

Sarah Donnan
Project Manager – NES
ACEN Australia
96B Bridge Street
Uralla NSW 2358

29/08/2023

Subject: New England Solar Farm – Revised Staging of the project

Dear Ms Donnan,

I refer to your letter dated 14 August 2023, and additional information provided on 25 August 2023, requesting approval for revised staging of the project under Condition 3 of Schedule 4 of the development consent (SSD-9255).

The Department has carefully considered the proposed revised staging and notes that ACEN Australia has identified that the development will be undertaken in the following distinct stages:

- Stage 1a: Construction of a 400 megawatt (MW) solar farm within the Northern Array (previously Stage 1) which is nearing completion;
- Stage 1b: Operation of the 400 MW solar farm in the Northern Array;
- Stage 2a: Construction of a 320 megawatt (MW) solar farm within the Central Array;
- Stage 2b: Operations of the 320MW solar farm in the Central Array;
- Stage 3a: Construction of 200MW/2hr BESS within the approved Substation/BESS area;
- Stage 3b: Operations of 200MW/2hr BESS;
- Stage 4a: Construction of 1200MW/2hr BESS within the approved Substation/BESS area;
- Stage 4b: Operations of 1200MW/2hr BESS;
- Stage 5: Decommissioning.

The Department agrees with ACEN Australia's proposal (Addendum 1) to submit revised management plans that encompasses Stage 1 through to 3. Stage 4 and Stage 5 management plans will be completed later.

The Department understands ACEN Australia will update these management plans as required and as the various stages reach completion.

Accordingly, under Condition 3 of Schedule 4 of the development consent (SSD-9255) the Secretary approves the staging of the development and the submission of the relevant strategies, plans or programs required by the consent on a progressive basis.

In accordance with Condition 2, Schedule 4, please ensure relevant management plans are reviewed and if necessary revised to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Katie Weekes on (02) 4927 3223 or at katie.weekes@dpie.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iwan Davies', written in a cursive style.

Iwan Davies
Director
Energy Assessments

As nominee of the Planning Secretary