



**Application by Mallard Pass Solar Farm Limited for an Order
Granting Development Consent for the Mallard Pass Solar
Project – project ref. EN010127**

Submission by Mallard Pass Action Group (MPAG)

– unique ID ref. 20036230

Deadline 3:

**Any other further information
requested by the ExA**

Statement of Common Ground update

When the Rule 6 letter was issued it identified an opportunity for MPAG to become involved with a SoCG stating “... the ExA would like to hear views of the relevant parties on the possibility and benefits of a SoCG with Mallard Pass Action Group.” The deadline for all other parties was 15th June.

During the Procedural Meeting on 16th May, MPAG highlighted that it might be better to defer MPAG’s first deadline until the Applicant had a chance to read our Written Representation being submitted at deadline 2.

Following the Preliminary Meeting the Rule 8 letter was issued stating “*The ExA acknowledges the comments of the relevant parties at the Preliminary Meeting concerning a possible SoCG between the Applicant and Mallard Pass Action Group. Consequently, the ExA would expect the first SoCG between these parties to be submitted by Deadline 3 on 29 June 2023.*”

Once the Written Representation was available on the portal on 19th June we assumed the Applicant would take a few days and suggest an initial SoCG. With time passing we contacted the Applicant to see what progress they were making. In response to our email of 26th June, they sent an email on 28th June suggesting the following:

*“We have been focussing on responding to the various D2 submissions and, due to the limited time between D2 and D3, have not yet had the opportunity to contact you directly regarding the SoCG. We plan to produce and share with you a draft proposal based on MPAG’s WR submitted at D2 **next Wednesday 05 July 2023**, in between D3 (Thursday 29 June 2023) and the next round of Hearings (starting Tuesday 11 July 2023). We hope MPAG will then consider these in preparation for the Hearings, and we aim to submit a first draft to the ExA following this second round of hearings.”*

Whilst the Applicant could issue a draft document on 5th July as suggested above, it gives MPAG very little time to respond (3 working days) whilst preparing for the hearings starting on 11th. In terms of written submission the next opportunity would be to meet deadline 4 on 29th July.

The Applicant has asked “*We note your previous comments (May 2023) regarding Say No to Sunnica’s 1st SoCG. In consideration of these, would you be happy we move forward with a format similar to the group’s final SoCG (previously shared; also [linked here for reference](#).”*

We think it would be better to start with a simpler SoCG rather than try and replicate the level of detail Sunnica submitted for deadline 8 (as supplied in the link above). The important point is to arrive at a document we are both happy with and is sufficiently informative at the first stage to the ExA.