



Professor Mary O'Kane AC
Chair
Independent Planning Commission
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Dear Professor O'Kane

Bonshaw Solar Farm (SSD 9438)

The Department has completed its assessment of merits of the application for the Bonshaw Solar Farm (SSD 9438).

The application is referred to the Independent Planning Commission for determination as the applicant disclosed a reportable political donation.

GAIA Australia Pty Ltd (GAIA) proposes to develop a new State significant development solar farm located approximately 16 kilometres (km) south of Bonshaw and 66 km north of Inverell, in the Inverell Local Government Area (LGA). It would have a generating capacity of approximately 200 megawatt (MW) solar farm with up to 300 MW of battery storage and connect to TransGrid's existing Dumaresq substation.

During the exhibition of the environmental impact statement (EIS), the Department received 2 submissions (including 1 objection), in addition to advice from 13 government agencies including Inverell Shire Council (Council).

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 of the project, and the public interest, in accordance with the requirements of the EP&A Act.

During the assessment process the Department also consulted with 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, recommended instrument of consent and other relevant documents for the Commission's consideration.

For further information or to arrange a briefing, please contact Mike Young, Executive Director Energy, Industry and Compliance on 02 8217 2091 or mike.young@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

5/11/2020
David Gainsford
Deputy Secretary
Assessment and Systems Performance
Planning and Assessment