

Our ref: SSD-23700028

Andrew Mills

Chair

Independent Planning Commission

GPO Box 3415

Sydney NSW 2001

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18/07/2025

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**Subject: Tallawang Solar Farm – Referral to the Independent Planning Commission**

Dear Mr Mills,

The Department has completed its assessment of the merits of the application for the Tallawang Solar Farm (SSD-23700028).

The application is referred to the Independent Planning Commission for determination as there were more than 50 unique submissions objecting to the project and the local Council made a submission objecting to the project.

Tallawang Solar Hybrid Pty Ltd (TSH) proposes to develop a new State significant solar farm located approximately 8 kilometres north-west of Gulgong in the Mid-Western Regional local government area, within the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (CWO REZ).

The project would have a generating capacity of approximately 500 megawatts (MW) and includes a 500 MW / 1,000 MW-hour (MWh) battery energy storage system (BESS). The project would connect to the approved CWO REZ Transmission Project.

During the exhibition of the environmental impact statement (EIS) the Department received a total of 56 unique submissions from the community, in addition to advice from 13 government agencies. Of the public submissions received during exhibition of the EIS, 54 objected to the project and 2 supported the project.

TSH has reached an in-principle agreement with Mid-Western Regional Council to enter into a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA).

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 concludes 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 me on [REDACTED] or via email at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**Iwan Davies**

**Director**

**Energy Assessments**