

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

10 December 2018

Dear Alana,

**Re: Gunnedah Solar Farm – Question form the Commission**

Thank you for your email dated Monday 3 December 2018. We provide the following responses to your questions.

**1. Provide an explanation of how the heavy vehicle route was determined. What was the selection criteria used to determine the route and were other routes considered?**

The heavy vehicle route outlined below has been determined to be the safest and most appropriate transport route:

- ! Kamilaroi Highway to Gunnedah carries B Double trucks and allows for local, regional and national road freight movements
- ! Blue Vale Road is well laid out and can safely accommodate the truck movements, providing a high level of control and safety
- ! Old Blue Vale Road and the intersections from Blue Vale Road and Kelvin Road have been assessed as providing adequate safety and visibility based on Guidelines
- ! Kelvin Road is used for trucks and allows for adequate stopping and turning distances
- ! Orange Grove is used as it's the public road giving access to the property

It is noted that the other access to the site is via the Oxley Highway (through Tamworth), then Rushes Creek Road which ends around Lake Keepit then onto Orange Grove Road. This route includes 30 kms of dirt winding road that is not suitable for semi-trailers.

More detail can be found in the EIS Appendix I – Traffic Impact Assessment.

**2. Provide a map of the school bus routes through the area.**

Please refer to Figure 1. The map has been compiled based on discussions with the bus companies listed on the Gunnedah Shire Councils' website. This includes Hope Bus Services, Hawkins Coach lines and Millerd's Bus Service. The school run is generally between 0800 – 0830 and 1530 - 1600 on school days.

**3. Provide a cross-section figure showing the location of VP9 and the solar farm. The cross section should include Reduced Levels (RLs).**

Please refer to Figure 2 and Figure 3. Figure 2 shows the actual ground levels based on the information in the flood management plans and Figure 3 is using a Figure 3 vertical exaggeration of 1:10.

**4. Provide further details regarding how reflectivity and potential impacts associated with glare would be avoided.**

Please refer to Table 1 below.

**5. Provide a subdivision plan showing the required allotments as discussed in the briefing 19 November 2018.**

Please refer to Figure 4.

**6. Provide cost to fence entire site as discussed in the briefing 19 November 2018.**

The entire estimated length of fencing is 5,500 metres @ \$55/m = \$302,500 and 4,000 metres at \$66/m = \$264,000. The total estimated cost being \$566,500.

**7. Provide an overview of community consultation undertaken post submission of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) including any consultation undertaken throughout the Response to Submissions (RtS) process, following submission of the RtS and any further consultation since that time.**

Consultation / engagement undertaken post submission of the EIS includes:

- ! 23 April 2018 – Sent notification to 19 community members advising that the EIS was about due for public exhibition.
- ! 17 May 2018 – communication with Geoff Hood. Spoke with Geoff also on the 23 May, 25 May and 28 May regarding flooding concerns and review of flood modelling data and fencing configuration.
- ! 25 May 2018 - Presentation to the Gunnedah Shire Council including the Gunnedah Mayor and Councillors.

After the RtS was submitted it was understood the Department of Planning and Environment were discussing the proposal with the community. This included a site visit and Department of Planning and Environment holding separate sessions with sensitive receivers.

- ! 26 October 2018 – email to Graeme Brown regarding next steps.

➤! 30 November 2018 – one on one meetings with Rob Galton regarding the flooding fencing configuration and Chris Avard regarding visual impacts.

There has also been several media requests which have been responded to.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further clarification to the above questions.

Yours sincerely

Nick Guzowski  
Project Manager – Gunnedah Solar Farm





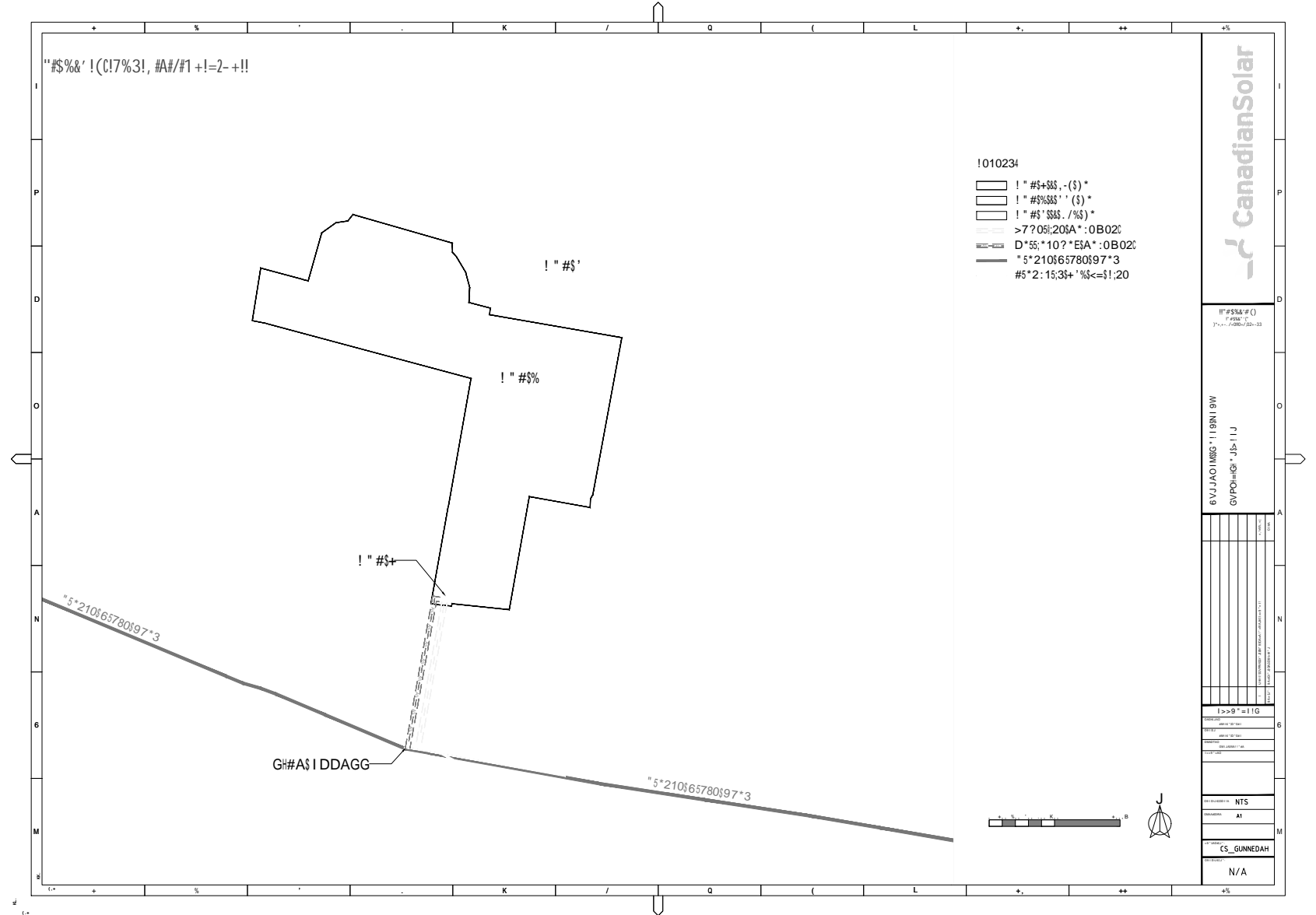




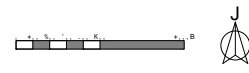








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