

Bendemeer Art Show

Celebrating of 40 years of Regional Art in our community
PO Box 756 Bendemeer NSW 2355



Tuesday 22nd August 2023

Mr Jai Reid
Principal Planner
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

RE: State Significant Development Application number SSD-36651552 known as the
Bendemeer Renewable Energy Hub (Solar)

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our submission supporting this important project planned in our local region of Bendemeer.

As an introduction to our organisation we provide this brief overview of our activities. We are proud to represent a small dynamic community who have been able to run an annual art show for 40 years (2024 being our 40th exhibition) that has enabled budding and experienced artists all over NSW to exhibit their works in a professional exhibition each year. We attract well in excess of 300 artworks each year that we proudly exhibit in our Town Hall.

Bendemeer has a proud civic pride that run significant community events regularly such as the 'Grey Fergie Muster' , Australia Day Celebrations, Anzac Memorial Services, Bendemeer Art Show and the Bendemeer Camp draft and rodeo, just to mention few, that encapsulates the spirit of a small community fostering a strong Australian rural self-reliant 'can do' approach to life.

Our small annual exhibition has been the grateful financial beneficiary of the support of the Bendemeer Renewal Energy Hub (BREH) that has enabled us to significantly broaden the appeal of our Art Exhibition to a broader creative community in terms of prize money, new categories such as photography and junior art work sections. We see this role as imperative to enable us to provide nurturing support to budding artists far and wide of our small community. There is wide acknowledgement from many significant established artists of the major role these small exhibitions have played in the progression of their own personal career path. Indeed the winner of our 2023 Major Art section used her own prize money to help frame her first individual exhibition and we watch with excitement the progression of Janna's own career.

The context of this story is that major sustainable developments that are in accord with International, National, State and Local environmental objectives we see as a "once in a generation opportunity" to reinvigorate small rural communities like ours. BREH has already commenced financial support of our organisation, that a large project like this offers support for our community on all economic levels, for the benefit of a broad spectrum the community.

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Some members of our committee who have an active interest in the broader welfare of the Bendemeer community have read through all the State Significant Development application Environmental Planning Assessment report to make our own assessments of the planned solar farm.

The broad consensus of this review is that the site has been wisely chosen offering minimal broad visual impact to the Bendemeer community, the site assessment indicates there are no significant site constraints to the proposal and that the project will generate significant economic benefits to our region.

We are sympathetic to objections raised by some of the immediate neighbours but believe that appropriate development setbacks and landscaping can mitigate the visual impact of the solar arrays. We question some of the more spurious objections that appear to be supported by some more political fossil fuel motives trying to detract from what appears a progressive contribution to minimising a climate problem at the forefront of most informed people.

The opportunity to generate solar energy to support in excess of 70,000 homes whilst injecting huge amounts of capital into our local community is deserving of our unqualified support.

Jamie Hook
0488 712 444
President

On behalf of Bendemeer "Colours of Autumn" Art Exhibition Committee

