

From:

From: Andrew Spanton

Sent: Monday, 4 April 2022 10:08 AM

To:

Cc:

Subject: RE: Solar Panel Farms- Ecological Assessments

Hi Charlotte,

Thanks for giving us the opportunity to put the biodiversity lens over this.

We don't have any concerns biodiversity wise but have made comments below:

RC225180

In terms of the definitions of indigenous vegetation in the operative and proposed Selwyn District Plan, it is

extremely unlikely that any area of the proposed solar farm site contains *a plant community in which species*

indigenous to that part of New Zealand are important in terms of coverage, structure and / or species diversity, excluding shelterbelt areas that have been deliberately planted and as such are not *naturally*

occurring and do not have ecological value in terms of an effects assessment.

In terms of the EIANZ EclA methodology (Roper Lindsay et al. 2018; see Appendix 1), it is considered highly

likely that the ecological value of all vegetation at the solar farm site is **Negligible**.

We are in agreement with this assessment.

Freshwater Fauna

While a freshwater ecology assessment was beyond the scope of this memo (because, as we understand it,

only existing crossings of waterways would be used during site construction and operation), we do wish to

note for the sake of completeness the presence of a population of Canterbury mudfish (classified as Threatened – Nationally Critical, Dunn et al. 2018). This population is known to inhabit the waterway around

the intersection of Buckleys Road and Drain Branch Road, and along Drain Branch Road.

Relative to the highlighted comment we don't believe that this project will have any adverse effects on the mudfish.

Whether it would also be appropriate for RC225158 to provide an ecological assessment. Is this something that you could assist with, please? From our mapping system and knowledge of native vegetation on the Plains we don't think that this site / consent would require an ecological assessment.

Potentially this RC could include some of the recommendations from RC225180 around bird breeding seasons. Maybe there could be monitoring of bird strikes once the solar installations have been built for both Consents?

If both projects are going to do plantings it would be good if they were ecosourced native

plantings.

Nga mihi / kind regards
Andy

Andy Spanton
SENIOR BIODIVERSITY ADVISOR

DDI: [REDACTED]
Web: www.selwyn.govt.nz



2 Norman Kirk Drive, Rolleston 7643
Mobile ph: 021 818382
Email: [REDACTED]

Whatungarongaro te tangata toitu te whenua

As man disappears from sight, the land remains