

DECOMMISSIONING AND SITE REHABILITATION PLAN



For

Allandale Solar Farm
1026 Lovedale Road, Allandale

Prepared for
Allandale Blue Metal Pty Ltd

March 2022
Report 21/038 Rev A

Prepared by



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Document History and Status

Issue	Revision	Issued To	Qty	Issue Date	Author	Reviewed
Draft	A	Client	1	08.03.22	AG	Client
Final	A	Client	1	10.03.22	AG	Client



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Printed: [Click here to enter a date.](#)
 File Reference: G:\Jobs\21038
 Applicant: [Click here to enter text.](#)
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 HDB Reference Number: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Project Manager **Date**.....**10.03.22**.....

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The purpose of this Allandale Solar Farm Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan (DRP) is to develop a framework for the decommissioning and rehabilitation phase of the Project. This is to ensure appropriate decommissioning and rehabilitation is undertaken at the end of the Project's operational life in accordance with legislative requirements, conditions of approval, stakeholder interests, and industry best practice.

The plan would be implemented at the end of the operational life of the solar farm, likely to be 25 years after the construction of the solar farm.

1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN

Decommissioning and Rehabilitation of the Solar Farm should follow the following objectives:

1. **Site**
 - Prioritise the safety and stability of the subject site while generating minimum pollution.
 - Minimise the visual impact of any of the above-ground ancillary infrastructure.
2. **Solar Farm Infrastructure**
 - To be decommissioned and removed, unless Council agrees otherwise.
3. **Land Use**
 - Restore land capability to pre-existing use.
4. **Community**
 - Ensure Public Safety at all times.

1.3 INTERACTION WITH OTHER DOCUMENTS

This DRP is a supporting document to the Allandale Solar Farm Development Application (DA 8/2021/21907/1) and should be read in conjunction with the SEE and other specialist reports provided as part of the DA.

2.0 PROJECT SUMMARY

2.1 THE PROPONENT

Allandale Blue Metal Pty Ltd

2.2 PROJECT LOCATION

Lot 201 DP 1099068
1026 Lovedale Road, Allandale NSW 2320

2.3 EXISTING SITE

The subject site is a 33.35 ha irregular polygonal-shaped lot in the suburb of Allandale. The lot is located approximately 13km north of the CBD of Cessnock and about 50km west of Newcastle. The lot is bounded by New England Highway to the north and Hunter Expressway running to the southwest of the site. The lot is mostly vacant with an existing dwelling to its northwest and some scattered vegetation to the northeast. There is an existing water dam on the site.

2.4 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposal seeks to develop a 5MW AC Solar Farm on the subject site. The proposed development will consist of the following elements:

- Solar Panels and PEG Array Structure
- String Inverters
- Switchgear and Transformer
- Non-habitable Storage Shed
- Vehicle Access Road
- Security Fence
- Ausgrid point of attachment
- Vegetation for Visual Screening

Vegetation (remnant grass) will only be removed (grubbed) in the array area and site access track as shown in the site plan. Vegetation along boundary fences will be retained and incorporated into the design.

3.0 DECOMMISSIONING

Upon cessation of operation of the Solar Farm, decommissioning of the facility shall take place. This will be undertaken in accordance with relevant Conditions of Approval and would likely include the following tasks:

- a) The facility shall be disconnected from the Ausgrid network before any electrical equipment removal activities commence.
- b) The following items shall be removed and reused, salvaged for another project, or submitted to an approved recycling facility:
 - i. PV modules
 - ii. PV racking system
 - iii. Above and underground electrical cables
 - iv. Above ground electrical equipment including inverters, transformers, switchgear, etc
 - v. Inverter pads
 - vi. Transformer pads
 - vii. Concrete foundations
- c) The following items shall either be removed and submitted to an approved recycling facility or remain on site and be repurposed for the landowner:
 - i. Fencing
 - ii. Storage shed (this may serve as farming in future use)
- d) The access track from the Lovedale Road entrance across the ephemeral stream via the culvert shall remain to the extent that Ausgrid can still access their assets (poles south of the stream).
- e) The PV array area will be dug up and nourished with organic matter and seeded with native grass.
- f) Any hazardous or non-hazardous material such as gasoline, diesel fuel, transformer oil, hydraulic fluids, waste solvents, and adhesives used during construction, operation, and decommissioning will be appropriately removed off-site.
- g) All above-ground infrastructure and all underground services are to be removed to a depth of 500mm. Anything below 500mm can be left in-situ provided it is made safe in accordance with all applicable standards and local authority standards. This includes the HV connection cable between the Power Station and the Supply Point.
- h) All other materials, components, and waste shall be disposed of in line with applicable laws and industry standards.

The Decommissioning Plan would be amended/updated in consultation with stakeholders in accordance with Conditions of Approval to ensure the adequacy and best practice is incorporated as part of the decommissioning process.

4.0 REHABILITATION

Rehabilitation will be undertaken in accordance with relevant Conditions of Approval and would likely include the following key tasks:

- a) Consultation with stakeholders including landowners to establish desired outcomes.
- b) Progressive rehabilitation of disturbed areas during decommissioning including:
 - i. Backfilling of all trenches and excavations.
 - ii. Laying of topsoil where required and in accordance with owner's requirements to allow previous use of the site.
 - iii. Revegetation/Reseeding of the site with native species where suitable.
- c) Regular monitoring of rehabilitated areas for 12 months after decommissioning.

The activities undertaken during rehabilitation have the potential to impact the environment and as such a Rehabilitation Environment Management Plan (REMP) will be prepared prior to decommissioning process.

The REMP would include but not be limited to the following key aspects:

- Schedule of Works/Hours of Operation
- Community & Stakeholder Consultation
- Waste Management
- Stormwater and Soil management
- Noise and Dust Management
- Traffic Management
- Vegetation management
- Water and Contamination management
- Rehabilitation Performance Criteria
- Monitoring
- Contingency Plan.

The Rehabilitation Plan would be amended/updated in consultation with stakeholders in accordance with Conditions of Approval to ensure the adequacy and best practice is incorporated as part of the rehabilitation process.