

BACKGROUND

ProTen obtained Development Consent SSD 7704 from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) on 16 April 2020 to construct and operate a large-scale poultry farm within the rural area known as Rushes Creek near Tamworth NSW. In summary, the Development comprises four individual poultry production units (PPUs), identified as Farms 1 to 4, where broiler birds will be grown for the purpose of producing poultry meat (for human consumption). Each farm will contain between 10 and 18 fully-enclosed climate-controlled poultry sheds along with associated support and servicing infrastructure. The development will comprise a total of 54 poultry sheds and house a combined site population of 3,051,000 birds.

A development modification was approved by DPIE on 15 June 2021 allowing a small area of arsenic impact soil associated with an old sheep dip to be capped and contained where it is on-site (as opposed to the soil being excavated and transported to Sydney for landfill disposal) and removal of a condition requiring the excavation of an Aboriginal hearth.

The development consent, Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Response to Submissions (RTS) and additional background information can be viewed and downloaded from DPIE's Major Projects Portal – <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/10721>

These documents will also be made publicly available on ProTen's website prior to commencing construction (see Table 2).

The following figures accompany this newsletter:

- Figure 1 – Development Site;
- Figure 2 – Approved Development Layout;
- Figure 3 – Construction Staging; and
- Figure 4 – Construction Stage 1 – Farm 2 Layout.



DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Over the past 6 months ProTen has been completing site survey and detailed engineering design works, and also working with specialist consultants to fulfill the various conditions of development consent that are required to be fulfilled prior to commencing construction.

Construction of the development is currently planned to occur over two separate stages as summarised in Table 1 and shown on Figure 3. At this point in time, Stage 1 is scheduled to commence on 16 August 2021 (subject to contractor arrangements, construction certificate, weather conditions etc.). The timeframes for Stage 2 are unknown at this point.

Table 1 Construction Stages and Durations

Stage	Key Activities	Approximate Duration	Anticipated Commencement	Anticipated Completion
1	1A - Construction of the northern site access from Rushes Creek Road	15 months	16 August 2021	Late 2022
	1B - Construction of Farm 2 (18 sheds, associated ancillaries and servicing, 2 houses)			
2	2A - Construction of the southern site access from Rushes Creek Road	15 months	TBC	TBC
	2B - Construction of Farm 4 (16 sheds, associated ancillaries and servicing, 2 houses)			
	2C - Construction of Farm 3 (10 sheds, associated ancillaries and servicing, 2 houses)	10 months		
	2D - Construction of Farm 1 (10 sheds, associated ancillaries and servicing, 2 houses)	10 months		

CONSTRUCTION STAGE 1

Stage 1 of the construction phase will comprise what is necessary to establish and operate Farm 2 (see Figures 3 and 4). In summary this will comprise:

- Site preparation, including erosion and sediment control and earthworks;
- Construction of the new northern site access from Rushes Creek Road and internal access roads to service Farm 2;
- Construction and fit-out of Farm 2, including 18 poultry sheds and associated ancillary infrastructure (staff amenities and workshop, feed silos, water tanks, surface water management system, etc.);
- Installation of water and electricity infrastructure to service Farm 2;
- Construction of two houses to accommodate the Farm 2 managers;
- Rehabilitation and revegetation of disturbed areas; and
- Landscape plantings around Farm 2.



CONSTRUCTION HOURS

The development consent permits construction to be undertaken within the standard construction hours of 7:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday to Friday, and 8:00 am to 1:00 pm Saturdays. The consent permits work outside of these hours if inaudible at the nearest receptors.

Extended Construction Hours

The NSW Government's *Environmental Planning and Assessment (COVID-19 Development-Construction Work Days) Order 2020* allows weekday construction hours (i.e. 7:00 am to 6:00 pm) to be extended to weekends and public holidays. This Order is effective until 31 March 2022 (unless extended). As such, Stage 1 construction may occur between 7:00 am and 6:00 pm Monday to Sunday (including public holidays) until 31 March 2022 subject to the following limitations:

- No rock breaking, rock hammering, sheet piling, pile driving or similar will be undertaken outside of the standard construction hours of 7:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday to Friday, and 8:00 am to 1:00 pm Saturdays; and
- All feasible and reasonable measures will be taken to minimise noise.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

ProTen has committed to a suite of best practice environmental management and mitigation measures to be implemented during the construction phase to avoid/minimise the potential for adverse impacts on the surrounding environment and community. The controls have been compiled in a detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for Stage 1, which is currently being assessed for approval by DPIE. The CEMP includes management and mitigation measures for dust, traffic, noise, soil, surface water, biodiversity, Aboriginal heritage, potentially dangerous goods and waste. It also includes complaints and environmental incident management strategies.

A copy of the approved CEMP, including a stand-alone Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP), will be made publicly available on ProTen's website prior to commencing construction (see Table 2).

COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND COMMUNICATION

ProTen is committed to open communications and fostering good relationships with the surrounding community. A Community Consultation Plan (CCP) has been approved by DPIE for use throughout the construction and operational phases of the development. A copy of the approved CCP will be made publicly available on ProTen's website prior to commencing construction (see Table 2).

Key community resources and communications tools for the construction phase are summarised in Table 2.

Table 2 Community Resources and Communication Tools

Resource / Tool	Description
Development webpage	ProTen is developing a dedicated webpage on ProTen's website (www.proten.com.au) where key documents and information relevant to the development will be made publicly available. This will include (but not be limited to) the development consent, EIS, RTS, CEMP, CTMP, other management plans/strategies, CCP, community newsletters, complaints register, etc. This webpage will be fully operational prior to commencing construction.
Community information session	ProTen will facilitate an information session to inform the local community about construction works, staging and hours, and field feedback and queries. N.B. This session was intended to be held in around 3 weeks prior to commencing Stage 1 construction, however will need to be delayed due to the current Covid restrictions and ProTen's construction project management team being based in Sydney. An invitation will be issued to surrounding residents and recreation facilities when the Covid situation has improved, restrictions are eased and it is safe to do so. In the meantime, the local community will be able to discuss Stage 1 construction with ProTen via emails and phone/video calls, and also via face-to-face meetings with ProTen's Regional Operations Manager who is based in Tamworth (see Table 3 for contact details).
Community newsletters	ProTen will issue development updates in the form of newsletters to keep the local community informed and up-to-date with construction progress, staging and hours, and provide contact details for feedback/queries/complaints. Community newsletter will be distributed by mail/letterbox drop and will also be uploaded on the development webpage (see above). This newsletter is for Stage 1 construction. Additional newsletters will be issued a minimum of 2 weeks prior to commencing subsequent construction stages and if there happens to be any changes to the development.
Site signage	A clearly visible sign will be installed adjacent to the construction site access off Rushes Creek Road providing relevant site information and contact details. This sign will be installed prior to commencing Stage 1 construction and will remain until construction works are complete.
Emails, phone/video calls, face-to-face meetings	ProTen will consult and engage with surrounding residents and recreation facilities as requested via emails, phone/video calls and/or face-to-face meetings in relation to construction works, environmental management, complaints, incidents, etc. At this point in time, face-to-face meetings will be limited due to the current covid restrictions and ProTen's construction project management team being based in Sydney. However, ProTen's Regional Operations Manager is based in Tamworth and will be available to meet with surrounding residents and recreation facilities as requested (see Table 3 for contact details).
ProTen environmental hotline	ProTen operates a toll-free number where the community can provide feedback and submit queries and/or complaints for follow-up. Hotline number – 1800 776 994
Complaints management strategy	ProTen have a system to ensure that all complaints regarding construction will be promptly and effectively received, handled and addressed. Investigative work and remedial action will be reported back to the complainant.

PROTECT CONTACT DETAILS

If you have any questions or concerns regarding Stage 1 of the construction phase, please contact (in the first instance) -

ProTen's Regional Operations Manager, Julian Johnson - julianj@proten.com.au / 0406 484 474

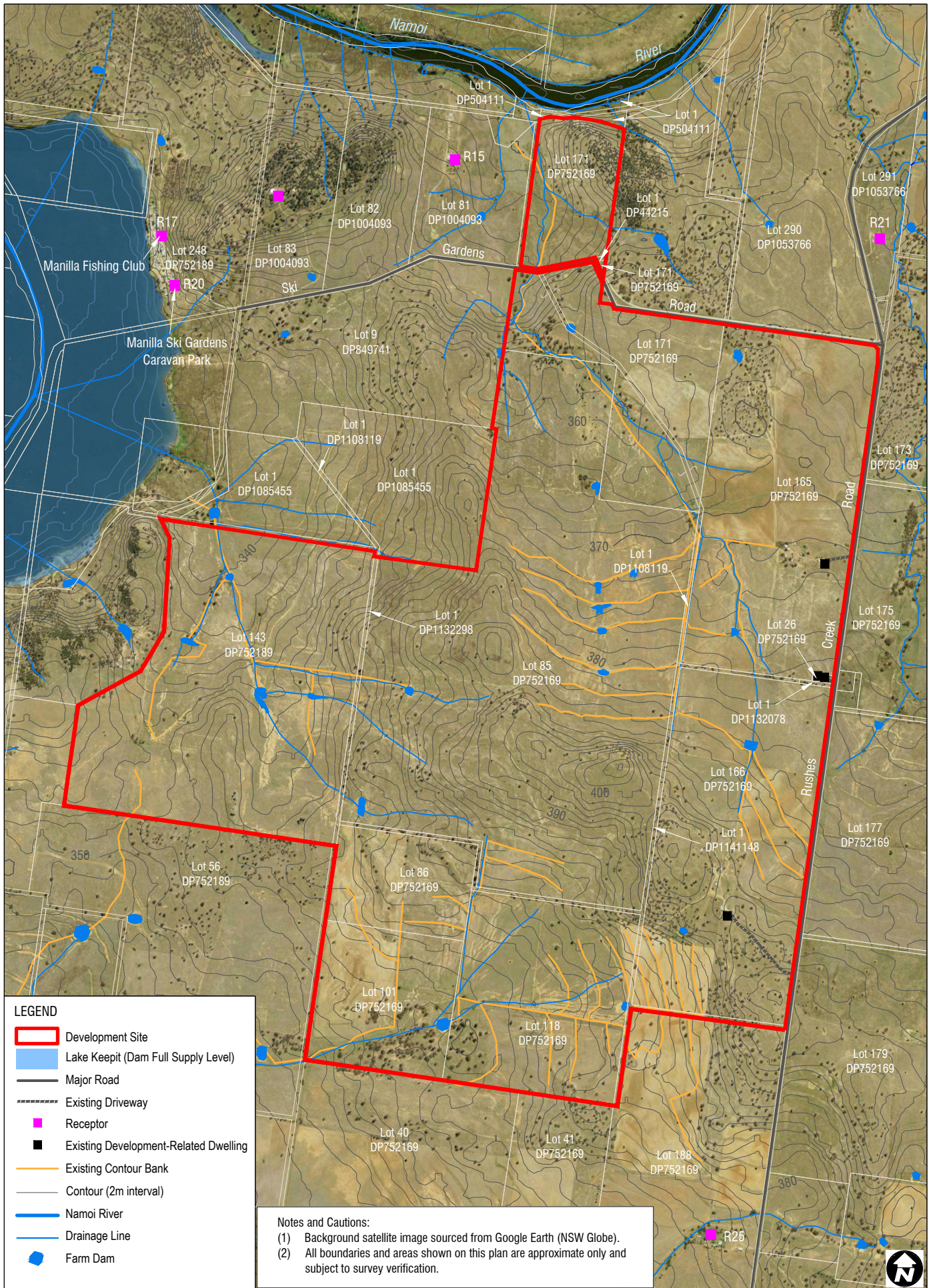
Julian is based in Tamworth and is the nominated "central contact person" for this development. He will be available for emails, phone/video calls and face-to-face meetings (subject to Covid restrictions).

Table 3 lists ProTen's key contacts for community consultation and engagement during Stage 1 of the construction phase.

Table 3 ProTen Key Contacts – Stage 1 Construction

Role	Name	Contact Details
ProTen Regional Operations Manager – nominated "central contact person"	Julian Johnson	Email: julianj@proten.com.au Ph: 0406 484 474
ProTen National Construction Manager	Adrian McKinnon	Email: adrianm@proten.com.au Ph: 0427 208 971
ProTen environmental hotline (toll-free)	-	Ph: 1800 776 994

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LEGEND

- Development Site
- Lake Keepit (Dam Full Supply Level)
- Major Road
- Existing Driveway
- Receptor
- Existing Development-Related Dwelling
- Existing Contour Bank
- Contour (2m interval)
- Namoi River
- Drainage Line
- Farm Dam

Notes and Cautions:

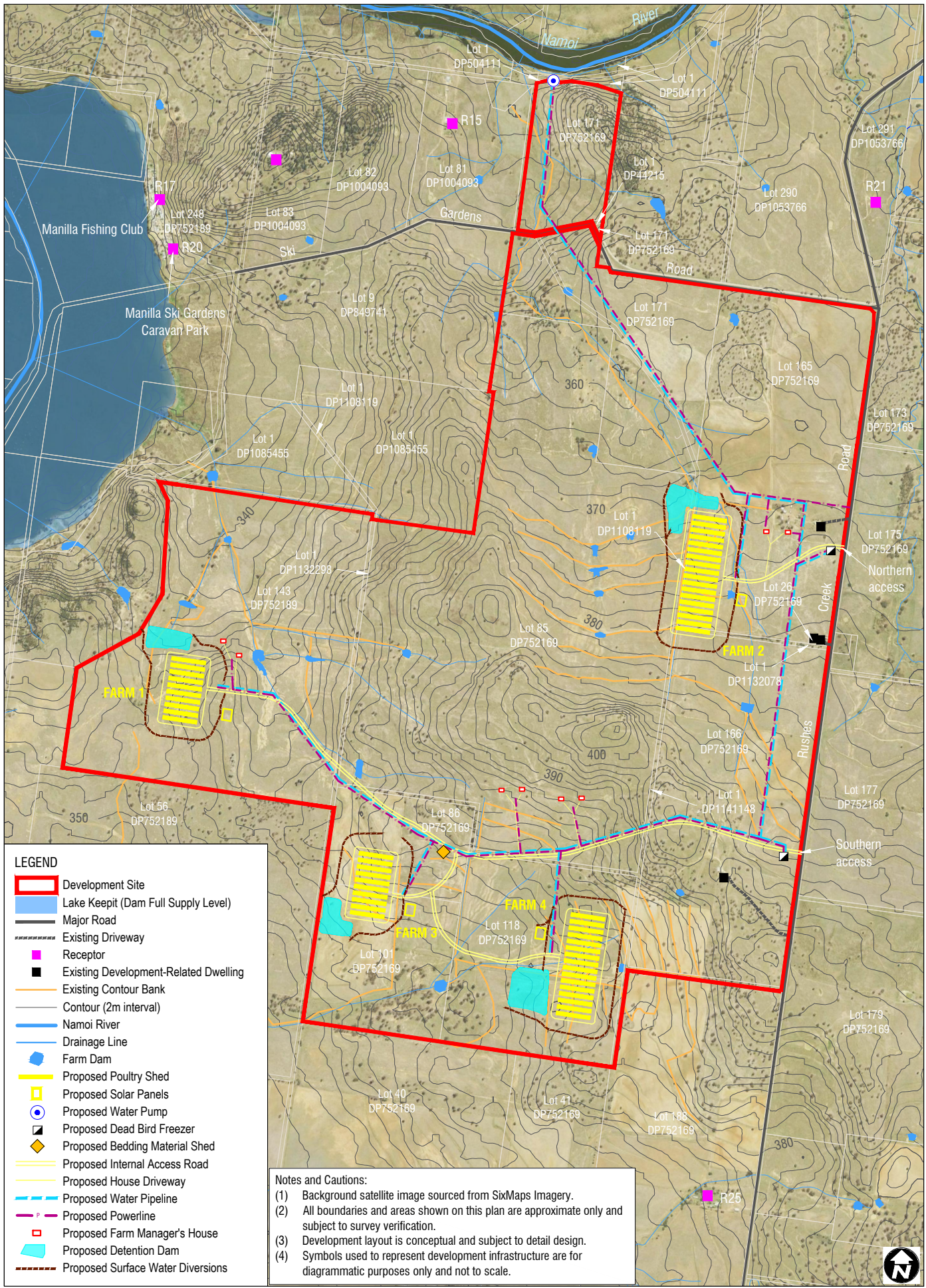
- (1) Background satellite image sourced from Google Earth (NSW Globe).
- (2) All boundaries and areas shown on this plan are approximate only and subject to survey verification.

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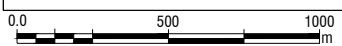


LEGEND

- Development Site
- Lake Keenit (Dam Full Supply Level)
- Major Road
- Existing Driveway
- Receptor
- Existing Development-Related Dwelling
- Existing Contour Bank
- Contour (2m interval)
- Namoi River
- Drainage Line
- Farm Dam
- Proposed Poultry Shed
- Proposed Solar Panels
- Proposed Water Pump
- Proposed Dead Bird Freezer
- Proposed Bedding Material Shed
- Proposed Internal Access Road
- Proposed House Driveway
- Proposed Water Pipeline
- Proposed Powerline
- Proposed Farm Manager's House
- Proposed Detention Dam
- Proposed Surface Water Diversions

Notes and Cautions:

- (1) Background satellite image sourced from SixMaps Imagery.
- (2) All boundaries and areas shown on this plan are approximate only and subject to survey verification.
- (3) Development layout is conceptual and subject to detail design.
- (4) Symbols used to represent development infrastructure are for diagrammatic purposes only and not to scale.

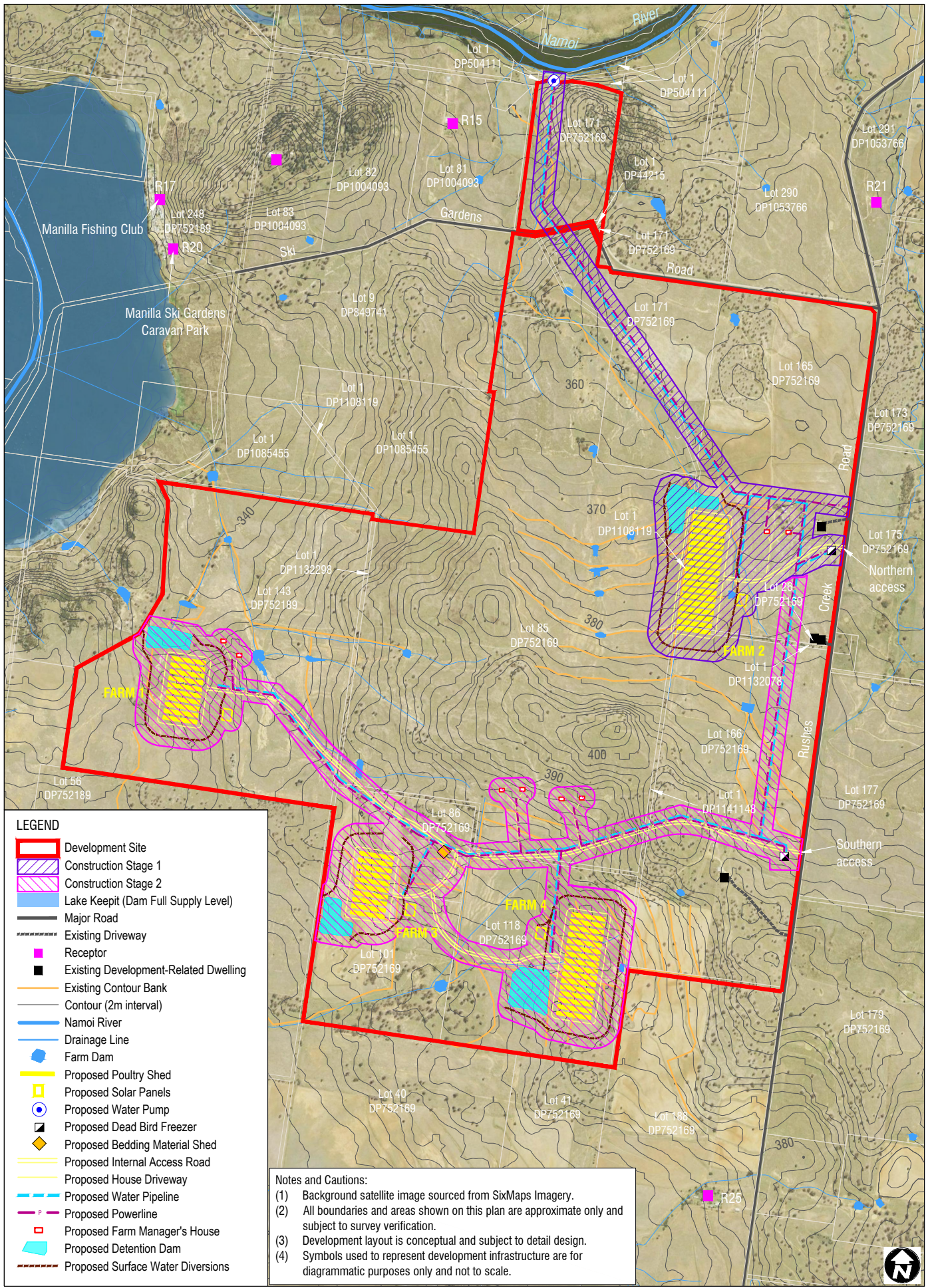


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LEGEND

	Development Site
	Construction Stage 1
	Construction Stage 2
	Lake Keepit (Dam Full Supply Level)
	Major Road
	Existing Driveway
	Receptor
	Existing Development-Related Dwelling
	Existing Contour Bank
	Contour (2m interval)
	Namoi River
	Drainage Line
	Farm Dam
	Proposed Poultry Shed
	Proposed Solar Panels
	Proposed Water Pump
	Proposed Dead Bird Freezer
	Proposed Bedding Material Shed
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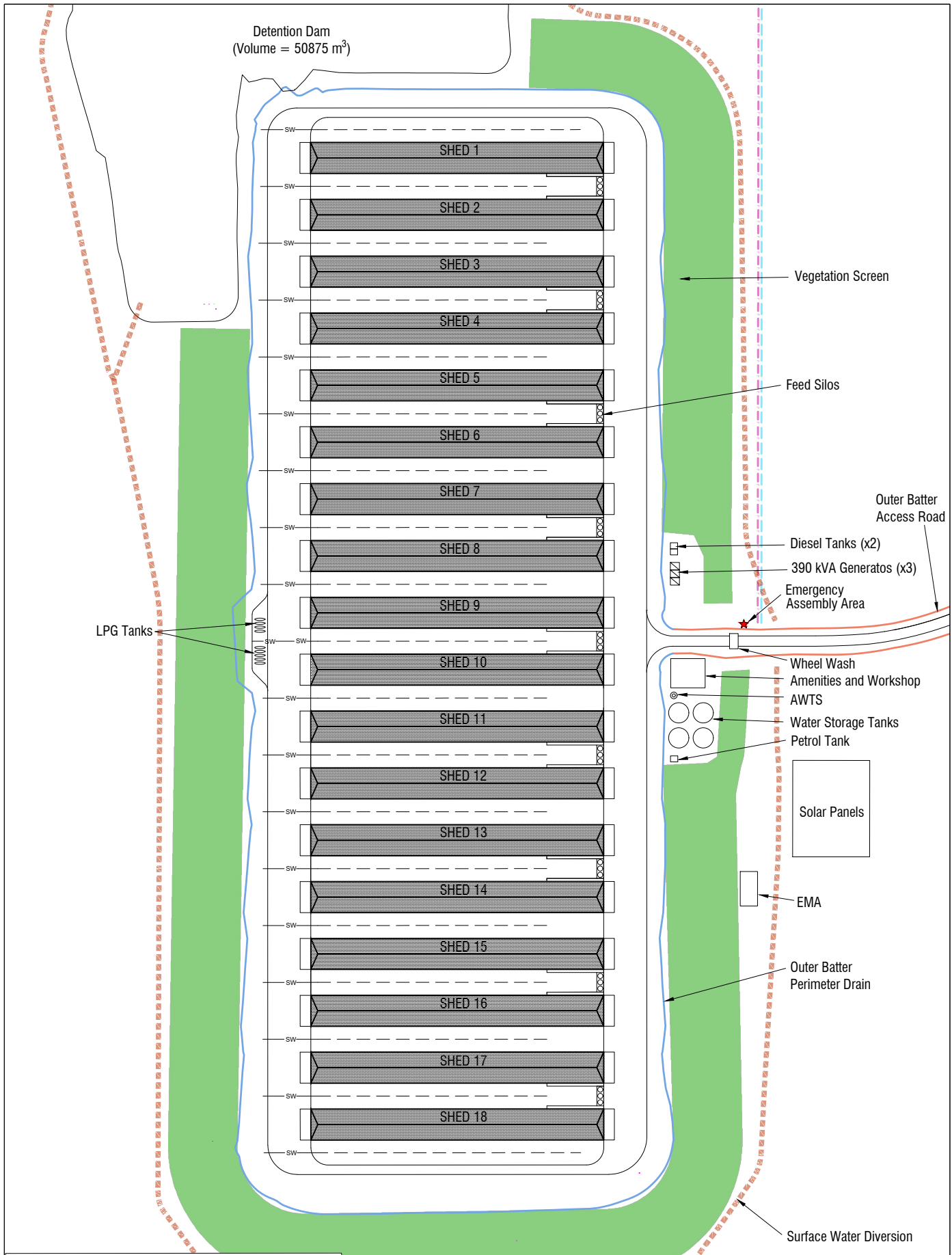
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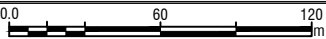
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