



Notification of approval decision

Solar River Project (EPBC 2024/09922)

This decision is made under section 130(1) and 133(1) of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). Note that section 134(1A) of the EPBC Act also applies to this approval. That provision provides, in general terms, that if the approval holder authorises another person to undertake any part of the Action, the approval holder must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the other person is informed of any conditions attached to this approval, and that the other person complies with any such conditions.


Approved Action

person to whom the approval is granted (approval holder)	Solar River Project Pty Ltd ACN: 683 090 422
Action	To construct, operate and eventually decommission a 230 Mega Watt (MW) solar facility, 2,048 Mega Watt hours (MWh) battery energy storage system, 23.8 km long overhead transmission line and associated infrastructure, approximately 140 km north-east of Adelaide, South Australia.

Approval decision

decision	My decision on whether to approve the taking of the Action for the purposes of the controlling provision for the Action is as follows.	
	Controlling Provision	Decision
	Listed threatened species and communities (section 18 and section 18A)	Approved
period for which the approval has effect	This approval has effect until 31st December 2076.	
conditions of approval	The approval is subject to conditions under the EPBC Act as set out in Annexure A.	

Person authorised to make decision

name and position	Kylie Calhoun Branch Head Environment Assessments West
signature	
date of decision	25 November 2025

Annexure A

Note: Words and terms appearing in **bold** (excluding headings) have the meaning assigned to them at **Part C – Definitions**.

Part A – Avoidance and mitigation conditions**CLEARING LIMITS**

- 1) The approval holder must not:
 - a) **Clear** outside of the **Action area**.
 - b) **Construct** outside of the **Action area**.
 - c) **Clear** any **Plains Mallee Box Woodland of the Murray Darling depression, Riverina and Naracoorte Coastal Plain Bioregions Threatened Ecological Community (PMBW TEC)**.

ACTION MANAGEMENT PLANS

- 2) The approval holder must implement the **Plains Mallee Box Woodland Environmental Management Plan (PMBW EMP)** prior to the **commencement of the Action** and continue to implement the **PMBW EMP** until the **completion of the Action**.

Part B – Administrative conditions**PLAN REVISION**

Note: Section 143A of the **EPBC Act** entitles the approval holder to apply for the **Minister's** approval of a revised version of a **plan**.

- 3) The approval holder may choose to revise a **plan** required to be implemented under condition 2 without submitting it for approval under section 143A of the **EPBC Act**, if:
 - a) the taking of the Action in accordance with the revised **plan** would be consistent with the approved Action,

- b) the taking of the Action in accordance with the revised **plan** would be consistent with the conditions attached to this approval,
- c) the taking of the Action in accordance with the revised **plan** would not be likely to have a **new or increased impact**, and
- d) the approval holder notifies the **department** electronically that it has prepared a revised version of the **plan** (the 'revised **plan**'). In notifying the **department**, the approval holder must specify each condition which references the **plan** and provide the **department** with:
 - i) an electronic copy of the revised **plan**,
 - ii) an electronic copy of the revised **plan** marked up with track changes to show the differences between the **plan** and the revised **plan**,
 - iii) a comprehensive explanation of all differences between the **plan** and the revised **plan**,
 - iv) a declaration that the approval holder has read and understands the *Guidance on 'new or increased impact' relating to changes to approved management plans under EPBC Act environmental approvals, Commonwealth of Australia 2017*,
 - v) a comprehensive analysis and detailed discussion on the likelihood that taking the Action in accordance with the revised plan will not have, or will be not likely to have, a **new or increased impact**,
 - vi) written notice of the date on which the approval holder will implement the revised **plan** (the 'revised **plan** implementation date'), being at least 30 **business days** after the date of providing notice of the revision of the **plan**, or a date agreed to in writing with the **department**, and
 - vii) a copy of the **compliance report** for the latest **ACR period** and a statement of any relevant history of compliance (including non-compliance) in relation to the **plan**.
- 4) The approval holder must commence implementation of the revised **plan** from the revised **plan** implementation date unless otherwise notified in writing by the **Minister**.
- 5) If the **Minister** notifies the approval holder that the **Minister** is satisfied that the taking of the Action in accordance with a **plan** which has been revised without submitting it for the **Minister's** approval would be likely to have a **new or increased impact**, then:
 - a) the approval holder's ability to revise a **plan** without submitting the **plan** for **Minister** approval does not apply, or ceases to apply, in relation to the revised **plan**,
 - b) the approval holder must implement the **plan** in force immediately prior to that revised **plan** or a version of the **plan** specified by the **Minister** in the notice, and
 - c) the **Minister** may also notify that, for a specified period, the approval holder's ability to revise a plan without submitting the **plan** for **Minister** approval does not apply for one or more specified **plans**.

- 6) The approval holder may, at any time by giving written notice to the **department**, revoke its choice to implement a **plan** which has been revised without submitting it for the **Minister's** approval. If the approval holder revokes the choice to implement a revised **plan**, the approval holder must implement the **plan** in force immediately prior to that revised **plan**.

Note: The above conditions are not intended to limit the operation of section 143A of the **EPBC Act**.

SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION OF PLANS

- 7) Wherever these conditions require the approval holder to submit any **plan** to the **department**, all such **plans** must be submitted to the **department** electronically.
- 8) Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the **Minister**, the approval holder must publish each **plan** on the **website** within 15 **business days** of the date:
 - a) of this approval, if the version of the **plan** to be implemented is specified in these conditions,
 - b) the **plan** is approved by the **Minister** in writing, if the **plan** requires the approval of the **Minister**,
 - c) the **plan** is submitted to the **department** in accordance with a requirement of these conditions, if the **plan** does not require the approval of the **Minister**.
- 9) The approval holder must keep all **plans** published on the **website**, in a format that is easily accessible and downloadable, from the first date which that **plan** must be published and until the expiry date of this approval. This requirement applies to all current and superseded versions of **plans**.
- 10) The approval holder is required to exclude or redact **sensitive biodiversity data** from any version of a **plan** before that **plan** is published on the **website** or otherwise provided to a member of the public. If **sensitive biodiversity data** is excluded or redacted from a **plan**, the approval holder must notify the **department** in writing what exclusions and redactions have been made in the version published on the **website**.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE ACTION

- 11) The approval holder must notify the **department** electronically of the date of **commencement of the Action**, within 5 **business days** following **commencement of the Action**.
- 12) The approval holder must not **commence the Action** later than 5 years after the date of this approval decision.

COMPLIANCE RECORDS

- 13) The approval holder must maintain accurate and complete **compliance records** and document the procedure for recording and storing **compliance records**.
- 14) If the **department** makes a request in writing, the approval holder must provide electronic copies of **compliance records** to the **department** within the timeframe specified in the request.

Note: Compliance records may be subject to audit by the **department**, or by an **independent auditor** in accordance with section 458 of the **EPBC Act**, and/or be used to verify compliance with the conditions. Summaries of the results of an audit may be published on the **department's** website or through the general media.

- 15) The approval holder must ensure that any **monitoring data**, surveys, maps, and other spatial and metadata required under the conditions of this approval are prepared in accordance with the *Guidelines for biological survey and mapped data*, Commonwealth of Australia 2018, or as otherwise specified by the **Minister** in writing.
- 16) The approval holder must ensure that any **monitoring data**, surveys, maps, and other spatial and metadata required under the conditions of this approval are prepared in accordance with the *Guide to providing maps and boundary data for EPBC Act projects*, Commonwealth of Australia 2021, or as otherwise specified by the **Minister** in writing.
- 17) The approval holder must submit all **monitoring data**, surveys, maps, other spatial and metadata and all species occurrence record data (sightings and evidence of presence) electronically to the **department** within 20 **business days**.

ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORTING

- 18) The approval holder must prepare a **compliance report** for each **Annual Compliance Report period (ACR period)**.
- 19) The approval holder must ensure each **compliance report** includes:
 - a) accurate and complete details of compliance and any non-compliance with each condition attached to this approval decision,
 - b) accurate and complete details of how each **plan** was implemented during the **ACR period**, and
 - c) if any **incident** occurred, accurate and complete details of each **incident**.
- 20) The approval holder must ensure each **compliance report** is completed to the satisfaction of the **Minister** and is consistent with the *Annual Compliance Report Guidelines*, Commonwealth of Australia 2023.
- 21) The approval holder must, within 20 **business days** following the end of each **ACR period**, in a format that is easily accessible and downloadable, publish on the **website**:
 - a) each **compliance report**, and
 - b) a **shapefile** showing all **clearing of protected matters**, and their habitat, undertaken within the **ACR period**.
- 22) The approval holder must:
 - a) Exclude or redact **sensitive biodiversity data** from each **compliance report** and **shapefile** published on the **website** or otherwise provided to a member of the public.

- b) If **sensitive biodiversity data** is excluded or redacted from a version of a **compliance report** published or otherwise provided to a member of the public, submit the full **compliance report** to the **department** within 5 **business days** of its publication on the **website** and notify the **department** in writing what exclusions and redactions have been made in the version published on the **website** or otherwise provided to a member of the public.
 - c) If **sensitive biodiversity data** is excluded or redacted from a version of a **shapefile** published or otherwise provided to a member of the public, submit the full **shapefile** to the **department** within 5 **business days** of its publication on the **website** and notify the **department** in writing what exclusions and redactions have been made in the version published on the **website** or otherwise provided to a member of the public.
- 23) The approval holder must notify the **department** electronically, within 5 **business days** of each date of publication that the **compliance report** has been published on the **website**. In this notification, the approval holder must provide the **department** with the web address for where the **compliance report** and related **shapefile** are published on the **website**.
- 24) The approval holder must keep each **compliance report** and related **shapefile** published on the **website** from the first date which that **compliance report** must be published and until the expiry date of this approval.

Note: **Compliance reports** may be published on the **department's** website.

REPORTING NON-COMPLIANCE

- 25) The approval holder must notify the **department** electronically, within 2 **business days** of becoming aware of any **incident**. The approval holder must specify in each notification:
- a) any condition which has not been, or may have not been, complied with,
 - b) a short description of the **incident**, and
 - c) the location (if applicable, including co-ordinates), date and time of the **incident**.
- 26) The approval holder must provide to the **department** in writing, within 12 **business days** of becoming aware of an **incident**, the details of that **incident**. The approval holder must specify:
- a) all corrective measures and investigations which the approval holder has already taken in respect of the **incident**,
 - b) the potential impacts of the **incident**,
 - c) the method and timing of any corrective measures that the approval holder proposes to undertake to address the **incident**, and
 - d) any variation of these conditions that will be required to prevent recurrence of the **incident** and/or to address its consequences.

INDEPENDENT AUDIT

- 27) The approval holder must ensure that an **independent audit** of compliance with the conditions is conducted for every **audit period**.
- 28) The approval holder must submit details of the proposed **independent auditor** and their qualifications to the **department** within 10 **business days** following the end of each **audit period**.
- 29) The approval holder must ensure the scope of each **independent audit** is sufficient to determine the compliance status for each condition of approval.
- 30) The approval holder must ensure the criteria for each **independent audit** and the undertaking of each **independent audit** are consistent with the **Independent Audit and Audit Report Guidelines**.
- 31) The approval holder must submit an **audit report** to the **department** for written agreement from the **department** within 6 months following the end of each **audit period**, or as otherwise directed by the **Minister** in writing.
- 32) The approval holder must ensure each **audit report** is completed to the satisfaction of the **Minister** and is consistent with the **Independent Audit and Audit Report Guidelines** to the extent that the **Independent Audit and Audit Report Guidelines** are consistent with these conditions.
- 33) The approval holder must publish each **audit report** on the **website**, in a format that is easily accessible and downloadable, within 10 **business days** of the date the **department** agrees to that **audit report** in writing.
- 34) The approval holder must notify the **department** within 5 **business days** of the date the **audit report** is published on the **website**. In this notification, the approval holder must provide the **department** with the web address for where the **audit report** is published on the **website**.
- 35) The approval holder must keep each **audit report** published on the **website** from the first date which that **audit report** must be published and until the expiry date of this approval.

COMPLETION OF THE ACTION

- 36) Within 20 **business days** after the **completion of the Action**, and, in any event, at least 20 **business days** prior to the expiry date of this approval, the approval holder must notify the **department** electronically of the date of **completion of the Action** and provide **completion data**. The approval holder must submit any spatial data that comprises **completion data** as a **shapefile**.
- 37) The approval holder must notify the **department** electronically at least 60, but not more than 70, **business days** prior to the expiry date of this approval, that the approval is due to expire.

Note: Section 145C of the **EPBC Act** entitles the approval holder to request an extension to the period of effect of this approval.

Part C – Definitions

Words and terms appearing in **bold** (excluding headings) have the meaning assigned to them in the list below:

Action area means the location of the Action, represented in Attachment A.

Annual Compliance Report period or **ACR period** means each subsequent 12-month period following the date of this approval decision until the expiry date of this approval, unless otherwise specified in writing by the **Minister**.

Audit period means the period five-years following the **commencement of the Action** and each subsequent six-year period until the expiry date of this approval unless otherwise specified in writing by the **Minister**.

Audit report means a written report of an **independent audit**.

Biodiversity data means ‘biodiversity data’ as described in the *Policy on Accessing and Sharing Biodiversity Data*, Commonwealth of Australia 2024.

Business day means a day that is not a Saturday, a Sunday, or a public holiday in South Australia.

Clear, cleared or **clearing** means the cutting down, felling, thinning, logging, removing, killing, destroying, poisoning, ringbarking, uprooting, or burning of vegetation but does not include weeds (see the Australian Weeds Strategy 2017-2027, Commonwealth of Australia 2017 for further guidance).

Commence the Action or **commences the Action** means the first instance of any on-site **clearing, construction** or other physical activity associated with the Action, but does not include minor physical disturbance necessary to:

- Undertake pre-clearance surveys or monitoring programs.
- Install signage and/or temporary fencing to prevent unapproved use of the **Action area**, so long as the signage and/or temporary fencing is located where it does not **harm any protected matter**.
- Protect environmental and property assets from fire, weeds, and feral animals, including use of existing surface access tracks.
- Install temporary site facilities for persons undertaking pre-commencement activities so long as these facilities are located where they do not **harm any protected matter**.

Commencement of the Action means the date on which the approval holder **commences the Action**.

Commencement of commercial operations means the date on which the approval holder commissions the facility for commercial production of electricity.

Completion data means an environmental report and spatial data clearly detailing how the conditions of this approval have been met.

Completion of the Action means the date on which all activities associated with the approved Action, other than those which provide compensation for the impacts of the Action, have permanently ceased and/or been completed.

Compliance records means all documentation or other material in whatever form required to demonstrate compliance with these conditions of approval in the approval holder's possession, or that are within the approval holder's power to obtain lawfully.

Compliance report means a written report of compliance with, and fulfilment of, these conditions.

Construction means:

- the erection of a building or structure that is, or is to be, fixed to the ground and wholly or partially fabricated on-site,
- the alteration, maintenance, repair or demolition of any building or structure,
- any work which involves breaking of the ground (including pile driving) or bulk earthworks,
- the laying of pipes and other prefabricated materials in the ground, and
- any associated excavation work.

Construction does not include the installation of temporary fences or signage.

Department means the Australian Government agency responsible for administering the EPBC Act.

EPBC Act means the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).

Habitat quality means a measure of the overall viability of a site and its capacity to support **protected matters**, with respect to site condition, site context and species stocking rate and/or composition.

Harm means to cause any measurable direct or indirect disturbance or deleterious change as a result of any activity associated with the Action.

Incident means any:

- event which has the potential to, or does, **harm any protected matter**,
- potential non-compliance with these conditions, including the administrative requirements, and

- actual non-compliance with these conditions, including the administrative requirements.

Independent audit means an audit, conducted by an **independent auditor**, of compliance with and fulfilment of these conditions, objectively evaluated against the audit criteria developed by the **independent auditor**, in accordance with the **Independent Audit and Audit Report Guidelines** to the extent that the **Independent Audit and Audit Report Guidelines** are consistent with these conditions.

Independent Audit and Audit Report Guidelines means the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Independent Audit and Audit Report Guidelines*, Commonwealth of Australia 2019.

Independent auditor means a person, or firm, who:

- does not have any individual, financial*, employment* or family affiliation or any conflicting interests with the Action, the approval holder or the approval holder's staff, representatives, or associated persons,
- has demonstrated experience in undertaking government-regulated environmental compliance audits, and
- holds relevant professional qualifications and accreditations.

*Other than for the purpose of undertaking the role for which the person, or firm, is required.

Minister means the Australian Government Minister administering the **EPBC Act**, including any delegate thereof.

Monitoring data means the data required to be recorded under the conditions of this approval, including **sensitive biodiversity data**.

New or increased impact means any direct or indirect increase in the impacts of an Action, an increase to the likelihood of an impact occurring and a reduction to the monitoring or mitigation measures for a **protected matter**.

PMBW TEC means Plains Mallee Box Woodland of the Murray Darling depression, Riverina and Naracoorte Coastal Plain Bioregions Threatened Ecological Community.

Plains Mallee Box Woodlands Environmental Management Plan (PMBW EMP) means the document titled Solar River Plains Mallee Box Woodlands Environmental Management Plan, Umwelt, July 2025, or the latest subsequent version revised in accordance with these conditions.

Plan means any action management plan or strategy that the approval holder is required by these conditions to implement.

Protected matter means a matter protected under a controlling provision in Part 3 of the **EPBC Act** for which this approval has effect.

Sensitive biodiversity data means **biodiversity data** which, if released, published or otherwise exposed, may result in **harm** to the relevant **protected matter** as a result of the intentional or unintentional misuse of that **biodiversity data**.

Shapefile means location and attribute information about the Action provided in an Esri shapefile format containing:

- '.shp', '.shx', '.dbf' files,
- a '.prj' file which specifies the projection or geographic coordinate system used, and
- an '.xml' metadata file that describes the shapefile for discovery and identification purposes.

SMART means specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound.

Website means a set of related web pages located under a single domain name attributed to the approval holder and available to the public.



Attachments

A: Action Area

