

Javier Canon
Senior Policy Officer
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Major Projects NSW Planning Portal



9 March 2021

Dear Mr Canon,

Re: Sapphire Solar Farm SSD8643 – Section 4.55(1) Modification

Sapphire Solar Farm Pty Ltd is seeking to modify State Significant Development Consent 8643 (SSD 8643) for the Sapphire Solar Farm under section 4.55 (1) Modification involving minor error, misdescription or miscalculation of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979*.

Three modifications to SSD 8643 are proposed, being:

1. Replace Appendix 1 to reflect correct vegetation mapping;
2. Amend Condition 4, Schedule 3 to replace 'Council' with 'Glen Innes Severn Council'; and
3. Update the 'Note' in the Schedule of Land in Appendix 2.

1 Replace Appendix 1 to reflect correct vegetation mapping

The modification is requested to correct an error in vegetation mapping in Appendix 1 of SSD 8643, only. There are no other changes proposed to the development footprint or the project.

The General Layout provided in Appendix 1 of SSD 8643 incorrectly maps threatened ecological communities within the vicinity of the 330kV transmission line.

The mapping of threatened ecological communities provided in the General Layout is inconsistent with:

- The mapping of threatened ecological communities provided in the *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act* Approval (EPBC 2017/8121); and
- that provided in the environmental impact assessment and biodiversity assessment report.

The error is further supported by CWP's ecological consultant, Eco Logical Australia who has confirmed the error in mapping of threatened ecological communities. This supporting information is contained in Attachment 1.

As such is it requested that Appendix 1 of SSD 8643 be amended to replace the General Layout with a revised Layout that correctly maps the threatened ecological communities. The amended General Layout is provided at Attachment 2.

2 Condition 4 Schedule 3 to replace 'Council' with 'Glen Innes Severn Council'

The modification is requested to clarify that road maintenance work per condition 4, Schedule 3 of SSD 8643 is required to the satisfaction of the relevant road authorities being Transport for NSW (TfNSW) (formerly Roads and Maritime Services) and Glen Innes Severn Council (GISC) only.

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Currently the condition requires road maintenance work to be undertaken to the satisfaction of TfNSW and 'Council', being GISC and Inverell Shire Council (ISC) as defined. It is in error that the road maintenance work is required to be undertaken to the satisfaction of ISC as they are not the relevant road authority with jurisdiction over the area of the specified road maintenance work (i.e. intersection of Waterloo Road and the Gwydir Highway).

As such, it is requested that condition 4 of Schedule 3 of SSD 8643 is amended to replace 'Council' with 'GISC' so that the road maintenance work is to the satisfaction of TfNSW and GISC.

3 Update the 'Note' in the Schedule of Land in Appendix 2

It is requested that the 'Note' in Appendix 2, Schedule of Land is updated to state:

'The project site will also be taken to include any crown land, including road reserves, and any Council road reserves, contained within the Site identified in Appendix 1.'

This amendment is proposed to correct the misdescription of Crown land, within the Schedule of Land, to include 'any Council road reserves'.

The EIS makes it clear that the three Council roads are intended to be part of the Site (See Figure 3-2: Land Tenure) and they are regularly referred to as the 'existing access roads'.

If you require further information or to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0477 056 801 or email leanne.cross@cwprenewables.com.

Yours sincerely,



Leanne Cross
Environment Manager
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6 October 2020

Our ref: 18ARM8233

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Attention: Matthew Flower

Dear Matt,

Clarification note – Threatened Ecological Community Mapping at Sapphire Solar Farm

Eco Logical Australia (ELA) were engaged by Sapphire Solar Farm Pty Ltd (SSF) to undertake a biodiversity assessment report (BAR) suitable for inclusion in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Sapphire Solar Farm (the project).

This letter seeks to provide clarification for Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) mapping provided in the project Conditions of Consent (CoC).

The project was assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) and was approved by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) on 16 August 2018 (SSD – 8643). The CoC associated with the project approval contains a figure at Appendix 1 – General Layout of the Project, which included a layer shown in bright green as “Threatened Ecological Communities” (TEC) (Figure 1 of this letter).

It has been brought to the attention of ELA that the TEC mapping layer provided in the CoC is inconsistent with the BAR prepared by ELA in 2018. The extent of native vegetation around the substation site in the CoC is incorrect and includes areas of land that were not mapped as native vegetation during the biodiversity assessment. A small strip of land has been mapped as TEC along the northern boundary of the substation and battery site in the CoC, which is erroneous.

The correct Plant Community Type (PCT) mapping (and subsequent TEC mapping) within the development site, as prepared for the BAR (ELA, 2018) around the substation is provided in Figure 2 of this letter.

Should you have any queries please contact me on (02) 4910 3413.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Pursche'.

Alex Pursche
Senior Ecologist

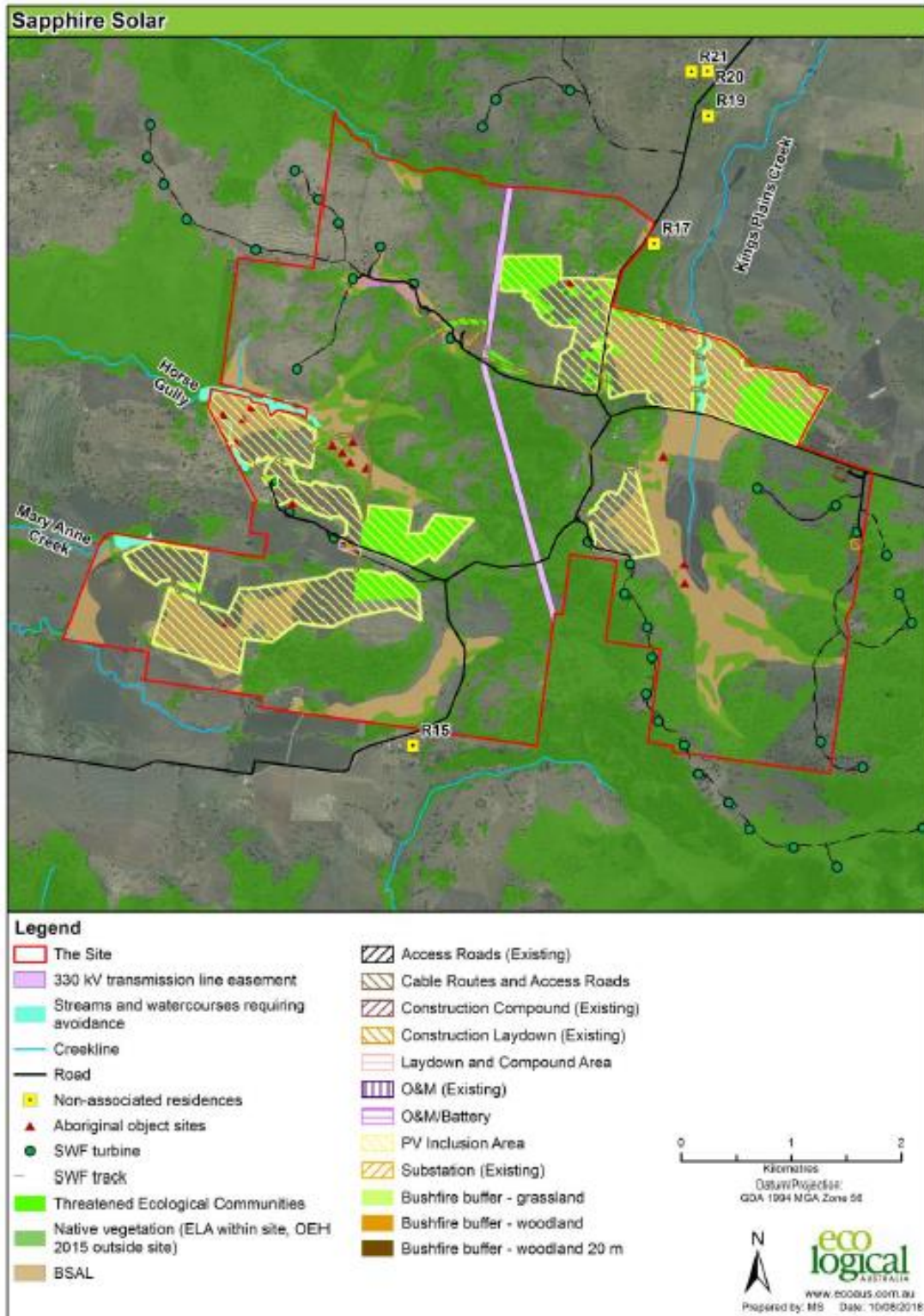
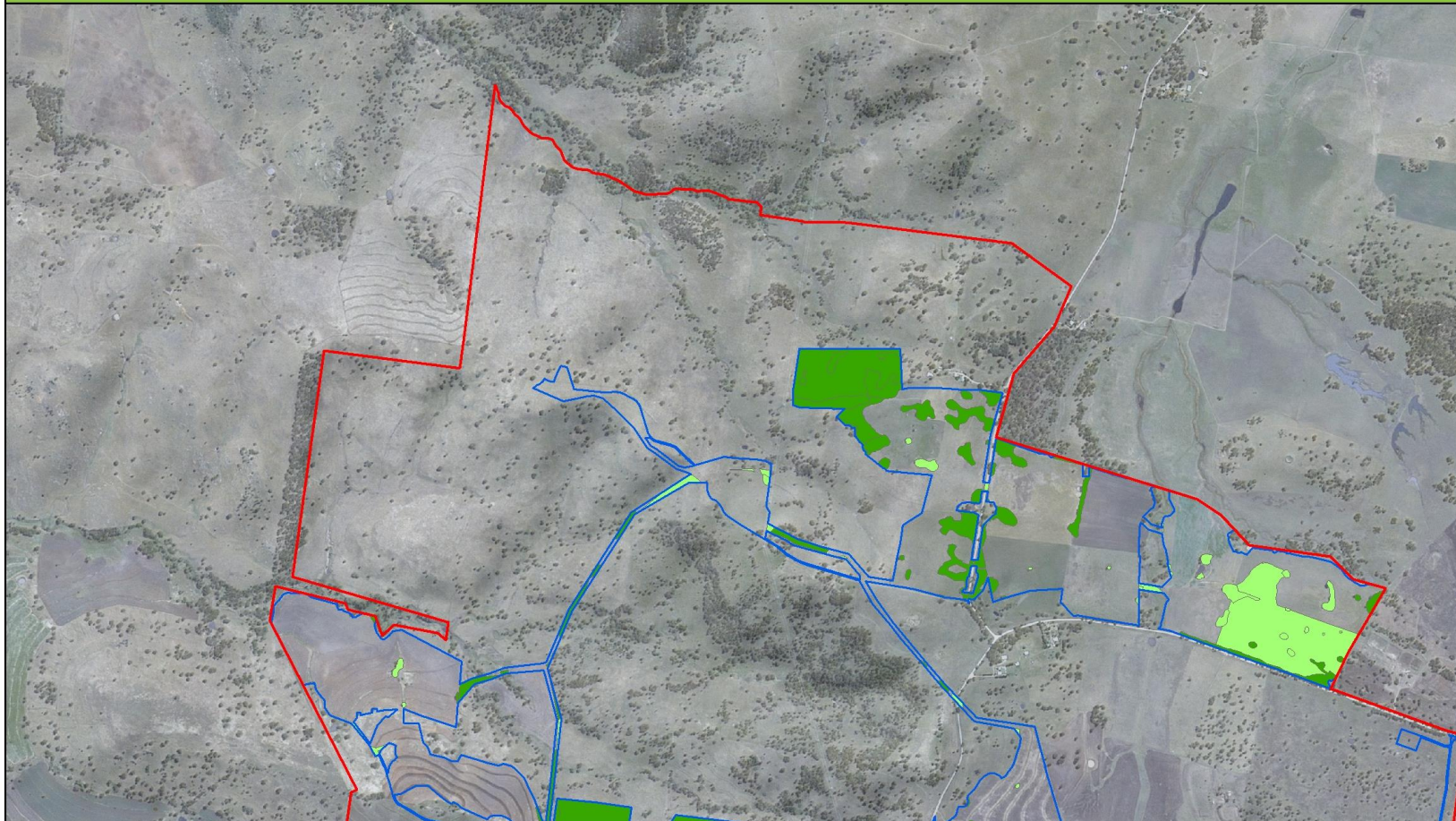


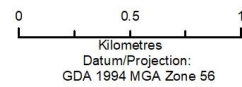
Figure 1 General Layout of the development from Conditions of Consent

Threatened Ecological Communities



Legend

- The Site
- Development Footprint
- BC_Act, EPBC_Act
- BC Act EEC
- BC Act EEC/EPBC Act CEEC



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Prepared by: MS Date: 27/11/2018

Figure 2 Plant Community Type Mapping– November 2018