

Photon Energy Australia Pty Ltd | Level 2 / 55 Grafton Street | Bondi Junction NSW 2022 | Australia

Attn: Andrew Hutton
Independent Planning Commission
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street
Sydney
NSW 2000

20-11-18

Dear Andrew,

On behalf of Gunnedah Solar Farm Pty Ltd (**GSF**), I provide further clarification to comments at the IPC briefing held at 11:30am on 19 November 2018 at the IPC offices.

In reference to the fencing configuration and community consultation we provide the following for clarification.

In January 2018 several meetings were held with sensitive receivers to listen and discuss concerns. The concerns raised around the flooding pertained to the type of fencing and the blockages that may occur as debris builds up behind the fence, with potential to redirect floodwaters and cause additional impacts on surrounding land. Given this feedback and the modelling outcomes, the footprint of the proposed development was moved 700m north within the site, away from Orange Grove Road and the known flood breakout near this location. The fence configuration was revised to help reduce flooding impacts and further flood modelling was conducted to assess the impacts. This resulted in fence configuration 3 which included gates located every 100m around the perimeter as well as 20m wide laneways in key locations. The intent was to open these gates in times of flood to allow the waters to pass through.

In March 2018 we continued our one on one discussions with the same landholders consulted during Jan 2018 as well as other landholders. We discussed configuration 3 and received varied feedback.

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Through the exhibition phase further modelling work was completed and Configuration 4 was developed. The main difference from configuration 3 was the inclusion of drop-down fencing in strategic areas designed to improve free passage of floodwaters through the development site and minimise the likelihood of flow redirection. This configuration was presented in the Response to Submissions report that Department of Planning and Environment published on the major project website and sent out to government agencies.

When Department of Planning and Environment was completing their assessment for the Independent Planning Commission, the applicant was asked to consider further revisions to the fencing plan to increase the length of drop-down fence. This resulted in fence Configuration 5.

In summary there has been no one on one discussions with the community regarding configuration 4 and 5 as they have been developed post public exhibition of the EIS. The community however has been kept informed on the major projects website.

In reference to the question regarding pasture, it is intended to graze sheep as required. The pasture will be dryland pasture (not irrigated) and will be managed to maximise ground cover to reduce the potential for erosion (dust and rain).

In reference to the question regarding the proposed vegetation screening for VP 1, the screening was proposed to be planted on 765 Orange Grove Rd property boundary. Based on the flood modelling completed to date it is reasonable to assume the proposed addition of vegetation screening would have minimal impact on flood flows around VP1.

In reference to the question regarding the cost of perimeter security fencing, GSF has received quotes for the fencing of \$66 per metre for fencing with the drop down functionality and \$55 per metre without drop down functionality. The perimeter fencing is approximately 9.5km in length, of which 4km of drop down fencing is proposed in fence configuration 5.

Regards



Nicholas Guzowski
Project Developer