices in site preparation drastically reduces the need for follow up watering long term after planting as the preparations make it possible for sub soils to hold moisture. Even though long term watering is not required to establish the plantings they will be watered weekly for 3 months, thus ensuring survival and best growth from the plants.

Issue 4 Damaged Panels and heavy metal leaching

The risk to human health and water contamination from heavy metal leaching is within The World Health Organisation guidelines. The World Health Organisation is the preeminent authority when it comes to human health, so their guidelines should be acceptable as a determinant for the safety of

the solar panels.

Issue 5 Protocols to monitor solar panels, replace panels and timing of replacements and disposal of damaged panels.

Panels will be routinely inspected due financial gains of doing so, faulty panels are detected remotely of inspection and once again replaced for financial gain. Thus damaged or faulty panels will be fixed or replaced in a very timely manner.

Disposal of panels. There are already many companies that recycle solar panels. As the number of panels in use by solar farms increases as more solar farms are constructed to meet our growing need for renewable energy supplies, supply to the companies recycling panels will increase. This would most likely reduce the costs to recycle due to increasing scale and volume of the operations. This would entice more entrants into the field of recycling, creating more competition, efficiency gains and the development of even newer recycling technologies for solar panels.

Issue 6 Gara rd upgrades and Gara river causeway completion prior to commencement of solar array and battery installation.

The road and causeway upgrades and construction will take place prior to the installation of solar panels and battery. These upgrades will be of significant benefit in safety to local landholders who regularly use them and will stop the regular occurrence of near death accidents on the existing causeway when submerged by fast flowing water.

Issue 7 Manage Fire risk

There will be onsite firefighting equipment that can be used not only onsite but on nearby fires to the project, this is of great support and provides additional safety to nearby property holders, not only for them, but also for their stock such as cattle and sheep. There will be a 20000 litre water tank near the entrance to the property which will be fitted with couplings suitable for RFS and NSW firefighting equipment, once again increasing safety for the project and nearby landholders. Building water runoff will be used for firefighting. Vegetative management will be used to reduce the risk of fast moving fires. Fire Safety and Emergency plans will be developed with numerous NSW Government agencies. Best practices will be utilised in the implementation of staff inductions and training, including high fire risk activities. There will be consultation with the NSW RFS in the implementation of Fire Risk and Fighting requirements. The scope of plans to be implemented in the management of fire risks are thorough and of best practice.

Issue 9 Measures to ensure water quality of nearby rivers and riparian zones.

The proposed development removed substantial areas of development surrounding the river junctions and has included enhancements to riparian vegetation. Panel shading and less animal grazing will improve soil health, thus improving resilience of the vegetation and soils which will improve river water quality. The outlined mitigation measures are best practice to ensure water quality. Maintaining ground cover and adjusting animal stocking rates accordingly will improve water quality. Water front land and water crossing work will be conducted as per government department regulations, this will also avoid any detriment to water quality and the new causeway would most likely improve water flows and thus water quality for any platypus and fish nearby to the causeway.

Summation

Given the responses to the further requests for information from the IPC by EnergyCo and the applicant of the OSD, it is clear to see that all issues raised have been adequately addressed and as a result there is no reason why the proposed development should not be approved.

The approval of the project would benefit the local Armidale community, the state of NSW and all it's residents, all the people of Australia and all the people on the planet we live on, as we reduce to Net Zero CO2 emission goals while at the same time lowering energy costs to all consumers in NSW.

Regards

