

DA 10.2023.137.1 Appendix 2

From: Lilian Parker <lilian.parker@dpi.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2023 12:23 PM
To: Christopher O'Brien <cobrien@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Barham Solar Farm Proposal DA 10.2023.137.1

Hi Chris

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on DA 10.2023.137.1

I note that the site is considered Class 4 (NSW Land and Soil Capability) and draft State Significant Agricultural Land (due to its historical use for irrigated agriculture <https://nswdpi.mysocialpinpoint.com/ssal/map#/>).

As this class 4 land has and can be used for productive agriculture such as irrigated cropping, under the Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline (DPE 2022) applicants would be required to undertake an assessment of the key issues and potential impacts of the solar energy project on productive agriculture on this and adjacent lands. While this proposal is not at the scale of a State Significant Development, some consideration of impacts on agricultural land uses on this land and in the vicinity in the Statement of Environmental Effects would have been useful for DPI Ag to assess.

However, based on the information provided, NSW DPI Agriculture (DPI Ag) does support the proposed re-establishment of appropriate groundcover on site for managing dust generation and for encouraging continued agricultural activities through livestock grazing. Land management should include appropriate weed and pest management and control as standard operating procedures to minimise land use conflicts.

DPI Ag also supports the preparation of a Decommissioning Management Plan which involves the removal of all above and below ground infrastructure to ensure productive agricultural practices including irrigation can be reinstated.

Lilian

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I acknowledge the Wiradjuri people as the traditional custodians of the land on which I live and work. I pay my respects to Wiradjuri Elders past, present and emerging.