

Sarah Donnan
NESF Project Director
Acen Australia
96b Bridge Street
Uralla, NSW, 2358

12/05/2026

Subject: New England Solar Staging Request

Dear Ms. Donnan

I refer to your submission dated 18 March 2026 requesting approval for revised staging of the project in accordance with Schedule 4, Condition 3 of the Development consent for the New England Solar Farm (SSD-9255).

The Department has carefully considered the proposed revised staging and notes that ACEN Australia has identified that the development will be undertaken in the following distinct stages:

- Stage 1a: Construction of a 400MW solar PV Plant within the Northern Array
- Stage 1b: Operations of 400MW Solar PV Plant
- Stage 2a: Construction of a 160MW Solar PV and 320MW/4hr BESS Hybrid Plant within the Central Array and the approved Substation/BESS area
- Stage 2b: Operations of 160MW Solar PV and 320MW/4hr BESS Hybrid Plant
- Stage 3a: Construction of 200MW/2hr BESS within the approved Substation/BESS area
- Stage 3b: Operations of 200MW/2hr BESS
- Stage 4a: Construction of a 160MW Solar PV and 280MW/4hr BESS Hybrid Plant within the balance of the Northern Array and the approved Substation/BESS area
- Stage 4b: Operations of 160MW Solar PV and 280MW/4hr BESS Hybrid Plant
- Stage 5: Decommissioning

The Department agrees with ACEN Australia's proposal to submit revised management plans that encompasses Stage 1 through to 3. Stage 4 and Stage 5 management plans will be completed later.

The Department understands ACEN Australia will update these management plans as required and as the various stages reach completion.

Accordingly, under Schedule 4, Condition 3 of the Development Consent the Secretary approves the staging of the development and the submission of the relevant strategies, plans or programs required by the consent on a progressive basis.

In accordance with Schedule 4, Condition 2 please ensure relevant management plans are reviewed and if necessary revised to the satisfaction of the Secretary, as per Addendum 1 of your submission.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Wayne Jones on (02) 6575 3406.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iwan Davies', with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

Iwan Davies
Director
Energy Assessments

As nominee of the Planning Secretary