Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Beth Kramer
Principal Environmental Planner
Lightsource Development Services Australia Pty Ltd
Sent via the Major Projects Portal only

19/12/2025

Subject: Goulburn River Solar Farm - Extension Request for Timing of Road Upgrades

Dear Ms Kramer,

I refer to your revised letter dated 17 December 2025 seeking the Planning Secretary's agreement to revise the timing of the road upgrades under Schedule 2, Condition B7 of the development consent for the Goulburn River Solar Farm.

The Planning Secretary previously approved the revised timing of road upgrades as described in our letter dated 10 October 2024 (reference SSD-33964533-PA-1).

Lightsource bp consider the date for commencement of construction to be 28 May 2025, when formal notification was provided to the Department in accordance with condition C7 following completion of the Golden Highway/Ringwood Road intersection. Based on the notification, the date for completing the Wollara and Ringwood Road upgrade scope would be 28 November 2025.

The Department understands however that early critical construction works commenced on 14 April 2025. Accordingly, the road upgrades were required to be completed by 14 October 2025, in accordance with the Planning Secretary's direction provided on 10 October 2024 to extend the timing of the road upgrades.

The Department notes Lightsource bp have been unable to complete the road upgrades by 14 October 2025 due to:
- weather related delays;
- coordination required for Wollara Road private driveway tie-ins; and
- a delay in the finalisation of the Section 138 approval for the Bow Creek culvert.

While at this time of this request the Bow River and Killoe Creek culverts are now open to traffic and the final spray seal has been applied to Ringwood Road, Upper Hunter Shire Council (Council) are not expected to issue practical completion until January 2026. Residual activities associated with the road upgrades may also include demobilising site facilities, weed control and hydro-mulching.

This request is for an extension until 31 January 2026 to allow sufficient time to complete these associated activities and for Council to confirm their satisfaction with the upgrade works.

As nominee of the Planning Secretary, I agree to an extension of time until 31 January 2026 to provide sufficient time for Council, as the relevant roads authority, to assess the road upgrades and confirm they have been completed to their satisfaction.

To minimise impacts on biodiversity in the area, Lightsource bp have identified the following additional ancillary elements of the Bow River culvert upgrade that are currently unable to be completed by 31 January 2026:

- removal of a rock check dam; and
- installation of scour protection.

It is noted that these additional works will not affect the functionality of the new culverts or the ability to comply with transport requirements for heavy vehicles or heavy vehicles requiring escort.

Please provide a written update to the Department on the progress and timing for completion of the ancillary elements of the Bow River culvert upgrade works by no later than 28 February 2026.

In addition, you must:

- keep the road authorities and the Department updated on road upgrades and works, including timing;
- keep the Department updated on the timeframes for completion of ancillary elements of the Bow River culvert upgrade;
- keep residences along Hulks Road, Wollara Road and Ringwood Road (as appropriate) updated on road upgrades and works, including timing;
- ensure all other requirements of the development consent (including timing of relevant management plans and notifications) are adhered to; and
- complete the road upgrades in compliance with Australian Standards and Austroad Guidelines and to the satisfaction of Council as the relevant roads' authority.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Katie Weekes on 4927 3223.

Yours sincerely,

Wayne Jones
Team Leader - Post Approval
Energy Assessments

As nominee of the Secretary