

Attachment 2

For Public Notice via Internet

REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*

Title of Proposal: Fulham Solar Farm

Proponent: Solis RE

Description of Project:

The project entails construction of a solar energy facility to generate 80MWh of electricity annually with an operational life of approximately be 35 years, including the following components:

- approximately 200,000 solar panels with 80MW output;
- 80MWh battery storage;
- substation;
- transformer;
- switching yard;
- 23 inverter stations; and
- ancillary infrastructure, including an upgraded carriageway between the Fulham Correctional Centre access and proposed main site access and an overhead powerline which will run along the western side of Hopkins and Settlement Road for approximately 1.5km, in the road reserve owned by the Wellington Shire Council.

Decision:

The Minister for Planning has decided that an environment effects statement (EES) **is not required** for the Fulham Solar Farm, as described in the referral accepted on 12 January 2022.

Reasons for Decision:

- The proposal has the potential for significant environmental effects associated with native vegetation removal, including endangered ecological vegetation classes (EVCs).
- Minimisation of the potential effects for the above-mentioned vegetation communities has occurred and is examined in detail as part of the planning permit process under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, which will inform relevant offset requirements and any relevant conditions.
- There are other potential effects on the environmental and social settings, including on Aboriginal cultural heritage, historic heritage values and social amenity. These are unlikely to be significant and can be readily addressed and mitigated consistent with existing statutory requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, *Heritage Act 2017*, *Environment Protection Act 2017*, and the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, consistent with the Victorian Solar Development Guidelines (August 2019).

Date of Decision:

24/2/22