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The General Manager
Cessnock City Council
62-78 Vincent Street
Cessnock NSW 2325

Attention: Kristen Wells

Delivered by email: Kristen.Wells@cessnock.nsw.gov.au

Subject: Development Application _ 8 2018 181 1 5MW Solar Farm at Wills Hill Road, Lovedale – further minor amendment to project layout

I refer to the above mentioned development application currently under assessment by Cessnock City Council and wish to advise of minor changes to the design. During further discussions with the NSW Natural Resource Access Regulator (NRAR), it was determined more appropriate for the solar farm array to be withdrawn from the Black Creek riparian corridor (40 m from the top of the bank).

The attached **Figure 1** illustrates the amended layout. It is worth noting that the revised layout includes the solar panel rows, grouped in tables of 50 panels (25m long), this clearly shows the relatively minor disturbance of the panels within the project footprint. In summary, amendments to the design of the 5MW solar farm (from the submitted in the SEE) include the following:

- Relocation of solar inverters and the battery bank approximately 150 m east towards the centre of the array.
- Installation of a secondary access location south of the control room building.
- Based on the detailed design, it was determined that in order to achieve the necessary output a small extension of the area of the solar array was required to the south and east. The area remains largely within the previously defined fenced area, though an extension to the fenced boundary is required.
- The extent of trenching required has been modified to suit the current layout and is likely to be less than previously planned.
- Removal of solar panel tables (i.e. groups of 50 panels, 25 m long) that encroached on waterfront land and the riparian corridor of Black Creek. These panels were relocated to the western side of the array, effectively shifting the array 25 m west.
- Realignment of the boundary fence line to contain change in the solar array.

Under the SEE, the proposed development had a disturbance area of 8.3 ha with the solar array contained within a 7.7 ha fenced boundary. Following updates to the proposed design, the proposed development has a disturbance footprint of 8.4 ha with the solar array contained within an 8.2 ha fenced area, a negligible difference overall. Existing fencing along the eastern side of the array may be moved closer to the array if determined appropriate reducing the extent of the fenced area. The actual extent of the panels has not changed, only the location of panels on the fringing edges of the array.

The proposed design changes will result in negligible changes to the overall environmental impact of the proposed activity, being located within cleared grasslands of the subject land. The addition of an extra row of solar panels to the south will necessitate the removal of one-two small *Eucalyptus tereticornis* saplings, that will be more than adequately compensated by planting of *Eucalyptus tereticornis* vegetation screens and riparian plantings, included as part of the current proposal. Overall, the environmental impact of the proposed development will remain minor.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kleinfelder Australia Pty Ltd



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