

Ms Emily Walker
Neoen Australia Pty Ltd
Level 21, 570 George Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Via email: emily.walker@neoen.com
30/4/2025

Subject: Culcairn Solar Farm (SSD 10288) – Request for the Planning Secretary’s discretion under Condition 1 of Schedule 3

Dear Ms Walker,

I refer to your submission dated 05 March 2025, requesting the Planning Secretary’s agreement to increase the total battery energy storage capacity associated with the development from 800 MWh to 904 MWh, as required by Condition 1 of Schedule 3 of the development consent (SSD-10288-PA-74).

In considering this request the department has carefully reviewed the information provided. The department acknowledges that advancements in battery technology have enabled higher energy densities per unit while maintaining the separation distances outlined in the Preliminary Hazard Analysis. Consequently, the department is satisfied that the proposed increase in energy storage capacity to 904 MWh can be accommodated within the available area, with sufficient separation between battery units to minimise the risk of fire propagation.

It is noted that the increase in battery storage capacity would not increase: the number of BESS containers, the BESS footprint, predicted noise levels or the number of heavy vehicles or heavy vehicles requiring escort under the consent.

As nominee of the Planning Secretary, in accordance with Condition 1 of Schedule 3, I agree to the increase in the total battery energy storage capacity to 904 MWh. You are reminded to ensure that all conditions of consent are complied with, including reflecting this change to post approval documents such as the Fire Safet Study and Emergency Plan, and ensure that FRNSW and RFS are kept updated and consulted on all relevant changes.

If you have any questions, please contact Shannon Blackmore on (02) 9274 6220 or via email at shannon.blackmore@dpie.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,



Iwan Davies
Director, Energy Assessments
As nominee of the Planning Secretary

