

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Our ref: SSD-8911

Andrew Mills

Chair

Independent Planning Commission

GPO Box 3415

Sydney NSW 2001

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09/06/2026

Subject: Sundown 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 Sundown Solar Farm (SSD-8911).

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

Sundown SF Subco Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of Recurrent Energy (Recurrent Energy) proposes to develop a new State significant solar farm located in Spring Mountain, approximately 30 kilometres east of Inverell, in the Inverell Shire local government area, within the New England Renewable Energy Zone.

The project would have a generating capacity of 360 megawatts (MW) and includes a 150 MW / 600 MW-hour (MWh) battery energy storage system. The project would connect to the existing 330 kilovolt (kV) Armidale to Dumaresq transmission line which traverses the site.

During the exhibition of the environmental impact statement (EIS) the Department received a total of 137 submissions from the community, in addition to advice from 13 government agencies. Of the public submissions received during exhibition of the EIS, 128 objected to the project and 5 supported the project.

The vast majority (74%) of objections were received from over 50 kilometres from the proposed solar farm.

Recurrent Energy has reached an in-principle agreement with Inverell Shire Council to enter into a Voluntary Planning Agreement for the purpose of delivering public benefits to the local community.

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 [REDACTED] or via email at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Iwan Davies.

Iwan Davies

Director

Energy Assessments