



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

Dear Professor O'Kane

Gunnedah Solar Farm (SSD 8658)

The Department has completed its assessment of the merits of the application for the Gunnedah Solar Farm (SSD 8658).

In accordance with the Minister's delegation dated 14 September 2011, the application is referred to the Independent Planning Commission for determination, as there were more than 25 objections to the proposal.

During the exhibition of the environmental impact statement (EIS), the Department received a total of 63 submissions, including 9 from government agencies, 2 from special interest groups and 52 from the general public, of which 48 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 Mr Clay Preshaw, Director Resource and Energy Assessments, on (02) 9274 6349.

Yours sincerely

Marcus Ray
Deputy Secretary
Planning Services

09/11/2019