

Wednesday, 28 June 2023

**Mr Andy Nixey**

Team Leader, Energy Assessments  
Department of Planning & Environment  
4 Parramatta Square  
12 Darcy Street  
Parramatta NSW 2150  
Australia

By Email

Dear Mr Nixey

## **Dumaresq Solar Farm – Application Number SSD 10427**

Thank you again for your time on the phone today.

As discussed, the work relating to the submission of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in relation to the Dumaresq Solar Farm Project (DSF or Project) has been completed, despite significant obstacles that presented during the COVID Pandemic period of which we have kept the Department and other agencies fully briefed.

Our work in advancing this Project has included the adaptation of the SEARs as per periodic Department guidance (*including letter 15 February 2023 authored by Ms. Nicole Brewer – Director, Energy Assessments*) to include Economic Impact Assessment, the appointment of an independent REAP to the Project and other requirements. Our Project team has been flexible and accommodating of all requirements presented.

The final piece of work relating to our EIS, being the delivery of engineering concepts for the Battery Energy Storage System to ensure best practice in Hazard Assessment and Infrastructure Planning has only been completed in the last few days. It is confirmed that all workstreams as detailed in the Planning Secretaries Environmental Assessment Requirements for SSD 10427 have now been completed.

It is also confirmed that our engagement with various agencies has been highly productive and various requirements of agencies included in the modified Project workstreams.

The Project has been presented to a full Inverell Shire Council (ISC) meeting and the conclusion of a signed Heads of Agreement with ISC in relation to ongoing Community Support Initiatives/ Voluntary Benefit Sharing Programs has been extensively negotiated, documented, and signed by both parties. A letter issued by ISC dated 15 May 2023 acknowledging various matters accompanies this letter and is self-explanatory.

In short, all requirements of the SEARs issued in relation to SSD 10427 have been completed at great expense and dedication of resource, and as Project developer we are extremely pleased with the result.

### **30 June Deadline / Soft Deadline**

Given the Department's minimum 2 week 'soft deadline' of the submission of the final draft EIS with an unspecified review period for feedback we are practically now unable to lodge and meet any 30 June deadline and so are forced to submit a fresh Scoping Report. This is despite the Project being fully developed from an EIS investigation perspective. Complicating this timetable has been the Department's confirmation that the soft submission date does not equate to a formal submission date – and so even if our EIS was submitted today ahead of June 30<sup>th</sup> we would not enjoy a valid Application submission.

We also confirm we would be able to submit the full EIS in July 2023 under the current SSD 10427, but the Department has confirmed there is no discretion able to be extended for us to do that.

### Withdrawal & Resubmission

It would be appreciated if the following could be attended to:

1. Disappointingly we must seek for the existing Application – SSD 10427 to be withdrawn immediately and so noted on the NSW State Significant Development website.
2. As discussed by phone today it would be appreciated if the Department's required pre Scoping Report submission meeting could be accommodated on the first day you are back from break - being 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023. This is requested to be in person at the Department's office and attendees from DSF will include, the writer, DSF external legal counsel Mr Matt Baumgurtel of Hamilton Locke and the REAP for the project Mr Michael Crammer of Accent Environmental.

The fresh briefing report as a precursor to that 20 July 2023 meeting will be submitted to you by COB 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023 (Sydney time) which will highlight all work done under the existing SSD 10427 and the fantastic renewable energy project that the Dumaresq Solar Farm represents.

### Conclusion

Mr Nixey, thank you for the guidance and the collaborative approach you have taken since assuming responsibility for this Project. It is confirmed that as soon as practicable following the issue of fresh SEARs that the EIS for Dumaresq Solar Farm will be finalised & submitted to the Department for assessment.

If you could advise when the Withdrawal of the current SSD 10427 is processed that would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,  
Dumaresq Solar Farm Pty Limited



Nicholas Assef LLB(Hons) LLM MBA  
Director

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Level 61, MLC Centre, 19 Martin Place  
Sydney, NSW 2000 Australia  
ABN 66-636-603-373

PO Box 441 Rose Bay NSW 2029

M + 61 498 115 054

E naa@haloenergy.net