

Our ref: SSD-9550

Prof Mary O’Kane  
Chair  
Independent Planning Commission  
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## Subject: Glenellen 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 Glenellen Solar Farm (SDD 9550).

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

Trina Solar (Australia) Pty Ltd (Trina) proposes to develop a new State significant solar farm located approximately 2 kilometres (km) northeast of Jindera in the Greater Hume Local Government Area.

The project would have a generating capacity of approximately 200 megawatts (MW) and would connect to TransGrid’s existing substation located adjacent to the project on Ortlipp Road.

During the exhibition of the environmental impact statement (EIS), the Department received a total of 107 submissions from the community, in addition to advice from 12 government agencies and an objection from Council. Of the public submissions, 79 objected to the project, 27 supported the project and one provided comment.

After reviewing the submissions, Trina made a number of changes to the project to address issues raised in submissions and agency advice, including:

- reduced impact on native vegetation by avoiding 2.7 ha and 4 paddock trees;
- revised heavy vehicle haulage route;
- recontouring of an inundation area in the south-east of the site; and
- amendments to project design to reduce visual impacts, including:
  - relocation of the substation expansion to the south of the existing Jindera Substation;
  - removal of more than 22,000 solar panels;
  - increased spacing between solar panel rows from 6 m to 9 m;
  - reduction in height of fencing (to 2.2 m) and meteorological station (to 6 m);
  - increased setbacks from Lindner Road, Ortlipp Road and Drumwood Road; and
  - increased vegetation screening around project site.

## Department of Planning and Environment



Despite the proposed changes, the generating capacity of the project would remain unchanged.

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.

Trina also offered to enter into a voluntary planning agreement with Greater Hume Council to contribute up to approximately \$2.5 million over the life of the project, which has been agreed in principle.

The Department has considered this information in detail during its assessment and supports the proposed amendments as they would significantly reduce the impacts of the project and address some of the key issues raised by the community in submissions.

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 Iwan Davies on 02 9274 6296 or via email at [iwan.davies@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:iwan.davies@planning.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Iwan Davies".

Iwan Davies

**Director  
Energy Assessments**