

In reply, please quote: U19/167

19 March 2019

Department of Planning and Environment
320 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Re: Submission regarding New England Solar Farm

Dear Sir / Madam

The Development Application submitted by UPC Renewables Australia was brought before Council on 12 March 2019.

Council resolved to make a submission to the Department of Planning and Environment to highlight the strategic matters it wishes to be addressed in the assessment of the Development Application as follows:

That;

Council resolve to make a submission to the Department of Planning and Environment in relation to the proposed New England Solar Farm stating that Council endorses sustainable development within the Shire, and expects the Development Application to be considered in the context of our Community Strategic Plan, particularly the following stated goals:

- To preserve, protect and renew our beautiful natural environment.*
- Maintain a healthy balance between development and the environment.*
- An attractive environment for business, tourism and industry.*
- Growing and diversified employment, education and tourism opportunities.*

Further:

- A 'cradle to grave' approach should be taken to ensure the project is environmentally sustainable during construction, operation, and decommissioning through appropriate bonding arrangements with the NSW Government*
- Operation of the worker's village should be 'best practice' with regard to environmental impacts;*
- That local employment be preferred*
- Systems be put in place to preserve environmental values*

- *Any upgrades and maintenance to Council Infrastructure to service the construction and/or operation of the development should be at the developers expense;*
- *No Council infrastructure should be negatively impacted by the solar farm construction and or operation*

and

- *Protection of the amenity of residents surrounding the solar farm and along transport routes should be the paramount consideration in the decision making process.*

(X03.03/19) CARRIED

Council further resolved to make a submission to highlight technical matters it wishes to be addressed in the assessment of the Development Application, as follows:

That;

Council resolve to make a technical submission on infrastructure to the Department of Planning and Environment in relation to the proposed New England Solar Farm with the following recommended conditions of consent:

Roads

- *A Traffic Management Plan prepared by an accredited certifier with detail commensurate with the scale of the solar farm is to be submitted to Council and approved before any works are undertaken. The Traffic Management Plan is to detail specific routes for heavy vehicles and dust suppression maintenance standards.*
- *The Traffic Management Plan is to be developed for each road prior to it being utilised by the developer.*
- *Any roads to be used for B Doubles are to be assessed using the RMS B double route assessment guidelines and, if upgrading is required, this work is to be undertaken by the developer.*
- *Roads to be used for Oversized/Overweight movements are to be assessed as per National Heavy Vehicle Regulator assessment.*
- *That gravel roads in front of residences be sealed for a length of 200m for dust suppression purposes.*
- *All roads need to be upgraded as per the standards set out in Table 4.2, Appendix K (of the EIS), as per future daily traffic assessment for project peak construction traffic by the developer prior to commencement of site works for each stage.*
- *Project-related heavy vehicles are not to traverse any roads not specifically identified in the approved Traffic Management Plan.*
- *Any damage to Council's road infrastructure is to be immediately rectified by the developer or operator, at their cost, to the satisfaction of Councils General Manager or nominee.*
- *Local roads proposed to be used for project-related traffic are to be constructed, at the cost of the developer, to meet the current Austroads design standard at the time of construction, based on peak predicted traffic volumes outlined in the EIS prepared by EMM Consulting dated 16 November 2018.*
- *The subject roads are to be maintained to this standard, at the developers cost, until the completion of construction and issue of an Occupation Certificate.*

Services

- *Any provision of normal municipal services by Council to the developer will be at Councils discretion.*
- *A Waste Management Plan with detail commensurate with the scale of the solar farm is to be submitted to Council and approved before any works are undertaken.*
- *Comingled recycling or any other waste products will not be accepted at the Uralla landfill without formal agreement.*
- *A Water and Waste Water Management Plan with detail commensurate with the scale of the solar farm and workers village is to be submitted to Council and approved before any works are undertaken.*
- *Adequate wash bays are provided and used.*

Assets

- *Location of any project related assets on Council controlled land will require approval of Council by resolution.*

Rehabilitation

- *All infrastructure and equipment, including underground cabling above 500mm depth, is to be removed from the site during decommissioning.*
- *Rehabilitation of the workers accommodation site must be done prior to the issue of the occupation certificate.*

Environmental

- *An environmental monitoring plan be developed and implemented to include:*
 - *On and off site pollution by heavy metals*
 - *Monitoring the impact of the panels on migratory birds*

(X06.03/19) CARRIED

We respectfully request the Department considers the above as submissions from Uralla Shire Council for the assessment of the New England Solar Farm Development Application.

Faithfully,



Andrew Hopkins
General Manager