

From: Nicole Brewer <nicole.brewer@planning.nsw.gov.au>

Date: 24 October 2019 at 8:58:32 am AEST

To: "contact@suttonsolaractiongroup.com" <contact@suttonsolaractiongroup.com>

Cc: Anthony Ko <Anthony.Ko@planning.nsw.gov.au>, Natasha Homsey <Natasha.Homsey@planning.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Springdale Response to submissions (RTS) – Large-scale solar energy forums outcomes document

Dear Ms Burgess

Thank you for your email regarding the Springdale Solar Project expressing concern about the delays in the project and consultation by the Applicant.

The Department is aware of the high level of community interest in the Springdale Solar Project and during the public exhibition period, two Department representatives visited surrounding landowners, including members of the Sutton Solar Action Group to listen to the concerns they had on the project.

The Department recognises that the delays in the preparation of the Submission Report by the Applicant for the Springdale Solar Project following exhibition ending last year are causing uncertainty in the community. The Department has been in contact with Renew Estate and it has advised that it is preparing the Submissions Report in response to the matters raised during the public exhibition, including the completion of additional archaeological investigations to determine potential impacts to Aboriginal heritage items. At this stage, the Department has been advised that the Submissions Report will be provided by late November 2019.

The Department is also aware that members of the local community are not satisfied with the level of consultation undertaken by the Applicant since the end of the exhibition period. The Department has been in contact with the Applicant to emphasise the importance of the Applicant's role in keeping the community informed on the progress of the project and requested it update the local community on the status of the project. The Department will follow up further the community's concern that these updates have not been provided.

The Department will contact relevant government agencies, local Council and the Sutton Solar Action Group once the Submissions Report is available on the Department's Major Projects website.

In regard to the Action Plan following from the Solar Forums, the Department is finalising the document and we will advise you when it is publicly available. The presentations from the forums are available at <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Renewable-Energy/Large-scale-Solar-Energy-Guideline>

Regards

Nicole

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****My regular workdays are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday**



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