MARULAN SOLAR FARM COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES REPORT

APRIL 2022



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Prepared For

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INTRODUCTION

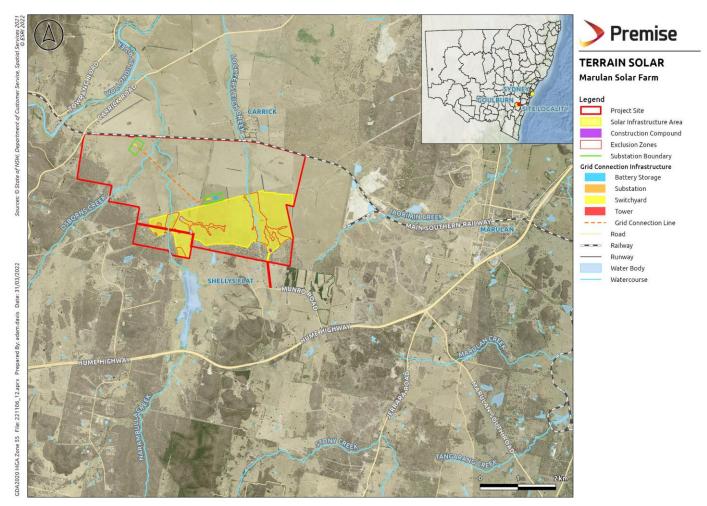
Terrain Solar is seeking approval to build a large-scale solar energy project at 740 Carrick Rd, Carrick (located 5km west of Marulan).

The Marulan Solar Farm will produce approximately 152 Megawatts (MWac) of energy, and will be used to send clean, renewable power into the grid, generating enough energy to power approximately 39,000 homes in NSW.

To progress planning and approvals, in 2021 Terrain Solar commenced the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to form part of the State Significant Development (SSD) application to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE).

As part of the EIS, Terrain Solar undertook consultation with the local community and interested stakeholders. This report outlines feedback received and details activities undertaken in the lead up to the submission of the EIS to DPIE.

SITE



1 CONSULTATION

1.1 SCOPING REPORT

Before lodging the scoping report for the SEARS, Terrain Solar carried out preliminary engagement with adjacent landowners to:

- build awareness of the proposal with adjacent residents
- create a positive perception of the proposal and Terrain Solar within the communities in Carrick, Towrang,
 Greenwich Park and Marulan
- be prepared to manage any potential negative initial sentiment arising from the local community and media
- establish channels for local community to ask questions and give feedback.

Preliminary engagement included:

- a community notification via letterbox drop to 50 sensitive receivers in Carrick and Towrang
- a 1800 project infoline and email address for community members to provide their feedback and ask questions
- a dedicated project website page to house key project information, as well as access to the SSD portal for project documents

From Wednesday 6 December 2020 – Thursday 14 January 2021, 4 phone calls were received on the 1800 line and 2 emails were received to the project email address.

1.2 EIS CONSULTATION

Consultation during the EIS preparation and public exhibition phase focussed on:

- Ensuring engagement is undertaken to, as a minimum, satisfy the SEARS (outlined below)
- Informing the community regarding the project through targeted engagement, to help inform the preparation of the EIS

Engaging with the community and stakeholders to support the EIS exhibition phase.

1.3 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of consultation during the EIS process were to:

- Enable Terrain Solar to be transparent about development plans, decisions, and design modifications (if required).
- Explain the project drivers, what approvals processes and assessments will be undertaken and opportunities for community and stakeholder input.
- Share information regarding the EIS process, and parallel planning processes, with the community and stakeholders.
- Identify and understand community and stakeholder needs, drivers and motivations.
- Provide community and stakeholders with easy to understand, timely, and relevant information about the proposal as well as opportunities to provide feedback and insights.
- As a minimum, meet community engagement requirements, particularly during COVID-19 restrictions, and be prepared to change consultation approaches if and when required.
- Understand and address community and stakeholder issues, concerns and enquiries as they arise and where possible update the design to reflect feedback.

1.4 CONSULTATION APPROACH

A comprehensive Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) was developed to ensure the above consultation objectives would be achieved. The plan outlines several techniques to ensure that all relevant stakeholders and community members were reached and were afforded an opportunity to be informed and provide feedback on the EIS.

Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (Terrain Solar Marulan Solar Farm SSD-13137914) February 2021

In the SEARS, the Department emphasises the importance of effective and genuine community consultation with:

- 1. relevant local, State or Commonwealth Government authorities
- 2. infrastructure and service providers
- 3. community groups and affected landowners
- 4. any exploration license and/or mineral title holders.

Particular emphasis is given to undertaking detailed consultation with affected landowners surrounding the development within the Goulburn Mulwaree Council area. The EIS must describe the consultation process, and highlight any issues raised. The SEARS also stipulate that the EIS demonstrate where the design of the development has been amended in response to these issues or provide a brief explanation where no action has been taken.

1.4.2 Tools and Techniques

With the prevailing COVID-19 restrictions and the well-being of the local community in mind, the consultation approach was designed to limit face-to-face interactions with the community and focus on online, telephone and direct mail activities.

The table below outlines in detail the activities that were undertaken to ensure that members of the community and stakeholders across the Goulburn-Mulwaree local government areas were informed of the proposal and had an opportunity to contact the team and ask questions or provide feedback.

Tool/Technique	Description	
Emails	Emails outlining the consultation program and where to find out more information about the proposal were sent to the community and stakeholders. A total of 7 emails were sent to key stakeholders including:	
	State and Federal MP's	
	Local Council	
	Community Groups	
	Local landowners	
Website	A project website was updated: https://www.marulansolarfarm.com.au	
	The website included a project description, the community newsletters and information on the upcoming engagement.	
	Visitors to the website seeking further information were encouraged to provide feedback via an online survey or to contact the community engagement team via the dedicated project email address or telephone number.	
Newspaper advertisements	Newspaper advertisements were published in <i>The Goulburn Post</i> on:	
	- Wednesday 24 November (1/2-page full colour)	
diam's	- Wednesday 1 December (1/2-page full colour)	
	Advertisements were published in both digital and print form. Copies of these advertisements can be found in Appendix A .	
Community newsletters	A double-sided A4 community newsletter containing information about the proposal and how to register for the Online Community Information Sessions was developed. The newsletter included details on how to contact the community engagement team via the project email address and telephone number.	
	The newsletter was distributed to local residents and businesses:	
	 Goulburn Mulwaree Council: 99 copies of the newsletter distributed to residents in Carrick, Towrang, and Greenwich Park on the 25 November 2021. 	
	Another community update was emailed to stakeholders who had attended the online information sessions in late December and those who had registered their interest in the project. Copies of the community newsletters can be found in Appendix B .	

Tool/Technique **Description** Project email address and A dedicated project email address was promoted as a means for people to provide feedback, comments and ask questions. The mailbox was telephone monitored by the community engagement team: 3 calls received 4 emails received Survey A survey was developed for community members to provide their feedback in their own time and was available online via the project website. The survey was available for any interested stakeholders to provide feedback from Thursday 25 November 2021 to Tuesday 1 March 2022. Meetings A briefing on the Project and EIS for the Marulan Solar Farm was held (due to COVID conditions) online with members of the Goulburn Mulwaree Council on Thursday 10 February 2022. Terrain Solar held one-on-one meetings with two neighbouring residents identified as the receivers most likely to be impacted by the project. A summary of key areas of interest and concern is outlined in Section 3.5. Further to this Terrain held a briefing with the Towrang Progress Association on Wednesday 23 November, a summary of key areas of interest and concern can also be found in Section 3.6. Two Online Community Information Sessions were held to provide **Online Community** Information Sessions information about the solar farm project proposal. The Online Community Information Sessions were facilitated by an independent facilitator and included presentations from the project team with an outline of the proposal, EIS technical reports and impact mitigation strategies. Each item covered in the session concluded with a facilitated discussion between participants where questions were answered. Sessions were held via zoom on: Tuesday 1 December (1-2pm) Wednesday 15 December (6-7pm) A copy of the presentation was uploaded to the website, available for any community members who were unable to attend. The presentation can also be found in Appendix C.

2 KEY FINDINGS

Across all the consultation activities, the following themes were raised. More detail relating to individual activities are outlined in the following section of this document.

Theme

Summary

Community benefits



Generally, community members, landowners and stakeholders consulted with ahead of the EIS lodgement were comfortable with what Terrain Solar is proposing for the Marulan Solar Farm. Many recognise the positive impacts that the renewable energy project will have in the region.

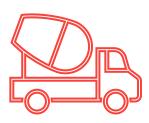
Main areas of feedback and concern focused on aspects such as visual amenity, traffic, and site access.

Visual amenity



Some local residents raised questions regarding the impact of the solar infrastructure on visual amenity, as well as possible glare and reflectivity from the solar modules. Local landowners sought a greater understanding of where the proposed infrastructure will be situated on site, how the visual amenity assessment will be carried out and how this would impact sight lines from their property.

Traffic impacts



Noting that the solar proposal will provide local employment opportunities during construction, stakeholders were interested in further details about proposed access roads. Particular interest was around the proposed access route along Munro Rd, and the ability for this Council owned road to accommodate heavy vehicles and higher volumes of traffic.

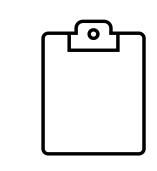
Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage



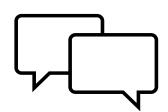
Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPS) attended both community information sessions, with questions about the proposed methodology to undertake the field studies for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). Ongoing consultation with the local Aboriginal community members was encouraged.

3 CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

3.1 INTERACTIONS



5 responses to the survey



- 13 people participated in Online Community Information Sessions
- 1 facilitated briefing with Goulburn Mulwaree Council
- 1 meeting with the Towrang Progress Association
- Ongoing face-to-face meetings with neighbouring landowners



- 3 telephone enquiries
- 4 email enquiries

3.2 ONLINE COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

Discussion and feedback across the two online community information sessions highlighted key themes and areas of interest for a range of different stakeholders. Terrain Solar and Premise, responded to community enquiries in this setting by providing a response in real time, and if required following up with an action.

A summary of responses and subsequent actions are provided below.

Key themes			
Area	Comment	Response	Action
Visual impacts			
Connecting line from project site to existing Essential Energy 132kV power lines	What will be the height of the new towers to make this connection?	- Terrain confirmed with attendees of the information sessions that it has not been determined whether the associated connecting infrastructure will be underground or overhead powerlines.	- Community and neighbouring stakeholders were advised during the information session that the project team will keep the community informed as progress is made

Key themes			
			on this study via project updates.
Visual impacts	Neighbouring residents attending the online information session asked for further information on sight lines, particularly how these will be impacted from their property by proposed solar infrastructure.	 Residents attending the session were advised the visual amenity assessment would be carried out in mid to late January 2022. Terrain Solar further confirmed that neighbouring properties determined to have a visual impact would be contacted and consulted with directly, while the VIA assessment are carried out 	 Terrain doorknocked a sensitive receiver on the southern border of the site in January 2022, to discuss the methodology used to undertake the VIA and provided the opportunity to carry out assessments at properties Terrain sent out a community update via email on 24 March 2022 with further information regarding the visual impact assessment and methodology undertaken to complete this assessment. This update was also provided on the project website.
Reflection and glare	Attendees of the online information session sought further details on the types of panels and infrastructure used on site and how reflection and glare will be managed from who?	Terrain provided information on reflection and glare to attendees during the online information sessions, including details of how solar panels designed to reflection light	 Terrain sent out a community update via email on 24 March, 2022 with further information regarding the visual impact assessment Terrain to continue discussions with sensitive receivers as the project progresses

Key themes					
Neighbourhood agreement	Neighbourhood agreement was requested for those who are going to be the most impacted by the solar farm from a visual point of view.	_	Terrain noted that the need to enter into a neighbourhood agreement would be an outcome of the impact assessment phase of the project. In the event impacts requiring mitigation are identified. Terrain would be open to discussing the use of an agreement to manage residual impacts	_	N/A
Noise consideration	ons				
Noise impacts	Residents attending the community information session raised concerns about how noise will be managed during construction, noting there is very little background noise. Residents also noted historic issues with neighbouring Holcim quarry.		Terrain commented that the Noise and Vibration Assessment is undertaken in line with the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (ICNG) and operational noise impacts NSW Noise Policy for Industry (2017)	_	N/A
Impacts to neighbo	ouring properties				
Living in harmony with neighbours	Local community members noted during the information session that it would be important to take measures to minimise impacts to local residents and community.		Terrain confirmed that they are committed to ongoing engagement with the community and will continue to provide updates, and where possible ask for feedback and insight from local landowners	_	Meeting held with the Towrang Progress Association Wednesday 23 March 2022 1800 line and project email address open to the community during business hours (9-5, Monday to Friday) Further engagement to be undertaken when SSDA is placed on exhibition

Key themes				
Confusion on the location of the solar farm project site within the broader Lockyersleigh lot	Local neighbours wished to see more detailed information on the site location and the proximity of infrastructure near neighbouring lots.	Terrain confirmed that the team would develop a more detailed map highlighting property boundaries which would be uploaded to the project website for all community members to access	_	New map uploaded to the website Thursday 23 December Additional map updated following request from the Towrang Progress Association, following a further briefing on Wednesday 23 March 2022
Traffic managemen	nt			
Impacts to Munro Rd	Information session attendees expressed concern that Munro Road will see a large amount of traffic, and the local infrastructure isn't designed to accommodate this volume of traffic.	 Terrain explained that recommendations from the Traffic Impact Assessment will be adopted with respect to any upgrades and outlined in the EIS Terrain further noted that the highest volumes of traffic will be experienced during the construction period as a relatively short period of traffic movements Post construction vehicular movements will be minimal as there will likely only be 2 FTE servicing the site 	_	Further outcomes of the Traffic Impact Assessment will be published as part of the Environmental Impact Statement The project will also likely be subject to a dilapidation report by Goulburn Mulwaree Council to ensure local infrastructure is maintained or in better condition than prior to construction
Impacts to Carrick Rd	Information session attendees expressed concern that Carrick Rd will see increased traffic and damage to the road.	Terrain confirmed that the proposed access route is not via Carrick Rd, but rather Munro Rd as detailed in the community newsletter	_	N/A
Construction workers and traffic	Information session attendees expressed interest in traffic management of the	Terrain responded that details on the proposed traffic management plan	_	N/A

Key themes				
	anticipated construction workforce for construction 200 – 300 workers.	including how construction workers will travel to and from site and working hours will be included as part of the <i>Traffic Impact</i> Assessment in the EIS or as part of the Conditions of Consent.		
Rural Fire Service	(RFS)			
Access	Community members in the information session raised questions about RFS access and what consultation has been undertaken to date.	 Terrain noted ongoing discussions with RFS regarding requirements for access, including contact with the local brigade Details of fire access requirements will be included in the Bushfire Assessment as part of the final Environmental Impact Statement 	— Terrain further reached out to the local RFS district office for the opportunity to comment or provide input into the Bushfire Assessment	
Job opportunities				
Future jobs for locals	Attendees asked for additional information on the types of jobs that will be available during construction, how subcontracting opportunities would be advertised and how to express an interest	 Terrain confirmed that the main contractor would be responsible for engaging sub-contractors Terrain encouraged interested third parties to email details through the community email address, and these details would be passed on to the contractor once appointed 	— N/A	
Ongoing consultat	Ongoing consultation			
Who is the developer	Some information session attendees expressed confusion as to who Terrain Solar is and who the old proponent was (Photon	Terrain explained that they are a separate developer to Photon, and the Marulan Solar Farm project is a	— N/A	

Key themes			
	Energy) who engaged with the community	completely different proposal	
		 Background information on who Terrain Solar is was also provided in the Community Newsletter sent to residents on Thursday 25 November 2021. 	
Cultural heritage			
Interest in surveys and outcomes of field surveys	Registered Aboriginal Parties attending the online session expressed interest in the outcomes of a specific field study in September	Terrain commented that the conversation could be taken offline, as the matter has been addressed via email separate to the public forums	Outcomes of the Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage Surveys, consultation with RAPS and LALC are all reflected in the Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage Assessment as part of the broader EIS
Vegetation and sc	reening		
Native trees	A neighbouring landowner questioned whether native plants are considered when considering hedging options and plants to screen sigh lines from associated infrastructure?	 Terrain confirmed that native trees will be used, also noting that in selecting the trees thought it given to their resilience in bushfires. Further details can be found under the <i>Biodiversity Report</i> as part of the EIS 	— N/A
Planning and appr	ovals process		
Who is the approvals authority?	Information Session attendees asked for clarification about who the assessing authority is for the DA?	 Terrain confirmed that the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) are the assessor, as the project is a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) Details on the Planning Approvals Process were also provided in the 	— N/A

Key themes		
	Community Newsletter mailed to residents on 25 November 2021.	

3.3 SURVEY RESULTS

The survey was available for community members online from Thursday 25 November 2021 to Tuesday 1 March 2022. The survey was accessible via the Marulan Solar Farm webpage and promoted through the community newsletter and during the community information sessions.

5 survey responses were received from community members all within the Goulburn-Mulwaree LGA. Below is a snapshot of the responses:

When asked how much knowledge of the project prior to receiving the community newsletter:

50% responded with 'a little' and 50% said 'not much'.

When asked what values are most important to the community in terms of local values, respondents answered with:

- 1. Local environment and landscape
- 2. The sense of place and connection to Country
- 3. The rural lifestyle
- 4. The ease which you can move around the areas

When asked what areas they were most interested in, and would like to hear more about moving forward responses included:

- 1. Visual changes to the landscape
- 2. Local employment and procurement
- 3. Traffic on local roads

Respondents were also asked, based on their previous answers if they had any suggestions on how Terrain could maximise benefits to the local community through the project:

"Keep us informed and listen to locals".

3.4 NEIGHBOURING LANDOWNERS

Preliminary meetings were undertaken with the two adjacent landowners who were identified as sensitive receivers, most likely to be impacted by the project. Meetings were held either face-to-face or via phone, dependent upon the preference of the stakeholder.

- Access route: concerns about the proposed access route and the volume of traffic during construction.

 Offer to fence the Boundary of the access handle from Munro Rd. Uncertainty about cadastral boundaries and concern about lot ownership. Landowner was provided a map outlining the lot boundaries as per the registered title.
- Road Infrastructure: both stakeholders suggested sealing of the access handle and upgrade of Munro
- Visual amenity: concerns about site lines and visual impacts from the solar panels, discussed ways to
 mitigate the visual impact for the landowner to the SE of the proposed access handle. Visual impact
 Consultant took further analysis of the site, confirming impact will be relatively low.

Overall, sensitive receivers were not opposed to the project but rather sought clarification on the impacts to their respective properties. These discussions with landowners are preliminary and will be ongoing throughout the EIS process and beyond.

3.5 LOCAL COUNCIL

Goulburn-Mulwaree Council

Feedback from Goulburn-Mulwaree Council was overwhelmingly positive, with generalised questions about the solar infrastructure, ongoing operations, planning pathways and access. Discussion with Council during the briefing on **Thursday 10 February**, included the following:

- Infrastructure: Council asked questions regarding how many solar panels will be on site, whether it is possible to co-graze sheep, the amount of power generated and what happens to the panel infrastructure once the farm comes to the end of its lifespan. Further questions were asked about the associated transmission infrastructure, to connect the Solar Farm into the grid.
- Operations: Council asked if the Solar Farm will be operational 24 hours per day, and once operational
 how many FTE. Questions were also asked regarding the life span of the solar farm and how long the
 lease agreement is set with the landowner.
- Access: Council queried whether Terrain had requested a temporary construction access agreement with Holcim along Carrick Rd. Terrain noted that preliminary discussions with Holcim demonstrated Holcim's strong preference not to provide that access right due to the need to comply with their own operational approvals, and therefore, access is proposed off Munro Rd.
- Planning pathways: In regard to the SEARS and EIS processes, Councillors were provided with an explanation of the planning pathways required under an SSD. Council asked for a rough indication of the timing for submitting the EIS and construction commencement.
- Workforce and recruitment: In regard to the workforce required during construction, Council had queries about the number of jobs the project would likely generate and where the workforce would be drawn from.
- **Community benefits:** Council indicated their general support for the project, indicating they believed it would bring many positive benefits to the local area.

3.6 TOWRANG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Terrain Solar attended the Towrang Progress Association's meeting on **Wednesday 23 March 2022** from 7-8pm to provide an overview of the State Significant Development Application. Discussion and key areas of feedback from the Association during this briefing included:

- **Grid connection:** In regard to the power generated from the Solar Farm, the Association queried if it would act as a source of local power generation, or rather will it be sent back into the broader electricity grid? *Terrain confirmed that power would be sent to the grid*.
- **Investment:** The Association asked if the solar farm would be likely sold off to an overseas company? Terrain confirmed that the operator had not yet been determined.
- Land Acquisition: The Association questioned if easements would be required under the project. *Terrain* confirmed all required infrastructure will be contained within the host lot, and therefore no easements required (including associative connecting infrastructure).
- **Property value:** Members of the association expressed concern about the impacts the development would have on their property value and asked if there was a scheme in place to offset impacts? *Terrain confirmed that is not an area of assessment mandated under NSW or commonwealth planning laws.*
- Substation area: The Association asked for clarification on the exact location of the substation within the site. Terrain noted an action to send an updated site map to the Association.
- Project information: Regarding, further project information, the Association queried if there was a factsheet detailing the proposal. Terrain noted the factsheet mailed to the community in November, and second factsheet emailed to stakeholders. All newsletters / factsheets are accessible via the website and provide further information on the technical assessments and a broader project overview.
- Neighbouring projects: The Association provided the recommendation to Terrain that a review of the
 acoustic impact assessment undertaken by Umwelt as part of the Holcim Quarry application should be
 reviewed and may be a helpful source of information in terms of background noise in the rural setting.
 Terrain noted as an action to explore this available data.
- Bushfire management: The Association asked for clarification on how bushfire hazards would be managed, including how access would be managed in the instance of a fire. Further note that the Towrang and Marulan RFS would be happy to have a further conversation with Terrain on requirements. Terrain confirmed they would reach out to the local branch for feedback and input into the bushfire assessment.

4 ONGOING ENGAGEMENT

As the EIS progresses through the approval process, Terrain Solar will continue to consult with the community through workshops, community newsletters, local community groups and Aboriginal community representatives. Consultation will be undertaken during the exhibition phase of the EIS ensure community and stakeholders are aware of the that the EIS is on exhibition and have an opportunity to provide an informed submission to DPE as the assessor.

Appendices

No table of contents entries found.

APPENDIX A

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS



6 GOULBURN POST Wednesday November 24, 2021 goulburnpost.com.au

New faces on Labor ticket

BY MICHELLE HAINES THOMAS

Anna Wurth-Crawford

Forty years at the coal face of the mental health system has given retired nurse Anna Wurth-Crawford a unique insight into local health services, so its no surprise that the Goulburn resident sees it as one of the main issues she wants to address if she is elected as a councillor on December 4.

Mrs Wurth-Crawford is on the Labor ticket for the Goulburn Mulwaree Council election, headed up by Jason Shepherd and including Danielle Marsden-Ballard, Warren Murray and Nathan Smith.

Mrs Wurth-Crawford was born and bred in Sydney and came to Goulburn 46 years ago to begin her training as a mental health nurse at Kenmore Hospital.

Since then she has been deeply involved in the Nurses and Midwives Association, the Goulburn District Unions and the Labor Party.

As to her position on recent hot button issues: regarding Veolia's plans in Tagaro, she's "completely



Council candidate Anna Wurth-Crawford has spent decades advocating for general and mental health services in Goulburn. Photo: supplied

principle agreement" with the Wakefield Park expansion, although she'd like to learn more about the fine points.

Finally, she plans to "do

against it", but she is in "in her darnedest" to see a second access road for Run-O-Waters, where she her-

> **Danielle Marsden-Ballard**



Danielle Marsden-Ballard is an educator, environmental scientist and designer, and a council candidate on the Labor ticket. Photo: supplied

"Council needs fresh faces, positive ideas and needs to move to a green circular economy."

Those are the thoughts of Danielle Marsden-Ballard

Goulburn Mulwaree Council election on December 4.

The educator, environmental scientist and designer with a tradie background said she wanted Goulburn who is a candidate at the to become the best place it

could be.

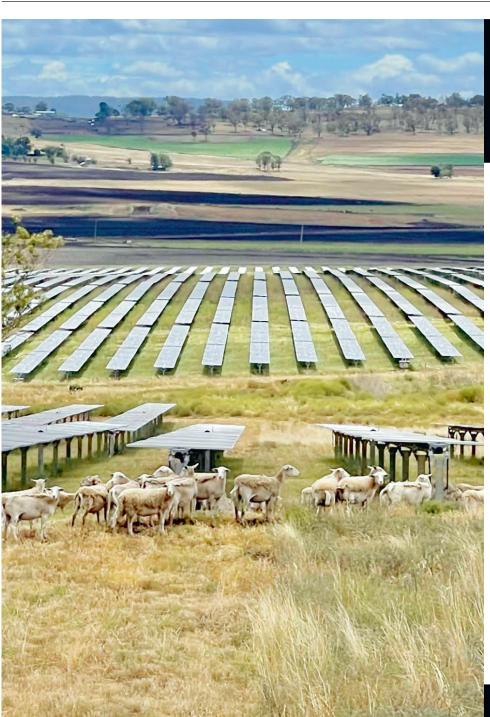
"I want to see Goulburn become a vibrant and safe community and a place people want to come to and are proud of." Ms Marsden-Ballard said.

For six months of this year, she was a cofounder and spokesperson for Bungonia Action for Clean Air in fighting the Bungonia Incinerator proposal and is now backing the Tarago residents in their right for a clean and safe environment.

She is also currently appointed to the council's Sustainability Working Party and is passionate about the region's future sustainability.

She has lifelong experience in community development and governance, including previous council working groups and was an elected member of the University of Canberra's council.

Only three of the nine current councillors are female and only two of the new faces standing for election are women. She also represents the LGBTIQ community via Diversity Goulburn, and neurodiversity as she is on the autism spectrum.



Marulan Solar Farm



You are invited to attend an online information session to hear about the plans for the Marulan Solar Farm in Carrick.

These information sessions are planned to provide you with more detail about the proposed solar project. They are also an opportunity to give your thoughts and feedback which will help inform the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Due to COVID-19 restrictions these sessions will be held online, on:

- Tuesday 7 December, 1:00 2:00pm
- Wednesday 15 December, 6:00 7:00pm

To register for an online session, please scan the QR code, visit www.marulansolarfarm.com.au, email info@marulansolarfarm.com.au or call 1800 749 232.



Group quizzes candidates



BY LOUISE THROWER

MEMBERS of a seniors education group had some burning questions for council candidates this week.

Do they support selling off their current home at the former Bourke Street council depot and do they back its development for a permanent community centre?

University of the Third Age members posed the questions to Goulburn Mulwaree Council candidates at a forum on Wednesday night.

Nine nominees for the December 4 election attended the Tattersalls Hotel event. They were: Bob Kirk, Peter Walker, Dan Strickland, Leah Ferrara, Andrew Banfield, Wurth-Crawford, Anna Danielle Marsden-Ballard, Margaret O'Neill and Jason Shepherd. Others were either unable to attend due to work commitments or did not know about the event.

U3A president, Brian Spilsbury junior, said the



Goulburn U3A president Brian Spilsbury junior with council candidates Leah Ferrara, Anna Wurth-Crawford, Dan Strickland and Peter Walker. Photos Louise Thrower.

group wanted to stay in the spacious Bourke Street premises, where it ran some Bourke Street and want to 45 classes weekly. It has been their home since about mid-2018, despite several council attempts to sell the

"We're very happy at stay there," Mr Spilsbury said.

But such was future uncertainty that after three years, U3A still couldn't change the



Bob Kirk, Andrew Banfield and Labor ticket member Jason Shepherd listened intently.

signs to advertise their presence, he told the forum.

Leah Ferrara, standing for her second term, said her job was to represent the community. If groups wanted to stay, she would support them to

"I've seen the preliminary plans for a community centre at Bourke Street and I'll push for it to go ahead if elected in the next term," she said.

Labor ticket member Ms Wurth-Crawford echoed this view and told the 50 plus crowd she was impressed by U3A's range of courses.

Her co-runner, Goulburn Labor branch president Jason Shepherd said if a better location arose, he would

consider it but only if the groups wanted this.

Dan Strickland told U3A it would be "selfish" to come on to council with preconceived views and he was prepared to represent the groups' wishes.

Meantime, Deputy Mayor Peter Walker said he'd previously championed the building's retention.

"I've made the comment that we shouldn't be selling off the farm," he told the crowd.

"It's a great community centre to combine everything. It has lots of parking and is ideal."

Simon Croker had designed preliminary plans for the latter but Cr Walker

said these needed to be developed further. However other regional areas like Albury had built "sensational" premises for their community groups.

Cr Margaret O'Neill was blunt.

"If they (the groups) want to stay in Bourke Street, let them. Forget all the other crap," she said of proposals to sell the building.

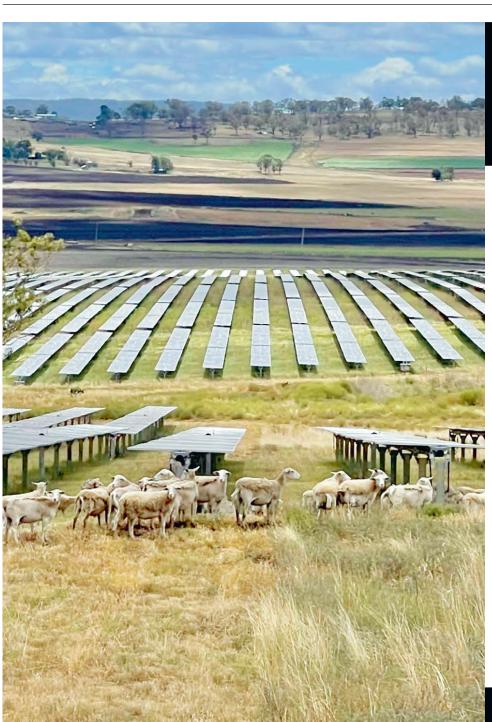
Cr Andrew Banfield said he was currently "sold on" Bourke Street being the best location but was prepared to consider alternatives.

"I have a place in mind that could be better," he said.

"I won't be making any promises because it is also about the funding package."

Mayor Bob Kirk was also open to better options if they presented but told the forum that Bourke Street was "a great home" for all the groups.

Under questioning from Goulburn and District Arts Society member, Alan Whitton, all candidates pledged, if elected, to commit funds from any future building sale to a community centre.



Marulan **Solar Farm**



You are invited to attend an online information session to hear about the plans for the Marulan Solar Farm in Carrick.

These information sessions are planned to provide you with more detail about the proposed solar project. They are also an opportunity to give your thoughts and feedback which will help inform the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Due to COVID-19 restrictions these sessions will be held online, on:

- Tuesday 7 December, 1:00 2:00pm
- Wednesday 15 December, 6:00 7:00pm

To register for an online session, please scan the QR code, visit www.marulansolarfarm.com.au, email info@marulansolarfarm.com.au or call 1800 749 232.



APPENDIX B COMMUNITY NEWSLETTERS



Marulan Solar Farm TERRAIN SOLAR





Terrain Solar is inviting the community to attend a Community Information Session for the Marulan Solar Farm planning proposal.

Plans are progressing for the Marulan Solar Farm at 740 Carrick Rd (located 5km west of Marulan). Since we updated the community last year, our proposal has progressed. Terrain Solar is now preparing the technical reports to support the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which will be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment in early 2022.

As we develop these plans, Terrain is inviting the community to attend a Community Information Session, where you can find out more, ask questions and provide your feedback.

Registration details are provided below.

About Terrain Solar

Terrain Solar is an experienced Australian and NSW owned and operated solar company. We have successfully delivered over 5 solar projects across regional Australia and are committed to working with the local community as we plan, build and operate our solar projects.

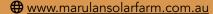
Our solar projects span across a broad range of regional locations in NSW and QLD, including at Wagga Wagga, Junee, Corowa, Warwick and Molong. We currently have a broad NSW portfolio of large-scale solar farms in development, including the Marulan Solar Farm.

Find out more

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Community Information Sessions will be held online and are planned to provide you with more detail about the proposed Marulan Solar Farm. Sessions will be held on the following dates:

- Tuesday 7 December, 1.00-2.00pm
- Wednesday 15 December, 6.00-7.00pm

Register for a session at a time that suits you through the QR code or contact our community engagement team directly.

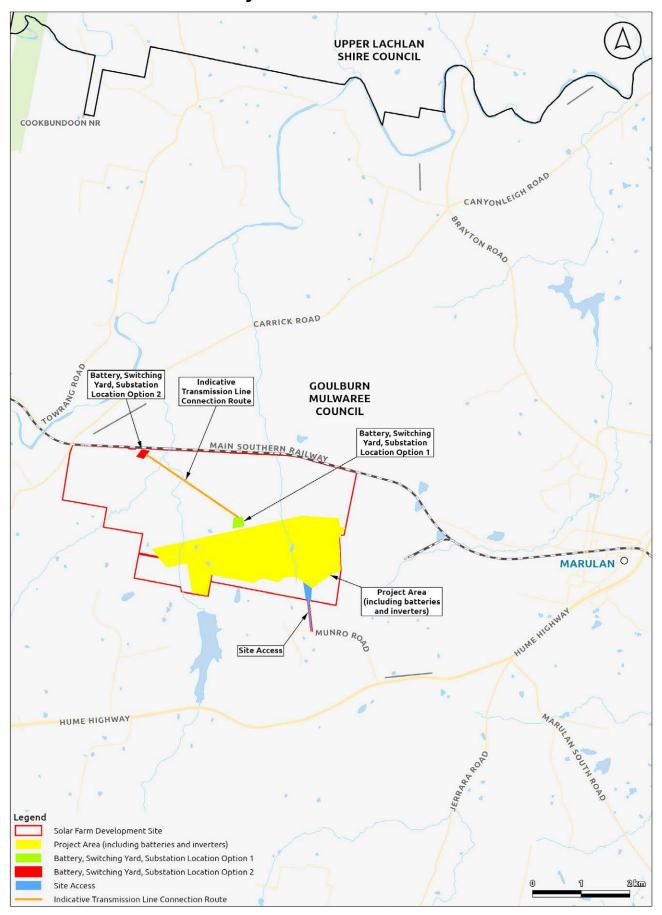


3 1800 749 232





Marulan Solar Farm Project Area



About the project

We hope to deliver the Marulan Solar Farm by the end of 2023 / early 2024, with construction commencing in early 2023, subject to approvals. The proposed solar project will produce approximately 150 MWac of energy, covering 250-300 hectares of land. The solar energy produced will be used to send clean, renewable power into the NSW electricity grid to serve the needs of both the local community, and broader NSW and will assist in the rapid decarbonisation initiative underlaid by the NSW government's critical Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap.

Local employment opportunities

At the peak of construction, the project will provide employment and specialist training for up to 200-300 jobs, with opportunities for local contractors and subcontractors. Construction for a project of this size is anticipated to take up to 18 months. Where possible Marulan Solar Farm will look to recruit from within the region, helping to keep benefits from the project in the local area. We will continue to engage with the community about these opportunities as plans commence. Once construction is finalised there will be ongoing contract work available for the maintenance and operation of the solar farm.

Planning Process

It is anticipated that the EIS will be lodged with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment in early 2022. Over the next couple of months, before we lodge the EIS, we will we will be engaging with the local community to provide you with more information, answer any questions you may have and listen to your feedback.

Prior to EIS lodgement, the community can find out more about the proposed solar project by:

- 1. Visiting our website www.marulansolarfarm.com.au
- 2. Emailing or calling a member of our community engagement team
- 3. Attending an information session.

Once the EIS is lodged, there will be a formal exhibition process for a minimum of 28 days.

During this time the community will have an opportunity to write formal submissions to the the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and provide further feedback.



EIS technical studies and assessments

The State Significant Development EIS will include technical studies and assess the economic, environmental, and social impacts of the project. The following studies are currently being undertaken to support this process:

Biodiversity – In line with legislative requirements an assessment will be undertaken of the biodiversity values of the site. If offsets are required, details of these offset obligations will be included as part of the report.

Soil, erosion and rehabilitation – Expert consultancy Premise will assess the impacts of the project on the site's soils, land capability, existing landforms and topography.

Visual amenity – An assessment of the projects visual impacts will be prepared by Iris Visual Planning and Design. This visual assessment will be inclusive of all components of the project including solar panel arrays, transmission lines, substations, and any other associated infrastructure. It will also include a glare assessment.

Noise and vibration – Assured Environmental will undertake an assessment of the construction noise impacts of the proposed solar project in accordance with the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (ICNG) and operational noise impacts in accordance with the NSW Noise Policy for Industry (2017).

Traffic and transport – A traffic assessment will consider project impacts to road capacity, traffic safety, and site access, particularly in relation to the capacity and condition of existing local roads to accommodate construction traffic.

Hydrology – An assessment of the likely impacts of the development (including flooding) on surface water as well as surrounding watercourses, drainage channels, wetlands, riparian land, dams, and groundwater will be undertaken. Details of the water requirements and supply arrangements for construction and operation will also be included.

Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage – Impacts on Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage will be considered under the relevant provisions of the Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents and NSW Heritage Manual.

Social Impact and Engagement – In partnership with the Terrain Solar team, Elton Consulting (a WSP company) will undertake the community consultation in accordance with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment Engagement and Social Impact Assessment requirements.



Marulan Solar Farm TERRAIN SOLAR





About the Project

The Marulan Solar Farm will produce approximately 150 MWac of energy, with an associated Battery Energy Storage System.

The solar energy produced will be used to send clean, renewable power into the NSW electricity grid to serve the needs of both the local community, and broader NSW and will assist in the rapid decarbonisation initiative underlaid by the NSW government's critical Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap.

Progress Update

In December last year, we held online community information sessions for the Marulan Solar Farm. Since then, Terrain Solar has been progressing the technical studies to support the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which we are aiming to submit in March or April 2022. As we continue to prepare the EIS, we wanted to provide the community with an update on our progress and encourage you to share your feedback with us.

What's happening on site?

In early January, our specialist consultants continued work, on and off site, to inform all technical studies including the Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage and Biodiversity assessments.

Visual Amenity Assessment

Our online information and feedback sessions late last year identified visual impact as a key area of interest for many community members. In early January, our visual assessment specialist, IRIS Visual Planning & Design commenced preliminary site analysis including capturing photographs back towards the site from a range of locations in the local area.

Early analysis has indicated that visual impacts for the local community related to the project infrastructure will be limited. Most views of the site will either be from distant vantage points, or the views will be partly obscured by natural topographical features such as vegetated hills and slopes. Further mitigation measures will be explored to help minimise any impacts to adjacent landowners.

Terrain Solar and IRIS Visual are currently in discussion with potentially impacted landowners and are in the process of preparing a detailed visual impact and glare risk assessment for the project. This will include a detailed assessment of the following vantage points from the site:

- Rampion Hills Rd to the southwest
- Munro Rd and Graham Lane to the southeast
- Carrick Rd to the North
- Towrang Rd

The final report will be available for public comment and feedback as part of the EIS process.



Planning Process

Terrain Solar is currently preparing an EIS which we anticipate to lodge in late March the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). The Department will notify the community once the EIS is placed on public exhibition, and community members will have the opportunity to provide feedback and lodge a formal written submission. The EIS will be placed on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days.

The project is still in its early phases and Terrain Solar is committed to continuing to work with the community as we develop this important clean, green, renewable energy project.

Your feedback is valuable to us/ Have your say

Throughout the EIS preparation process Terrain Solar encourage you to make comments or ask questions on the project via our 1800-line, email address or through our survey (see below). If you do wish to make comments this way, you will need to send this feedback by Tuesday 1 March. This will ensure it is considered as part of the EIS process. This does not take away your ability to make a formal submission on the project when it is put up for public exhibition by DPE.

- Phone: 1800 749 232

- Email: info@marulansolarfarm.com.au

- Survey: survey.zohopublic.com.au/zs/FuBtBQ

Please note you must lodge your feedback by Tuesday 1 March 2022 for it to be considered as part of the EIS report.

APPENDIX C

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION PRESENTATION





Marulan Solar Farm Planning proposal

Community Information Session

Wednesday 15 December 2021 6pm – 7pm

Marulan Solar Farm

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that today we meet on many Aboriginal lands.

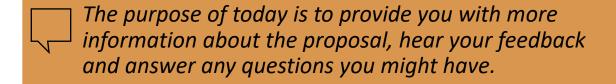
We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands, and we show our respect for elders past, present and emerging.



Marulan Solar Farm

- 1 Introductions and welcome
- 2 The project and proposal
- Timing, approvals and technical studies
- 4. → Community benefits
- **5** → Consultation information and next steps

Agenda



Feel free to drop any questions into the chat function as we go through each section. We will pause for discussion at the end of each presentation topic.





The project and proposal

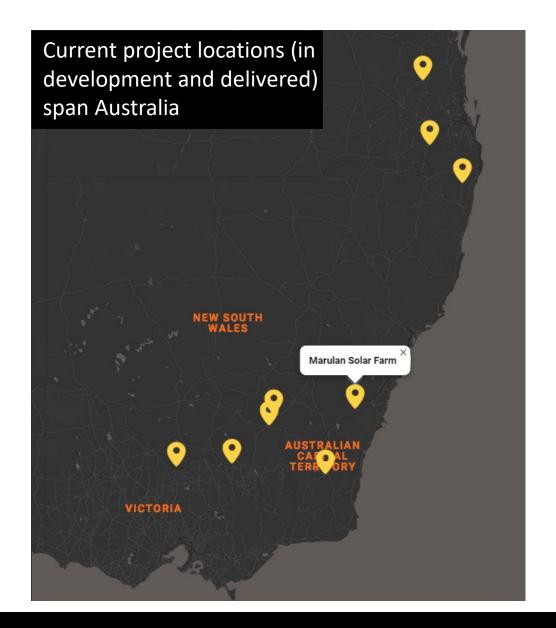
Tom Allen

Project Development Manager

About Terrain Solar

We are a proud Australian and NSW company and value our strong relationships with the local community.

Through the delivery of 5 solar projects across regional Australia we have engaged with the community and local landholders to minimise disruption and develop a genuine relationship that works for Terrain Solar and local residents.





What are we proposing?

- ✓ Submitting an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in 2022
- ✓ Intention to commence construction in 2023 and deliver clean energy generator late 2023 / 2024 (pending approvals)
- ✓ 250 300 hectares of land, non-reflective panels, producing 150 MW_{AC} of energy
- ✓ Located on part of 740 Carrick Rd, due to location it will minimise visual impacts to surround sight lines
- ✓ Access is proposed via Munro Rd, alleviating impacts to Carrick Rd
- ✓ No additional offsite high voltage transmission lines, the project will connect to existing infrastructure
- ✓ Solar Farm will be supported by onsite batteries to improve reliability to the grid.

Terrain Solar:
Warwick Solar
Farm, example of
non reflective
panels on
landscape.





Example: On site battery storage containers look much like traditional cargo containers and would be positioned on site.



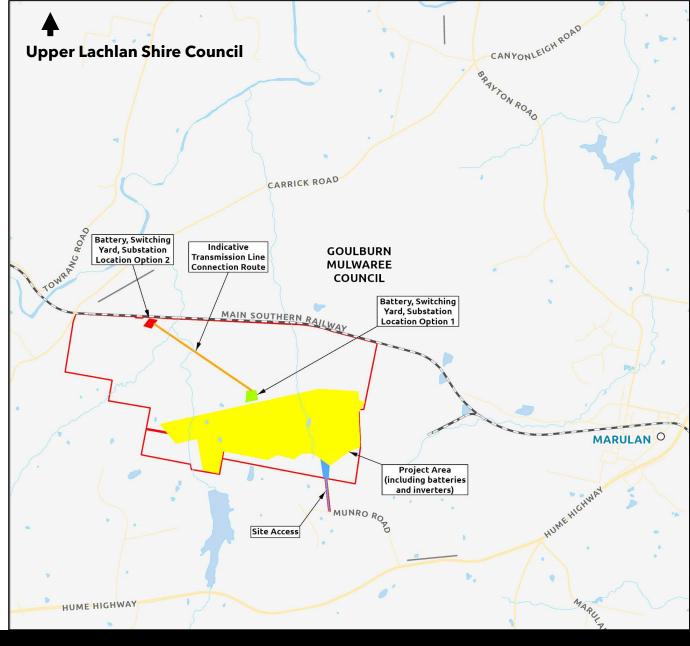
The site

The site topography and location of the panels allows for the proposed development to be in a generally visually protected location from nearby houses and settlements.

The visual catchment of the subject site is low, with limited residential receivers in close proximity to the site or with a view of the site.

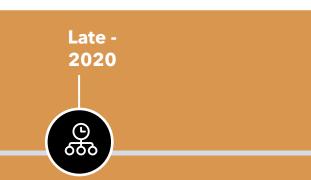
Elevation data from Geoscience Australia's Elevation Information System (ELVIS) confirms that the vast majority of residential receptors within a 4 km radius of the development site are shielded from direct views of the solar development by the prevailing topography.

Provisions will be put in place to minimise sight line disruptions to neighbours, which we will talk to later in the session.





EIS Project Timeline and Assessments



Land secured (November 2020)



- Scoping report lodged (January 2021)
- SEARs issued (Feb 2021)
- Environmental investigations, technical studies and assessments commenced
- ACHA consultation



- Environmental investigations, technical studies and assessments continue
- Early engagement and feedback sessions with the community



Jan - March

2022

- Targeted engagement activities
- EIS lodgment to DPIE (March 2022)







EIS

Technical studies

David Walker

Planner

Tom Allen

Project Development Manager

Context

Delivery of the EIS involves a range of assessments:

- Historic heritage assessment
- Water Cycle Management Study Report
- Land and Soil Capability Assessment
- Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment
- Biodiversity assessment
- Potential surface water impacts
- Air quality, EMF hazard and risks, bushfire, supply of construction water and waste management.

Important contributions from community engagement include:

- Traffic impact assessments
- Visual impacts and potential glare assessments
- Noise and vibration considerations
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Your feedback will help inform all the assessments.

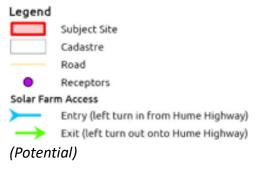


Traffic

Background research has commenced along with data gathering.

Access is proposed to be via Hume Hwy and Munro Rd.

Construction activities and vehicle movements will occur within EPA construction hours and a detailed traffic management plan would be submitted with the CEMP and approved by the Department.





Noise and vibration

Assessment work on this component has commenced.

 Noise impacts will mostly be associated with construction activities and include noise generated by preparatory earthworks, delivery and assembly of the solar panel infrastructure, grid connection, and operation of vehicles. Operational noise impacts will include the day-to-day operation of the solar farm including the use of grid scale batteries, inverters and switchgear, and maintenance works (as needed).

From our assessment so far, operational noise impacts are expected to be negligible for any nearby receivers. Further investigations will be undertaken to ascertain potential nearby receivers and plans will be put in place to provide adequate separation and buffers.



Visual amenity

We know that visual impacts will be a key interest for local landowners and residents.

Views may be possible from neighbouring properties without intervening topography or vegetation.

Potential impacts to surrounding sensitive receptors may include changes to existing rural views and solar glint and glare from the solar panels. We plan to include green hedging and foliage to minimise this.

We will be undertaking detailed site inspections and invite members of the community to get in touch and let us know if you want to know more.

Terrain Solar's Molong Solar farm is a 30 MWac Solar Farm located in the central west region of NSW, just north west of Orange.









Biodiversity

The development will involve some clearing of native vegetation, primarily limited to ground cover. Avoiding impacts to biodiversity is a primary goal.

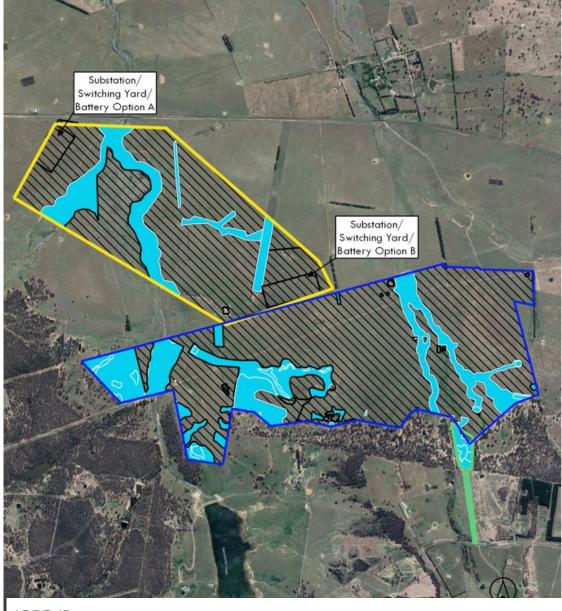
An ecological assessment is being prepared to identify any potential biodiversity impacts under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

The ecological assessment has identified the majority of the site is classed as agricultural land with exotic species. Areas of sensitive native vegetation are being mapped to inform layout design.

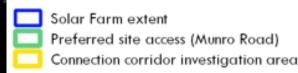
The project is not expected to require referral to the Commonwealth under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

It is likely that some offsets as a result of minor native vegetation clearing may be required. These will be discharged prior to construction commencing.

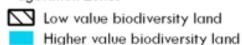
A construction environmental management plan will contain measures to protect retained vegetation and groundcover.



LEGEND



Vegetation Zones



Soil, erosion and rehabilitation

Potential impacts to soils and surface water may occur during construction, such as erosion and sedimentation. Impacts are expected to be minimal and manageable.

These impacts will be identified and assessed as part of the EIS.

Management of soil and water impacts would be addressed in a CEMP.

Hydrology

Water Cycle Management Study Report (water quality): is a study being undertaken to address the potential for water quality impacts to the Sydney drinking water catchment. Modelling will be completed to ensure that the project has a neutral or beneficial impact on water quality.

Surface water impacts: a hydraulic assessment has been completed to analyse the flow of water across the site, before and after the project takes place, including looking at depth and velocities at various flood events. This information is being used to identify 'no go' areas for solar design.

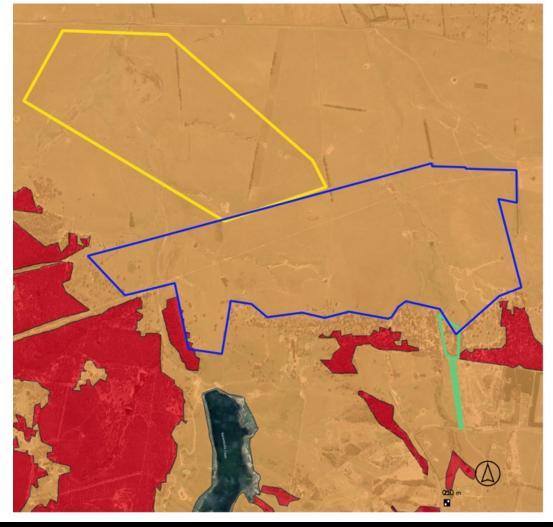
Bushfire mitigations

The site is partly mapped as bush fire prone.

A bushfire assessment will be completed to support the EIS and will provide controls during construction and operation. This will include making sure the site is accessible to fire fighting vehicles.

An asset protection zone will be developed around the site.







Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage

A field survey of the site has been undertaken to inform preparation of a historic heritage report. This includes assessment of potential impacts to Lockyersleigh local heritage item and the Ruins of Kyle.

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) is also being prepared in coordination with local Aboriginal groups. This has included field survey to date and will also include subsurface testing. Initial analysis suggests that the landscape features minimal likelihood of significant heritage values. The conclusions of the ACHA will be discussed with local Aboriginal groups prior to being finalised.





Investment and future employment

Tom Allen

Project Development Manager

Social Impact and Engagement

Following these Online Information Sessions, we will compile feedback received to consider.

We encourage community members to fill out the online survey, to help inform any potential social impacts that need to be considered.

Dedicated activities will be undertaken with the community in early / mid 2022.

Contact the team 1800 749 232 info@marulansolarfarm.com.au

Investing in the future

- ✓ Our goal is to have a workforce that resides in the local communities.
- ✓ The project will need the right people with the right skills to safely deliver the solar farm.
- ✓ It will be necessary during the construction stage to bring workers with the required skills and experience to the region, if we cannot locally.
- ✓ Travel would predominantly be by road transport and measures would be put in place as per the CEMP to consider all issues.

Terrain Solar's Wagga Wagga Solar Farm site is located six kilometres from the town centre



Future employment

- ✓ At the peak of construction, the project will provide employment and specialist training for up to 200-300 jobs, with opportunities for local contractors and subcontractors.
- ✓ Construction for a project of this size is anticipated to take up to 18 months.
- ✓ Professional positions would include labourers, civil works, traffic management officers, and skilled technicians and engineers.
- ✓ Ongoing maintenance and repair work would be also be available for the life of the project.
- ✓ Skilled Plant Workers would continue to visit and help operate the Solar Farm as needed.

We will continue to engage with the community about these opportunities as plans commence. Recruitment would be through formal contractional arrangements, details will be available publicly.









Next steps

- www.marulansolarfarm.com.au
- · 1800 749 232
- info@marulansolarfarm.com.au

It is anticipated that the EIS will be lodged with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment in early 2022. Over the next couple of months, before we lodge the EIS, we will be engaging with the local community to provide you with more information, answer any questions you may have and listen to your feedback.

There will be a formal exhibition process for a minimum of 28 days.

During this time the community will have an opportunity to write formal submissions to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and provide further feedback.