

BRIEFING DETAILS

BRIEFING DATE / TIME	Wednesday, 17 April 2024, 1.01pm to 1.57pm
LOCATION	MS Teams Videoconference

BRIEFING MATTER(S)

PPSNTH-282 – Narrabri – DA2024/0067 – 306 Therribri Road, Boggabri – Establishment of a 5MW Solar PV Electricity Generation Facility with Associated Infrastructure (2 Staged Development)

PANEL MEMBERS

IN ATTENDANCE	Stephen Gow (Acting Chair) and Michael Wright
APOLOGIES	Dianne Leeson
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	Nil

OTHER ATTENDEES

COUNCIL ASSESSMENT STAFF	Gunther Weidenmann and Ping Dalton
CONSULTANT PLANNER	Lillian Charlesworth
DEPARTMENT STAFF	Carolyn Hunt

KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED

- Proposal outlined as an electricity generating facility (solar farm) and future battery energy storage system (BESS) for use in conjunction with existing coal mine
- Site contains mapped biodiversity area, with consideration of fencing to protect area
- Aboriginal heritage –
 - 3 sites along the eastern boundary will be avoided
 - 5 sites within the development site – unavoidable impact and AHIP required
 - Consultation undertaken with Aboriginal groups
- Site contamination – Preliminary Site Investigation did not recommend a Detailed Site Investigation as not a sensitive use
- Site not identified as being subject to flooding, with infrastructure to be located above shallow sheet flows
- Visual impact – no landscaping proposed due to locational characteristics of the site, noting proximity of nearest dwelling not associated with the development and distance from public road
- Noise – existing surrounding cumulative noise pollution
 - Levels at existing dwellings not provided
- Emergency access road – consideration of impact on existing site (staff) houses

Panel Comments

- Battery installation and need to avoid impact of flooding on this infrastructure at Probable Maximum Flood level
- Consideration of a safe work protocol with regard to site contamination
- Decommissioning and rehabilitation – timeframes noting associated mine operational life
 - Uncertainty re continuity of solar farm activity post mine operations, noting landscaping proposed
 - Consideration of property title to be notated with any consent requirements for decommissioning
- Preliminary hazard assessment not provided in relation to existing dwellings within close proximity – additional information to be requested or partial approval to be issued excluding BESS
- Future battery storage - risk to existing dwellings as a result of battery facility
 - Options to accept a condition to demolish existing staff dwellings or provide measures to reduce risk
 - Applicant to confirm preference
- Clarification requested in regard to the footprint of mine rehabilitation plan and proximity to development site, also check whether there are any biodiversity offset undertakings affecting the subject property.

TENTATIVE DETERMINATION DATE SCHEDULED FOR: June 2024