

Our ref: SSD-21208499

Prof Mary O’Kane
Chair
Independent Planning Commission
GPO Box 3415
Sydney NSW 2001

ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au

10/11/2023

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

Dear Professor O’Kane

The Department has completed its assessment of the merits of the application for the Glanmire Solar Farm (SSD-21208499).

The application is referred to the Independent Planning Commission for determination as there were more than 50 unique submissions objecting to the proposal.

Elgin Energy Pty Ltd (Elgin) proposes to develop a new State significant solar farm located approximately 10 kilometres (km) east of Bathurst in the Bathurst Regional Council Local Government Area.

The project would have a generating capacity of approximately 60 megawatts (MW) and includes a 60 MW / 120 MW-hour battery energy storage system (BESS) and on-site substation. The project would connect to an existing transmission line operated by Essential Energy via an underground powerline.

During the exhibition of the environmental impact statement (EIS), the Department received a total of 143 submissions from the community, in addition to advice from 14 government agencies and a comment from Council. Of the public submissions, 133 objected to the project, nine supported the project and one provided comment.

During the assessment process, Elgin amended its application to extend the onsite storage duration of the BESS from one to two hours. Under the delegation from the consent authority (i.e. the Commission for this development), the Department accepted the amended application for the reasons outlined in the Assessment Report.

Elgin also offered to enter into a voluntary planning agreement with Bathurst Regional Council to contribute up an annual payment of \$18,000 for the life of the project, which has been agreed in principle.

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*.

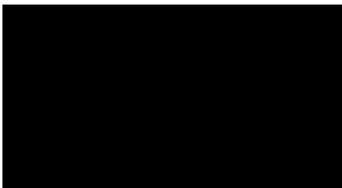
During the assessment process the Department visited the site, and consulted with local residents, Council and relevant government agencies.

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 Nicole Brewer on [REDACTED] or via email at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,



Nicole Brewer
Director
Energy Assessments