

RECORD OF BRIEFING

WESTERN REGIONAL PLANNING PANEL

BRIEFING DETAILS

BRIEFING DATE / TIME	Tuesday, 25 February 2025
LOCATION	MS Teams Videoconference

BRIEFING MATTER

PPSWES-256 – Warrumbungle – DA17/2024 – Newell Highway, Coonabarabran – Solar Farm with Battery Energy Storage System

PANEL MEMBERS

IN ATTENDANCE	Garry Fielding (Chair), Natasha Harras
APOLOGIES	Donna Rygate, Graham Brown
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	Nil

OTHER ATTENDEES

COUNCIL STAFF	Melinda Ryan, Kelly Dewar, Leanne Ryan with Shonelle Gleeson-Willey and Mark Hitchenson (consultants)
APPLICANT	Mishka Talent, Albert Ngo, Jou Jong
PLANNING PANELS TEAM	Lillian Charlesworth, Jade Buckman

KEY MATTERS DISCUSSED

- Regarding visual impact, Council indicated that one dwelling to the NW could be partially seen from the site and a second dwelling may also be visible. Submissions raised visual impact as an issue.
- Applicant will meet with TfNSW on 27 February 2025.
- 10m APZ is proposed. Any tree removal may require a biodiversity assessment.
- Connection of the solar farm to the grid may require new power lines over an adjoining property that will require owners' consent. An in-principle agreement exists with the relevant owner, subject to agreement on road access. Any changes to the proposed access point will require a further Council internal referral.
- Council will need to assess the environmental impacts of any new roads or access points as well as consider potential landscaping to soften visual impact.

NEXT STEPS

- Full RFI response to be submitted to Council by end March
- Council will provide draft conditions to the applicant for comment

TENTATIVE DETERMINATION DATE SCHEDULED FOR: 22 April 2025