

1 May 2026

The Secretary
Department of Planning, Heritage and Infrastructure
Via NSW Planning Portal

New England Solar Farm (SSD-9255 MOD2) New England Battery Energy Storage System Stage 1 Construction - Independent Environmental Audit Applicant's response to audit findings

On 9 March 2020, the Independent Planning Commission of NSW granted consent to the development application for the New England Solar Farm subject to conditions pursuant to section 4.38 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (the Act)*.

On 19 February 2021 the Director of the Department of Planning and Environment approved Modification 1, under delegation from the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces and section 4.38 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (the Act)*.

On 26 May 2023 the Director of the Department of Planning and Environment approved Modification 2, under delegation from the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces and section 4.38 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (the Act)*.

In accordance with Conditions 11, 11A, 11B and 11C of Schedule 4 of Development Consent (SSD-9255 MOD 2), Moss Environmental conducted an Independent Environmental Audit of construction activities associated with New England Solar Stage 2a and Stage 3a works.

The Audit timing was in accordance with Secretary's Direction SSD-9255-PA-72 in relation to construction activities and the scope was to cover the audit period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025.

The Independent Environmental Audit was undertaken on 11 March 2026. The Independent Audit Report was presented to the Applicant on 17 April 2026.

As documented in the Independent Audit Report, no non-compliances were identified during the audit. The Independent Audit Report identified Four "Independent Audit Observation / Opportunity for Improvement".

In accordance with Condition 11D of Schedule 4 of Development Consent (SSD-9255), please find attached as Attachment 1 the Applicant's response to the Independent Audit Report relating to the four Independent Audit Observation / Opportunity for Improvement.

The Audit report has today also been uploaded to the NSW Planning Portal in accordance with the timing outlined in Secretary's Direction SSD-9255-PA-72 (within two months of undertaking the independent audit site inspection).

All items identified as non-compliances in the "New England Solar Farm Project – Stage 1 Independent Environmental Audit May 2002" have been closed out.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned on or email at should you have any queries the approval request or require any additional information.

Kind Regards,


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Sarah Donnan
Construction Director Project Services

Attachment 1: *New England Solar, New England Battery Energy Storage System Stage 1 Construction: Applicant's response to audit findings*

Attachment 1: New England Solar New England Battery Energy Storage System Stage 1 Construction: Applicant’s response to audit findings

Condition Number (ID)	Compliance Requirement	Independent Audit Observation / Opportunity for Improvement	Proponent’s Proposed Action or reason to not implement measures/changes	Proposed Action Due Date (if applicable)
Condition 22 Schedule 3	The Applicant must: (c) minimise any soil erosion associated with the construction, upgrading or decommissioning of the development in accordance with the relevant requirements in the <i>Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction (Landcom, 2004)</i> manual, or its latest version;	Repair the silt fence surrounding the stockpile to ensure it continues to function effectively.	The site fence will be inspected and repaired or replaced where necessary.	<p>The sediment fence around the stockpile was inspected on 13 April 2026 and new sediment fencing installed.</p> 
Condition 27 Schedule 3	The Applicant must: (c) store and handle all waste on site in accordance with its classification;	It is recommended that the bins in the BESS area be labelled to prevent incorrect waste disposal	A review of the location and identification of the bins on the BESS pad has been undertaken.	The review was undertaken on 22 April 2026 and all unlabelled bins were removed and replaced with suitably labelled and coloured bins.

			<p>Any bins not required have been removed.</p> <p>All remaining bins are appropriately labelled.</p>	
<p>Condition 1 of Schedule 4</p>	<p>Prior to commencing the development, the Applicant must prepare an Environmental Management Strategy for the development to the satisfaction of the Secretary. Following the Secretary's approval, the Applicant must implement the Environmental</p>	<p>It is recommended that the Applicant include additional, project-specific information in the induction material to ensure that personnel undertaking the induction receive the detail required under Section 4.5.1 of the Environmental Management Strategy (EMS).</p>	<p>The Site Induction material will be reviewed and updated where necessary to include those aspects of the EMS that relate to the construction of the BESS.</p>	<p>The Engineering Procurement and Construction contractor undertook a review of the Site Induction material and updated to ensure that matters raised in Section 4.5.1 of the EMS are included as they relate to the BESS construction.</p> <p>The updated Site Induction was implemented on 22 April 2026. The updated Induction package will be used from this point forward.</p>

	Management Strategy			
Condition 11D of Schedule 4	Independent Audit Reports and the Applicant’s response to audit findings must be submitted to the Planning Secretary within 2 months of undertaking the independent audit and site inspection as outlined in the <i>Independent Audit Post Approvals Requirements (2020)</i> unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Secretary	This audit report should be submitted within 2 months of undertaken the site inspection (due date 11 May 2026)	This recommendation will be actioned upon receipt of the final Audit Report	<p>The Audit Report was received on 13 April 2026.</p> <p>The Applicant’s response to the Audit Report response was uploaded to the Planning Portal on 01 May 2026 which is within the two-month period as stipulated in Condition 11 (D) of Schedule 4.</p>