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2 August 2024

Our ref: -

Michael Juttner  
Manager, Development Approvals and Design, Renewables  
State Planning Facilitation  
Department of Transport and Planning

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Via email: [michael.juttner@transport.vic.gov.au](mailto:michael.juttner@transport.vic.gov.au)

Dear Michael,

### **Request for Amendment – Frasers Solar Farm (PA1900723)**

South Energy, on behalf of Frasers Lane Development Pty Ltd, is the proponent of Frasers Solar Farm (the Project), located on the corner of Traralgon-Maffra Road and Frasers Lane, Glengarry North, Victoria. The Project was approved by the Minister of Planning on 10 September 2010 (PA1900723). The extension to the permit was approved on 11 July 2024; the permit now expires if the development has not commenced by 10 September 2026, or if the use or development has not been completed by 10 September 2028.

Entura is assisting South Energy with a request for amendment to the Planning Permit, as detailed below.

#### **The project and relevant conditions**

The approved Frasers Solar Farm will be constructed across four parcels owned by one landowner, with a combined area of 110 ha. The solar farm will be connected to the electricity network via the MWTS-MFA (Morwell Terminal Station-Maffra) 66 kV overhead transmission line that runs adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Traralgon-Maffra Road reserve.

The construction of the solar farm will require the removal of nine scattered trees, which equates to 0.633 ha of native vegetation, and would require an offset with a strategic biodiversity score of equal to, or greater than, 0.284 and must include at least nine large trees. This was conditioned in Condition 73 and 74 of the Planning Permit. This has been obtained, with the credit site being located within the West Gippsland catchment management authority (CMA) and Strzelecki Ranges bioregion (refer Attachment A for the allocated credit extract).

Furthermore, traffic movements for the project will be through a new access on Frasers Lane. Frasers Lane is accessed off Traralgon-Maffra Road, an arterial road with single traffic lane in each direction. Frasers Lane is a local road and currently unpaved. Sections of Frasers Lane until the new site will be paved as part of the project. Both roads are gazetted approved VicRoads Higher Mass Limit (HML) roads, and are therefore able to cater vehicles up to B-double trailers.

*We own. We operate. We consult.*

The then-Department of Transport (DoT) included a condition on the Planning Permit that “At the intersection of the Traralgon-Maffra Road and Frasers Lane, a BAR right turn lane and an AUL(s) left turn lane must be provided in accordance with the Austroads Guidelines.” [Condition 24]

### **Reason for amendment**

Pursuant to Condition 24, South Energy and the preferred EPC contractor for the project, Gransolar Construction Australia Pty Ltd (GRS), has engaged with Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) to design an appropriate intersection upgrade that addressed the requirements of the condition.

The design has since been approved by DTP, and requires an unavoidable removal of up to 0.078 ha of forest red gum grassy woodland community (native vegetation) on the road verge of Traralgon-Maffra Road (refer Attachment B). The supplementary ecological note covering the additional intersection upgrade works vicinity is included in Attachment C for your reference.

As the forest red gum grassy woodland community is listed within the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*, a permit is required for its removal. Entura has engaged with Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) in this process, and a permit for the removal of vegetation was granted on 12 July 2024 (Attachment D).

As the Planning Permit for the project only permits the removal of 0.633 ha of native vegetation, on behalf of South Energy, we request an amendment to the Planning Permit to include the additional 0.078 ha arising from the intersection upgrade works. The combined native vegetation clearance is now 0.711 ha.

A Native Vegetation Removal Report (NVRR) has been obtained from DEECA (refer to Attachment E), which details the requirement of an additional 0.016 general habitat units in offset, with a minimum strategic biodiversity value score of 0.259, to be located in West Gippsland CMA, Wellington Shire Council or Latrobe Council areas. As the removal is less than 0.5 hectares of native vegetation in this area, a species offset is not required. Once approved, South Energy will obtain the additional offset.

### **Proposed amendment**

In accordance with Section 97J of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, we are seeking the amendment to Planning Permit PA1900723.

Entura proposes the following changes to the Planning Permit:

- amendment of Condition 73 to add subclauses, with subclause (b) to allow 0.078 ha of native vegetation to be removed within the Traralgon-Maffra Road reserve.
- amendment of Condition 74 to add subclauses, with subclause (b) to incorporate the general offset of 0.016 general habitat units associated with the new Condition 73(b).

The proposed amended wording is provided in Attachment F.

We trust the above provides sufficient information for your consideration of the requested amendment. Please do not hesitate to contact me on the below details should you require further clarification or information.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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Yours sincerely



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