

Appendix D Consultation

D.1 Agency consultation

From: [Airport Developments](#)
To: [Sarah Dale](#)
Cc: [Zeina Jokadar](#); "[Airspace Protection](#)"
Subject: RE: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS Consultation [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 25 August 2021 4:49:28 PM
Attachments: [image008.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image014.png](#)
[image015.jpg](#)
[image016.jpg](#)
[image017.jpg](#)
[image001.png](#)

Hi Sarah,

Given the distance of the solar farm from Airservices operated control towers and Communications/Navigation/Surveillance (CNS) Facilities, Airservices does not need an assessment of the solar panels.

Regards,

Advisor Airport Development

Tower Road, Melbourne Airport, Tullamarine VIC 3043

Website



CAUTION: This e-mail is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, you must not disclose or use the information contained in it. If you have received this e-mail in error, please tell us immediately by return e-mail and delete the document.

From: Sarah Dale <sarah.m.d@nghconsulting.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 5 August 2021 9:04 AM
To: Airport Developments <Airport.Developments@AirservicesAustralia.com>
Cc: Zeina Jokadar <zeina.j@nghconsulting.com.au>
Subject: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS Consultation

Attention whoever this may concern,

Blind Creek Solar Farm Pty Ltd (BCSF) are proposing to develop the Blind Creek Solar Farm located along Tarago Road, approximately 8 kilometres (km) north of Bungendore, NSW, and 50km east of Canberra, Australian Capital Territory (ACT). The proposed project will have a capacity of up to 350-400 megawatts (MW). The project is located within Queanbeyan-Palerang Local Government Area (LGA).

BCSF is seeking State Significant Development (SSD) Consent under Division 4.7 of Part 4 of the

Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) for the project. A Scoping Report for the project was submitted to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) in early 2021 and SEARs were issued on 11 February 2021; available at:

<https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/prweb/PRRestService/mp/01/getContent?AttachRef=PDA-10449386%2120210115T001115.163%20GMT>

It is our understanding that DPIE consulted with your agency during preparation of the SEARs and your agency's comments will be addressed as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). BCSF has engaged NGH to prepare the EIS and undertake consultation with relevant agencies and stakeholders. The EIS will be prepared by the team shown in Table 1, which includes NGH's technical experts and specialist sub-consultancies. NGH will prepare the EIS in accordance with the SEARs and relevant agency comments. Where any deviations are proposed we will contact the relevant agency to seek endorsement of the proposed changes.

Community consultation, site surveys, background searches, and qualitative and quantitative assessments commenced in late-2020 and are ongoing. BCSF intend to lodge the development application (DA) in September 2021.

The purpose of this letter is to engage with your department to ensure all relevant matters are addressed in the EIS to your satisfaction. We are happy to provide further information about the project and our assessment methodologies if you require.

Table 1 EIS preparation team

Environmental Issue	Consultancy
EIS	NGH
Biodiversity (flora and fauna) BDAR	NGH
Visual amenity and landscape character, and shadow flicker	Moir Landscape Architects
Noise and vibration	Renzo Tonin
Aboriginal heritage and Historic heritage	NGH
TIA	Amber
EMF Human Health	NGH
Hydrology and Water	Footprint
Soils and Landforms	NGH
Land Use	NGH
Social and Economic impact	NGH
Air quality and climate	NGH
Bushfire	NGH
SEPP33 PHA	NGH
Waste Management	NGH

If you have any questions, please contact Zeina Jokadar on (04) 47095273. Zeina would be pleased to discuss this project with you further.

Yours sincerely,

From: [Government and Parliamentary Services](#)
To: [Sarah Dale](#)
Cc: [Government and Parliamentary Services](#); [Zeina Jokadar](#)
Subject: CASA Response GI21/514 - NGH Consulting re Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS Consultation [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 25 August 2021 8:46:13 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.jpg](#)
[image011.jpg](#)
[image012.jpg](#)

Dear Ms Dale

Thank you for your email below requesting feedback from the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) on the proposed Blind Creek Solar Farm.

CASA has reviewed the Scoping Study for the proposed solar farm and notes that the study addresses the hazards and risks of glint and glare at Table 7-6 Additional Environmental Issues.

CASA does not have any regulatory advice or “reflectivity standards” with specific regard to solar installations. CASA is not an approving authority and does not have expertise in this area. The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is relatively advanced in terms of solar farm glare evaluation. The FAA has recently concluded that in most cases, the glint and glare from solar energy systems to pilots on final approach is similar to glint and glare pilots routinely experience from water bodies, glass facade buildings, parking lots, and similar features. FAA has determined the scope of agency policy should be focused on the impact of on airport solar energy systems to the airport’s Air Traffic Control Tower cab.

CASA notes the proposed Blind Creek Solar Farm will be at least 25km from Canberra Airport, not aligned with the runway and will not impact the Air Traffic Controllers or pilots approaching Canberra Airport. An aviation specific solar glare analysis by a specialist consultant is not required as part of the Environmental Impact Statement.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely


Section Manager Government and Parliamentary Services


Aviation House, 16 Furzer Street, PHILLIP ACT 2606
GPO Box 2005, Canberra ACT 2601

www.casa.gov.au



From: Government and Parliamentary Services <GPS@casa.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 12 August 2021 9:56 AM
To: sarah.m.d@nghconsulting.com.au
Cc: Government and Parliamentary Services <GPS@casa.gov.au>
Subject: RMS: CASA Acknowledgement GI21/514 - NGH Consulting re Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS Consultation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear Ms Dale

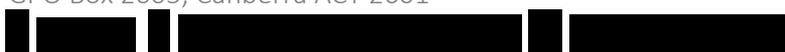
Thank you for your email below requesting feedback from the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) on the proposed Blind Creek Solar Farm.

CASA is currently reviewing the proposal and anticipate that we will provide a response to you by Friday, 27 August 2021.

I apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Kind regards


Senior Government Relations Officer
Government and Parliamentary Services
CASA\Corporate Services Division
GPO Box 2005, Canberra ACT 2601





From: Sarah Dale <sarah.m.d@nghconsulting.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 8:32 AM
To: Applications <applications@casa.gov.au>
Cc: Zeina Jokadar <zeina.j@nghconsulting.com.au>
Subject: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS Consultation

Attention Director of Civil Aviation Safety Authority

Blind Creek Solar Farm Pty Ltd (BCSF) are proposing to develop the Blind Creek Solar Farm located along Tarago Road, approximately 8 kilometres (km) north of Bungendore, NSW, and 50km east of Canberra, Australian Capital Territory (ACT). The proposed project will have a capacity of up to 350-400 megawatts (MW). The project is located within Queanbeyan-Palerang Local Government Area (LGA).

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the project was submitted to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) in early 2021 and SEARs were issued on 11 February 2021; available at:

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EMF Human Health	NGH
Hydrology and Water	Footprint
Soils and Landforms	NGH
Land Use	NGH
Social and Economic impact	NGH
Air quality and climate	NGH
Bushfire	NGH
SEPP33 PHA	NGH
Waste Management	NGH

If you have any questions, please contact Zeina Jokadar on (04) 47095273. Zeina would be pleased to discuss this project with you further.

Yours sincerely,



Phone Record

To: Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council – Johan Du Toit – 0418 161 632

From: Mike Willson

Date: 8 July 2021

Job N^o: 167

Subject: Initial Discussion on Blind Creek Solar Farm

Discussed potential access from Currandooley Road and noted it looked like it was in private property. Council said it wasn't listed on their road hierarchy. Noted it looked like there might be some sort of agreement in place for the road to service the site. Council noted they would like to see some consultation with the relevant stakeholders.

Noted a BAL or BAR treatment would probably be suitable. I said we would likely be in accordance with Austroads Guide. I talked about the expected volumes and he noted they would also be considering things like sight distance and road surface condition. Noted they will look at the quality of the pavement as part of their assessment

Noted he couldn't provide a recommendation on either access and that it was up to us to make a decision and recommendation.

Noted we would recommend road design in accordance with unsealed roads guide. Council noted they would require the road would need to be sealed next to dwelling.

Asked if there was anything further to add – he noted there was a subdivision (Elms Grove) and we might want to look at that. Recommended we submit a request to Council and they can provide further information.

Suggested looking at the Council website.

Application No: PR.2021.1014

01 October 2021

Sarah Dale
Environmental Consultant
Unit 2, 54 Hudson St
Hamilton NSW 2303

sarah.m.d@nghconsulting.com.au

Information for preparing Environmental Impact Assessment

Dear Sir/Madam

State Significant Development (SSD-13166280) at LOT 2 DP 1042679, WHITE LOCK 134 BURROWS LANE BUNGENDORE NSW 2621

I refer to your email request of 27 August 2021 seeking comment from council for preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Blind Creek Solar Farm and advise that the EIA must include consideration of the following:

Land Use Planning advice

At its meeting 28 July 2021 Council unanimously resolved (Minute No. 222/21) That Council:

1. Agree in principle to proceed with a Planning Agreement with the proponent based on Option 2 as outlined in this report, subject to development approval being given for the project.
2. Authorise the CEO to continue negotiations with the proponents, with a further report to Council.

Representatives of the Blind Creek Solar Farm had met with Council staff in relation to a proposed Planning Agreement and had submitted two non-binding letters regarding a possible Voluntary Planning Agreement. I understand communications were held with Graeme Harlor and David Carswell.

Since this time the CEO and/or his staff have met with the representatives of the Solar Farm to take this resolution forward. The solar farm applicant is seeking clarification from the Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment about a Planning Agreement.

Council would recommend a condition of approval like condition 12 of SSD 9874 Walla Walla and to condition 12 of SSD 10288 Culcairn.

OFFICES

144 Wallace St, Braidwood
10 Majara St, Bungendore
256 Crawford St, Queanbeyan

POSTAL

PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620

PHONE

P: 1300 735 025

EMAIL/WEB

W: www.qprc.nsw.gov.au
E: council@qprc.nsw.gov.au

ABN 95 933 070 982

Utilities advice

The EIA will need to consider any impacts on the Bungendore Town Water Supply. Council has licenced bores on the boundary of the subject site on which the works are proposed, however, the groundwater source extends further to the north-east and under the proposed work site.

https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0016/341404/bungendore-alluvial-groundwater-sources.pdf

The groundwater impacts from the proposed development are unlikely to be substantial however the impact on the Bungendore Town Water Supply and other groundwater effects must be considered.

Infrastructure Major Projects advice

The following vehicle related issues must be considered in the EIA:

- The scoping report determines a route from Goulburn / Tarago to the site. The route is not mapped as a restricted access vehicle (RAV) for the entire length.
- The intersection on Tarago road will need upgrading;
- Many areas of Tarago/BGD road aren't built for loads being discussed and
- There is a load height issue at Goulburn and Queanbeyan

I trust that these notes and the minutes of the Development Co-ordination and Review (DCR) Panel Meeting dated 31 March 2021 assist the preparation of the EIA.

Should you have any questions please contact Jacinta Tonner Program Coordinator Development Assessment on 1300 735 025.

Yours faithfully


Acting General Manager
Natural Built Character

Per: 

Department of Planning and Environment

Letter to Applicant
(consent granted)

Our reference:22/01616
LOC No: 632206

Mr Dominic Osborne
Lakelands Pty Ltd
114 Currandooley Road
BUNGENDORE NSW 2621

Dear Sir/Madam

Consent for Development Comprising:	Construction and Operation of a Large-Scale Solar Farm (SSD-13166280)
Crown Land	Lot 1 & 2 DP 1154765 Lot 1 DP 456698
Crown reserve	Crown road
Parish	Currandooley
County	Murray
Applicant	Dominic Osborne

Consent is granted by the Minister for Lands and Water to the lodgement of applications for “Exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement” for the construction and operation of a large scale solar farm under clause 49(1)(b) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000, and other associated applications required under other legislation, for the development proposal described above.

The Land Owner Consent is granted conditional to the following:

1. Land Owner Consent will expire after a period of 12 months from the date of this letter if not acted on within that time. Extensions of this consent may be sought
2. You are required to forward a copy of the development approval to the NSW Department of Planning & Environment – Crown Lands (“the department”) after approval and prior to commencing works.
3. You are required to ensure that the approval provided is consistent with this Land Owner Consent.
4. The Land Owner Consent is provided for the works detailed on the plans provided by you and retained by the department as DOC21/249618.

Land Owner Consent is granted in accordance with the following:

- Land Owner Consent is given without prejudice so that consideration of the proposed development may proceed under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and any other relevant legislation.
- The grant of this Land Owner Consent does not guarantee that any subsequent authority to occupy the Crown road will be granted.

- Land Owner Consent does not imply the concurrence of the Minister for Lands and Water for the proposed development and does not provide authorisation under the Crown Lands Act 2016 for this proposal.
- The issue of Land Owner Consent does not prevent the department from making any submission commenting on, supporting or opposing an application.
- The Minister reserves the right to issue Land Owner Consent for the lodgement of applications for any other development proposals on the subject land concurrent with this Land Owner Consent.
- Any changes made to the proposal, including those imposed by the consent authority, must be consistent with the Land Owner Consent and therefore if modifications are made to the proposed development details must be provided to the department for approval.
- Land Owner Consent also allows application to any other approval authority necessary for this development proposal.

It is important that you understand your obligations relating to Condition 3. If any alterations are made to the application (whether in the course of assessment, by conditions of consent, or otherwise), it is your responsibility to ensure the amended or modified development remains consistent with this Land Owner Consent. If there is any inconsistency or uncertainty you are required to contact the department before undertaking the development to ensure that the Department consents to the changes. A subsequent LOC application may incur additional application fees.

On review of the site plan submitted with this LOC it appears to show solar panels across the Crown road in Lot 2 DP 1154765 as well as an easement for underground cables under a section of the Crown Road located in Lot 1 DP 456698. It is therefore recommended that consent be sought under:

1. S138 of the Roads Act 1993 prior to any works in on or over a Crown road be undertaken,
2. S152A to authorise the occupation or use of Crown roads by works and structures, or
3. S71 to carry out road works for access purposes (S71).

It is further recommended that the proponent lodge an application to close and purchase the Crown Roads impacted by this development.

It was also noted that the location of the Laydown & Site Offices is within the boundaries of Public Road 6141-1603 gazetted as a public road in Gazette 30th Aug 1899 Fol 6531. It is recommended that you liaise with the Queanbeyan Palerang Council on this matter.

During the assessment the department conducted an Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) search and multiple Aboriginal sites and/or Aboriginal places have been recorded in or near the proposed development site and/or there are natural landscape features that indicate the potential presence of Aboriginal heritage in or near the proposed development site. You are required to undertake the due diligence process to identify if any Aboriginal heritage is present at or nearby the proposal site and should seek further advice from the NSW Office of Environment, Energy and Science.

For further information, please contact me [REDACTED]

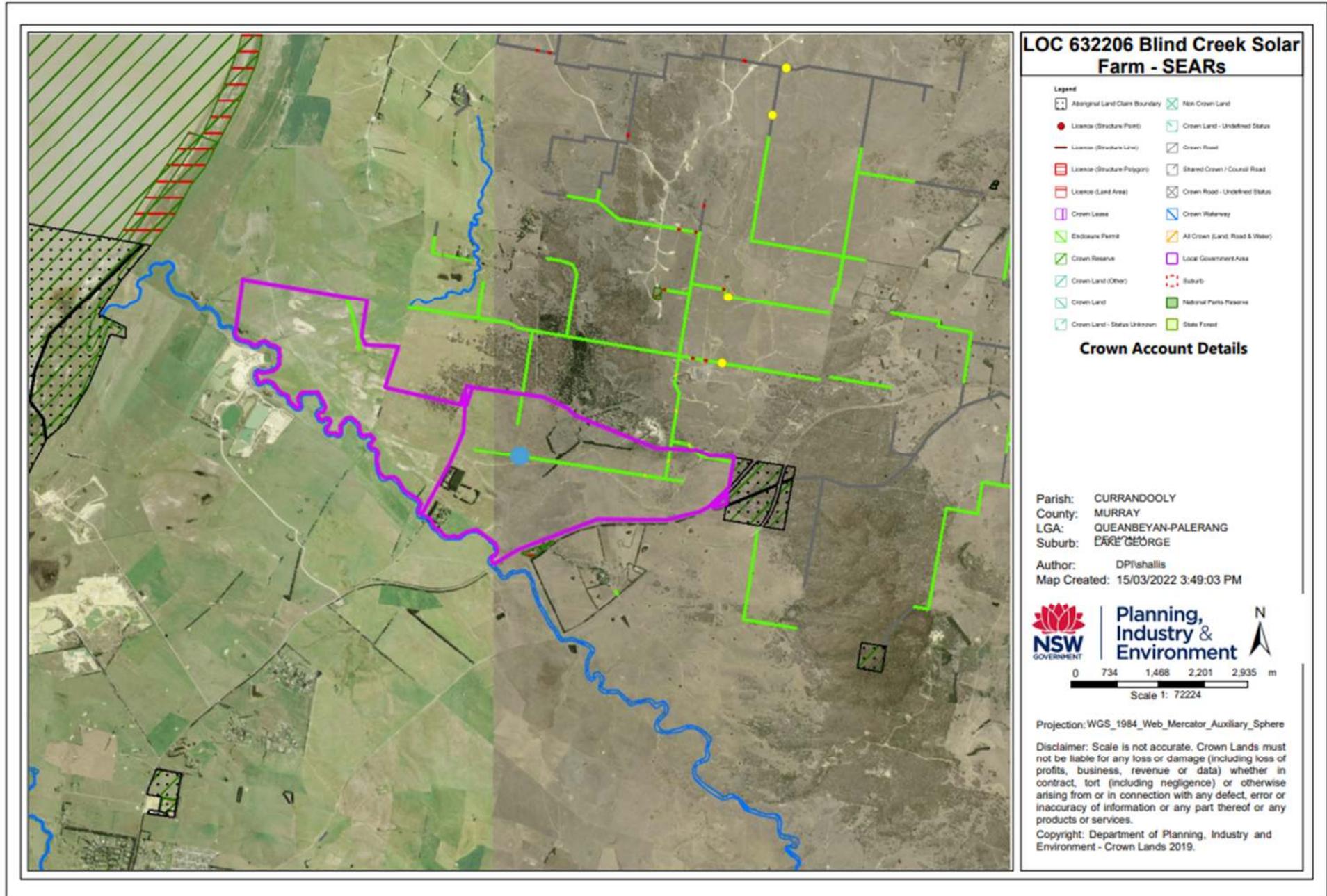
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Property Services Officer

Department of Planning, Industry & Environment - Crown Lands
28 March 2022

Attachment A – Location Map



File Reference: 22/00819
Account No: W632123

PO Box 2215, DANGAR NSW 2309
Phone: 1300 886 235 (Option 2)
Fax: (02) 4925 3517
roads.newcastle@crowland.nsw.gov.au
www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/lands

15 February 2022

Lakelands Pty Limited
Lakelands
114 Currandooley Rd
BUNGENDORE NSW 2621

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Acknowledgement of receipt of application for closure of road – EP 49717

Acknowledgement is made of application to purchase Crown road/s. Your application has been assigned account number W632123. Your request to have this application expedited has been noted, it will be sent to the Business Centre for consideration.

Please note the following points:

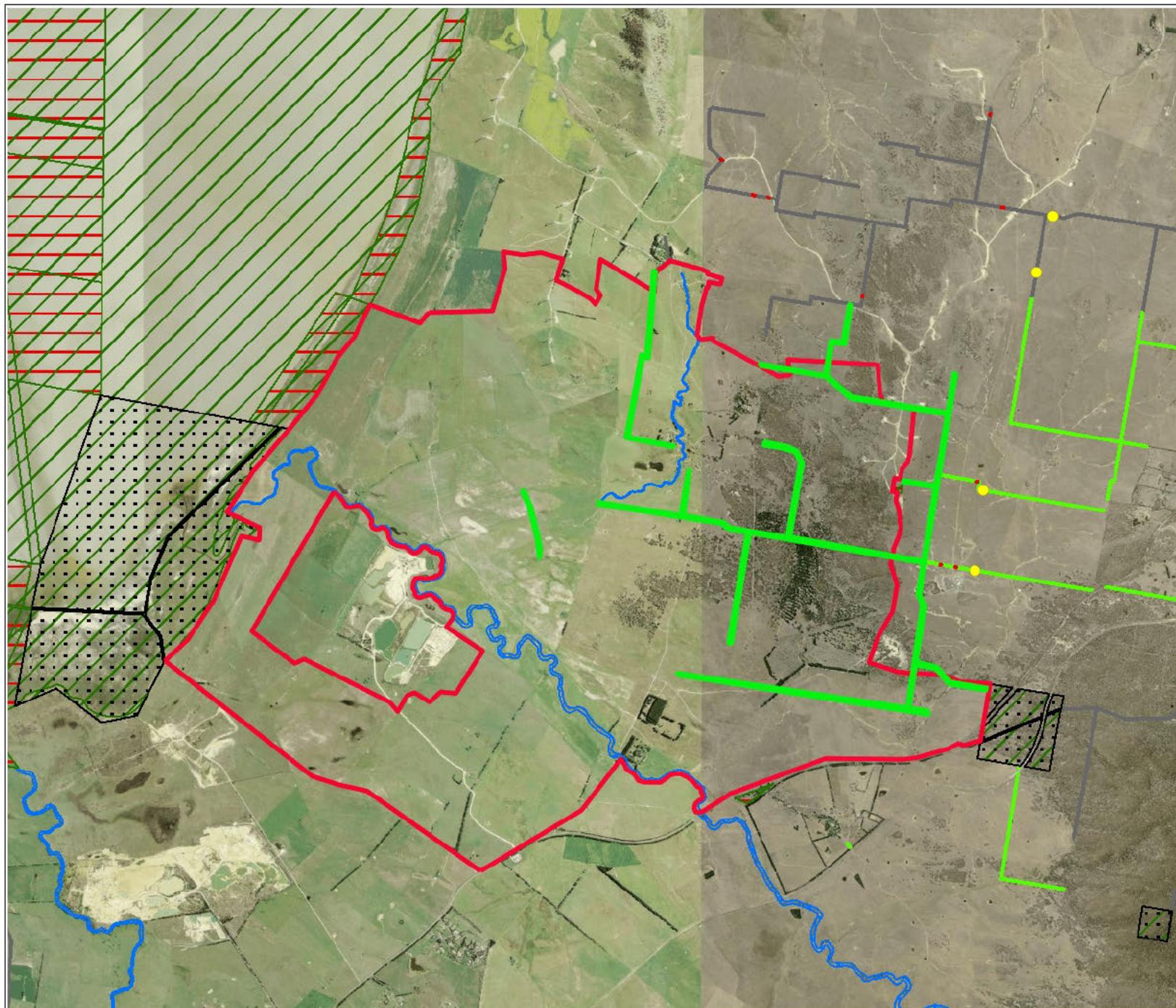
- Acceptance of the application does not constitute agreement by the Department of Planning and Environment - Crown Lands that the application for purchase of the road will be successful; the purpose of the initial application process is to establish whether the Crown road is suitable for sale or is required for access within the public road network.
- If your application is successful, the land will remain public road until registration of the transfer of title by NSW Land Registry Services; upon registration of transfer it will cease to be a Crown road.
- Any enclosure permit held over the Crown road will be retained until a signed contract for sale has been received by the department. Termination of the enclosure permit will be carried out as at the date of issue of a tax invoice for the purchase and a termination advice will be issued to you for your records; and
- You should continue to pay rent for an affected enclosure permit as it is called for, pending the outcome of your application.

Further information can be obtained from the department's website at www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/lands If you have any questions in relation to your application please contact our office and quote your account number W632123.

Yours faithfully



Department of Planning, Industry & Environment - Crown Lands Business Centre



Blind Creek Wind Farm Boundary & Crown Roads

- Legend**
- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Aboriginal Land Claim Boundary | Non Crown Land |
| Licence (Structure Point) | Crown Land - Undefined Status |
| Licence (Structure Line) | Crown Road |
| Licence (Structure Polygon) | Shared Crown / Council Road |
| Licence (Land Area) | Crown Road - Undefined Status |
| Crown Lease | Crown Waterway |
| Enclosure Permit | All Crown (Land, Road & Water) |
| Crown Reserve | Local Government Area |
| Crown Land (Other) | Suburb |
| Crown Land | National Parks Reserve |
| Crown Land - Status Unknown | State Forest |

Crown Account Details

Parish: CURRANDOOLY
 County: MURRAY
 LGA: QUEANBEYAN-PALERANG
 Suburb: CAREGEORGE

Author: DPL/shallis
 Map Created: 5/09/2021 11:12:42 AM



**Planning,
Industry &
Environment**



0 734 1,468 2,201 2,935 m
 Scale 1: 72224

Projection: WGS_1984_Web_Mercator_Auxiliary_Sphere

Disclaimer: Scale is not accurate. Crown Lands must not be liable for any loss or damage (including loss of profits, business, revenue or data) whether in contract, tort (including negligence) or otherwise arising from or in connection with any defect, error or inaccuracy of information or any part thereof or any products or services.

Copyright: Department of Planning, Industry and Environment - Crown Lands 2019.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Zeina Jokadar](mailto:Zeina.Jokadar)
Subject: RE: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS Consultation with Crown Lands
Date: Sunday, 5 September 2021 11:21:09 AM
Attachments: [image010.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image014.png](#)
[Location Map Blind Creek Wind Farm Boundary & Crown Roads.pdf](#)

Hi Zeina,

Please find attached a map showing the location of the Crown Roads observed within the boundary of the Blind Creek Wind Farm using the Lot and DPs provided in Document 20-403 BCSF Consultation Letter Crown Land dated 12 August 2021.

Regards

[REDACTED]
A/ Senior Natural Resource Management Officer

Crown Lands | Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

[REDACTED]
Level 2, 159 Auburn Street, Goulburn NSW 2580

www.dpie.nsw.gov.au



Our Vision: Together, we create thriving environments, communities and economies.

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and we show our respect for elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

From: Zeina Jokadar <zeina.j@nghconsulting.com.au>

Sent: Friday, 27 August 2021 3:10 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Sarah Dale <sarah.m.d@nghconsulting.com.au>

Subject: RE: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS Consultation with Crown Lands

[REDACTED]

Thanks for the feedback. Could you provide us a map showing where these are located?

Kind regards,

Zeina

ZEINA JOKADAR
SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT
BSc, CEnvP

M. 0447 095 273
E. zeina.j@nghconsulting.com.au
Unit 2, 54 Hudson St
Hamilton NSW 2303



NSW · ACT · QLD · VIC
WWW.NGHCONSULTING.COM.AU

NGH acknowledges that we work on the traditional lands of First Nations people across Australia and recognises the enduring connection to the land. We pay our respects to elders, past, present and emerging.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 27 August 2021 3:01 PM
To: Zeina Jokadar <zeina.j@nghconsulting.com.au>
Subject: RE: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS Consultation with Crown Lands

Hi Zeina,

Based on the EIS reviewed by Crown Lands, it appears that there are Crown Roads located within the proposed development as such, Council will be expecting to see landowners consent as part of the DA process.

Regards

[REDACTED]
A/ Senior Natural Resource Management Officer

Crown Lands | Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

[REDACTED]
Level 2, 159 Auburn Street, Goulburn NSW 2580

www.dpie.nsw.gov.au



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From: Zeina Jokadar <zeina.j@nghconsulting.com.au>

Sent: Friday, 27 August 2021 11:33 AM

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Subject: FW: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS Consultation with Crown Lands

[REDACTED]
Thank you for the prompt reply. Based on our desktop research, Crown land is only adjacent to the site boundary.

Can you please confirm that we have not missed any crown land that may potentially be located within the project site?

With regards to our current understanding of the location of Crown land, the construction and operation of the project will not directly impact any crown land. The project does not propose to use or upgrade any crown land.

Therefore can you please clarify if we still need to complete the attached form?

Kind regards,
Zeina

ZEINA JOKADAR
SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT
BSc, CEnvP
M. 0447 095 273
E. zeina.j@nghconsulting.com.au
Unit 2, 54 Hudson St
Hamilton NSW 2303



NSW · ACT · QLD · VIC
WWW.NGHCONSULTING.COM.AU

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 2:06:48 PM

To: Sarah Dale <sarah.m.d@nghconsulting.com.au>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS Consultation with Crown Lands

Hi Sarah,

As you are seeking Landowners Consent to lodge the DA can you please arrange to have the attached for Landowners Consent Application Form completed and returned to Crown Lands for review / assessment. The last page of the form advises what documentation is required to be submitted with the form.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Regards

[REDACTED]
A/ Senior Natural Resource Management Officer

Crown Lands | Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

[REDACTED]
Level 2, 159 Auburn Street, Goulburn NSW 2580

www.dpie.nsw.gov.au



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Industry &
Environment**

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From: Sarah Dale <sarah.m.d@nghconsulting.com.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 24 August 2021 12:36 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Zeina Jokadar <zeina.j@nghconsulting.com.au>

Subject: RE: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS Consultation with Crown Lands

[REDACTED]

I believe Warren has been in contact with you in the email chain below and would just like to follow up if we require any confirmation from Crown Lands?

Mapping that we have appears to show Crown Lands exists long the boundary of the project site.

Please let me know if we require a letter from you regarding any potential impacts. The EIS is due at the end of this month so a prompt response is highly appreciated.

Thanks

SARAH DALE
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT
BSc. (Earth Science)
M. 0420 692 608
E. sarah.m.d@nghconsulting.com.au
Unit 2, 54 Hudson St
Hamilton NSW 2303



NSW · ACT · QLD · VIC
WWW.NGHCONSULTING.COM.AU





From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 19 August 2021 2:46 PM
To: Zeina Jokadar <zeina.j@nghconsulting.com.au>; Sarah Dale <sarah.m.d@nghconsulting.com.au>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS Consultation with Crown Lands

Hi Zeina and Sarah

Zeina – got your phone message re the Blind Creek Solar Farm this afternoon. This project is located in an area covered by the Departments Goulburn office. I forwarded the message on to Goulburn office last week, but they may not yet have had a chance to get in touch with you yet, with everyone working from home with the lockdowns.

[REDACTED]

Goulburn will be able to help from there.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Natural Resource Management Project Officer
Crown Lands | Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
[REDACTED]
92 Rusden Street, Armidale NSW 2350
PO Box 1138, Armidale NSW 2350

From: Sarah Dale <sarah.m.d@nghconsulting.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 12 August 2021 1:30 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Zeina Jokadar <zeina.j@nghconsulting.com.au>; lands.ministerials@industry.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS Consultation with Crown Lands

To [REDACTED]

Please find attached a consultation letter prepared by NGH on behalf of Blind Creek Solar Farm Pty Ltd for the proposed development of Blind Creek Solar Farm located along Tarago Road north of Bungendore NSW.

Attached is the proposal site shapefile, and a figure for location of the proposal site in relation to Crown Lands.

I understand you work in the northern tablelands region, if this can please be passed onto the correct region in charge.

We look forward to your response,

Thanks

SARAH DALE
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT
BSc. (Earth Science)
M. 0420 692 608
E. sarah.m.d@nghconsulting.com.au
Unit 2, 54 Hudson St
Hamilton NSW 2303



NSW · ACT · QLD · VIC
WWW.NGHCONSULTING.COM.AU



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Sarah Dale](#)
Cc: [Zeina Jokadar](#)
Subject: #10781175 FW: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS Consultation [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 30 July 2021 9:45:28 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[c1257bd2-f5a9-424f-bc75-0476036472c5.png](#)
[image008.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Good morning Sarah

Thank you for your enquiry regarding Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS Consultation.

I have reviewed your email and forwarded it to appropriate point of contact.

You will be contacted if Defence require further information.

The reference number for this enquiry is 10781175.

If you have any further queries, please contact us on the number below or via our email address.

Warm regards

[REDACTED]
Customer Service Officer
Defence Archives and Service Centres
North Central Zone / Service Delivery Division
Estate & Infrastructure Group

Department of Defence

T: CSC (07) 4430 0101, or alternatively 1800 DEFENCE (1800 333 362)

E: yourcustomer.service@defence.gov.au

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From: Sarah Dale <sarah.m.d@nghconsulting.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 8:31 AM
To: Your Customer Service <yourcustomer.service@defence.gov.au>
Cc: Zeina Jokadar <zeina.j@nghconsulting.com.au>
Subject: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS Consultation

⚠️ EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. ⚠️

Attention Director of Department of Defence

Blind Creek Solar Farm Pty Ltd (BCSF) are proposing to develop the Blind Creek Solar Farm located along Tarago Road, approximately 8 kilometres (km) north of Bungendore, NSW, and 50km east of Canberra, Australian Capital Territory (ACT). The proposed project will have a capacity of up to 350-400 megawatts (MW). The project is located within Queanbeyan-Palerang Local Government Area (LGA).

BCSF is seeking State Significant Development (SSD) Consent under Division 4.7 of Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) for the project. A Scoping Report for the project was submitted to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) in early 2021 and SEARs were issued on 11 February 2021; available at:

<https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/prweb/PRRestService/mp/01/getContent?AttachRef=PDA-10449386%2120210115T001115.163%20GMT>

It is our understanding that DPIE consulted with your agency during preparation of the SEARs and your agency's comments will be addressed as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). BCSF has engaged NGH to prepare the EIS and undertake consultation with relevant agencies and stakeholders. The EIS will be prepared by the team shown in Table 1, which includes NGH's technical experts and specialist sub-consultancies. NGH will prepare the EIS in accordance with the SEARs and relevant agency comments. Where any deviations are proposed we will contact the relevant agency to seek endorsement of the proposed changes.

Community consultation, site surveys, background searches, and qualitative and quantitative assessments commenced in late-2020 and are ongoing. BCSF intend to lodge the development application (DA) in September 2021.

The purpose of this letter is to engage with your department to ensure all relevant matters are addressed in the EIS to your satisfaction. We are happy to provide further information about the project and our assessment methodologies if you require.

Table 1 EIS preparation team

Environmental Issue	Consultancy
EIS	NGH
Biodiversity (flora and fauna) BDAR	NGH
Visual amenity and landscape character, and shadow flicker	Moir Landscape Architects
Noise and vibration	Renzo Tonin
Aboriginal heritage and Historic heritage	NGH
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EMF Human Health	NGH
Hydrology and Water	Footprint
Soils and Landforms	NGH
Land Use	NGH
Social and Economic impact	NGH

Air quality and climate

NGH

Bushfire

NGH

SEPP33 PHA

NGH

Waste Management

NGH

If you have any questions, please contact Zeina Jokadar on (04) 47095273. Zeina would be pleased to discuss this project with you further.

Yours sincerely,



Zeina Jokadar

Senior Environmental Consultant

NGH

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Cc: [Brooke Marshall](mailto:Brooke.Marshall@nghconsulting.com.au); [Zoe Cox](mailto:Zoe.Cox@nghconsulting.com.au); [Matthew Barber](mailto:Matthew.Barber@nghconsulting.com.au); [Sarah Robertson](mailto:Sarah.Robertson@nghconsulting.com.au)
Subject: RE: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS and Heritage assessment - NGH and HNSW discussion
Date: Friday, 14 May 2021 6:45:30 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Hi Jakob,

Wednesday would work for us – I have time available from 10.30 to 12.30 or after 3pm on Wednesday. Let me know if you'd like me to set up a Teams meeting.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet
Level 3, 11 Farrer Place, Queanbeyan NSW 2620
[REDACTED]



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Heritage NSW and coronavirus (COVID-19)

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Sent: Friday, 14 May 2021 3:54 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Brooke Marshall <brooke.m@nghconsulting.com.au>; Zoe Cox <zoe.c@nghconsulting.com.au>; Matthew Barber <matthew.b@nghconsulting.com.au>
Subject: RE: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS and Heritage assessment - NGH and HNSW discussion

[REDACTED]

Thanks for your prompt reply. I will call you on Monday for an initial chat, if that is ok, but I would like to include Matt Barber and we were thinking of Weds. Let me know if that would suit you and if so, when.

Have a great weekend. Thank you.

Kind regards,

Jakob

JAKOB RUHL
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M. 0488 448 017
E. jakob.r@nghconsulting.com.au
Unit 17, Level 3, 21 Mary St
Surry Hills NSW 2010



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WWW.NGHCONSULTING.COM.AU

Due to precautions around COVID-19, I am working from home 2-3 days per week. Email and mobile are best to contact me. Thanks for your patience.

From: [REDACTED]
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To: Jakob Ruhl <jakob.r@nghconsulting.com.au>
Cc: Brooke Marshall <brooke.m@nghconsulting.com.au>; Zoe Cox <zoe.c@nghconsulting.com.au>; Matthew Barber <matthew.b@nghconsulting.com.au>
Subject: RE: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS and Heritage assessment

Hi Jakob,

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Thanks,

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From: Jakob Ruhl <jakob.r@nghconsulting.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 13 May 2021 1:42 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Brooke Marshall <brooke.m@nghconsulting.com.au>; Zoe Cox <zoe.c@nghconsulting.com.au>; Matthew Barber <matthew.b@nghconsulting.com.au>
Subject: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS and Heritage assessment

Hi [REDACTED]

Project: Blind Creek Solar Farm
SSD/SSI application no: SSD - 13166280 (Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional)

I would like to speak to you about the proposed Blind Creek Solar Farm to be located at Lake George, which is a State Significant Development and subject to an EIS. I called you earlier today and left a message on your voicemail.

Heritage NSW provided advice that full archaeological assessment was required, including test excavations, since the Lake George sand deposits are identified as an important cultural landscape. NGH and the proponent are keen to ensure that the archaeological resource is afforded due consideration, care and management. In doing so, I have some ideas about how best to do that and would like to get your opinion.

NGH has undertaken our background assessment and liaised with Dr Amy Mosig Way. We feel confident that the previous studies undertaken within the proposal area and immediately adjacent establish that there is indeed surface and subsurface archaeological potential. Given that the proposed development area is not likely to be significantly smaller than the project area, it is likely that the proposed development will impact upon Aboriginal archaeology and heritage. However, the time and expense required to undertake widespread survey and testing of the project area would not

arguably equate to greater understanding of the archaeological resource, either from a presence/absence or a research perspective. I would like to talk to you about methodology options that might still assess the potential impact of the proposed project as well as significantly further the archaeological scholarship of Lake George and at the same time provide the Aboriginal community with a deeper understanding of how their ancestors lived in and used the area.

Thank you Jackie. Please feel free to call me at your nearest convenience.

Kind regards,

Jakob

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T: [REDACTED]



Premier
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Zeina Jokadar

Subject: FW: Blind Creek Solar Farm - Hydrology Report

originalItemMapiKe000000005E5524BEADC8AB42B6906AB36AEB473A0700C1AD92DF9616B7409522628371B52A590002F9FD4B350000C1AD92DF9616B7409522628371B52A590003B77CEB270000:0000000038A1BB1005E5101AA1BB08002B2A56C20000454D534D44422E444C4C00000000000000001B55FA20AA6611CD9BC800AA002FC45A0C0000007A65696E612E6A406E6768636F6E73756C74696E672E636F6D2E6175002F6F3D45786368616E67654C6162732F6F753D45786368616E67652041646D696E6973747261746976652047726F7570202846594449424F484632335350444C54292F636E3D526563697069656E74732F636E3D31653733386164623163376334326633396530666138346330373535616265392D7A65696E612E6A00E94632F44C00000002000000100000007A00650069006E0061002E006A0040006E006700680063006F006E00730075006C00740069006E0067002E0063006F006D002E006100750000000000

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Luke Osborne <luke@striderenewables.com>

Date: Mon, 13 Dec 2021 at 10:13

Subject: Re: Blind Creek Solar Farm - Hydrology Report

To: <[REDACTED]>

Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I am following up on this in case you have any further questions? Otherwise we will complete the EIS on this basis.

Thanks

On Thu, 25 Nov 2021 at 14:56, Luke Osborne <luke@striderenewables.com> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

On the 21st October we discussed Blind Creek Solar Farm which is proposed near Bungendore NSW. You may remember that this project is unusual in that it is led by farmers (including my own extended family) therefore has a strong community and agri-solar focus. The site is presently a pasture for grazing but has been periodically cropped.

We have engaged with DPIE water a couple of times to discuss management of Wrights Creek, a 4th order stream, incorrectly marked as having a defined flow and a confluence with Butmaroo Ck on the site. In reality this creek drains into a sandy plain and for the most part seems to be absorbed but can, with sufficient rain, help to fill a very shallow wetland via a dispersed overland flow, which then quickly evaporates (this wetland does not appear in maps, but we have set back from it, and also set back from some isolated channeling, and used design principles to avoid impacting the flows.).

We have been previously advised to manage geomorphology and at our latest meeting you asked that we explicitly consider connectivity in the studies. This is now explicitly addressed in the hydrology study attached.

If you have further concerns about the approach to managing these issues, I would be happy to set up another meeting. Note that the EIS is in the latter stages of completion with an expected lodgement mid January.

Kind Regards

From: [DPI Landuse Enquiries Mailbox](#)
To: [Sarah Dale](#)
Subject: RE: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS Consultation
Date: Monday, 2 August 2021 11:16:13 AM
Attachments: [image008.jpg](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image014.jpg](#)
[image015.jpg](#)
[image016.jpg](#)

Hi Sarah,

Thank you for your email. We have no feedback at this time and will review the EIS and accompanying documents once exhibited.

Regards,


Assistant Project Officer

Water Group | Department of Planning, Industry and Environment


4 Parramatta Square, 12 Darcy St, Parramatta, NSW 2150.

www.dpie.nsw.gov.au



Our Vision: Together, we create thriving environments, communities and economies

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment acknowledges that it stands on Country which always was and always will be Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters, and we show our respect for elders past, present and emerging. We are committed to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work.

From: Sarah Dale <sarah.m.d@nghconsulting.com.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 8:18 AM

To: DPI Landuse Enquiries Mailbox <landuse.enquiries@dpie.nsw.gov.au>

Cc: Zeina Jokadar <zeina.j@nghconsulting.com.au>

Subject: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS Consultation

Attention DPIE – Water and NRAR

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Social and Economic impact	NGH
Air quality and climate	NGH
Bushfire	NGH
SEPP33 PHA	NGH
Waste Management	NGH

If you have any questions, please contact Zeina Jokadar on (04) 47095273. Zeina would be pleased to discuss this project with you further.

Yours sincerely,



Zeina Jokadar

Senior Environmental Consultant



DOC21/630899-1

The Proper Officer
NGH
Unit 2, 54 Hudson St
Hamilton, NSW, 2303
Attention: Sarah Dale
Environmental Consultant

26 August 2021

Dear Ms Dale,

Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS Consultation - 20-403 - SSD 13166280

Thank you for your invitation to the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) on 28 July 2021 to provide comment on the proposed Blind Creek Solar Farm (the Project).

The EPA's response to the invitation to provide Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) was provided to Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) on 8 February 2021. The EPA appreciates your invitation, however notes that solar farms are not classified as a scheduled activity under Schedule 1 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act).

In that regard, the EPA do not have a regulatory role in the Project. Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council will be the appropriate regulatory authority for all POEO matters during the construction and operation of the Project.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact L [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Unit Head - Regulatory Operations Regional

Phone 131 555

TTY 133 677

Locked Bag 5022

4 Parramatta Square

info@epa.nsw.gov.au

Phone +61 2 9995 5555

ABN 43 692 285 758

Parramatta

12 Darcy St, Parramatta

www.epa.nsw.gov.au

(from outside NSW)

NSW 2124 Australia

NSW 2150 Australia

From: [Sarah Dale](#)
To: info@fire.nsw.gov.au; firesafety@fire.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [Zeina Jokadar](#)
Subject: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS Consultation
Date: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 8:26:23 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[8ecee120-a6d8-49af-88df-1bf67c4f53c0.png](#)

Attention Director of Fire and Rescue NSW

Blind Creek Solar Farm Pty Ltd (BCSF) are proposing to develop the Blind Creek Solar Farm located along Tarago Road, approximately 8 kilometres (km) north of Bungendore, NSW, and 50km east of Canberra, Australian Capital Territory (ACT). The proposed project will have a capacity of up to 350-400 megawatts (MW). The project is located within Queanbeyan-Palerang Local Government Area (LGA).

BCSF is seeking State Significant Development (SSD) Consent under Division 4.7 of Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) for the project. A Scoping Report for the project was submitted to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) in early 2021 and SEARs were issued on 11 February 2021; available at:

<https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/prweb/PRRestService/mp/01/getContent?AttachRef=PDA-10449386%2120210115T001115.163%20GMT>

It is our understanding that DPIE consulted with your agency during preparation of the SEARs and your agency's comments will be addressed as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). BCSF has engaged NGH to prepare the EIS and undertake consultation with relevant agencies and stakeholders. The EIS will be prepared by the team shown in Table 1, which includes NGH's technical experts and specialist sub-consultancies. NGH will prepare the EIS in accordance with the SEARs and relevant agency comments. Where any deviations are proposed we will contact the relevant agency to seek endorsement of the proposed changes.

Community consultation, site surveys, background searches, and qualitative and quantitative assessments commenced in late-2020 and are ongoing. BCSF intend to lodge the development application (DA) in September 2021.

The purpose of this letter is to engage with your department to ensure all relevant matters are addressed in the EIS to your satisfaction. We are happy to provide further information about the project and our assessment methodologies if you require.

Table 1 EIS preparation team

Environmental Issue	Consultancy
EIS	NGH
Biodiversity (flora and fauna) BDAR	NGH
Visual amenity and landscape character, and shadow flicker	Moir Landscape Architects
Noise and vibration	Renzo Tonin
Aboriginal heritage and Historic heritage	NGH
TIA	Amber
EMF Human Health	NGH

Hydrology and Water	Footprint
Soils and Landforms	NGH
Land Use	NGH
Social and Economic impact	NGH
Air quality and climate	NGH
Bushfire	NGH
SEPP33 PHA	NGH
Waste Management	NGH

If you have any questions, please contact Zeina Jokadar on (04) 47095273. Zeina would be pleased to discuss this project with you further.

Yours sincerely,



Zeina Jokadar

Senior Environmental Consultant
NGH

SARAH DALE
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT
BSc. (Earth Science)
M. 0420 692 608
E. sarah.m.d@nghconsulting.com.au
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Hamilton NSW 2303



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WWW.NGHCONSULTING.COM.AU



From: [Sarah Dale](#)
To: enquiry.southeast@lfs.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [Zeina Jokadar](#)
Subject: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS Consultation
Date: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 8:10:57 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[fabd47e2-e396-4415-a0fb-4be1b56bb205.png](#)

Attention South East Tablelands Local Land Services

Blind Creek Solar Farm Pty Ltd (BCSF) are proposing to develop the Blind Creek Solar Farm located along Tarago Road, approximately 8 kilometres (km) north of Bungendore, NSW, and 50km east of Canberra, Australian Capital Territory (ACT). The proposed project will have a capacity of up to 350-400 megawatts (MW). The project is located within Queanbeyan-Palerang Local Government Area (LGA).

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Social and Economic impact	NGH
Air quality and climate	NGH
Bushfire	NGH
SEPP33 PHA	NGH
Waste Management	NGH

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Yours sincerely,



Zeina Jokadar

Senior Environmental Consultant
NGH

SARAH DALE
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AND Bushfire services

From: [Sarah Dale](#)
To: landuse.minerals@geoscience.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [Zeina Jokadar](#)
Subject: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS Consultation
Date: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 8:12:36 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[d0872ef2-0b05-4b30-a775-c32a6041221b.png](#)

Attention Steven Palmer and the GSNSW - Land Use team

Blind Creek Solar Farm Pty Ltd (BCSF) are proposing to develop the Blind Creek Solar Farm located along Tarago Road, approximately 8 kilometres (km) north of Bungendore, NSW, and 50km east of Canberra, Australian Capital Territory (ACT). The proposed project will have a capacity of up to 350-400 megawatts (MW). The project is located within Queanbeyan-Palerang Local Government Area (LGA).

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Bushfire	NGH
SEPP33 PHA	NGH
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Yours sincerely,



Zeina Jokadar

Senior Environmental Consultant
NGH

SARAH DALE
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT
BSc. (Earth Science)
M. 0420 692 608
E. sarah.m.d@nghconsulting.com.au
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Hamilton NSW 2303



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From: Sarah Dale
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Zeina Jokadar; parks.info@environment.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS Consultation
Date: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 8:16:07 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
image007.png
06634936-4717-4893-b880-9a4394b9c1a9.png

Attention [REDACTED]

Blind Creek Solar Farm Pty Ltd (BCSF) are proposing to develop the Blind Creek Solar Farm located along Tarago Road, approximately 8 kilometres (km) north of Bungendore, NSW, and 50km east of Canberra, Australian Capital Territory (ACT). The proposed project will have a capacity of up to 350-400 megawatts (MW). The project is located within Queanbeyan-Palerang Local Government Area (LGA).

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Bushfire	NGH
SEPP33 PHA	NGH
Waste Management	NGH

If you have any questions, please contact Zeina Jokadar on (04) 47095273. Zeina would be pleased to discuss this project with you further.

Yours sincerely,



Zeina Jokadar

Senior Environmental Consultant
NGH

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Project 20-403 Blind Creek Solar Farm

Meeting date: January 17 2022

Meeting time: 2.30-3.30pm

Attendee: [REDACTED]

Dominic Osbourne - Blind Creek Solar Farm Pty Ltd

Zeina Jokadar - NGH Pty Ltd

Subject: discuss APZ management across the proposal area (namely under the solar array), with regard to the operation of Blind Creek Solar Farm as an Agrisolar site.

Draft minutes for consultation records.

Key project features and status:

- 600Ha Solar Farm site
- Panel rows are spaced over 5m apart and panel height when horizontal is over 3 m
- Central Battery Energy Storage facility
- Operational scheme of the Solar Farm is to include sheep grazing within the footprint of the solar farm
- The Project has received SEARS, and the EIS has progressed on the basis of Agency comments received in the SEARs documentation
- A bushfire assessment report has been prepared by a Level 2 Accredited Practitioner.
- This report recommends that grass is maintained at 100mm (10cm) in accordance with the PBP 2019 Appendix 4. This would be achieved by rotational sheep grazing and manual slashing when needed to manage fuel loads.
- Grass would not be allowed to hay off.
- 20 m APZ would be maintained around buildings (including Battery energy storage facility)

Comments from RFS:

- The entire allotment has to be managed as an APZ: this means all infrastructure, the entire development footprint.
- Therefore, the grass height under the panels should not be greater than 10cm.
- Managing grass height is a year round requirement, it is not fire season dependent.
- The fire season is starting earlier and lasting longer, so grass management has to be carried out all year round.
- A ring road is part of the APZ but does not replace the requirement to manage the entire site as an APZ
- RFS will not tell the developer how to manage the site in order to maintain grass height. It is up to the developer and the bush fire planner to develop safeguards and management measures that will maintain the grass height.
- The bushfire assessment report has to demonstrate how the project will meet the intent of protecting the asset (i.e the solar farm) from bushfire and prevent the spread of bushfire off site.
- The report has to put forward mitigation measures that would justify a higher grass height, if this is being proposed.
- RFS do not have the resources to review the draft Bushfire assessment report, prior to public exhibition. As such, they will only review and provide comments once the DPIE publishes the EIS and supporting reports.
- RFS recommends that the items highlighted in the correspondence between Brad Draper and Brad Bourke are addressed in the Bushfire assessment report.
- Consultation was undertaken between Brad Draper (NGH) and Bradley Bourke (RFS) in September 2021. The response from RFS outlined the following:

The NSW RFS did not receive the SEARs for the proposed development. Notwithstanding, the NSW RFS advises that the preparation of an Environment Assessment should incorporate a bush fire hazard assessment prepared by a suitably qualified person. This assessment must include site-specific recommendations for the proper design of:

- *asset protection zones (APZ);*
- *measures to prevent a fire occurring within the site from developing into a bush/grass fire risk to the surrounding area;*
- *water supply for fire fighting purposes;*
- *land and vegetation management;*
- *emergency management procedures, including the development of a Fire Management plan; and*
- *vehicular access and defensible space around the solar array.*

Protection for the facilities from bush fires can be achieved through a combination of strategies which will:

- *minimise the impact of radiant heat and direct flame contact by separating development from bush fire hazards;*
- *minimise the vulnerability of buildings to ignition and fire spread from flames, radiation and embers;*
- *enable appropriate access and egress for the public and firefighters;*
- *provide adequate water supplies for bush fire suppression operations;*
- *focus on facility preparedness, including emergency planning and property maintenance requirements; and*
- *facilitate the maintenance of asset protection zones, access for firefighting and on-site equipment for fire suppression*

- Once a draft Bushfire Management Plan is prepared, this is usually provided to the district office for comment. At that time, the district may comment and/or request changes in the Draft Bushfire Management Plan

From: [Zeina Jokadar](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Bcc: bf413c21-21a0-4ed9-91f9-9718afea513d.metaPublish@thehub.nghenvironmental.com.au
Subject: RE: DA20211117005011-Original-1: NGH Ref: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm Environmental Impact Assessment - bush fire
Date: Thursday, 20 January 2022 7:42:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.gif](#)
[image004.jpg](#)
[image005.jpg](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.jpg](#)
[image008.jpg](#)
[image009.jpg](#)
[image010.jpg](#)
[image011.jpg](#)
[20-403 BCSF Meeting with RFS Bushfire discussion.docx](#)
[bf413c21-21a0-4ed9-91f9-9718afea513d.png](#)

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us and clarify the PBP expectations regarding vegetation management.

Please find attached the draft meeting minutes for your review.

Kind regards,
Zeina

ZEINA JOKADAR
REGIONAL MANAGER
BSc, CEnvP
M. 0447 095 273
E. zeina.j@nghconsulting.com.au
Level 1, 31-33 Beaumont St
Hamilton NSW 2303

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WWW.NGHCONSULTING.COM.AU

NGH acknowledges that we work on the traditional lands of First Nations people across Australia and recognises the enduring connection to the land. We pay our respects to elders, past, present and emerging.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 January 2022 3:03 PM
To: Zeina Jokadar <zeina.j@nghconsulting.com.au>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: DA20211117005011-Original-1: NGH Ref: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm Environmental Impact Assessment - bush fire

Hi Zeina

As discussed here is the comments RFS provided for the bush fire report to cover.

Thanks



From: Brad Draper <brad.d@nghconsulting.com.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 8 December 2021 9:14 AM

To:

Subject: RE: DA20211117005011-Original-1: NGH Ref: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm
Environmental Impact Assessment - bush fire

Hi

Thank you for your email below.

NGH and our client would welcome the opportunity to discuss further by a brief MS Teams meeting. Would you be available Friday morning between 9am – 12pm, for a 30 minute timeslot? If so, I will arrange a Teams meeting invite for a time that works for you.

We would issue our draft EIS bushfire/hazards chapter for your perusal ahead of the meeting.

Regards,

BRAD DRAPER
SENIOR PLANNER & BUSHFIRE CONSULTANT
B.UrbRegPlan, RPIA, G.Cert.BushProt, FPAA BPAD
T. 02 4929 2301 **M.** 0409 375 965
E. brad.d@nghconsulting.com.au
Lvl 1, 31-33 Beaumont St
Hamilton NSW 2303

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WWW.NGHCONSULTING.COM.AU



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From:

Sent: Friday, 3 December 2021 3:37 PM

To: Brad Draper <brad.d@nghconsulting.com.au>

Subject: FW: DA20211117005011-Original-1: NGH Ref: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm
Environmental Impact Assessment - bush fire

Hi Brad

I did give you a call last week, I am happy to discuss over the phone. A site inspection is not currently possible due to limited resourcing. However we should be able to

Thank you.

Regards,

BRAD DRAPER
SENIOR PLANNER & BUSHFIRE CONSULTANT
B.UrbRegPlan, RPIA, G.Cert.BushProt, FPAA BPAD
T. 02 4929 2301 **M.** 0409 375 965
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From: Brad Draper

Sent: Tuesday, 16 November 2021 9:55 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: records@rfs.nsw.gov.au

Subject: RE: NGH Ref: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm Environmental Impact Assessment - bush fire

Good morning [REDACTED]

With regard to the correspondence provided below on 3/9/21, could you please advise if the NSW RFS would be available for a teleconference meeting, say next week, with NGH and our client? We would like to discuss APZ management across the proposal area (namely under the solar array), with regard to the operation of Blind Creek Solar Farm as an Agrisolar site.

Prior to a meeting, NGH would supply a preliminary bushfire assessment/management response and details around proposed management of the site (i.e. livestock, rotational grazing), for consideration by the NSW RFS.

Thank you.

Regards,

BRAD DRAPER
SENIOR PLANNER & BUSHFIRE CONSULTANT
B.UrbRegPlan, RPIA, G.Cert.BushProt, FPAA BPAD
T. 02 4929 2301 **M.** 0409 375 965
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Lvl 1, 31-33 Beaumont St



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WWW.NGHCONSULTING.COM.AU



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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, 3 September 2021 9:27 AM

To: Brad Draper <brad.d@nghconsulting.com.au>

Subject: RE: NGH Ref: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm Environmental Impact Assessment - bush fire

Good morning Brad,

The NSW RFS did not receive the SEARs for the proposed development. Notwithstanding, the NSW RFS advises that the preparation of an Environment Assessment should incorporate a bush fire hazard assessment prepared by a suitably qualified person. This assessment must include site-specific recommendations for the proper design of:

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- provide adequate water supplies for bush fire suppression operations;
- focus on facility preparedness, including emergency planning and property maintenance requirements; and
- facilitate the maintenance of asset protection zones, access for firefighting and on-site equipment for fire suppression.

Kind regards,



██████████
Development Assessment and Planning Coordinator
Planning and Environment Services (South)
NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

PO Box 35, Batemans Bay NSW 2536

██████████ | ██████████
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au | www.facebook.com/nswrfs |

www.twitter.com/nswrfs

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

From: Brad Draper <brad.d@nghconsulting.com.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 10:40 AM

To: State Operations <State.Ops@rfs.nsw.gov.au>; Planning & Environment Services <CustomerService.Centre@rfs.nsw.gov.au>

Cc: Records <Records@rfs.nsw.gov.au>; Sarah Dale <sarah.m.d@nghconsulting.com.au>; Zeina Jokadar <zeina.j@nghconsulting.com.au>

Subject: NGH Ref: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm Environmental Impact Assessment - bush fire

Attention: NSW Rural Fire Service

Blind Creek Solar Farm Pty Ltd (BCSF) are proposing to develop the Blind Creek Solar Farm located along Tarago Road, approximately 8 kilometres (km) north of Bungendore, NSW, and 50km east of Canberra, Australian Capital Territory (ACT). The proposed project will have a capacity of up to 350-400 megawatts (MW). The project is located within Queanbeyan-Palerang Local Government Area (LGA). Project location details can be found in the Scoping Report (refer to link below).

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SEPP33 PHA	NGH
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The SEARs require an assessment of potential hazards and risks including, but not limited to bush fires.

NGHs assessment of bush fire considerations would refer to the NSW Rural Fire Services' guideline Planning for Bush fire Protection (PBP) 2019, specifically Section 8.3.5 (wind and solar farms). Could you please outline any additional, or site specific requirements that the NSW RFS may consider appropriate for this project to take into consideration?

NGH would also consider and discuss the NSW Government Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline for State Significant Development (2018), where hazards such as fire, is outlined.

Should you wish to provide any comments on the proposal, please respond to this email by the 12th August 2021 with your consolidated comments so that any matters raised may be considered.

Regards,

BRAD DRAPER
SENIOR PLANNER & BUSHFIRE CONSULTANT
 B.UrbRegPlan, RPIA, G.Cert.BushProt, FPAA BPAD
 T. 02 4929 2301 D. 02 49173977 M. 0409 375 965
 E. brad.d@nghconsulting.com.au

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Brad Draper](mailto:Brad.Draper@nghconsulting.com.au)
Subject: RE: NGH Ref: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm Environmental Impact Assessment - bush fire
Date: Friday, 3 September 2021 9:27:13 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Good morning Brad,

The NSW RFS did not receive the SEARs for the proposed development. Notwithstanding, the NSW RFS advises that the preparation of an Environment Assessment should incorporate a bush fire hazard assessment prepared by a suitably qualified person. This assessment must include site-specific recommendations for the proper design of:

- asset protection zones (APZ);
- measures to prevent a fire occurring within the site from developing into a bush/grass fire risk to the surrounding area;
- water supply for fire fighting purposes;
- land and vegetation management;
- emergency management procedures, including the development of a Fire Management plan; and
- vehicular access and defensible space around the solar array.

Protection for the facilities from bush fires can be achieved through a combination of strategies which will:

- minimise the impact of radiant heat and direct flame contact by separating development from bush fire hazards;
- minimise the vulnerability of buildings to ignition and fire spread from flames, radiation and embers;
- enable appropriate access and egress for the public and firefighters;
- provide adequate water supplies for bush fire suppression operations;
- focus on facility preparedness, including emergency planning and property maintenance requirements; and
- facilitate the maintenance of asset protection zones, access for firefighting and on-site equipment for fire suppression.

Kind regards,



[REDACTED]
Development Assessment and Planning Coordinator
Planning and Environment Services (South)
NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE
PO Box 35, Batemans Bay NSW 2536
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au | www.facebook.com/nswrfs |
www.twitter.com/nswrfs
PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

From: Brad Draper <brad.d@nghconsulting.com.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 10:40 AM

To: State Operations <State.Ops@rfs.nsw.gov.au>; Planning & Environment Services <CustomerService.Centre@rfs.nsw.gov.au>

Cc: Records <Records@rfs.nsw.gov.au>; Sarah Dale <sarah.m.d@nghconsulting.com.au>; Zeina Jokadar <zeina.j@nghconsulting.com.au>

Subject: NGH Ref: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm Environmental Impact Assessment - bush fire

Attention: NSW Rural Fire Service

Blind Creek Solar Farm Pty Ltd (BCSF) are proposing to develop the Blind Creek Solar Farm located along Tarago Road, approximately 8 kilometres (km) north of Bungendore, NSW, and 50km east of Canberra, Australian Capital Territory (ACT). The proposed project will have a capacity of up to 350-400 megawatts (MW). The project is located within Queanbeyan-Palerang Local Government Area (LGA). Project location details can be found in the Scoping Report (refer to link below).

BCSF is seeking State Significant Development (SSD) Consent under Division 4.7 of Part 4 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) for the project. A Scoping Report for the project was submitted to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) in early 2021 and SEARs were issued on 11 February 2021 (attached); available at:

<https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/prweb/PRRestService/mp/01/getContent?AttachRef=PDA-10449386%2120210115T001115.163%20GMT>

It is our understanding that DPIE consulted with your agency during preparation of the SEARs and your agency's comments will be addressed as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). BCSF has engaged NGH to prepare the EIS and undertake consultation with relevant agencies and stakeholders. The EIS will be prepared by the team shown in Table 1, which includes NGH's technical experts and specialist sub-consultancies. NGH will prepare the EIS in accordance with the SEARs and relevant agency comments. Where any deviations are proposed we will contact the relevant agency to seek endorsement of the proposed changes.

Community consultation, site surveys, background searches, and qualitative and quantitative assessments commenced in late-2020 and are ongoing. BCSF intend to lodge the development application (DA) in September 2021.

The purpose of this letter is to engage with your department to ensure all relevant matters are addressed in the EIS to your satisfaction. We are happy to provide further information about the project and our assessment methodologies if you require.

Table 1 EIS preparation team

Environmental Issue	Consultancy
EIS	NGH
Biodiversity (flora and fauna) BDAR	NGH
Visual amenity and landscape character, and shadow flicker	Moir Landscape Architects
Noise and vibration	Renzo Tonin
Aboriginal heritage and Historic heritage	NGH

TIA	Amber
EMF Human Health	NGH
Hydrology and Water	Footprint
Soils and Landforms	NGH
Land Use	NGH
Social and Economic impact	NGH
Air quality and climate	NGH
Bushfire	NGH
SEPP33 PHA	NGH
Waste Management	NGH

The SEARs require an assessment of potential hazards and risks including, but not limited to bush fires.

NGHs assessment of bush fire considerations would refer to the NSW Rural Fire Services' guideline Planning for Bush fire Protection (PBP) 2019, specifically Section 8.3.5 (wind and solar farms). Could you please outline any additional, or site specific requirements that the NSW RFS may consider appropriate for this project to take into consideration?

NGH would also consider and discuss the NSW Government Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline for State Significant Development (2018), where hazards such as fire, is outlined.

Should you wish to provide any comments on the proposal, please respond to this email by the 12th August 2021 with your consolidated comments so that any matters raised may be considered.

Regards,

BRAD DRAPER
SENIOR PLANNER & BUSHFIRE CONSULTANT
 B.UrbRegPlan, RPIA, G.Cert.BushProt, FPAA BPAD
T. 02 4929 2301 **D.** 02 49173977 **M.** 0409 375 965
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NGH acknowledges that we work on the traditional lands of First Nations people across Australia and recognises the enduring connection to the land. We pay our respects to elders, past present and emerging.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Sarah Dale](#)
Cc: [Development Southern](#)
Subject: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS Consultation (TfNSW ref: STH14/00044/06)
Date: Monday, 9 August 2021 1:36:16 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.jpg](#)
[image006.jpg](#)
[e256e729-fb59-4dcf-aed6-3eaab0960b40.png](#)
[image007.jpg](#)
[20210210 TfNSW response.pdf](#)

Hi Sarah

Thanks for your email below, dated 28 July 2021.

TfNSW outlined the issues to be addressed as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in the response to the Department of Planning (dated 10 February 2021). Please see attached letter.

Please ensure all further correspondence is forwarded to Development.southern@transport.nsw.gov.au.

Regards,
Rachel

[REDACTED]
Development Services Case Officer
South Region
Transport for NSW

Please note: I work part time (Monday and Tuesday)

From: Sarah Dale [<mailto:sarah.m.d@nghconsulting.com.au>]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 8:24 AM
To: Development Southern <development.southern@transport.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Zeina Jokadar <zeina.j@nghconsulting.com.au>
Subject: 20-403 - Blind Creek Solar Farm EIS Consultation

CAUTION: This email is sent from an external source. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Attention Rachel Carocci

Blind Creek Solar Farm Pty Ltd (BCSF) are proposing to develop the Blind Creek Solar Farm located along Tarago Road, approximately 8 kilometres (km) north of Bungendore, NSW, and

50km east of Canberra, Australian Capital Territory (ACT). The proposed project will have a capacity of up to 350-400 megawatts (MW). The project is located within Queanbeyan-Palerang Local Government Area (LGA).

BCSF is seeking State Significant Development (SSD) Consent under Division 4.7 of Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) for the project. A Scoping Report for the project was submitted to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) in early 2021 and SEARs were issued on 11 February 2021; available at:

<https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/prweb/PRRestService/mp/01/getContent?AttachRef=PDA-10449386%2120210115T001115.163%20GMT>

It is our understanding that DPIE consulted with your agency during preparation of the SEARs and your agency's comments will be addressed as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). BCSF has engaged NGH to prepare the EIS and undertake consultation with relevant agencies and stakeholders. The EIS will be prepared by the team shown in Table 1, which includes NGH's technical experts and specialist sub-consultancies. NGH will prepare the EIS in accordance with the SEARs and relevant agency comments. Where any deviations are proposed we will contact the relevant agency to seek endorsement of the proposed changes.

Community consultation, site surveys, background searches, and qualitative and quantitative assessments commenced in late-2020 and are ongoing. BCSF intend to lodge the development application (DA) in September 2021.

The purpose of this letter is to engage with your department to ensure all relevant matters are addressed in the EIS to your satisfaction. We are happy to provide further information about the project and our assessment methodologies if you require.

Table 1 EIS preparation team

Environmental Issue	Consultancy
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TIA	Amber
EMF Human Health	NGH
Hydrology and Water	Footprint
Soils and Landforms	NGH
Land Use	NGH
Social and Economic impact	NGH
Air quality and climate	NGH
Bushfire	NGH
SEPP33 PHA	NGH
Waste Management	NGH

If you have any questions, please contact Zeina Jokadar on (04) 47095273. Zeina would be

D.2 Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

Appendix C2 Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy



Blind Creek
Solar Farm

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1. Introduction

This Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (the “**Engagement Strategy**”) is the sets out how Blind Creek Solar Farm Pty Ltd (the “**Proponent**” or “**we**”) has and will continue to communicate with key stakeholders and the broader community in relation to the Blind Creek Solar Farm and battery storage project (the “**Project**”).

This is a working document developed by the team behind the Project which will be updated and developed as the Project evolves and community feedback is received. Phase one covers the feasibility phase and includes initial discussions with near neighbours and key stakeholders prior to submitting a Scoping Report and prior to SEARs being issued. Phase two strategy will include activities to communicate SEARs and the development of the Community Benefit Sharing Scheme and communication activities during the EIS studies. Phase three addresses the Exhibition period. Phase four addresses the Construction phase.

2. Background

Renewable energy production on the site is planned to co-exist with agricultural and other activities carried out by the landholders, including prime lamb production, regenerative agriculture, a community soil carbon project, green waste humus and compost production.

The Project has been conceived of and developed by a group of local farmers, landowners, and associates (the “**founders**”) and located on flat country to the south-west of the existing Capital Wind Farm and to the north-east of the Bungendore Sands sand gravel quarry.

This Engagement Strategy is unique on several levels:

1. The landholders are well connected to the local community and one of them has experience in renewable energy communications strategies including working as a regional communications manager for the Clean Energy Council for three years;
2. All local stakeholder engagement has been undertaken by the founders of the Project (i.e., local landowners and farmers); and
3. The communications strategy has been developed to accommodate the changing restrictions of social gatherings arising from Covid-19. It is important these regulations are observed but equally important that genuine community engagement is achieved.

3. Goals

The overarching goal of this Engagement Strategy is to achieve a social licence to operate a solar farm and battery project in the Bungendore community. We will achieve this by:

1. Sharing the financial benefits of the Project with those most impacted and ensuring the success of the benefit sharing programme by making it easy for participants to access and easy for the project owner to administer;
2. Maximising the support of our stakeholders by understanding and addressing their concerns in a genuine way and ensuring the benefits of the Project are not only shared fairly but are aligned to our vision for the Project; and

3. Ensuring the goals of the Project are aligned to the goals of the close-knit Bungendore community and the region and are on-brand for the Project's renewable and regenerative agriculture narrative.

4. Aims

The aim of this Engagement Strategy is to:

- Identify and understand the social impacts of the Project;
- Identify effective methods to inform the community about the Project;
- Effectively communicate the broader goals and objectives of the Project including communication with the community, carbon emissions reduction, and the landowners' continuing agricultural activities;
- Preserve and enhance the Proponent's and the founders' reputations as industry leaders and valued members of the local community, respectively;
- Secure long-term relationships with our community stakeholders;
- Give confidence to the local community that we will deliver on our commitments to them;
- Give confidence to potential investors and future operators of the Project, that the Project has broad community support.

The Engagement Strategy will identify:

- The Project's key community stakeholders;
- The potential social impacts (both positive and negative) arising from the Project for each stakeholder group;
- The consultation strategy for each stakeholder group;
- A set of consultation activities set out against the Project's development timeline.

The Engagement Strategy benefits from having landowners and near-neighbours at the centre of the Project, which will help to deepen our understanding of the needs of local stakeholders and deal effectively with any concerns and potential impacts. This will enhance our ability to anticipate issues and will encourage the community to contribute their thoughts and feedback, safe in the knowledge that these will be received with sensitivity and consideration.

The founders and the Proponent understand that the success of the Project is dependent on the development of genuine, open and ongoing relationships with key stakeholders and the local community. We acknowledge the importance of ensuring that the Project contains "no surprises" for the local community and are committed to developing and nurturing long-term relationships between the Project and all its stakeholders.

5. The main Landholder's vision for the Project

The 'Lakelands' property forms a significant part of the Project site. The owners of this property have shifted their focus over the last two and a half years from pure, intensive farming, toward rehabilitation of the land, rebuilding the soil, sequestering of carbon and to do their part to reduce climate change while improving their land for animal production.

As part of this refocussing, they decided that it makes absolute sense to use marginal country to become renewable energy farmers to keep their family farms sustainable and to use the income to restore ecosystems and better manage the land while maintaining animal production.

6. Project Details

The Project is located just off Currandooley Road, approximately 7km from Bungendore in NSW, between Iberdrola Australia's (previously Infigen Energy) operational Capital Wind Farm and the Bungendore Sands sand and gravel quarry. It is within the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council Local Government Area (LGA) and upon operation, the Project will cover approximately 700 ha of land. It comprises Lots 1 and 2 DP1154765, Lot E DP38379 and Lot 1 DP456698, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4 and 9 DP237079 and Lot 17 DP 535180, held by a total of six landowners.

The Project was conceived by the landholder who saw an opportunity to relocate the Capital Solar Farm without reducing the livestock carrying capacity of the property or disrupting the environmental regeneration programme underway on the 'Lakelands' property. Two key areas of the property were identified to have potential for a solar farm – the eastern side where the approved 50MW Capital Solar Farm was located and the western side, where the Project is currently situated.

Under the Local Environmental Plan (LEP), the Project is located on land zoned as RU1 Primary Production and E3 Environmental Management. Much of the subject land has been extensively cleared of grassland and woody vegetation and has been modified by farming practices, mostly for grazing (cattle) with some cropping and sand mining.

7. Community Profile

Understanding the makeup and values of a community is essential to effective communication and to anticipating how a project may impact the community. This section provides a broad overview of the community demographics in the Queanbeyan-Palerang LGA and the local township of Bungendore.

For information, the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (**SEIFA**) is a suite of indices created by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (**ABS**). The Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage (**IRSAD**) summarises data about economic and social conditions of people and households in an area. Ranking of NSW suburbs and LGAs are used in this report with 1 being most disadvantaged (1st decile) to 2643 being most advantaged (10th decile).

7.1. Bungendore and surrounding region

The locality of Bungendore is situated on the south-eastern shore of Lake George / Weereewa / Lake Ngungara. The Project site is located approximately 7km from the township of Bungendore (population 4,178) and approximately 25km from the township of Tarago (population 426).

Bungendore has grown from 1200 in 2001 to 4,178 in the 2016 census. The growth of population in Bungendore has been underpinned by commuters who work in Canberra who are looking for a village and rural lifestyle. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people made up 2% of the population.

The median age of residents is 38 years, with a slight dominance in male residents at 50.2% (ABS, 2016). Within the locality 2,097 people were employed, either full time or part time as of

2016 with 66.1% currently full-time and 24.2% part-time and 2.9% unemployed. The highest percentage of workers, 20.7% were employed as managers, with 20.3% employed as professionals (ABS, 2016). Other major occupations were clerical and administrative workers, and technicians and trades workers.

The main industry of employment is in Central Government Administration (11.2%) and Defence (8.6%).

The SEIFA score for Bungendore was 1,107.4 in 2016 (ABS, 2016). These indices of wellbeing indicate that the locality has a relatively high standard of living without many social or economic disadvantages (ABS 2016).

7.2. Local Government – Queanbeyan and Palerang LGA

Blind Creek Solar Farm is located in the Queanbeyan-Palerang LGA (population 56,000), which covers an area of 5,319 km² in the Southern Tablelands region of NSW. The LGA is bounded by the Snowy Monaro Regional, Yass Valley, Upper Lachlan, Goulburn Mulwaree, Shoalhaven, and Eurobodalla council areas and by the Australian Capital Territory (**ACT**).

The area was formed in 2016 through a merger of the City of Queanbeyan and Palerang Councils. The 2016 Census indicates a population density of 0.11 persons per hectare. The median age is 38 (ABS, 2016) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders make up 3.1% of the population.

There were 27,691 people employed in the Queanbeyan-Palerang LGA labour force in 2016, 65.6% of which were employed full time and 24.8% part time. The highest percentage of workers (20%) were employed as Professionals, followed by Clerical and Administrative workers (18.3%) (ABS, 2016). Other major occupations included managers, technicians and trade workers and community and personal service workers.

The SEIFA score for the Queanbeyan and Palerang LGA was 1053 in 2016 (ABS, 2016). These indices of wellbeing indicate that the Queanbeyan and Palerang LGA have a relatively high standard of living without many social or economic disadvantages (ABS, 2016).

7.3. State Government

Blind Creek Solar Farm is located in the north-east corner of the Monaro state electorate. Monaro is a rural electorate, covering 20,479.02 km². Major industries in the electorate include retail, tourism, agriculture, Snowy Hydro Electricity generation, Defence, Government Administration and Hospitals. There is currently a vacancy in the electorate following the resignation of John Barilaro, the Deputy Leader of the Nationals (who are in Coalition with the Liberal Party) in October 2021.

7.4. Federal Government

Bungendore is in the bellwether Federal electorate of Eden Monaro, which is currently held by Labor MP, Kristy McBain. Blind Creek Solar Farm sits in the north-east corner of the Eden Monaro electorate which covers an area of 41,617 km².

7.5. Local Indigenous Groups

The Project sits on land with important archaeological heritage. The founders and Proponent have engaged with the local traditional owners and propose to enter discussions to seek input regarding the possibility of creating a 2km² Indigenous Cultural and Heritage Learning Zone between the Project and Lake George / Weereewa / Lake Ngungara for local Indigenous peoples and create an open day to enable local Indigenous groups to educate communities about the local heritage and the lake.

7.6. Local Support Groups for Renewable Energy

- Bungendore Climate Action Group (www.bsfg.org.au)
- Farmers for Climate Action
- Of interest, the local Chamber of Commerce uses an image of the wind farm as their logo and the local supermarket has an image of the wind farm on the supermarket window.

8. Our Approach to Stakeholder Engagement

8.1. Consultation Principles

Best practice consultation involves the relevant community stakeholders and other relevant stakeholders in all decision-making stages of a project (see Section 10 for Local Stakeholder Mapping). The local community stakeholders and other stakeholders and other key stakeholders play a key role from project conception, through the development phase, the assessment process and into the construction and operational phases.

Effective consultation has three important functions:

- To facilitate deeper understanding of potential issues and decisions required for the project;
- To enhance the quality of decisions made for the project; and
- To allow people to contribute to decisions that affect their lives.

Effective consultation includes three important community engagement principles:

- Openness – combats assumptions and misinformation;
- Inclusiveness - consultation should be diverse and representative, not responding only to the most vocal stakeholders;
- Effective communication – requires tools appropriate to the task to build trust between parties. This includes no group emails. Treat each member of the community as individuals and phone or send personal emails.

The communication strategy must identify what the project is fully about, in order to:

- Inform: one-way communication to deliver information about the project;
- Consult: two-way communication to seek input into the project;
- Collaborate and seek participation in elements of the project design and implementation;
- Early rather than late communication - to maximise engagement opportunities; and
- Accountability – monitoring and evaluation to ensure consultation aims are being achieved.

This Engagement Strategy has been developed in accordance with the best practice guidelines from the Victorian Renewable Energy Target (VRET) auction scheme¹ and the Clean Energy Council's Guide to Benefit Sharing². It has also been informed by:

- *Community and Stakeholder Engagement Guideline 2017*, NSW Department of Industry, Planning and Environment;
- *Community Engagement in the NSW Planning System 2003*, Planning NSW³
- *Community Guide to EIA 2017*. NSW Department of Industry, Planning and Environment;
- *Community Consultative Committee Guideline 2019*, NSW Department of Industry, Planning and Environment⁴;
- *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*, NSW Government⁵;
- *Beyond Public Meetings: Connecting community engagement with decision making*, Twyford Consulting 2007;
- *Renewable Energy Landholder Guide*, NSW Farmers⁶; and
- *Social Impact Assessment Guidelines for State Significant Projects*⁷.

8.2. COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has inevitably affected community consultation during the feasibility and planning phases of the Project, due largely to social the distancing requirements of Federal and State governments and limitations on gatherings. These requirements have been constantly changing and as such, we have had to adapt the format and location of consultation, for example to hold meetings outdoors or virtually to comply with requirements at the time or accommodate community members who may not have wanted face to face meetings.

These challenges have been overcome to a large degree through adopting the alternative means and technologies for undertaking community consultation:

- Socially distanced face to face meetings
- Zoom meetings
- Online Community Information Sessions
- Phone calls
- Emails and texts
- Small group events

¹ <https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/renewable-energy/vret2>

² <https://assets.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/documents/advocacy-initiatives/community-engagement/guide-to-benefit-sharing-options-for-renewable-energy-projects.pdf>

³ <https://www.communityplanningtoolkit.org/sites/default/files/CommunityEngagementHandbookNewSouthWales.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Assess-and-Regulate/Development-Assessment/Community-Consultative-Committees>

⁵ <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/commconsultation/09781ACHconsultreq.pdf>

⁶ https://www.nswfarmers.org.au/NSWFA/Content/IndustryPolicy/Resource/Renewable_Energy_Landholder_Guide.aspx

⁷ <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Under-review-and-new-Policy-and-Legislation/Social-Impact-Assessment>

- Larger community sessions when allowed

9. BCSF Engagement Strategy

The founders and Proponent have a genuine connection to the Bungendore township and broader farming community. The approach to consultation for the Project has been and will continue to be upfront, authentic and responsive in order to:

- Foster a transparent and open approach to the development of Blind Creek Solar Farm and ensure 'no surprises' for the local community;
- Keep the community and stakeholders informed about the Project through the provision of accurate and factual project information;
- Identify and address community and stakeholder concerns and maintain transparency in the project design, implementation, and ongoing operations;
- Involve stakeholders and community regarding key decisions and milestones; and
- Observe COVID-19 requirements.

9.1. Our values

We have a clear set of values and beliefs that underpin and guide our community and stakeholder consultation work (see Table 1).

Table 1: Our beliefs and values

Integrity	Commitment	Best Practice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is our founders' and landowners' community. We will operate with integrity and work with partners who abide by the same rules. We value our community and our stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We uphold our commitments, both internal and external. • We ensure there are genuine, tangible benefits for the community. • We ensure that the community is genuinely informed. • We respect our local relationships and friendships regardless of individuals' support for the Project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We put landholders and the community at the centre of our projects. • We endeavour to apply the least carbon intensive methods in all elements of development and construction.

9.2. Public Participation Spectrum

Our approach to engaging stakeholders is informed by the International Association for Public Participation Spectrum which identifies five levels of public participation (see Table 2Table 2).

9.2.1.

Table 2: Spectrum for stakeholder participation in research.

This table has been adapted from the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) spectrum of public participation in decision making⁸

	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
Community engagement objective	- Provide balanced and objective information to assist the community in understanding all aspects of the Project, including possible problems/issues	- Obtain feedback from the community on strategies, options and/or decisions	- Work directly with the community throughout all stages of the Project - ensure community concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered	- Partner with the community in each aspect of strategizing, development and decision-making, including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution	- Community to lead the development of the renewable energy Project and place decision-making in the hands of the community
Promise to community	- Keep the community informed through all stages of development, including issues and delays	- Keep the community informed - Listen and acknowledge suggestions and concerns - provide feedback on how input influenced the decision	- Work with the community to ensure concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed - provide feedback on how input influenced the decision	- Look to the community for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions incorporate advice and recommendations into decisions to the maximum extent possible	- Implement what the community decides

⁸ Lane, T. and J. Hicks (2017) Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing in Renewable Energy Development: A Guide for Applicants to the Victorian Renewable Energy Target Auction. Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Victorian Government, Melbourne.

<p>Community engagement outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Securing a good site to install the renewable energy facility - Gaining strategy permission - Meeting compliance regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimising objections effectively managing complaints - Good stakeholder relations - A level of community awareness and trust in the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long-term, broad, local social acceptance and knowledge of the Project - strengthened local relationships and trust - local advocates for renewable energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broad community participation, support and awareness - Some sense of local ownership - Greater community benefit and strong local relationships and trust - Timely development and easier strategizing approval some sharing of benefits beyond investors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Benefit sharing program tailored to the local context harness the skills and capital of the community - Upskill community members to manage the Project
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10. Local Project Impacts

We recognise the Project will have visual and practical impacts on some of our neighbours. We have marked out those individuals and groups we believe to be most impacted by the Project either through construction or visual concerns post construction and believe those most impacted should share in the financial benefits of the Project. These are outlined below as stakeholder groups 1-4.

Table 3: Local Stakeholder Mapping

Stakeholder	Possible concerns	Level of Engagement
Stakeholder Group 1: Close neighbours plus visual impact	Visual, land values, farming country, glare, construction, traffic.	Seek input to the Project. Consult and involve. Keep informed about key changes to the Project and seek their feedback to these changes. Welcome on site to understand location and the Project and meet as required. Provide Founders mobile number. Include in CBSS.
Stakeholder Group 2: Neighbours 2.7km Residential Estate	Visual, glare, land values, farming country, construction, traffic.	Seek input to the Project. Keep informed about key changes to the Project and seek their feedback to these changes. Welcome on site to understand location and the Project and meet as required. Provide Founders mobile number. Include in CBSS.
Stakeholder Group 3: Neighbours 5km+ on low lying road opposite lake with visual impact	Visual, glare, land values, farming country.	Seek input to the Project. Keep informed about key changes to the Project and seek their feedback to these changes. Welcome on site to understand location and the Project and meet as required. Provide Founders mobile number. Include in CBSS.
Stakeholder Group 4: Neighbours <6-7km on two specific roads on ridge with visual impact	Visual, glare, land values, farming country.	Seek input to the Project. Keep informed about key changes to the Project and seek their feedback to these changes. Welcome on site to understand location and the Project and meet as required. Provide Founders mobile number. Include in CBSS.
Proximity stakeholders – no view	Land values, farming country, construction.	Keep informed of Project. Invite to open days. Seek feedback. Welcome on site and meet if requested.
Indigenous community	Loss of culture and heritage, archaeological matters.	Welcome on site to understand location and the Project. Include in the CBSS. Seek input on CBSS and potential for Indigenous people working on Project. Seek input for other opportunities.
Queanbeyan Palerang Council and Councillors	Negative community feedback, construction issues.	Welcome Councillors and Council on site to understand the location and the Project. Present to Councillors and Council as required. Keep informed of Project milestones. Seek feedback on the Project. Keep informed of community reaction. Negotiate VPA.
Wider community	May be concerned about distant view of solar farm. Not interested in renewable energy. Concerned about increased pressure on township.	Engage early. Keep informed of milestones and approval process. Invite to open days. Ensure community knows how to provide feedback and to register for jobs and provision of services.

	Concerned about local traffic. Concerned that locals won't benefit from jobs and provision of services.	
Rural Fire Services	Bushfire management	Engage early to seek input and feedback to the Project. Keep informed of Project milestones. Welcome on site to understand the location and the Project.
Local business community	Concern that opportunities for local service providers are not available.	Keep informed of the Project and Project milestones. Invite to Open Days and to register as interested in providing services. Ensure information about opportunities is posted on website and utilise local media. Utilise other local channels such as Chamber of Commerce to keep service providers and businesses informed.
Local job seekers	Opportunities to work on BCSF	Keep informed of the Project and Project milestones via website, local media and social media channels. Invite to Open Days and to register as interested in working on BCSF.
Local mine	Concerned about dust impacting solar farm and resulting in complaints.	Keep informed of Project milestones.

10.1. Local Stakeholder Summary

We have assessed the following groups as key stakeholders who have been identified according to their proximity to or visual impact from the Project or for their potential to have other concerns regarding the Project. A tailored strategy will be developed for each group at key steps throughout the Project. Each will be treated as a separate entity to identify issues, seek their feedback and input, and where relevant, include this in the Engagement Strategy.

10.1.1. Stakeholder Group 1

This group includes one immediate neighbour with no residence (approximately 300m), two farms (one with a residence and one with no residence) within 1.5km of the Project and one farm with residence within 3.8km with an elevated view of the Project. The Founders have been in discussions with this group of landholders.

10.1.2. Stakeholder Group 2

This group is a residential development 2.7km and further from the Project. The southern portion has no view of the Project. The natural landscape blocks a view of the Project from all but two residences. The two residences with a view of the Project are on the north-eastern corner of the estate and will have a broken visual impact from 2.7km. While we have assessed that there will be minimal visual impact for this residential community, the Founders have been working with the Community Committee who manage the Estate Community Association of the residential development to keep them informed about the Project, understand their concerns, and seek their input as to the best use of the contribution amount (e.g., to a community project). Possible options include fixing an existing bore, a new kitchen and toilet for the community hall, landscaping, tree planting and fixed BBQ for the common paddock. We will encourage the

committee to ensure the funds are spent locally to ensure the benefits flow back into town. This group is likely to be the most impacted during construction.

10.1.3. Stakeholder Group 3

This stakeholder group resides on the low-lying western side of Weereewa / Lake Ngungara / Lake George between 5 and 7km west of the Project. We believe there are 16 relevant residences in this group and the Founders have been in discussion with these residences. Some will have no view; some will have a partial view, and some will have a larger view at a low level across the valley. After consultation was undertaken two further residences have been added to this group bringing the number to 18 residences. The founders are currently in discussion with these two further residences to ensure they understand the Project location, details, and the planning process.

10.1.4. Stakeholder Group 4

This group comprises relevant residences between 6 and 7km from the Project on two specific roads with a view from the escarpment. Some of these residences sit at the top of the escarpment and directly overlook the proposed site for the solar farm. To date we believe there are 16 relevant residences in this group with a minimal to significant view. The Founders have been in discussion with these residences.

10.1.5. Proximity Stakeholders with no visibility of the Project

This group comprises landholders and residences in the vicinity of the proposed Project whom we have assessed as not being impacted by the operational development but may be impacted during construction. The Founders have been in discussion with the Proximity stakeholders.

10.1.6. Wider Bungendore Community

This group includes the Bungendore township, which is 7km from the Project, plus community groups such as the Rural Fire Service (RFS), local council, local State and Federal politicians. Funds will be provided to this Group from the Project's CBSS for sustainable agriculture, environmental restoration, and community building.

10.1.7. Local Indigenous Community

This group includes the Indigenous Groups who identify themselves as interested parties during the archaeology process. The Founders are also talking with Elders from the Ngambri Land Council and Ngunnawal Group.

10.1.8. Local Business Community

This group includes local businesses that could profit or be impacted by the construction of Blind Creek Solar Farm. They include the local hardware and rural supplies businesses, motels, hotels, AirBnbs, cafes, restaurants, mechanics, surveyors, electrical engineers, civil contractors, supermarket, petrol station etc in the Bungendore, Tarago, Queanbeyan, Braidwood, Goulburn region.

10.1.9. Rural Fire Services

This includes the Boro / Mount Fairy Rural Fire Services, Bungendore Rural Fire Services, Taylor's Creek Fire Services. BCSF Founders have met with these Rural Fire Services.

11. Community Benefit Sharing Scheme

The Founders and the Proponent feel strongly that those most impacted by the Project should share in its benefits. While this is not a requirement of the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (**DPIE**) we feel it is important to recognise the impact the Project will have on the community and to continue to be a good neighbour. The CBSS will ensure benefits are shared in a meaningful and equitable way with those most impacted by the Project as well as the wider community.

Wherever possible recipients of the CBSS will be encouraged to spend the funds in town to ensure the money keeps circulating through the community, to address the challenges of landscape restoration, climate change, sustainable agricultural production, and community resilience.

Based on a 350MW Project the CBSS will allow key stakeholders and the community to share up to \$3.5m over the lifetime of the Project, depending on whether the funds are spent up front or over the Project lifetime. This will scale up or down depending on the size of the Project.

12. Employment & Economic Opportunities

The founders and the Proponent are committed to making sure the opportunities and revenue from the Project stay local. To ensure these goals are met once the Project receives its Development Approval (**DA**), we will develop a specific communications and engagement strategy which more broadly will:

- Work with the local job networks, Indigenous Job Network, Bungendore, Tarago and Queanbeyan Chambers of Commerce (or equivalent) to identify opportunities for local business involvement and local employment in the construction and operation of the Project and encourage potential employees, services and suppliers to sign up to the e-news;
- Identify opportunities for Indigenous participation and employment in the construction and operation of the Project and where appropriate develop an Indigenous Participation Strategy;
- Encourage women to apply for roles on the Project;
- Utilise the CBSS to share benefits to the wider community by encouraging local rural businesses to register as approved suppliers to the Project;
- Hold an employment and business opportunities community networking meeting, prior to the construction phase, to discuss accommodation, jobs, cafes, services and to register those interested in participating;
- Promote participating businesses on the website; and
- Develop case studies and media releases promoting businesses and individuals working on the Project.

13. Indigenous Consultation & Engagement Strategy

Weereewa / Lake Ngungara / Lake George is of cultural significance to the Ngunnawal/ Ngunawal, Ngambri and other First Nations people. The Founders of Blind Creek Solar Farm are committed to genuine engagement with the First Nations people and will:

- Engage early with the relevant Indigenous communities to discuss opportunities to work together;
- If the Project proceeds, the landholder is interested in working with local Indigenous groups to create a 2km² cultural and heritage zone near the lake known in the EIS report as the Indigenous Cultural and Heritage Learning Zone. This will assist with the intergenerational transfer of cultural knowledge;
- Work with Indigenous Elders to create capacity building in jobs of the future for the Ngunnawal/Ngunawal and Ngambri communities through employment, education, and training - priority jobs on the solar farm for Indigenous workers and university graduates.
- Ensure consultation with Traditional Owners is consistent, culturally appropriate, and effective.

14. Timeline, Communications activities & Implementation Plan

A phased approach will guide the implementation of the Engagement Strategy throughout each of the key Project stages, as shown in Table 4 below. Each phase will require a tailored communication roll-out to communicate milestones and channels for input and feedback from the community. This will be expanded as the Project evolves.

Table 4: Phases of the Engagement Strategy

Phase No.	Description
One	(Pre-SEARS) Introduce the Project team, Project size and location, explain the planning process for Major Projects, introduce the concept of the CBSS, launch website and 1800 number.
Two	(Following issuance of the SEARS and during EIS preparation) Advise that the SEARS has been received by key local stakeholders, hold initial discussions regarding the CBSS. (During Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) preparation phase) Present the CBSS, update core stakeholders on Project studies, receive feedback. Hold an open day, stakeholder meetings and site visits for key stakeholders prior to lodgement of EIS and DA application.
Three	(DA application and exhibition phase) Hold an open day during the Project's exhibition period.

Four	(Following granting of the DA) Keep stakeholders informed of what's happening on the Project via the website. Pre-construction phase job strategy and construction briefing for stakeholders.
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Table 5: Phase One - Pre-SEARs

Date	Stakeholders	Action	Toolkit	Status
Mid-November 2020	Wider community Stakeholder groups 1-4 Key stakeholders including RFS, Council, Businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advise the community of the proposed Project and the process for NSW Major Projects. - Approach neighbours and stakeholders in anticipation of early December lodgement of scoping report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visual mapping - Website - FAQs - environment / outputs - Info on jobs - Media releases - 1800 number - email - Presentations 	Complete
Feb 2021	Stakeholder Groups 1-4	Advise key stakeholders of publication of SEARS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Email / text - Website address 	Complete

Table 6: Phase Two – Post SEARS – EIS Preparation

Date	Stakeholder	Action	Toolkit	Status
April-May 2021	Key Stakeholder Groups 1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On-site meetings for key stakeholder groups and discussion sessions. - Present CBSS to close neighbours and individual stakeholder groups to explain results of early studies and update proposed layout. - Seek feedback and input to the Project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CBSS Presentations and Project update - Feedback and input mechanism - Visual mapping images 	Complete
April - Dec	Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting with Council to discuss Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CBSS presentation - Website 	Underway
April - Dec	Indigenous groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussions with Indigenous groups to discuss opportunities for Indigenous communities to participate in the Project and CBSS for employment opportunities and cultural projects. - Continue discussions throughout the year. 		Underway
October 2021	Wider community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On-line Community Information Sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project history - Environmental studies 	October 2021

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two online community information sessions during Covid lockdown to keep the community informed of progress and enable feedback opportunity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refocusing our farm - Agri Solar - Project elements - Application Process - Renewable energy prod - Visual images - CBSS - Job & local economy - Regen info - Biodiversity info - Tree planting info - Soil studies - Lamb production Carbon sequestration 	
Dec 2021	New Councillors	<p>Council elections during December 2021. Brief new Councillors on Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invite on site. 	<p>All new Councillors have been emailed about the Project.</p> <p>Presentation with key details at end of March 2022.</p>	Underway
Nov – Dec 2021	Wider community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Open Days - Series of on-site open days to inform stakeholder groups and local community of project progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Website - Posters detailing Project plus imagery of views from key viewpoints and location and layout maps. - Feedback form - E-news Media releases 	Complete
Dec 2021 – Mar 2022	Indigenous community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CBSS / Indigenous Cultural and Heritage Learning Zone. Continue discussions with Indigenous groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Phone calls - Site visit - Meetings 	Underway

Table 7: Phase Three - Development Application & Exhibition Period

Date	Stakeholder	Action	Toolkit	Status
Expected Mar-Apr 2022	Stakeholder Groups 1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Email to advise we have submitted our EIS and how that process works. - Phone call or meeting to discuss project with anyone who requests further information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Email 	Not yet commenced

Expected Mar-Apr 2022	Wider community Council Other Key stakeholders Stakeholders Groups 1-4 Indigenous Groups Local Business community	- Community Open Day	- Project information - Site location and layout - Environmental studies - Visual analysis - Proposed landscaping - Traffic and access information - Construction timeline - Job & local economy info - Regen info - Biodiversity info - Soil studies - Agri-solar information - Carbon sequestration	Not yet commenced
Expected Mar-Apr 2022	Wider community Council Key stakeholders Stakeholders Groups 1-4 Indigenous Groups Local Business community	- Media information - Results of studies - CBSS - Jobs, contractor and economic opportunities - Environmental benefits	- Website - E-news - Media releases	
Througho ut 2022	Indigenous Elders	- Continue discussions with Indigenous Elders regarding the Project and the CBSS funds for Indigenous Cultural and Heritage Learning Zone.	- Phone calls - Meetings - Site visits	Not yet commenced
Througho ut 2022	Local businesses	- Engage with Chamber of Commerce - Bungendore - - Queanbeyan business community - Tarago Progress Group	- Email - Presentation	Not yet commenced

Table 8: Phase Four - Pre-construction and Construction

Date	Stakeholder	Action	Toolkit	Status
	Local businesses and regional business community	- Briefing for locals interested in jobs on BCSF.	- Visual mapping - Job database - Website - FAQs	Not yet commenced

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - environment / outputs - Info on jobs - Media releases - 1800 number - email - Presentations 	
	Indigenous community	- Advise Indigenous communities to register for potential job opportunities.	- Phone calls / email / Website address	Not yet commenced
	Local services, hotels, cafes, etc	- Develop a list of local services interested in providing services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specific page on website - E- news - Promote local services to BCSF construction team. 	Not yet commenced
	Wider community	- Develop Project timeline for local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Media release in local paper - Website to include all construction info including complaints and feedback process, contact details and form. - 	Not yet commenced
	Project briefing for local residences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protocols for construction period. - How to report complaints and provide feedback. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community meeting and e-news to residents - 1800 number - Website to include all construction info including complaints and feedback process, contact details and form. 	Not yet commenced
	Key stakeholders including RFS, Council	- Arrange briefing if required	- Presentation	Not yet commenced

15. Issue Management

A set of project-specific issues and risks to maximising community engagement in the Project have been identified below in Table 9. These issues pose potential risks to the effective identification and mitigation of impacts important to the community and ultimately, to achieving social licence to operate from the community. Objections relating to solar projects have been researched and information relating to these concerns will be provided in presentations, via the website, media releases, newspaper advertisements and incorporated into other communication activities.

Table 9: Risks and strategies

Issue	Risks	Strategies
Covid-19	Community could be distracted by Covid concerns.	Ensure important information regarding the Project relevant to Stakeholder Groups 1-4 is communicated directly via phone or email. Ensure messages communicated with wider community are repeated and available via a range of channels.
Covid-19	Lockdown prevents meaningful and timely interaction with community and key stakeholders.	When necessary, adapt communications to utilise online communication tools such as zoom. For onsite meetings or meetings at stakeholder residence ensure social distancing and Q code check in when required to ensure community feels safe. Maintain access to online information via website and through local media outlet.
The project may define / overwhelm the locality.	Potential to polarise the community. They may not feel that the project reflects their values. The scale of the project may overwhelm the existing local character.	Early and easily accessible distribution of information about the project and its specific justification and benefits, particularly material about the role of solar energy in the country's energy mix, the technology, and its impacts. Photomontages will be provided for visualisation to assist the understanding of the proposal and actual versus perceived impacts. Seek direct input into how the project may reflect the community's 'personality' and values. How the benefits of the project may be spread to the local community. Clear communication of key environmental impacts and mitigation strategies of the project. Offer direct contact with the proposal's Founders.
Spread of misinformation / feel left out of engagement	Rural residences can be difficult to contact and word of mouth travels very fast in small communities. Feel left out, disengaged, misinformed.	Early direct communication to local community – adjacent landowners first, near neighbours second, then the wider community. Multiple means to identify all relevant residences undertaken – mapping, Council, engagement with other members of the community. It can be difficult to locate all residences and contact all landowners.

Issue	Risks	Strategies
Lack of support for the project	Lack of interest, leading to low levels of public support. Community could be against the project due to unaddressed concerns.	<p>Early and easily accessible distribution of information including but not limited to the project's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • justification and benefits as well as community benefits; • environmental and social impacts and mitigation strategies; and • community relationship strategies. <p>Create a clear and trusted communication channel exclusively for the community to provide comments.</p> <p>Make participation easy and effective so that everyone within the community is heard and their comments taken into consideration.</p> <p>Ensure all concerns are addressed and distributed; and informed when these are available for the community.</p> <p>Be creative – seek support for renewable energy by demonstrating how benefits can be contributed to the local and community level, including with special interest groups and local businesses.</p>
The approvals process can be long and complex.	<p>Perception that the process is too difficult to become involved in.</p> <p>Suspicion that input will not be valued.</p> <p>Overly technical information provided, use of jargon.</p>	<p>Clearly illustrate approvals process.</p> <p>Clearly define opportunities for community input including what is required and when it is required.</p> <p>Communicate back, identifying where input has been used.</p> <p>Reinforce this at each relevant stage for community input – pre lodgement, during public exhibition etc.</p> <p>Key achievements will be identified early and celebrated.</p>
Distrust in environmental assessment process.	Distrust of impact identification and mitigation strategies.	<p>Make participation easy and effective so that everyone within the community is heard and their comments taken into consideration.</p> <p>Provide a logical and/or evidence based plain English explanation on how impacts will be mitigated.</p> <p>Establish credentials of assessment team and owners of the development. Present these in the EIS and in newsletters etc.</p>

Issue	Risks	Strategies
Representative	<p>Risk of biased consultation, serving only the 'squeaky wheel'.</p> <p>Sections of the community may be "overpowered" and may be marginalised.</p>	<p>Ensure community consultation representative possess appropriate training and understands the execution of public forums. This strategy is aimed to provide the community with a polite and outstanding social skills person representing the proposal.</p> <p>Ensure community is engaged in a polite and "at same level" manner; and in a forum that minimises risk of groups mismanagement or debate being side-tracked.</p> <p>Follow up with smaller groups where required.</p> <p>Use established social (and media) channels in distribution of materials, i.e. company website, newsletter, local newspaper or notice board, direct messaging, sport clubs.</p>
Unified message	Differing messages may create confusion and mistrust.	<p>Create a clear and trusted communication channel exclusively for the community to provide comments.</p> <p>Prepare concise, detailed and direct messages in plain English that are clearly set out for use rather than reinventing it for each consultation activity.</p>
Unequal distribution of benefits	Residents close to the development are likely to feel more strongly.	Identification of stakeholder groups should reflect differences in perceived impacts.

16. Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure the implementation of this Engagement Strategy is effective, and adapts as required to new information, the following review actions will be undertaken by the Proponent alongside the implementation activities.

- The communications manager will review this plan regularly.
- Keep an accurate record of all feedback from consultation activities and all correspondence with the community.
- Monitor regularly and respond promptly to email and phone queries.
- Monitor if the activities are reaching a diverse and representative section of the community. Subject to the monitoring results, consider if new activities need to be implemented.
- Ensure that all project related information and updates have been shared with:
 - the team developing the detailed project description;
 - the team managing information channels including, social media, website, hotline, etc.

17. Complaints process

A complaints process will be developed for the construction phase and in consideration of recommendations from publications by the National Wind Farm Commissioner.

D.3 Summary of activities and results

1. Consultation requirements

The SEARs issued by DPIE for the Project require the Proponent to consult with relevant local, State or Commonwealth Government authorities, infrastructure and service providers, community groups, affected landowners, exploration licence holders, quarry operators and mineral title holders during the preparation of the EIS. In particular, detailed consultation with affected landowners surrounding the development and Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC) is required. The EIS is required to describe the consultation, identify the issues raised, and explain how the issues have been addressed in the EIS.

The Proponent has undertaken consultation with the local community during the planning of the Project, in line with the Australian Renewable Energy Agency's (ARENA's) *Establishing the social licence to operate large scale solar facilities in Australia: insights from social research for industry* (ARENA n.d.). Consultation activities were informed by *The Social Impact Assessment Guidelines* (2021), *Beyond Public Meetings: Connecting community engagement with decision making* (Twyford Consulting, 2007), *Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline for State Significant Development* (NSW Government, 2018) and *Large-scale solar energy guideline for state significant development December 2018* (NSW Government, 2018). Although the Proponent is not bound by the SIA Guidelines issued by the DPIE for State Significant Project they were a guiding tool in considering the communications and social impacts. The consultation process was coordinated using a Community Consultation Plan which is discussed below.

2. Summary of engagement

As members of the local community, the Founders of BCSF have undertaken extensive consultation with their near neighbours and residents with a possible visual impact up to 7km. This has included:

- Face to face meetings and presentations
- On site visits, presentations and discussion sessions
- Emails, texts, telephone calls
- BCSF project website
- Dedicated freecall number
- Dedicated email address
- Media releases
- Online Community Information Sessions
- Open Days
- Specific stakeholder group on site meetings and discussion sessions

The interactions with each stakeholder group and their feedback are outlined below in tables and highlights the timing and scope of the interactions. The BCSF website www.blindcreeksolarfarm.com.au was launched in December 2020 a month prior to receiving SEARs. The website includes the following information:

- Project overview
- About BCSF
- Approval Process
- Study Area
- Founder / Farmer statement
- Agri-solar
- Contact information
- Benefits to local economy
- Community consultation
- Sharing the benefits
- Glare & Reflection Executive Summary
- News articles
- FAQ
- Event Register

2.1 Summary of Information days held

All stakeholder groups 1-4 have an open invitation to visit BCSF site to ensure they understand the location. Individuals in stakeholder groups have the email address and contact information for the Founder / Landholder. In addition, specific presentations and on-site visits have been organised for stakeholder groups to ensure they understand the Project, the site and the development application process.

Stakeholder Group	Date
Wider community and all stakeholder groups	<p>Online Community Information Sessions during Covid lockdown: 2 x online community information sessions during Covid lockdown 10 and 11 October 2021.</p> <p>Open Days: The initial open day on 13 November 2021 was washed out. The people who expressed interest to attend the Open Day were given three further opportunities to attend another Open Day on Nov 18, 19, and Dec 12.</p>
Stakeholder Group 1	<p>On site meeting and discussion 10 Dec 2020</p> <p>On site meeting and discussion 14 April 2021</p>
Stakeholder Group 2	<p>Presentation to Stakeholder Group 25 Nov 2020</p> <p>Presentation to Stakeholder Group 16 May 2021</p>
Stakeholder Group 3	<p>Presentation to community on 23 November 2020</p> <p>On site visit and discussion session 29 May 2021</p> <p>On site visit and discussion session 3 December 2021</p>
Stakeholder Group 4	<p>On site visit and discussion session 30 May 2021</p>

2.2 Summary of engagement with Indigenous community

In addition to consultation undertaken with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) in accordance with Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW 2010) as part of the Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment the following consultation was carried out: (Names of Indigenous Representatives can be supplied)

Date	Activity
7 April 2021 - Nov 2021	<p>BCSF founder spoke with Buru Ngunnawal Elder to discuss BCSF and arrange a site visit. Follow up emails were sent to discuss the potential for closing off a 2 km² area identified as having Indigenous heritage and creating an Indigenous Cultural and Heritage Learning Zone (ICHLZ) and Open Day to allow Indigenous Elders to educate Indigenous communities and the local community of Bungendore and school children about the area and to invite input and ideas into the project.</p> <p>The area is between the proposed edge of the solar farm and Weereewa / Lake Ngungara / Lake George. This will provide access to the lake from the eastern shore for the first time in over 150 years for Indigenous peoples and for the wider community.</p>
Jul 2021	<p>The Founder engaged a local Indigenous man who grew up on the property to intern during the archaeological studies. He has since worked on other archaeological digs in the region and has recorded the Welcome To Country for</p>

Date	Activity
Oct 2021	the BCSF Project.
22 July & 30 July 2021	Discussions with Yuin Representative about the Indigenous Cultural and Heritage Learning Zone.
27 July 2021	Discussion with Didge Ngunnawal Representative regarding the Indigenous Cultural and Heritage Learning Zone.
28 July 2021	BCSF Founder discussed with Thunderstone Elder regarding the Indigenous Cultural and Heritage Learning Zone.
28 July 2021	Discussion with Ngambri Aboriginal Land Council Representative about BCSF site and potential Cultural Learning Zone.
6 August 2021	Discussion with another Ngambri Aboriginal Land Council Representative about BCSF site and potential Indigenous Cultural and Heritage Learning Zone.
13 August 2021	Emailed Indigenous Elders inviting them to visit and discussion about cultural heritage and Indigenous jobs on BCSF.
19 August 2021	Conversation with Buru Ngunnawal Elder about cultural history of the lake and inviting him to visit.
18 October 2021	Conversation with Ngambri Aboriginal Land Council CEO about BCSF site and inviting further conversation and input to Indigenous Cultural and Heritage Learning Zone.
9 November 2021	Emailed Ngambri Aboriginal Land Council CEO to follow up on conversation and invite her to visit BCSF.
13 Dec 2021	BCSF Founder met Thunderstone Elder regarding the Indigenous Cultural and Heritage Learning Zone and other potential opportunities for Indigenous involvement on BCSF.

2.3 Summary of engagement with wider Bungendore community

Community Benefit Sharing Scheme (CBSS): The wider Bungendore community is included in the CBSS via a Voluntary Planning Agreement payment to QPRC which is intended to provide \$1,235,000 towards the construction of the new community swimming pool.

Date	Activity
16 Dec 2020	Media release published in local newspaper Regional Independent announcing local landholder solar Project and website, Freecall number, email address. Map of location of solar included in newspaper article. (5700 printed with copies distributed to outlying homes in region weekly) (See Attachment 1)
29 Sept 2021	Media release and advertisement in Bungendore Regional Independent promoting online community information sessions and outlining information about glint and glare analysis. (See Attachment 2)
29 Sept 2021	Advertisement in local newspaper Regional Independent promoting online community information sessions. (See Attachment 3)
6 Oct 2021	Media release and advertisement in Bungendore Regional Independent promoting online community information sessions and outlining information about glint and glare analysis. (See Attachment 4 & 5)
10 Oct 2021	17 attendees at the online community session. See feedback and responses below
11 Oct 2021	10 attendees at the online community information session
Wk 1 Nov	Flyer drop to 2000 residents promoting Open Day and how to find more information about BCSF. (See Attachment 6)
3 Nov	¼ page advertisement in Regional Independent promoting Open Day on 13 November (See Attachment 7)
6 Nov	Online newsletter to subscribers to promote Open Day (See Attachment 8)
10 Nov	¼ page advertisement in Regional Independent promoting Open Day on 13 November (See Attachment 9)
13 Nov	Open Day (on hold due to flooding). Email sent to all those who RSVP'd informing them as soon as the creek was open they could come

Date	Activity
	and visit at a time to suit them the following week. 20 local residents expressed interest in attending the open day.
19 & 20 Nov & 12 Dec	<p>Anyone who replied to say they would like to attend the Open Day on 13 Nov was invited to come 19, 20 Nov or 12 December. Of the 20 who RSVP'd they would like to attend the Open Day 21 people attended. The others have an open invitation to come and see the site at a time to suit them. Information for Open Day included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refocusing Our farm For The Future - Solar Panels, Pasture & Lambs - The Project - Elements of the Project Agri-solar and battery storage, substation - Panel area and transmission lines - Impact Studies - Archaeology - Glare and reflection analysis - Bushfire Management - Planning Process - Environmental Benefits - Circular Economy - Local is our Priority - Community Consultation - Community Benefit Sharing Scheme - Visual Analysis images from 3 key areas

3. Results received

3.1 Online Community Information Session

During Covid lockdown two online community information sessions were held for the local community and stakeholder groups on 10 and 11 October. The online sessions were advertised in the local media via media release which ran over two weeks and two advertisements as well as emails to key stakeholder groups. The results of a survey at the end of the session on 10 October showed: I'm interested to know more about:

- Agrisolar aspects of the Project	20.7%
- Jobs and local economy	14.2%
- Community Benefit Share Scheme	10.3%
- Biodiversity studies	10.3%
- I have enough information	10.3%
- Location and visual aspects	10.3%
- Renewable energy	6.8%
- Glare	6.8%
- Bushfires	6.8%
- Archaeology & heritage	3.45%

3.2 Online Community Information Session Questions

Following is a list of questions received during the Q&A sessions 10 and 11 October 2021

1. Where is the Currandooley airstrip?
2. Will development include a road upgrade to accommodate extra vehicles?
3. Would security lighting include LEDs and on all night?
4. Can you talk about the spacing of the panels and how that works with sheep?
5. If approved, when do you anticipate commencement of construction and how long will it take?
6. What will happen with CBSS payments if the Project goes bust?
7. How much disturbance will there be in the panel area and will you account for the lost carbon?
8. Can you share infrastructure with the wind farm?
9. It sounds like an excellent positive Project. Can you think of any reason why the gov would not approve it?
10. Could this Project be impacted by RESs?

3.3 Comments post Q&A sessions

Hello Osborne family. Thank you for your very impressive and informative presentation of your proposed solar farm. Our family have lived at ... for 25 years and have been very happy here. Wishing you great success. (Bungendore).

I thought that it was presented very professionally. Everyone spoke really well and it flowed nicely. Each speaker and what they presented was well timed (ie, not too much or too little info) except the only thing I thought was a bit vague was the actual impact it will have ie, it's a lot bigger project than I imagined and hard to fathom the proposed size of it. I thought the length of the presentation was just right and having question time at the end was good. Good luck with the proposal! 😊 (Bungendore resident)

Great work team. Very informative and nicely run session. (Bungendore Resident)

3.4 Comments received from Open Days

An open day was widely promoted by mail box drop to local residents in town and in the outlying areas (2000 leaflets) plus two quarter page advertisements in the local paper and a subscriber newsletter (See Attachments 5,6,7, 8). Because of on-going rain and creek flooding at the entrance to the property interested residents were asked to RSVP via the website or send an email so that we could advise them of flooding and arrange a separate suitable time to visit the site. The initial Open Day on 13 November was flooded. All residents who RSVP'd to say they were interested in attending were emailed and offered several alternative dates on 19, 20 November and 12 December to attend an Open Day. In total, 21 residents attended the open day.

Comments on feedback forms from Open Day 19 & 20 November 2021 and 12 December 2021

1. B B. Lives 0-3km

*Strongly support. Great benefits for the local community. Sustainable. Best of success for the future. Brings hope for the planet. *

2. A.W. Lives 5-10km

I most like the holistic approach you have taken that you have thought about and included all the things listed above.

3. A.H. Lives 5-10km

Think it is a good step towards a more sustainable future.

4. A.C. Lives 5-10km

No concerns. I believe aspects of concern have been addressed eg. glare/visibility/archeology. Looks a great project. Renewable energy and farming benefits.

5. P.S. Lives 10-15km

No concerns.

6. C.W. Lives 0-3km

No concerns

7. Anon. Lives 0-3km

No concerns

8. Took the form home and said he would post a response.

9. Anon. 5-10km

No concerns.

10. A.B. 5-10km

No concerns

11. A.B. Lives 3-5km

No concerns great project

12. J.M. 10-15km

No concerns

13. R.B. 3-5km

All looks fantastic

14. Anon 5-10km

No concerns

15. M.M. 10-15km

No concerns

16. J.A. Lives 10-15km

No concerns

17. E.A. Lives 10-15km

No concerns

18. Anon Lives 3-5km

No concerns

3.4.1 Aggregated feedback from respondents from the open day events was as follows:

What did you most like about Blind Creek Solar Farm? (most preferred responses only)

- 100% of respondents liked the fact the Project was renewable energy
- 93% of respondents liked the fact the Project was agri-solar
- 87% of respondents liked the fact the Project was lead by local farmer
- 69% of the respondents liked the Indigenous Cultural and Heritage Learning Zone.

Did you receive enough information today?

- 100% of respondents said they had received enough information at the Open Day

Do you have any concerns about Blind Creek Solar Farm?

- 100% of respondents said No.

3.5 Engagement and Feedback from Stakeholder Groups 1-4

3.5.1 Summary of engagement with Stakeholder Group 1

Stakeholder Group 1 consists of the Project near neighbours. This group includes four properties, two with residences and two landholdings 850m -3.7km from the Project footprint. These four properties we consider are likely to have the most impact. The Founders have met with the property owners' multiple times separately and as a group. The neighbours have been on site to understand the location and scale. The Founders have visited the properties of the neighbours multiple times. Community Benefit Sharing Scheme: These neighbours are included in the CBSS which will provide funding to improve the sustainability and environmental outcomes on their property. The Proponent has requested wherever possible the money is spent in town to ensure the benefits stay local.

Consultation activities specific to this group to date include:

Date	Activity
19 Nov 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Phone call to each neighbour to set up a time to meet and discuss Project. - Explained the history of Capital Solar Farm which is an approved Project directly across the road or adjacent. - Email sent to explain BCSF prior to meeting to explain the new Project location and CBSS. - Founders / Landholders emphasised the option to participate in the CBSS and still oppose the Project.
Nov - Dec 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Met each neighbour individually to discuss Project. - Sought input to the Project - Discuss concerns - Explained approval process - Discussed CBSS
10 Dec 2020	<p>Site visit of BCSF followed by PowerPoint presentation and explanation of CBSS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - History of Project / Capital Solar - Rationale for preferred new location - Project details - Initial visual images of Project - Local economy benefits - CBSS – how the fund will be split, proposed rules. - Major projects approval process - Q&A / discussion / concerns / input

Date	Activity
Feb 2021	Sent message to advise we had received SEARS and to advise of BCSF website address
Nov 2021	Met individually with neighbours to show images from their house
14 Apr 2021	<p>Site meeting at BCSF followed by PowerPoint presentation, Q&A and discussion about CBSS and recapped on the Project plus input opportunity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sharing the financial benefits with our near neighbours - What we heard from you last time - Government guidelines on governance of CBSS - What we are proposing - Transparency - what we are proposing for other stakeholders - Proposed rules of CBSS - Major projects approval process - Questions / input / concerns
	Meeting at neighbours' houses to take updated images from the site they selected
June – Oct 2021	During Covid lockdown on-going discussions regarding CBSS
Oct 2021	Phone call and email invite to two Open Days on zoom
6 Nov 2021	Online newsletter to subscribers to promote Open Day (See Attachment 8)
Nov - Dec 2021	Meeting with individual landholders to show visual planning images and confirm details of CBSS.

Summary of feedback from Stakeholder Group 1

Level of concern / interest	Detail	Response	EIS chapter
HIGH Scale	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stakeholders expressed concern about the scale of the Project. 2. One stakeholder suggested the Project considers a more organic design for the panels. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The size of BCSF has been substantially reduced since the initial conversations in November 2020 from 1200 hectares. The development footprint now comprises approximately 650 hectares, including a solar array footprint of approximately 325 hectares and 650 hectares of agricultural / sheep farming elements to the Project. The scale of BCSF is required to enable the connection into the 330kv line, meet the economics of large-scale renewable projects, and to address climate change. 2. Organic design was supported by the Founders and will continue to be considered in the layout of the panels. 	<p>Ch 3</p> <p>Ch 1</p>
HIGH Visibility	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stakeholders expressed concern about visibility. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For the closest neighbours BCSF represents less visual impact than the original approved 50MW Capital Solar Farm which would have been built directly across the road of two residences and visible to all. Existing vegetation substantially blocks views of the proposed development for two of the four landholdings. The Proponent has provided visual images to articulate the area and visual impact of BCSF. The Founders have planted 8000 trees on the eastern side of the solar farm from 2018 - 2021 which will further mitigate visual impacts. Included in this stakeholder group is one residence 3.8km from the development footprint with an elevated view over the Project. BCSF has offered to plant trees along the length of Butmaroo Creek from Currandooley Road to Lake George / Weereewa / Lake 	<p>Ch 8</p> <p>Ch 8</p>

	2. A neighbour raised concerns about the substation.	<p>Ngungara to partially mitigate visual impacts for this residence.</p> <p>2. The substation is located in an old pine forest and is hidden from visibility by existing topography that hides it from the community.</p>	
MODERATE Glare	1. Neighbour expressed concern about glare / glint / reflection	1. SLR Consulting Glare Study indicated there was low potential for glare for surrounding residences during normal operations, which could be entirely eliminated via 'tuning' of the tracking algorithms. The Project also took care to examine the impact of various parking configurations during the construction period. The results of this will be used to develop protocols to reduce nuisance reflections during this period. The results from the glare analysis have been presented at the online community information sessions, reported in the local newspaper on two occasions, published on the website, provided link to residents, available at the Open Day.	Ch 8
MODERATE CBSS	<p>1. What is the motivation for CBSS?</p> <p>2. Concern if the solar farm changes hands or goes bankrupt what will happen to the CBSS payments.</p> <p>3. One neighbour asked why the</p>	<p>1. The Founders believe the closest neighbours with a view of the Project should share in the financial benefits. The CBSS is not intended to gag anyone. If stakeholders accept funds from the Scheme they can still oppose the Project. There was general support for the CBSS among this group.</p> <p>2. Blind Creek Solar Farm will adhere to the Guidance provided by the Government for wind farms to ensure agreements are effective and enforceable by law and comply with minimum standards and that the Proponent should bear all reasonable costs including the landowner's costs for independent advice associated with entering into the agreement: https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/~media/Files/DPE/Guidelines/wind-energy-guideline-for-state-significant-wind-energy-development-2016-12.ashx</p> <p>3. The Founders / Proponent explained that it was a core value of the Project to include those</p>	Ch 6

	<p>Proponent was being so generous with the community when no other Project in the region offered to share benefits with their neighbours.</p> <p>4. One of the stakeholders asked if the local Bungendore Community Foundation could be included in the CBSS.</p>	<p>with a view up to 6.5km in the financial benefits. Restated those beneficiaries of the CBSS can accept the money and still participate in the planning process.</p> <p>4. The Founders have suggested to another stakeholder group that if the any residents don't want to participate in the CBSS then BCSF will donate their portion to the Bungendore Community Foundation.</p>	Ch 6
LOW Climate Change	<p>1. One neighbour commented that projects like these are required to manage the risks of climate change.</p>	<p>1. A 350MW solar farm will produce around 735,000 MWh per year – enough energy to power more than 124,000 houses. This would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 600,000 tonnes p.a which is equivalent to the pollution produced by almost 220,000 cars.</p>	Ch 2

3.5.2 Summary of engagement with Stakeholder Group 2

This stakeholder group represents approximately 50 dwellings across a rural lifestyle estate. The closest house is 2.6km from the Project footprint. We consider all but two residences will be hidden by natural topography and vegetation.

Community Benefit Sharing Scheme: They are an important stakeholder group and as such the Proponent has included them in the CBSS to provide funding for an environmental or sustainability project on their community title which sits in the middle of the Estate. The group is considering how the money will be spent and has suggested a possible water project to assist with drought mitigation or landscaping for their community green space. The Founders have requested wherever possible the money is spent in town to ensure the benefits stay local. The Estate Committee has been advised they can accept the funds and still participate in the planning process if they wish.

Consultation activities specific to this group include:

Date	Activity
16 Nov 2020	Phone call to introduce the Project to Estate Executive Committee members.
25 Nov 2020	<p>PowerPoint presentation to Residential Estate Executive Committee. Committee also invited residents from the north end of the Estate. Presentation followed by Q&A. Presentation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introducing team - History of the Project including Capital Solar - Rationale for referred new location - Study area - Project details - Initial visual analysis - Community Benefit Sharing Scheme including the opportunity to accept payment and still oppose the Project - Fat lamb production under panels - Farming activity - Environmental benefits - Approval process - Community consultation - Q&A
13 Feb 2021	Advise Executive Committee of SEARS and website address for BCSF
12 May 2021	Took photos of site from a house on southern end with a possible visual impact

Date	Activity
16 May 2021	<p>All interested residents were invited by the Executive Committee to a presentation by the BCSF team at the Estate community hall with updated information followed by Q&A. 12 residents attended. PowerPoint presentation to the residents. Aims of meeting were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recap on Project – including What we heard from you at the last meeting. 2. Develop ideas for investment in the community – share the financial benefits. <p>PowerPoint presentation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - History of Project - Preferred location - Project details - What we heard last time from you - Sharing the financial benefits - Proposed rules of CBSS - Guidance from the government on CBSS - Project progress - Construction and the local economy - Approval process - Q&A
16 May 2021	One resident requested a site visit to gauge the view from his house which was done straight after the above meeting.
12 May 2021	Community benefit sharing discussions held up by Covid lockdown.
21 May 2021	Provided updated information about the Project and CBSS for AGM plus information about governance of CBSS and glare study
7 Oct 2021	Sent invite to Executive Committee to advise residents of online community information sessions. Committee advised they would forward it to residents.
10 Oct 2021	Online community information session. Two residents from the Estate attended.
11 Oct 2021	Online community information session
6 Nov 2021	Online newsletter to subscribers to promote Open Day
8 Nov 2021	Discussion with Estate Committee members re Open Day and CBSS. Committee member emailed all residents about Open Day.
13 Nov 2021	Open Day - on hold due to rain. Residents advised as soon as the creek goes down we would let them know and they could visit at a time to suit them.

Date	Activity
19 & 20 Nov & 12 Dec 2021	<p>Open Days. Anyone who replied to say they would like to attend the Open Day was invited to come to a further three dates. Of the 20 who RSVP'd they would like to attend the Open Day 21 people attended. The others have an open invitation to come and see the site at a time to suit them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refocusing Our farm For The Future - Solar Panels, Pasture & Lambs - The Project - Elements of the Project Agri-solar and battery storage, substation - Panel area and transmission lines - Impact Studies - Archaeology - Glare and reflection analysis - Bushfire Management - Planning Process - Environmental Benefits - Circular Economy - Local is our Priority - Community Consultation - Community Benefit Sharing Scheme - Visual Analysis images from 3 key areas
29 Nov 2021	<p>On site meeting with a resident who will have a broken view of the Project to show location and visual images from his property. Resident said he supports the Project.</p>

3.5.3 Summary of feedback from Stakeholder Group 2

Level of concern / interest	Detail	Response	EIS chapter
MEDIUM Visibility	1. One of the residents asked if the Proponent could visit their house to assess visibility.	1. This occurred immediately after the presentation to the residents on 16 May. The resident was told they would be shown the photomontage taken from adjacent property when available. The resident was informed that of the 22 residents within view of the Project only they and the adjacent property will get a view of the Project because of existing vegetation at Estate.	Ch 8
LOW CBSS	1. At meetings attended by the Proponent there was general support from the Estate Community for the CBSS.	1. The Executive is considering ideas for a community project.	Ch 6
LOW Climate change	1. Will the Project help with climate change and contribute to the end of coal?	1. Yes. A 350MW solar farm will produce around 735,000 MWh per year – enough energy to power more than 124,000 houses. This would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 600,000 tonnes p.a which is equivalent to the pollution produced by almost 220,000 cars.	Ch 2
LOW Bushfires	1. Is there any concern around bushfires? 2. How will the grass be managed?	1. All local fire brigades have been consulted. A comprehensive fire management plan will be provided as part of the DA. Local Fire Brigades will be inducted onto the site pre operation. 2. Rotational grazing sheep through	Ch 9 Ch 9

Level of concern / interest	Detail	Response	EIS chapter
		the Project will be used to manage the grass.	
LOW Ownership	1. Will the Project be sold to a foreign company and if so one resident expressed concern about foreign ownership.	1. We are looking for a partner with aligned values. A Project of this size will require a partner to develop. If that partner is foreign company it will have to be approved by the Foreign Investment Review Board.	Not addressed
LOW Communication	1. Feedback from Executive <i>The information you provided will be great to provide at the meeting.</i>		Ch 6
LOW Visual analysis	1. Resident with a view of Project said he would like to see visual images	1. Resident said he supports the Project.	Ch 8

3.5.4 Summary of engagement with Stakeholder Group 3

This group includes 18 residences on the western side of Weereewa / Lake Ngungara / Lake George. Some of the residences are hidden from the Project by existing landscaping and the direction of their house and we consider it is likely that some residences will have a direct, low view of the Project across the valley from 5km - 7km from the Project footprint. They are an important group and have provided valuable feedback. There are 16 stakeholder dwellings in this category. The Proponent has met with them as a group and as individuals to listen to their concerns, discuss visual imagery, and they have been invited on-site a number of times to ensure they understand the location and scale of the Project.

Community Benefit Sharing Scheme: This group is included in CBSS and the Founders suggested utilising the funds for local environmental regeneration projects, bushfire management or environmental conservation of the Lake. Having investigated the potential for a community project the group decided that it wasn't possible owing to much of the land being held by the Crown and that the funds should be allocated to individuals for environmental projects on their own land. BCSF is still working with this group to determine the allocation of the fund. Recipients of funds have been advised they can accept the funds and still participate in the planning process.

Note: Two stakeholders (R77 & R84) were identified after the consultation process shown below was undertaken (These two are included in the 18 identified in the first para). Both receivers are contemplated in the visual and glare studies. The Founders are currently working with these residences to ensure they understand the location, Project details and the Planning Process. Both stakeholders will be considered in the CBSS.

Consultation activities specific to this group include:

Date	Activity
19 Nov 2020	Phone calls and texts to introduce Project and invite to a presentation and information session at the home of a resident.
23-Nov	<p>Two hour meeting including a PowerPoint presentation to this community followed by lengthy discussion / Q&A. Presentation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - History of the Project - Location - Study size - Community consultation - Development application process - Early-stage photo montages - Planning Process - Community Benefit Share Scheme including the opportunity to participate in the CBSS and still oppose the Project - Glare and reflection, - Studies required for DA
13-Feb	Advise SEARS and website address for BCSF and that Proponent will have a follow up meeting in late March when Proponent has a better idea of Project layout.
21-Apr	Invitation to site visit on 30 May for this stakeholder group to make a site visit, presentation on progress and CBSS presentation.
April	Series of messages and phone calls to arrange photo montage images with several residents in this stakeholder group.
29-May	Reminder re site visit and CBSS site meeting and presentation 30 May
30-May	<p>Representatives from 8 residences (12 people) attended site visit and PowerPoint presentation to this community followed by discussion and Q&A, input opportunity. Include details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recap CBSS - including beneficiaries, intent, governance. - What we've heard from you so far - History of the Project - The Project - Map location / study area - Project Progress - Construction and local economy - Approval process

Date	Activity
	- Q&A / input session
12-Aug-21	Glare Executive Summary provided on the BCSF website and passed onto this community.
29-Jun-21	Information about Project and CBSS for this stakeholder group plus information about governance and information about the development application process.
7-Oct-21	Sent invite to online community information sessions.
10-Oct-21	Online community information session
11-Oct-21	Online community information session
Wk starting 1 Nov 2021	Flyer drop to these residents promoting Open Day and how to find more information. (SEE Attachment)
6 Nov 2021	Online newsletter to subscribers to promote Open Day
9 Nov 2021	Email to this stakeholder group re CBSS and reminder about Open Day
13 Nov 2021	Open Day (on hold due to flooding). Email sent to all those who RSVP'd informing them as soon as the creek was open they could come and visit at a time to suit them the following week.
14 Nov 2021	Emailed CBSS coordinator to answer questions prior to their community meeting relating to CBSS governance and to reiterate residents can participate in the CBSS and still participate in the planning process.
19 Nov 2021	Followed up CBSS coordinator to see if there were any questions and to invite the group to come for another site visit on 28 Nov (cancelled due to flooding)

Date	Activity
19 & 20 Nov & 12 Dec 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open Days. Anyone who replied to say they would like to attend the Open Day on 13 Nov was then invited to come 19, 20 Nov and 12 Dec. Of the 20 who RSVP'd they would like to attend the Open Day 21 people attended. The others have an open invitation to come and see the site at a time to suit them. <p>Information for Open Day included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refocusing Our farm For The Future - Solar Panels, Pasture & Lambs - The Project - Elements of the Project Agri-solar and battery storage, substation - Panel area and transmission lines - Impact Studies - Archaeology - Glare and reflection analysis - Bushfire Management - Planning Process - Environmental Benefits - Circular Economy - Local is our Priority - Community Consultation - Community Benefit Sharing Scheme - Visual Analysis images from 3 key areas
20 Nov 2021	Received list of questions from the CBSS coordinator from their resident's meeting.
24 Nov 2021	Postponed site visit until 3 December because of flooding. Proposed all questions could be addressed at the site meeting.
27 Nov 2021	Phoned Stakeholder Group 3 residents to discuss concerns and invited them to a site meeting on 3 Dec followed by discussion about any concerns and invited them to a site meeting and discussion session on Friday 3 Dec
29 Nov 2021	Emailed all Stakeholder Group 3 residents to confirm details for site meeting and discussion on site on 3 December or if they weren't able to come or weren't comfortable with group meetings, an open invitation over the following two weeks to come on-site and discuss any concerns they have with the Project.

Date	Activity
3 Dec 2021	<p>8 residents from Stakeholder Group 3 attended the on-site meeting with display boards showing Project location and layout. Two hour meeting on site to discuss concerns. Display information included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refocusing Our farm For The Future - Solar Panels, Pasture & Lambs - The Project - Elements of the Project Agri-solar and battery storage, substation - Panel area and transmission lines - Impact Studies - Archaeology - Glare and reflection analysis - Bushfire Management - Planning Process - Environmental Benefits - Circular Economy - Local is our Priority - Community Consultation - Community Benefit Sharing Scheme - Visual Analysis images from 3 key areas <p>During discussions two residents asked if we would consider removing a section of panels from an elevated zone. We agreed to consider removing panels.</p> <p>During discussions a resident asked for us to consider planting trees on the northern border. We agreed to plant trees in this section.</p>
20 Dec 2021	<p>Detailed reply sent to group to respond to concerns raised in their resident's meeting and to inform residents of questions raised at the on-site meeting at BCSF on 3 December including map outlining distances from the Project to a range of residences. Unable to provide full glare report as requested as the report needed extensive updating and amending to accommodate the changes to the Project footprint.</p>

3.5.5 Summary of feedback from Stakeholder Group 3

Level of concern/ interest	Detail	Response	EIS Chapter
<p>HIGH</p> <p>Location, scale, visibility</p>	<p>1. Stakeholder Group 3 expressed it was difficult to know how they felt about the Project without knowing the size and location.</p>	<p>1. BCSF held a community meeting for Stakeholder Group 3 on 23.11.20 to introduce the Project, location, studies, etc. Stakeholder Group 3 were invited to site visit on 30.5.21 followed by a discussion and Q&A session for Stakeholder Group 3. This group has been invited to attend two online community information sessions during Covid-19 lockdown and the Open Day 13 November. Following concerns raised by some residents at a Stakeholder Group 3 community meeting on 14 Nov BCSF contacted residents to invite them to a follow up meeting on site on 3.12.21. All residents have been told they are welcome to visit the site whenever it suits them. A map outlining approximately distances to BCSF from a range of houses was provided to Stakeholder Group 3 in Dec 2021.</p>	Ch 1
	<p>2. Concern about visibility.</p>	<p>2. BCSF is situated in the low, flat country 5 - 7km from Stakeholder Group 3. The size of BCSF has been substantially reduced since the initial conversations in November 2020 from 1200 hectares. It now comprises approximately 650 hectares with the solar panels sitting on top of approx 325 hectares and 650 hectares of agricultural / sheep farming elements to the Project. The Proponent has provided visual images to articulate the area and visual impact of BCSF and has offered to plant trees along the length of Butmaroo Creek from Currandooley Road to Lake George / Weereewa / Lake Ngungara to partially mitigate visual impacts. At a meeting on 3 December 2020 BCSF agreed to remove a section of more elevated panels following a request from two residents. At a meeting on 3 December 2020 BCSF agreed to plant trees to obscure panels on a northern section of the Project following a request from 2 residents.</p>	Ch 8
	<p>3. Maximum height of the panels when they are at maximum tilt. Is it 4m as noted in the scoping study.</p>	<p>3. There have been improvements to solar panel technology. We will now be seeking to install what is called 2P configuration, which is two panels attached end to end to the trackers resulting in 5m height from the ground at maximum tilt. At the moment there isn't a construction company in Australia that will build with the 2P so we are hoping that will change by the construction date if the Project is approved. If we are unable to build the 2P we will proceed with the 1P which has a height of 4 metres at maximum tilt as nominated at the first meeting.</p>	Ch 4
	<p>4. Request for a site plan showing location to stakeholder group 3 residential sites.</p>	<p>4. A proposed study area site map was provided to residents at meeting 23 Nov 2020, a site meeting was provided at on site meeting 30 May 2021, a refined Project layout map was provided to residents at on site meeting 3 December, a location meeting showing the approx distance from a range of houses to the closest point of the BCSF Project site was emailed to residents on 20 December 2021.</p>	Ch 8
	<p>5. A resident suggested planting trees along the western edge of the Project. Another resident asked for trees to be planted on the northern corner.</p>	<p>5. Both requests for tree planting have been agreed to by the Founder. The Proponent has provided visual images to articulate the effect of tree planting along the length of Butmaroo Creek from Currandooley Road to Lake George / Weereewa / Lake Ngungara which significantly mitigates visual impacts.</p>	Ch 8
	<p>6. Already looking at a wind farm and sand mines.</p>	<p>6. BCSF Project will have low visibility in the region and distant views (5-7+km from the other side of the lake). Whilst we acknowledge Stakeholder Group 3 does not want to see the Project, we believe the Butmaroo Creek and additional tree planting will have a big impact on the landscape for Stakeholder Group 3. The Project is situated between 5 and 7km from Stakeholder Group 3. The Project area has been heavily farmed for 170 years and includes an old sand mine and is naturally cleared. The most important consideration for solar farm siting is proximity to strong parts of the electricity transmission network, and the population centres they are designed to serve. It is significantly more challenging to develop a solar farm in remote, outback locations due to the very high costs associated with transmission line extensions and the energy losses that occur when electricity is transported over longer distances to consumers. Other key features that solar farm proponents seek in a suitable site are flat or gently sloping land where impacts on native vegetation and cultural heritage can be minimised. This is most often land which has been previously cleared for farming purposes.</p>	Ch 8

Level of concern/ interest	Detail	Response	EIS Chapter
	7. Fear the project will expand over time.	7. The BCSF Founding farmer acknowledges he is only in control of his own land and is not able to control what other people in the valley will do. He has committed to not build the 9 approved turbines on the BCSF site and the approved Capital Solar Farm on the eastern side of his property if BCSF proceeds. The solar farm cannot expand on his land because of the constraints identified in the EIS studies. Studies conducted by BCSF show the grid is a limiting factor – and our preliminary grid studies indicate that the 330 kv line that goes across the land will be close to capacity if this solar farm connects.	Ch 8
HIGH Glare	1. Stakeholders expressed concern about glare / glint / reflection.	1. SLR Consulting Glare Study indicated there was low potential for glare for surrounding residences during normal operations, which could be entirely eliminated via ‘tuning’ of the tracking algorithms. The Project also took care to examine the impact of various parking configurations during the construction period. The results of this will be used to develop protocols to reduce nuisance reflections during this period. The results from the glare analysis have been presented at the online community information sessions, reported in the local newspaper on two occasions, published on the website, provided link to residents, available at the Open Day.	Ch 8
HIGH Lake George / Lake Ngungarra / Weereewa	1. Sacred, significant natural environment that should be preserved as such. 2. BCSF would make the lake look industrial.	1. The Founders share concerns about the natural world and the importance of Weereewa / Lake Ngungarra / Lake George being preserved. This particular area has been heavily farmed and sand mined. The most interesting part of this Project for the Founders has been learning more about the Indigenous heritage on their farm which has identified what needs protecting and how the land was shaped. Significantly the Indigenous studies have identified areas where there is archaeological heritage including stone flints. If the Project proceeds it will include an area of approximately 200ha hectares or 2km ² on the edge of the lake which will be preserved for what the Founders are hoping will become an Indigenous Cultural and Heritage Learning Zone. The Founders also explained the economics of large-scale renewable Projects requiring a certain size to be viable. 2. The western edge of the solar farm has a buffer that varies between approximately 600m and 1.3km from the edge of Lake George / Weereewa/Lake Ngungarra. The Indigenous Cultural and Heritage Learning Zone is between the lake and BCSF.	Ch 8 Ch 8
HIGH Land values	1. Concerns over land values	1. This is a common question amongst communities where renewable energy projects are proposed. Since the neighbouring Capital wind farm was built the Valuer General has assessed the BCSF site land value to have increased 60%. Studies into the potential impact of wind farm developments on property prices have been undertaken both in Australia and overseas. A study by the NSW Valuer-General (2009) concluded that there is no correlation between wind farms and long-term property prices.	Ch9
HIGH CBSS	1. One resident raised issues around governance and administration of community trust for the CBSS. 2. Inadequate compensation to residents considering the likely income of the solar farm were it to proceed. 3. Would accepting the offer be interpreted by the NSW government as tacit consent to the Project?	1. Agreed with the stakeholder that the administration and governance would need to be managed and that her skills would be invaluable in ensuring the arrangements met the requirements of a Community Trust Fund. Proponent has offered to the group to pay for the legal costs of establishing a community Fund. 2. The Project Founders of BCSF want to be as fair as possible and share the financial benefits. It is not attempting to be compensation, but rather a recognition that the community in vicinity of the Project with a view is important to us and we would like to share the financial benefits of this project with you. 3. The Project Founder will inform The NSW Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment via the EIS that not everyone who participates in the CBSS supports the Project.	Ch 6 Ch 6

Level of concern/ interest	Detail	Response	EIS Chapter
MEDIUM EIS	<p>1. When will you submit the EIS to the NSW Department of Industry and Planning?</p> <p>2. Will the community see it beforehand?</p>	<p>1. Advised our plan was to submit before the end of January 2022.</p> <p>2. The EIS will not be available to see before lodgement.</p>	
MEDIUM Agricultural Farmland	<p>1. Concern about the loss of productive farmland.</p>	<p>1. The Office of Environment and Heritage soil classification Land and Soil Capability (LSC) has assessed 6.6% of the land to be a classification of 5 (Moderate-low Capability Land) and 93.4% of the land to be classification 6 (Low Capability Land). These soil studies show this is light sandy country with very little organic content that has been heavily farmed for over 150 years. The solar farm is sited on low grade sandy soils - next to an operating sand mine - in fact part of it is an old sand mine. The solar array area is approximately 650 hectares. The panels themselves will only cover approximately 325 hectares with generous spacing in between to allow for what we are calling agri-solar. Sheep will graze on the whole of the 650 hectares. By carrying out our farming activities using the principles of regenerative agriculture the landholder can restore grazing land and rebuild biodiversity and soil health at the same time as increasing productivity and sustainability. Sheep and solar make a perfect combination because the sheep get protection from the wind, rain and sun from the panels, and the grass or pasture under the panels help keep the panels at the optimum temperature to maximise electricity production.</p>	Chs 2 & 9
LOW Size of substation	<p>1. What is the size of the substation?</p>	<p>1. The substation is approximately 6 hectares and is hidden in an old pine forest out of view of the community.</p>	Ch 8
LOW Renewable Energy Zones	<p>1. How does the solar farm align with the proposed NSW renewable energy zones?</p>	<p>1. The BCSF site may be considered to be within the Illawarra zone.</p>	Ch 2
LOW Trig Station	<p>1. Concern about trig station</p>	<p>1. Protection for the trig station will be enhanced. The archived trig station currently sits in the paddock and has no protection from livestock or machinery. If the solar farm is constructed it will be protected by a steel fence.</p>	Ch 9
LOW Energy Supply	<p>1. One resident raised concerns about marginal loss factors being an issue with solar projects out in Dubbo.</p> <p>2. Another resident asked about the energy market and how this Project fits in and how many houses it will power. Wanted to know which way the panels face; Interested in how likely it was to be built</p>	<p>1. Losses from projects located a long way from consumption can be material. Dubbo is a good example of this. This project is located on a transmission system electrically close to Canberra, Wollongong and Sydney, which combined are a large proportion of consumption in NSW. This means losses between the project and the consumers are very small (approximately 4%). Additionally, the project is electrically close to Snowy 2.0 which will be a major consumer of electricity during its charging phase (pumping water up to higher reservoirs), which again tends to lower losses.</p> <p>2. The project is expected to power the equivalent of 125,000 homes, which is considerably larger than Canberra (approximately 50,000 homes). Renewables like Blind Creek Solar Farm can, if located in the right place and are cost efficient, compete on the open market without subsidy. Federal Government policy has been very important, in the form of the Renewable Energy Target, and in the financing support from ARENA and the CEFC. These initiatives had been the catalyst for industry establishment and scale up but are no longer vital. State Government policy in the form of the NSW Electricity Infrastructure</p>	Ch 2

Level of concern/ interest	Detail	Response	EIS Chapter
	seeing as the federal government is only interested in gas projects.		
LOW Transparency	1. Inadequate transparency and detail in the information provided.	1. The Founders held a Stakeholder Group 3 meeting in November 2020 a month before requesting SEARS. At the initial two hour Stakeholder Group 3 meeting held at the home of a Stakeholder Group 3 it was explained that the area for BCSF studies was much larger than the Project required and would shrink as the studies identified constraints for the Project. The BCSF website, email address and freecall were launched in December 2020 to ensure there was information as best we knew available for the community. This stakeholder group has had an open invitation to visit the site and have the personal email address and phone number of the Founding landholder. They have also been invited to two on-site Stakeholder Group 3 specific site visits and discussion sessions, open day, two online community information sessions	Ch 6

3.5.6 Summary of engagement with Stakeholder Group 4

This group of 16 residents live on two specific roads on top of the escarpment overlooking the wider valley and Lake George / Weereewa / Lake Ngungara and could have varying degrees of visibility of the Project ranging from minimal to expansive from a distance of 6 - 7km from the Project footprint.

Community Benefit Sharing Scheme: This is an important stakeholder group and those properties on these two roads with a likely potential for a visual impact from the Project have been included in the CBSS. The group was unable to agree on a community project for the fund. BCSF will provide funding to improve the sustainability and environmental outcomes on their property. The Proponent has requested wherever possible the money is spent in town to ensure the benefits stay local. The recipients are aware they can accept the funds and still participate in the planning process.

Note: one stakeholder (details can be provided) is reported by neighbours as being too unwell to contact. One of the other stakeholders in this group, who has a personal relationship, committed during 2021 to engage with this stakeholder on BCSF's behalf.

Consultation activities specific to this group to date included:

Date	Activity
Nov- Dec 2020	Introduce Project + seek additional contacts, site meetings in person to assess the view of Project and explain the Project.
13-Feb 2021	Advise SEARS and website address for BCSF and that Proponent will have a follow up meeting in late March when the Proponent has a better idea of Project layout.
29-May 2021	Representatives from 6 residences attended (11 people) a site visit followed by PowerPoint presentation, Q&A and CBSS meeting at BCSF. Presentation aims: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recap CBSS - including beneficiaries, intent, governance. - What we've heard from you so far - History of the Project - The Project - Map location / study area

Date	Activity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project Progress - Construction and local economy - Approval process - Q&A / input session
Mid Jul 2021	Arrange meeting to determine eligibility for CBSS
Mid Jul 2021	Founder met residents at their houses to determine eligibility for CBSS and to provide an update to the Project.
12 Aug 2021	Email confirming inclusion in CBSS and link to glare report.
7 Oct 2021	Sent invite to residents about online community information sessions, update on Project and changes to CBSS to an individual payment
10 Oct 2021	Online community information session
11 Oct 2021	Online community information session
Wk 1 Nov 2021	Flyer drop to residents promoting Open Day and how to find more information. (See Attachment)
6 Nov 2021	Online newsletter to subscribers to promote Open Day
13 Nov 2021	Open Day (on hold due to flooding). Email sent to all those who RSVP'd informing them as soon as the creek was open, they could come and visit at a time to suit them the following week.
19/20 Nov, 12 Dec 2021	<p>Open Days: Anyone who replied to say they would like to attend the Open Day on 13 Nov was invited to come 19, 20 Nov and 12 Dec. Of the 20 who RSVP'd they would like to attend the Open Day 10 people attended. The others have an open invitation to come and see the site at a time to suit them.</p> <p>Information for Open Day included:</p>

Date	Activity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refocusing Our farm For The Future - Solar Panels, Pasture & Lambs - The Project - Elements of the Project Agri-solar and battery storage, substation - Panel area and transmission lines - Impact Studies - Archaeology - Glare and reflection analysis - Bushfire Management - Planning Process - Environmental Benefits - Circular Economy - Local is our Priority - Community Consultation - Community Benefit Sharing Scheme - Visual Analysis images from 3 key areas

3.5.7 Summary of feedback from Stakeholder Group 4

Level of concern / interest	Detail	Response	EIS chapter
HIGH Scale	1. A portion of stakeholders expressed concern about the scale of the Project.	1. The size of BCSF has been substantially reduced since the initial conversations in November 2020 from 1200 hectares. The development footprint now comprises approximately 650 hectares, including a solar array footprint of approx 325 hectares and 650 hectares of agricultural / sheep farming elements to the Project. The scale of BCSF is required to enable the connection into the 330 kv line, meet the economics of large-scale renewable projects, and to address climate change.	Ch 3
HIGH Glare	1. Concern about glare / glint / reflection	1. SLR Consulting Glare Study indicated there was low potential for glare for surrounding residences during normal operations, which could be entirely eliminated via 'tuning' of the tracking algorithms. The Project also took care to examine the impact of various parking configurations during the construction period. The results of this will be used to develop protocols to reduce nuisance reflections during this period. The results from the glare analysis have been presented at the online community information sessions, reported in the local newspaper on two occasions, published on the website, provided link to residents, available at the Open Day.	Ch 8
HIGH Visibility	1. Concern about visibility. 2. Already looking at wind	1. The Project lies in the low, flat country 6km - 7km from these residences on the escarpment. The Proponent acknowledges approximately 5 houses from this stakeholder group will have an expansive view of the Project and 9 houses will have a broken or partial view of the Project. The proponent has provided visual images to articulate the area of the solar farm and has offered to plant trees along the length of Butmaroo Creek from Currandooley road to Lake George / Weereewa / Lake Ngungara to partially mitigate visual impact for this Stakeholder group.	Ch 8

Level of concern / interest	Detail	Response	EIS chapter
	farm and sand mines.	2. The proposed BCSF site sits 6 - 7km from the escarpment between the Bungendore Sands sand quarry and Capital wind farm. If built BCSF will contribute 735000 MWh per year of clean energy and contribute towards the NSW Government's commitment to cut emissions by 50% by 2030.	Ch 8
MEDIUM CBSS	<p>1. Following communication between residents in stakeholder Group 4 re CBSS this community requested payments to individuals rather than a group project.</p> <p>2. One non-resident who attended a site meeting with a resident commented that the CBSS was the best community engagement he had seen in all his years as an architect dealing with Councils.</p>	1. Suggestion regarding individual payments was accepted by the Proponent. These neighbours are included in the CBSS which will provide funding to improve the sustainability and environmental outcomes on their properties. The Proponent has requested wherever possible the money is spent in town to ensure the benefits stay local. Residents aware they can accept the CBSS payment and still participate in the Planning Process for BCSF.	

3.5.8 Summary of engagement with Agencies, Proximity Stakeholders, Business community and Local groups

Stakeholder	Method	Purpose	Outcome
Proximity stakeholders includes those neighbours and those living close to the Project considered unlikely to have a view.	Phone call and meeting	They were contacted in November 2020 before SEARS was issued to inform them about the Project and to explain the location, the Project details and to provide an opportunity for feedback.	Generally supportive. Asked to be kept informed.
Cottage tenant closest to BCSF on landholders' property.	Telephone, meeting, Online community information session, open day.	To ensure the tenant fully understands project size and location and impacts.	Have agreed to install double glazed windows to the cottage if noise is an issue. Also agreed to plant screening along the southern side of the cottage.
Queanbeyan Palerang Councillors 16-19 Nov 2020	Emailed Councillors	To introduce BCSF and offered to meet on site or in their office.	Councillors asked to be kept informed.
Queanbeyan Palerang Council 10 Dec 2020	Meeting and presentation to QPRC staff	Present Project and discuss any concerns and get input how BCSF should progress discussions with Council.	Plan for ongoing dialogue.
Queanbeyan Palerang Council 27 May 2021	Founders presented to QPRC staff		
Queanbeyan Palerang Council 28 July 2021	Presentation at monthly Full Council meeting	Give an overview of the Project and outline the VPA	A recommendation to agree in principle with a planning agreement based on the BCSF presentation and authorise the CEO to continue negotiations.

Stakeholder	Method	Purpose	Outcome
Queanbeyan Palerang Council 16 August 2021	Zoom meeting CEO Council and staff	Meeting regarding on-going VPA negotiations.	
Queanbeyan Palerang Council 23 August 2021	Zoom meeting CEO of QPRC and staff.	Meeting regarding on-going VPA negotiations.	
Queanbeyan Palerang Council 30 January 2022	Email to QPRC staff	Update on Project progress and notify of VPA legal negotiations ready to proceed with QPRC lawyers.	
Queanbeyan Palerang Councillors 21 Feb 2022	Emailed all new Councillors post December election	To introduce BCSF and offered to meet on site or in their office.	Council organising a presentation in March 2022.
RFS Bungendore	Face to face meeting and BCSF site visit.	Inform RFS of Project. Seek feedback and concerns.	Agreed to carry out on-going consultation and involvement if the Project is built.
RFS Mount Fairy	Face to face meeting and BCSF site visit.	Inform RFS of Project. Seek feedback and concerns.	Agreed to carry out on-going consultation and involvement if the Project is built.
RFS Taylor's Creek	Face to face meeting and BCSF site visit.	Inform RFS of Project. Seek feedback and concerns.	Agreed to carry out on-going consultation and involvement if the Project is built.
Bungendore Sands	Telephone followed by meeting with the Managing Director.	Inform about BCSF, supplied map and information sheet.	Stated no objections but concerned that dust from the quarry may impact the solar farm and he does not want to field complaints. BCSF believes the westerly and easterly prevailing winds will not impact panels.

Stakeholder	Method	Purpose	Outcome
Holcim sand quarry	Meeting with the Area Manager.	Introduced project, supplied map and information sheet.	Stated no objections to the project.
Paragalli sand quarry	Meeting with the Managing Director.	Introduced project, supplied map and information sheet. Discussed impact to their operations / licence due to location of substation.	Agreed to reduce quarry licence area to accommodate substation and BESS.
Bungendore Climate Action Group	Meeting overlooking site. Invitation to Open Day	Project description by one of the BCSF Founders	Continue to keep BCAG informed of the Project progress.
Tarago Progress Society	Phone call to President.	Project description by one of the BCSF Founders	Committed to keep Tarago Progress Society informed of progress and local job opportunities if Project proceeds.
Bungendore Chamber of Commerce	Phone call and Email to President 8 Dec	Project description by one of the BCSF Founders. The President presented information to the Executive Committee.	Committed to keep the Chamber of Commerce informed of progress and local job opportunities if the Project proceeds.
Bungendore Landcare	Meeting in person	Informed of Project at AGM	Will keep informed.
Tarago Progress Association	Telephone call	Informed of Project and potential for jobs	Will keep informed
Local business	Telephone	Informed of Project	Expressed support for Project
Local business	Met with owner	Informed of Project	Expressed support for Project

Stakeholder	Method	Purpose	Outcome
Local business	Visit business	Informed of Project	Expressed support for Project
Local business	Owner	Informed of Project, been on site	Expressed support for Project
Local businesses	Owner	Informed of Project	Expressed support for Project

4. Stakeholder ideas incorporated into BCSF

The following ideas arose as a result of discussions with stakeholders and have helped to shape the Project.

Stakeholder Group	Ideas that arose during discussions with stakeholders	Outcome
Stakeholder Group 1	A stakeholder asked if The Bungendore Community Foundation could be considered in the CBSS.	The Bungendore Community Foundation has been recommended to residents who are part of the CBSS but would prefer to donate the funds to a charity. Eligible recipients of the CBSS who do not want to receive funds have been notified that BCSF will donate their funds to the Bungendore Community Foundation.
Stakeholder Group 1	Project footprint should be more organic in shape	This recommendation was agreed to however, the Project will by virtue of existing topography and environmental constraints be organic in shape.
Stakeholder Group 3	Eliminate panels from the northern, elevated section.	Suggestion accommodated.
Stakeholder Group 3	Tree planting on northern corner of the Project	Incorporated into the landscape design
Stakeholder Groups 3&4	Stakeholder groups asked for CBSS payments to be made to individuals with a potential view of the Project rather than a community project.	Project accommodated this request.
Stakeholder Group 3	Requested that we inform the Department that not all recipients of the CBSS approved of the Project.	Suggestion accommodated.
Stakeholder Group 3	Tree planting along Butmaroo (Deep) Creek	Incorporated into landscape design.

Stakeholder Group	Ideas that arose during discussions with stakeholders	Outcome
Agency	Council suggested funds be allocated to the Sports Hub in Bungendore.	The Proponent intends to accommodate this request through the VPA.
Wider community	Locals prioritised for jobs and services.	The Proponent agrees to prioritise locals jobs and services wherever possible. The CBSS also stipulates funds from the CBSS should be spent in town to ensure money flows back to the local community.

5. Future consultation activities

BCSF will continue to regularly engage with the community and stakeholders throughout all stages of the project and continue to use a broad range of engagement methods to suit the target audience. In order to ensure a broad saturation of project information and demonstrate presence in the community, BCSF also intends to continually inform local media regarding project updates, events and milestones.

Neighbours and the wider community will be provided with regular updates, information and access to the project Founder during the exhibition, pre-construction, construction and operational phases. The Project email and Freecall will remain in place and BCSF representatives will address feedback and concerns as they arise. The website will continue to be updated and the e-news will be distributed as milestones are reached.

5.1 Exhibition

The EIS will be placed on exhibition via the NSW Major Projects website for a minimum of 30 days. During this time the public will be able to view the EIS and associated specialist studies and make formal submissions on the proposal. Issues raised in submissions will be addressed by BCSF in a Response to Submission report. During the EIS exhibition period BCSF will host an on-site community drop-in information session over a weekend. This event will enable the community to view the Project on-site, ask questions and provide feedback. This session will be promoted in the local newspaper, online newsletter, stakeholder mailing lists. Information for Exhibition Open Day will include:

- Site location and layout
- Environmental studies
- Visual analysis
- Proposed landscaping
- Traffic and access information
- Construction timeline
- Benefits for local community - local priority for jobs, services, how to register
- Indigenous jobs
- Agri-solar
- Community Consultation
- Community Benefit Sharing Scheme
- Feedback mechanisms.

5.2 Pre-Construction Phase

A Community and Stakeholder Consultation plan will be implemented to manage any concerns of stakeholders and impacts on landholders. This will include:

- Liaison with Council
- Develop the following protocols:
 - o Protocols to keep the community and stakeholders informed about the progress of the project.

- Protocols to inform relevant stakeholders of potential impacts of construction activities.
- Protocols to allow the community to make complaints or identify any concerns with the project.

5.2.1 Jobs & Local benefits

The Founders are familiar with the local business and services. A strategy will be developed to ensure the local community, wider community and Indigenous networks are aware of jobs and opportunities related to BCSF. This will include:

- Community information session to ensure the community fully understands the opportunities and local residents, businesses and services are able to register interest in being involved in or benefit from the project. This will include the distribution of media releases, social media campaigns, advertising in the local newspapers, emailing relevant Indigenous communities and educational facilities.

5.3 Construction Phase

During construction of the project, a Community and Stakeholder Consultation Plan will be implemented to manage the concerns of stakeholders and any impacts on local landowners. The plan will include but not be limited to protocols to provide updated information regarding the project, including information regarding the Project's program and proposed construction activities, potential impacts to nearby sensitive receivers and potential changes to local traffic conditions, the complaint process, and communication channels.

5.4 Operation Phase

During operation of the Project, a Community and Stakeholder Consultation Plan will be implemented to manage the concerns of stakeholders and any impacts on local landowners. The plan will include (but not be limited to) the following:

- protocols to keep the community and stakeholders updated about the operation of the project and its benefits
- protocols to inform relevant stakeholders of potential impacts of scheduled site activities outside of typical operation.
- protocols to allow the community to make complaints or identify any concerns with the project.
- protocols for managing complaints, queries and feedback in a timely manner.
- protocols to keep the community and stakeholders updated about the operation of the project and its benefits

Information on how local workers, contractors or service providers can express an interest in the operation of the project will be displayed on the project website. Efforts will be made to engage with local schools, universities and community groups who may be interested in visiting the site or learning more about renewable energy.

D.4 Evidence of media releases, articles and open days undertaken

Appendix C4 Evidence of media releases, articles and open days undertaken

Appendix C4.1: Regional Independent article 16.12.20

Community News

Solar and Sheep - a greener vision for local farmer

Local Bungendore farmer Dom Osborne has formed a partnership with renewable energy experts to develop Blind Creek Solar Farm, a 350MW solar project on his property, 8km north-west of Bungendore.

"I want this to be the benchmark for how renewable energy projects are developed in rural communities. This includes genuine consultation for both local residents and stakeholders and tangible financial benefits for the community," Dom said.

"Discussions are underway with Council, neighbours, Buckingham Estate Community Association, as well as residents from Lake Rd, The Forest Rd and Bede Rd who have provided valuable input and feedback about the project. We are very keen to talk to any neighbours who we haven't succeeded in making contact with yet. Our neighbours and those within 6.5km with a view of the project are our most important consideration and will be eligible to share in the financial benefits."

Dom said studies for the project will include a reflection analysis which will be conducted to address a common concern about solar panels. According to the NSW Government's Solar Energy in NSW website, "Photovoltaic panels are designed to maximise efficiency, absorb sunlight and convert it to electricity, which means they're designed to reflect as little light as possible. Usually, it's around two percent of the light received."¹

"As part of our project we are developing a scheme which will allow the community and neighbours to share between \$2 million and \$3.4 million, depending on whether the funds are spent upfront or over the 30 year project life," Dom said.

"Our goal is to work with the community to determine how the theme of sustainable agriculture, environment restoration and community building can be shaped. Wherever feasible, the beneficiaries will be required to feed the funds back into local businesses so the money stays in town," he said.

Blind Creek Solar Farm has evolved from Capital Solar Farm which was approved in 2013. After careful consideration the team is seeking to move the project to a more suitable location with a larger buffer from neighbouring properties.

The new site for Blind Creek Solar Farm lies on flat, sandy country in the vicinity of the Canberra Sand & Gravel sand mine and the neighbouring wind farm and would incorporate solar panels and lamb production.

"A project this size would take around 18 months to build and employ around 300 people giving a significant boost to local businesses post bushfires, drought and Covid. We will actively look for the right skills amongst local residents and businesses, and ensure the benefits stay local wherever possible," Dom said.

The solar farm is in its formative stage with a much larger study area than required currently undergoing ecology, hydrology, geology and archaeological studies to determine constraints for the project.

Based on a 350MW the solar farm is expected to produce approximately 735,000 MWh per year which is enough energy to power 124,000 houses or over 5,600 schools a year with clean energy. This would reduce over 700,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year which is the equivalent of removing almost 220,000 cars off the road each year.

Grid consultant Gerard Reiter who has worked with Dom since the start of the project said, "this is a fantastic project which will not only provide renewable energy into the power system but will allow for future requirements to help stabilise the power system. Even more exciting is it's a farmer lead project that is putting the community at the heart of its development."

Dom said Blind Creek Solar Farm is part of a broader program to shift his property towards a more sustainable future which includes rehabilitating creeks and native vegetation areas, rebuilding soils using reg-



enerative agriculture principles, a carbon soil sequestration project, green waste humus, and improving the land for animal production.

The NSW Department of Planning has an established solar farm approval process to provide guidance to the community on how the Department assesses environmental impacts of solar energy State Significant Developments (SSD).

Consultation will include neighbours, community members, the Indigenous community, local business owners, traffic authority,

advocacy groups, Council, State and Federal politicians.

To find out more about the project visit www.blindcreeksolarfarm.com.au or call 1800 312 732 to discuss the project.

¹ <https://energy.nsw.gov.au/renewables/renewable-generation/solar-energy>

Map supplied



Appendix C4.2: Regional Independent article 29.09.21

REGIONAL INDEPENDENT

29 September 2021

Community News

Page 2

Online Community Information Sessions for Blind Creek Solar Farm

Blind Creek Solar Farm is holding online community information sessions on Sunday 10 October and Monday 11 October 5.00pm - 6.00pm to update the community on the progress of this farmer led project approx 8km from Bungendore.

Dominic Osborne, proposer of the agri-solar farm said, "we want to share where we are up to with our Community Benefit Sharing Scheme and the studies undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the 350MW agri-solar farm proposed for the flat country between Bungendore Sands quarry and Capital Wind Farm.

"We have been working closely with our neighbours since last November, but we are also keen to keep the wider community informed and to provide an opportunity for feedback. Unfortunately, our plans to hold an early consultation open day in town are on hold for the moment due to Covid-19.

"The discussions with our neighbours up to 6.5km have been very helpful in shaping the project. Our close neighbours and houses within 6.5km with a view of the project are our most important consideration and have been invited to share in the financial benefits.

"We want this project to be visionary in every aspect including consultation, sharing the benefits with the community, agriculture and emissions reduction."

"If constructed, the project will allow the community and neighbours to share be-

tween \$2 million and \$3.4 million, depending on whether the funds are spent upfront or over the 30-year project life. Wherever feasible, the beneficiaries will be required to feed the funds back into local businesses, so the money stays in town," he said.

"We want to inform locals about the extensive studies including ecology, hydrology, geology and archaeology to determine constraints for the project. While there will be further opportunity for consultation during the DA process, we don't want Covid-19 restrictions to prevent us from engaging with the community at this early stage," Dom said.

"The recent reflection and glare study completed by experts has determined reflections will not be visible by residential receivers surrounding the facility under normal ±62° tracking operations when solar panels will track the sun.

"One of the most exciting aspects of the project is the combination of solar and agriculture. The panels will have sufficient space between them to allow fat lamb production between and under the panels. In fact, the dew running off the panels will enhance the grass and the coolness of the grass will optimise the solar production from the panels. Lamb production will be combined with regenerative agriculture, a carbon soil project and green waste compost production.

Blind Creek Solar Farm evolved from Capital Solar Farm which was approved in



2013. The team believes this is a more suitable location with a larger buffer from neighbouring properties.

"A project this size would take around 18 months to build and employ around 300 people giving a significant boost to local businesses post bushfires, drought and Covid. We will ensure the benefits stay local wherever possible," Dom said.

Based on 350MW the solar farm is expected to produce approx. 735,000 MWh per year which is enough energy to power 124,000 houses with clean energy. This is

the equivalent of removing almost 220,000 cars off the road each year.

Consultation will continue with neighbours, community members, the Indigenous community, local business owners, traffic authority, advocacy groups and council.

If you would like to join an online Zoom information session register online at www.blindcreeksolarfarm.com.au or send an email with your postcode and preferred session to admin@blindcreek.com.au and we will send you a link and instructions on how to join in.

Photo: Janie Barret

Losses reported to Scamwatch exceed \$211 million, phone scams exploding

Scamwatch is urging people to be extra vigilant about scams after Australians reported a record \$211 million in losses to scams so far this year, an 89 per cent increase compared to the same period last year, according to new data from Scamwatch.

The losses, reported between 1 January and 19 September, have already surpassed the \$175.6 million reported to Scamwatch across all of last year.

"It's very concerning to see these scams evolving and becoming more sophisticated to steal even more money from unsuspecting people," ACCC Deputy Chair Della Rickard said.

"While the proportion of reports involving a financial loss has dropped this year, the people who do lose money are losing bigger amounts. The average loss so far this year is about \$11,000 compared to \$7,000 for the same period in 2020."

Many of these losses are from phone based scams, which accounted for over \$63.6 million (31 per cent) of the losses. Additionally, of the 213,000 reports that Scamwatch received so far this year, 113,000 were about phone scams.

Scammers call or text people and claim to be from well-known businesses or government to steal people's personal information.

"Scammers are pretending to be from companies such as Amazon or eBay and claiming large purchases have been made on the victim's credit card. When they pretend to help you process a refund, they actually gain remote access to your computer and steal your personal and banking details," Ms Rickard said.

"In August, the new Flubot malware scams masquerading as fake voicemail and parcel delivery scams exploded, which have resulted in more than 13,000 reports in just eight weeks."

"These scams are particularly concerning in our current climate, as many people are turning to online shopping because of the COVID-19 lockdowns," Ms Rickard said.

Scamwatch has noticed a significant increase in losses to phishing scams (261 per cent), remote access scams (144 per cent) and identity theft (234 per cent). As explained in August's media release, losses to investment scams have also risen dramatically (172 per cent) in 2021.

"The rise in identity theft related scams is particularly concerning as scammers can use the personal information they obtain for use in other crimes," Ms Rickard said.

"If you see a scam, please report it to Scamwatch, even if you haven't lost any money. These reports are extremely important to us as they provide key information about any emerging scams or trends."

Information from these reports allows Scamwatch to work with a number of private and public organisations including government agencies and law enforcement to help disrupt scams and provide the best possible advice about how people can protect themselves.

For example, the ACCC has been sharing alleged scammer phone numbers with telecommunications providers for investigation and potential blocking, and has been working with the banks to raise awareness with their customers who may have been compromised by Flubot.

"Scammers are conning people out of more and more money, so it's really important that everyone knows what to look out for and how to protect themselves," Ms Rickard said.

"Remember, you never know who you are dealing with online. Scammers often pretend to be from a well-known organisation, such as a bank or the government, and they will pretend to offer you something such as money or a benefit, or claim that you are in trouble."

"Do not click on any links in messages that come to you out of the blue, and never provide any of your personal or banking details to someone you don't personally know and trust," Ms Rickard said.

"If you think something might be legitimate, call the organisation or government agency back using details you find in an independent search, rather than the details provided."

Anyone who has provided their banking details to a scammer should contact their bank or financial institution as soon as possible.

People who suspect they may be a victim of identity theft should contact IDCARE on 1800 595 160 or via www.idcare.org. IDCARE is a free government-funded service that works with individuals to develop a specific response plan to their situation and support them throughout the process.

Regional Independent

The Regional Independent is the only free, printed, weekly, independent, community newspaper within the Queanbeyan-Palerang local government area.

Distribution is 5,600 copies every week and covers Bungendore, Braidwood, Tarago, Queanbeyan, Gogong, Jerrabomberra and Karabar (Wednesday).

Letterbox/household delivery includes Wamboin, Rossi, Hoskinstown and Forbes Creek (Thursday and Friday).

We welcome local stories. For editorial and advertising enquiries please email: info@regionalindependent.com.au or phone Sharon Baxter-Judge on 0419 025 533.

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Appendix C4.3: Regional Independent ¼ page advertisement

Community News

Life is short - make the most of it



by Phil Harvey

I am writing this article from a hospital bed, and as such, I dedicate it to all of our wonderful first responders. In particular the local paramedics including Frank, Jo, Claire, and Andrew.

The last few months have been a real wake up call for me personally. Up until earlier this year, I was relatively healthy and had visions of immortality.

In June this year, this all came crashing down. Firstly, I had a ruptured disc in my back that required surgery. Then just as I was recovering I had a heart attack that led me to where I am now, which is waiting for surgery to get a defibrillator pacemaker.

Now the point of this article isn't to focus on my health. Instead, it is to remind you (and me) that it is important we all do whatever we can to make the most of our lives.

I am not on my deathbed, but having dealt with clients that are or have been, it is not unusual to see them assess their life and to have some regrets. It seems that regrets often fall into one of the following categories. They wished they didn't work as hard as they did; or prioritised family more or had put more effort into staying in touch with their friends; or took life less seriously; or had the courage to express their true self, or followed their dreams more.

So what can we do? There are a few really easy things we can all do.

Firstly, have the right work life balance. This doesn't necessarily mean working three days a week. I think this is more about not letting work consume your thoughts when you are supposed to be having down time. For example, if you are kicking the football, or playing boardgames, concentrate just on that activity. Be present,



This is often easier said than done (especially if you are a business owner), but it is a good step.

Secondly, make an effort to make at least one social connection every day. This could be something as little as sending a text message to an old friend, or dropping in to visit a friend for a catchup. Research shows that making frequent social connections makes people feel better and improves mental health.

Thirdly, find something to laugh at every day. It could be watching a funny video, watching your dogs play ball, or just taking some time to observe your kids while they are playing. It doesn't matter what it is, as long as you feel good.

Finally, make time to think about something you really want to do and then plan to do it. It doesn't matter how big or small it is, but set aside at least 5 minutes every day to make sure you are doing something about it.

Don't let life pass you by. Make the most of it.

If you want to discuss how we can help you take control of your money so you can focus on living your ideal life, call me on 0417 034 252 or email me at office@constructwealth.com.au.

General Advice Warning
This advice contains general information and may not be suitable for you because it does not consider your personal circumstances. Phil Harvey is an authorised representative of Independent Financial Advisers Australia (AFSL #64628)

Small Farms and bushfire webinar

Summers are getting hotter and longer. Climate change modelling predicts an increase in average and severe fire weather for spring and summer in the near future. What can small landholders do to plan for bushfire?

The Small Farms and Bushfire webinar is on Thursday 7 October 2021, from 7,00-8,30pm with Jason McWhirter from the NSW Rural Fire Service.

During the webinar Jason will cover bushfire season planning, preparing your rural property for summer, useful equipment for fire management and what to do in an emergency bushfire situation. If you've been wondering how to create a plan of action when it comes to bushfire, Jason will guide you through the process.

Jason McWhirter is the District Officer, Lake George Zone for the NSW Rural Fire Service. In this role Jason implements strategic organisational programs to reduce the risk to the community from bushfire and other

emergencies. He provides a range of practical support to bushfire brigades and the community through training, equipment maintenance and community engagement events. Jason has a Bachelor of Applied Science and has worked in the field of natural resource management. Jason has a long history of volunteer fire fighting and many years practical experience planning for bushfire.

The event will be held online using Zoom webinar. Attending the webinar is free but bookings are essential. Bookings can be made at smallfarmscapita.org/events

Funding for this webinar is from the NSW Government Department of Planning, Industry and Environment Increasing Resilience to Climate Change community grants program. More information about the South East and Tablelands Climate Change snapshot can be found on this website <https://climatechange.environment.nsw.gov.au/>



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Blind Creek Solar Farm

ONLINE COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

Blind Creek Solar Farm invites you to join an online Zoom community information session on

Sunday 10 October 5-6pm
or Monday 11 October 5-6pm

If you would like to find out more about the 350MW agri-solar farm proposed by local farmers on the flat country between Bungendore Sands quarry and Capital Wind Farm register online at

www.blindcreeksolarfarm.com.au
or send an email with your postcode and your preferred session time to admin@blindcreeksolarfarm.com.au and you will be sent a link to join the session.

www.blindcreeksolarfarm.com.au
Tel: 1800 312 732

Appendix C4.4: Regional Independent article 06.10.21

Bacteria blasting cancer treatment shows promise

A low-cost, non-toxic cancer treatment has been developed by researchers at The Australian National University (ANU).

The treatment uses dead bacteria to help kick-start the immune system and shrink cancer.



Lead researcher Associate Professor Aude Fahrer says an ongoing Phase 1 clinical trial at The Canberra Hospital has shown positive results and could improve outcomes for patients living with cancer.

"We've treated eight patients as part of this trial," Associate Professor Fahrer said.

"They were all late-stage patients, but in one case in particular we were able to significantly improve the patient's quality of life.

"The treatment reduced the amount of liquid around their lungs and was able to shrink one of their cancers.

"The best things about this new treatment are that it requires few dosages, is simple to administer, and has low side effects.

"It is also extremely low cost. We are looking at around \$20 a dose, whereas the cost of other immunotherapies can run to \$40,000. This makes the treatment accessible for patients in developing countries."

The bacterial-based immunotherapy is simple, if a little unconventional.

"It involves injecting a slow-release solution of dead mycobacteria directly into the cancer," Associate Professor Fahrer said.

"The idea is this will bring immune cells into the cancer to attack the bacteria, even though they're dead, and as a side effect cause the immune cells to attack the cancer as well.

"Once the immune cells multiply they can travel around the body, so it would not only attack the cancer at the injection site, but any metastases - where the cancer has spread to another part of the body."

A second clinical trial at The Canberra Hospital has already been approved.

Associate Professor Fahrer says it has been a lengthy process to get to this point, with generous support from the Canberra community enabling the research and

the trial to go ahead.

"We're especially grateful to everyone who has donated, including those who donated through the Lea Chapuis Memorial Fund," Associate Professor Fahrer said.

"Lea was a family friend who knew about this project and wanted to be part of our trials, but sadly became too sick to participate."

"Lea asked people to contribute to the research in lieu of flowers when she passed away."

The study was a collaboration between Associate Professor Fahrer and her team, The Canberra Hospital Cancer Centre, The University of Queensland's School of Veterinary Science, and researchers in Switzerland.

The findings have been published in the Journal for Immunotherapy of Cancer.

Image: Associate Professor Aude Fahrer. Photo: Jamie Kidston/ANU

Online Community Information Sessions for Blind Creek Solar Farm

Blind Creek Solar Farm is holding online community information sessions on Sunday 10 October and Monday 11 October 5.00pm - 6.00pm to update the community on the progress of this farmer led project approx 8km from Bungendore.

Dominic Osborne, proposer of the agri-solar farm said, "we want to share where we are up to with our Community Benefit Sharing Scheme and the studies undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the 350MW agri-solar farm proposed for the flat country between Bungendore Sands quarry and Capital Wind Farm.

"We have been working closely with our neighbours since last November, but we are also keen to keep the wider community informed and to provide an opportunity for feedback. Unfortunately, our plans to hold an early consultation open day in town are on hold for the moment due to Covid-19.

"The discussions with our neighbours up to 6.5km have been very helpful in shaping the project. Our close neighbours and houses within 6.5km with a view of the project are our most important consideration and have

been invited to share in the financial benefits.

"We want this project to be visionary in every aspect including consultation, sharing the benefits with the community, agriculture and emissions reduction."

"If constructed, the project will allow the community and neighbours to share between \$2 million and \$3.4 million, depending on whether the funds are spent upfront or over the 30-year project life. Wherever feasible, the beneficiaries will be required to feed the funds back into local businesses, so the money stays in town," he said.

"We want to inform locals about the extensive studies including ecology, hydrology, geology and archaeology to determine constraints for the project. While there will be further opportunity for consultation during the DA process, we don't want Covid-19 restrictions to prevent us from engaging with the community at this early stage," Dom said.

"The recent reflection and glare study completed by experts has determined reflections will not be visible by residential receivers surrounding the facility under nor-

mal ±62° tracking operations when solar panels will track the sun.

"One of the most exciting aspects of the project is the combination of solar and agriculture. The panels will have sufficient space between them to allow fat lamb production between and under the panels. In fact, the dew running off the panels will enhance the grass and the coolness of the grass will optimise the solar production from the panels. Lamb production will be combined with regenerative agriculture, a carbon soil project and green waste compost production.

Blind Creek Solar Farm evolved from Capital Solar Farm which was approved in 2013. The team believes this is a more suitable location with a larger buffer from neighbouring properties.

"A project this size would take around 18 months to build and employ around 300 people giving a significant boost to local businesses post bushfires, drought and Covid. We will ensure the benefits stay local wherever possible," Dom said.

Based on 350MW the solar farm is expected to produce approx. 735,000 MWh per

year which is enough energy to power 124,000 houses with clean energy. This is the equivalent of removing almost 220,000 cars off the road each year.

Consultation will continue with neighbours, community members, the Indigenous community, local business owners, traffic authority, advocacy groups and council.

If you would like to join an online Zoom information session register online at www.blindcreeksolarfarm.com.au or send an email with your postcode and preferred session to admin@blindcreek.com.au and we will send you a link and instructions on how to join in.

Photo: Janie Barrett



Regional Independent

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PO Box 475 Bungendore NSW 2621

Appendix C4.5: Regional Independent ¼ page advertisement 06.10.21

Community News

'Unprecedented' number of donations at Phil's Emporium Op Shop

Taylor Ryan

Phil's Emporium Op Shop has received countless donations from the community during this lockdown period. The Op Shops shed is full of treasures to uncover just in time for the holiday season.

Phil's Emporium Op Shop has been closed since the beginning of lockdown. Despite not advertising that they were taking donations a lot of people have contacted the store. Half of the op shop is full of donations and Manager Chloe Pailthorpe is in awe as this hasn't happened previously.

The shed is full. I reckon we have had 3 times the amount we usually get after Christmas', she said.

Donations have come from people either moving or decluttering as they have had time to get on top of things. During this period the shop has been able to run contactless accepting of donations in the shed but people socially distanced. They haven't had volunteers to process the donations, items such as clothing, books, and homeware... and even an accordion, so the pile just keeps growing. Chloe asks the Bungendore community to be 'responsible donors' when con-



sidering what is an appropriate item to donate.

If something is dirty or broken and you wouldn't want to give it away to a friend, that is a challenge for us to sell', she said.

To help the store resell items please ensure they are of good quality. When donating it is also important to put the items in manageable bags or boxes to prevent the goods from becoming disordered. There is a local couple that the shop supports who take anything leftover or spare to the Northern territory. Phil's Emporium cannot take furniture although they have a network of people who can help. There is a couple in Bungendore who have a shipping container and donate to people in fire-affected areas mainly around Bal-law.

Phil's Emporium plans to reopen on the 20th of October a week after general retail. This is so

they can gauge the 'craziness' of the situation and set up the store accordingly. What to expect when the shop reopens is plenty of Winter bargains and a lot of new clothes filling the shelves. There will be many tagged items and four-dollar items as seen before. There will be inside and outside trading to keep to the four-square metre rule and only 15 people in the shop at any given time. This means that for the first week the store is open there will be racks and tables set up outside.

This Christmas as many people have been out of work or money the nature of the store makes it a perfect yet affordable option when purchasing gifts for loved ones.

It doesn't have to cost the earth', Chloe added.

Images: Op Shop will be reopening soon

Draft Mobile Food Vending Policy: comments close October 8

QPRC

The new Draft Mobile Food Vending Policy provides guidance on where Council would consider issuing approval to a mobile food vendor to trade in a public space. A main focus of the Policy is clarifying suitable roadside locations for the safe operation of mobile food vending that:

- allows safe customer access (including parking)
- general traffic safety and awareness, and
- does not inhibit existing pedestrian movement.

To make enforcement of the approvals more streamline and consistent, the Policy places significant restrictions on suitable trading locations and operational expectations. We expect that it will make it easier for future and existing mobile food business by providing them with a consistent policy across the whole of the QPRC local government area.

Submissions may be made:

- By completing the survey online at yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au
- By email to council@qprc.nsw.gov.au referencing "draft Mobile Food Vending Policy" in the subject line
- By mail to PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620
- By delivery to any of Council's customer service centres

Comments close October 8



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Blind Creek Solar Farm

ONLINE COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

Blind Creek Solar Farm invites you to join an online Zoom community information session on

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Tel: 1800 312 732

Appendix C4.6: Open Day DL Brochure

The Open Day brochure was delivered to 2000 households in region wk beginning 1.11.21



**Please join us to find out more about the
350MW agri-solar farm led by local farmers.
The site is about 8km north of Bungendore between
Bungendore Sands quarry & Capital Wind Farm.
Come along & find out more about
the site, the environmental & archeology studies,
renewable energy generated,
agricultural aspects, regenerative agriculture,
community consultation &
community benefit sharing scheme.**

Please register online (IN CASE OF CREEK FLOODING SO WE CAN LET YOU KNOW OF CANCELLATION) at www.blindcreeksolarfarm.com.au or send us an email to say you are coming - admin@blindcreeksolarfarm.com.au

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS WILL APPLY
PLEASE WEAR MASK & PROOF OF VACCINE WILL BE
REQUIRED TO ENTER INFORMATION TENT

Photo: Janie Barrett



COME TO THE OPEN DAY TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT

Environmental Impact Assessment
Environmental and archaeology studies
Local jobs and local economy
Renewable energy
Community consultation
Community Benefit Sharing Scheme
Development application process
Agri-solar and grazing methodology

DIRECTIONS

Currandooley Road. From Bungendore take Tarago Road. Turn left 7km from town onto Currandooley Road. Follow signs.

MORE INFORMATION

To find more information about the project visit
www.blindcreeksolarfarm.com.au
If you have any questions about the project
Freecall 1800 312 732 or
email admin@blindcreeksolarfarm.com.au

Appendix C4.7: Regional Independent Newspaper ¼ page advertisement 3.11.21

REGIONAL INDEPENDENT

3 November 2021

Community News

Page 5

COP26 to rake Australia's low emissions target over the coals

The world will expect Australia to "ratchet up" its emissions reduction target during the United Nations climate change summit, say two experts from The Australian National University (ANU).

Professor Mark Howden, Director of the ANU Institute for Climate, Energy and Disaster Solutions, and Professor Frank Jotzo, the Institute's Head of Energy, will be closely watching the two-week COP26 summit in Glasgow.

Professor Jotzo said almost every other developed country had taken on a stronger target for emission

reductions by 2030 - except Australia.

"At Glasgow, a lot of the focus will be on stronger emissions targets for 2030," Professor Jotzo said.

"The Paris Agreement, from 2015, was set up as a ratchet mechanism. But Australia will be just about alone among developed countries, not having updated the ambition put forward in 2015.

"Australia's 26-28 per cent reduction target has been weak from the start. Now, it is simply no longer in the ballpark of what is acceptable

internationally or necessary domestically."

"We have ready opportunities to do far better than that. There has been a policy vacuum, plenty of low hanging fruit have not been harvested.

"A sensible suite of policies can help position Australia for success in a low carbon world economy."

Professor Howden said Australia will be expected to join other developed countries in setting out a credible national agenda for meeting its commitment to reach net

zero emissions by 2050.

"Australia will likely be asked to explain how its continued high level reliance on fossil fuels is consistent with its net zero pledge and for substantive details of the plan to reduce emissions" Professor Howden said.

"This scrutiny will be applied to other countries' plans as well. There will undoubtedly be many conversations on the suitability of the Australian emission-reduction commitment given the nation's clear vulnerability to climate change impacts.

"And there will be serious questions as to why it has not been raised to align better with the net zero by 2050 target and with our commitment to achieve the Paris agreement temperature goals - which are to keep global temperatures to well below two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and if possible to 1.5 degrees Celsius."

"The recent announcement that NZ aims to halve its emissions by 2030 will only add to the pressure."

Net Zero by 2050 good but not nearly good enough

Climate Action Monaro (CAM) has welcomed the federal Government's call for Net Zero Emissions by 2050 because it puts Australia in line with its major trading partners. However, CAM says the target may give rise to complacency and put off real action until it is too late.

CAM President Ms Jo Oddie says scientists say we are on track for 2.7°C warming, even if all countries abided by their current commitments. Thus, stronger targets are needed to keep below 2.0°C.

"While we should be aspiring to keeping warming below 1.5°C, going above 2.0°C is completely untenable," says Ms Oddie. "We have already reached some systems-level irreversible tipping points with current warming (1.2°C) but 2.0°C may set off physical changes in a cascade, leading to unstoppable warming

and an uninhabitable Earth.

"These include loss of summer Arctic sea-ice, melting of the Greenland ice-sheet; slowing of North Atlantic oceanic circulation; die-off of the boreal forests across the northern hemisphere from beetles and disease; loss of the West Antarctic ice shelf and the Wilkes ice shelf in East Antarctica; and release of the potent greenhouse gas methane from the tundra leading to even more warming."

"And let us not forget we lose the Great Barrier Reef at 2.0°C warming."

Ms Oddie says 2050 is long-term while it's short-term, like 2030, that matters most.

"What we need is emergency action now to cool the climate and protect the most vulnerable ecosystems. If we fail, then long-term targets may be irrelevant.

"What is required is rapid decarbonisation and drawing down of atmospheric carbon dioxide to more stable levels. Net zero suggests to polluters they can keep on polluting as long as they buy off-sets (such as such as land-based carbon farming and forestation) but with every country trying to do the same there may not be sufficient land to provide the off-sets needed.

"Off-sets include bioenergy or the growing of crops for energy. We have to be very wary of this, however, since crops for energy compete with crops for food. Global demand for food is likely to be 50% higher in 2050 assuming GDP doubles and population increases by 20%. If we depend on bioenergy as a solution, there may be 8% less land to grow food and people will go hungry."

Register now for ChemClear March 2022 collection

Agsafe's ChemClear program is holding a collection in New South Wales in March 2022. Agvet chemical users can now register their unwanted or obsolete Agvet chemicals for collection. Registrations close on 28 January 2022.

All successful registrations are acknowledged by email or post. A reference number relating to each of your Group 1 and 2 chemical registrations will be provided. Once your chemicals are registered with ChemClear, continue to store the chemicals safely and securely.

An appropriate quantity of storage stickers will be sent out by post, one month after your registration with ChemClear. These stickers will display your registration reference number and are provided for placement on the containers you have registered for disposal. These stickers will aid safe storage and identify the chemicals to your

employees, auditors and others as being registered for disposal.

ChemClear will contact you directly to advise the location and date of the collection point in your local government area. If you have registered any Group 2 classified chemicals, you will be provided with a quotation on a per L/kg basis for the collection and disposal of these products.

When a collection is scheduled in your area ChemClear will contact you and provide the following information:

- the address of the collection site
 - a date for the collection
 - an appointment time to deliver the chemicals to the collection team
- To register your chemicals, please visit: www.chemclear.org.au/register-your-chemical

For further information please contact ChemClear on: 1800 008 182



Do you need funding for your community group?



STRONGER COMMUNITIES GRANTS NOW OPEN

\$150,000 available for Eden-Monaro projects.

Expressions of interest are being sought for grants of \$2,500 - \$20,000. EOIs close 26 November.

Scan here for more info and to apply

Previous grants have been used for playgrounds, surf lifesaving and sports equipment, musical instruments, upgrades to community centres, and much more.

I can't wait to see what will be achieved in 2022!

KRISTY MCBAIN
MEMBER FOR EDEN-MONARO





 Kristy.McBain.MP@aph.gov.au
 KristyMcBain.com.au
 02 6284 2442

Authorised by Kristy McBain MP ALP 1/21-25 Monaro Street, Queanbeyan NSW 2620



OPEN DAY - SITE VISIT
SATURDAY 13 NOVEMBER
10AM - 3PM

Please join us to find out more about the proposed 350MW agri-solar renewable energy project led by local farmers. The site is about 8km north of Bungendore between Bungendore Sands quarry and Capital Wind Farm.

Come along and find out about the proposed site location, the environmental impact studies including the archaeology and biodiversity, the agri-solar aspects including regenerative farming, the community consultation and the Community Benefit Sharing Scheme.

PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE TO ATTEND IN CASE THE CREEK IS FLOODED AND WE NEED TO LET YOU KNOW IT IS CANCELLED
<https://www.blindcreeksolarfarm.com.au/events-register>
OR EMAIL admin@blindcreeksolarfarm.com.au

Directions from Bungendore to Currandooley Road. Take Tarago Road turn left approximately 7km from town onto Currandooley Road, follow signs.

NO DOGS ALLOWED
COVID-19 restrictions apply

www.blindcreeksolarfarm.com.au

Appendix C4.8: Online newsletter 6.11.21

Blind Creek Solar Farm open day Saturday 13 November

Recipients

Blind Creek Solar Farm open day Saturday 13 November

Dear e-news subscriber, the founders of Blind Creek Solar Farm would like to invite you to an open day on Saturday 13 November between 10am-3.00pm. Could you please register online at the [Blind Creek Solar Farm website](#) or reply by email to let us know if you would like to attend so we can advise you if the creek is flooded and we have to cancel. If you are unable to make it but are keen to find out more we would be happy to meet with you to discuss the project or arrange a separate time for you to visit.



Please join us to find out more about the 300MW agri solar farm led by local farmers. The site is about 8km north of Bungendore between Bungendore South quarry & Capital Wood Farm. Come along & find out more about the site, the environmental & archaeology studies, renewable energy generated, agricultural aspects, regenerative agriculture, community consultation & community benefit sharing scheme.

Please register online (a fee of \$200) or call 1800 512 752 or email admin@blindcreeksolarfarm.com.au

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS WILL APPLY
PLEASE WEAR MASK & PROOF OF VACCINE WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER INFORMATION TENT

Page 1 of 2



COME TO THE OPEN DAY TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT

- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Environmental and archaeology studies
- Local jobs and local economy
- Renewable energy
- Community consultation
- Community Benefit Sharing Scheme
- Development application process
- Agri-solar and grazing methodology

DIRECTIONS

Campodoley Road. From Bungendore take Torrago Road, turn left 7km from town onto Campodoley Road. Follow signs.

MORE INFORMATION

To find more information about the project visit www.blindcreeksolarfarm.com.au
If you have any questions about the project
Freecall 1800 512 752 or
email admin@blindcreeksolarfarm.com.au

Appendix C4.9: Regional Independent ¼ page advertisement 10.11.21

REGIONAL INDEPENDENT

11 November 2021

Community News

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2021 council elections - candidates for Queanbeyan-Palerang

Council elections will be held on Saturday December 4. The ballot draw was conducted last Wednesday. Below are the groups and candidates in ballot paper draw order. The Regional Independent will include a special election lift out on the leading and ungrouped candidates later in the month.

Group A - The Greens
Katrina WILLIS - Crestwood
Forbes GORDON - Braidwood
Melissa BENYON - Mt Fairy
Greg BUCKMAN - Crestwood
Melissa COX - Crestwood
Andrew CLARK - Braidwood

Group B
Mareeta GRUNDY - Bywong
Trevor HICKS - Captains Flat
Frank BRESNIK - Queanbeyan
Jamie RAYNOLDS - Braidwood

Bonnie O'BRIEN - Kindervale
John RES - Googong
Daniel EDWARDS - Bungendore

Group C
Margot SACHSE - Jerrabomberra
Anne BROWN - Jerrabomberra
Stephen DAVIE - Jerrabomberra
Stan CREGAN - Jerrabomberra
Gregory GUY - Jerrabomberra
Lynette EDWARDS - Googong

Group D
Stefo (Steve) TASKOVSKI - Karabar
Ben O'CONNELL - Captains Flat
Manpreet CHEEMA - Googong
Lou BALDAN - Queanbeyan East
Alan HILL - Burra

Mohammad HASAN - Googong
Frank AGRESTA - Googong
Adam BROGAN - Jerrabomberra
Virginia MCNEILL - Karabar

Ronae CAMAGGI - Karabar

Group E
Karuna BAURACHARYA - Braidwood
Keith POTGER - Braidwood
Nathan PHARAOH - Bendoura
Claire DOCHERTY - Bungendore
Deanne ALLCHIN - Braidwood

Group F
Kenrick WINCHESTER - Googong
Edwina WEBSTER - Bungendore
Peter LINDBECK - Greenleigh
Carla FAHEY - Jerrabomberra
Tony WOOD - Queanbeyan West
Jeffrey (Rocky) BURNELL - Queanbeyan

Murray LEMBIT - Queanbeyan
Matt MORRISSEY - Queanbeyan
Jan BROWNE - Queanbeyan West
Group G
Michele BISCOTTI - Googong

Sian RINALDI - Queanbeyan East
John TALBOT - Jerrabomberra
Kelly LOLESIO - Crestwood
Brent HUNTER - Queanbeyan East
Mandy RYAN - Carwoola
Rena SPEARS - Karabar
Alex TINE - Royalla

Group H
John MANGOS - Jerrabomberra
Ashleigh BUJAROSKI - Jerrabomberra
Mark RISTIC - Karabar
Arthur GEORGE - The Ridgeway
Filip PAJKOVSKI - Karabar
Antonio KUZMANOVSKI - Queanbeyan East
Raymond CALLAN - Jerrabomberra

Group I - Liberal
Louise BURTON - Wamboin

Jacqueline TERNOUTH - Jerrabomberra
Mark SCHWEIKERT - Bungendore
Robert BOZ - Googong
Ross MACDONALD - Wamboin
Rob SCHWARTZ - Mt Fairy

Group J - Labor
Bryce WILSON - Jerrabomberra
Esmia LIVERMORE - Crestwood
John PRESTON - Bungendore
Maimitt BROOK - Sutton
Kammy SINGH - Jerrabomberra
Timothy NICHOLSON - Queanbeyan
Joel ANDERSON - Karabar

Ungrouped candidates
Bill WATERHOUSE - Majors Creek
Ginevra PEISLEY - Royalla
Kyoil BOOTH-HUNT - Hoskinstown
James HOLLGATE - Greenleigh

The Blessing of the Animals this Sunday at St Philip's

After months of lockdown, it's fair to say that our pets play a huge part when it comes to our wellbeing and mental health. It's time to celebrate our pets at St Philip's Anglican Church on Sunday November 14 at The Blessing of the Animals.

This is a yearly tradition hosted by Bungendore Anglican at an outdoor service on the church grounds in Gibraltar Street. There's plenty of noise and fun as the community brings along their cats, dogs, birds, goats, horses,

and guinea pigs for a blessing by our Vicar Mike.

The service begins at 10am and is followed by morning tea. Certificates are presented to each animal as a blessing is prayed. Social distancing is observed and a QR sign in will be at the gate.

All are welcome to join us. If the weather is wet, it will be rescheduled for Sunday 28th November.

For more info contact 6238 1251. Image supplied of Mike and family, with Jacqui on a recent visit to see some very cute baby goats.





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Canberra ACT
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Blind Creek Solar Farm

**OPEN DAY - SITE VISIT
SATURDAY 13 NOVEMBER
10AM - 3PM**

Please join us to find out more about the proposed 350MW agri-solar renewable energy project led by local farmers. The site is about 8km north of Bungendore between Bungendore Sands quarry and Capital Wind Farm.

Come along and find out about the proposed site location, the environmental impact studies including the archaeology and biodiversity, the agri-solar aspects including regenerative farming, the community consultation and the Community Benefit Sharing Scheme.

PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE TO ATTEND IN CASE THE CREEK IS FLOODED AND WE NEED TO LET YOU KNOW IT IS CANCELLED
<https://www.blindcreeksolarfarm.com.au/events-register>
OR EMAIL admin@blindcreeksolarfarm.com.au

Directions from Bungendore to Currandooley Road. Take Tarago Road turn left approximately 7km from town onto Currandooley Road, follow signs.

**NO DOGS ALLOWED
COVID-19 restrictions apply**

www.blindcreeksolarfarm.com.au

D.5 Team credentials Landholder consultation

Appendix C5 Team Credentials

Team	Practitioners	Experience
Consultation team	Jane Osborne, BCSF Pty Ltd	Jane has worked as a media director and communications consultant for over 20 years. She has been a director of media at the Department of Environment and a communications consultation for the Clean Energy Council.
	Dominic Osborne, BCSF Pty Ltd	Dominic is a local farmer who is a passionate supporter of regenerative agriculture and environmental rehabilitation. With Jane, he is the main landowner for the project. He has lived on the proposed site his whole life.
	Luke Osborne, BCSF Pty Ltd , BCSF Pty Ltd	Luke is a farmer and neighbour of the project. He has worked in renewable energy for over 20 years. One of his passions has been for renewable energy to work with neighbours to leave a positive legacy in the community. He was a major contributor the NSW Guideline for benefits sharing and is an active board member for RE-Alliance, an NGO improving community outcomes from renewable energy.
	Gerard Reiter, BCSF Pty Ltd	Gerard Reiter is a power systems engineer with over 20 years experience with transmission-scale grid systems and renewable energy integration. He has a deep understanding of Australia's evolving electricity sector as well as considerable experience in leading the development of community-sensitive power system projects.
EIS team	Brooke Marshall, NGH Pty Ltd	Brooke is a Certified Environmental Practitioner (CEnvP) with over 17 years' experience in environmental assessment.
	Zeina Jokadar, NGH Pty Ltd	Zeina is a Certified Environmental Practitioner (CEnvP) with over 19 years' experience in environmental assessment.
	Ainslee Roser, NGH Pty Ltd	Ainslee is an Environmental Consultant with over three years' experience in environmental assessment.
	Sarah Dale, NGH Pty Ltd	Sarah is an Environmental Consultant with over five years' experience in environmental assessment.
	Zoe Cox, NGH Pty Ltd	Zoe is an Environmental Consultant with over three years' experience in environmental assessment.

Team	Practitioners	Experience
BDAR team	Beth Noel, NGH Pty Ltd	Beth is a BAM Accredited Assessor with over 21 years' experience.
	Rebecca Reid, NGH Pty Ltd	Rebecca is an ecologist with over six years' experience.
	Jared Graham-Higgs, NGH Pty Ltd	Jared is an ecologist with over one year's experience.
ACHA team	Matthew Barber, NGH Pty Ltd	Matthew is the General Manager at NGH and has over 30 years' experience.
	Jakob Ruhl, NGH Pty Ltd	Jakob is a Principal Heritage Consultant with over 15 years' experience.
	Ali Byrne, NGH Pty Ltd	Ali is the Regional Manager for Heritage NSW/Victoria and has over 11 years' experience.
	Jorge Fuenzalida Miralles, NGH Pty Ltd	Jorge is a Heritage consultant with over one years' experience.
SoHI team	Jakob Ruhl, NGH Pty Ltd	Jakob is a Principal Heritage Consultant with over 15 years' experience.
	Ali Byrne, NGH Pty Ltd	Ali is the Regional Manager for Heritage NSW/Victoria and has over 11 years' experience.
Visual Assessment team	Ashley Robertson, Moir Landscape Architecture Pty Ltd	Ashley Robertson is a Senior Associate with 12 years' experience in Visual Impact Assessment. She has extensive experience in undertaking Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments for large scale renewable energy projects throughout New South Wales. The report was prepared by with the assistance of
	Saurabh Wagh Moir Landscape Architecture Pty Ltd	Saurabh is a Graduate Landscape Architect with three years' experience in Visual Impact Assessment.

Team	Practitioners	Experience
Traffic Assessment team	Mike Willson, Amber Traffic Consultants	Mike is a traffic consultant who has significant experience and knowledge with renewable energy projects, including preparing a number of TIAs throughout New South Wales.
Noise and Vibration Assessment team	Michael Chung, Renzo Tonin & Associates	Michael is a Noise and Vibration Specialist who has conducted environmental noise and vibration assessments as part of the EIS for over a dozen solar farms, including Dunedoo, Sunraysia, Nevertire, Beryl, and Wellington Solar Farm.
Hydrological and Hydraulic Analysis team	Ashley Bond, Footprint (NSW) Pty Ltd	Ashley is a Civil and Environmental Engineer with experience across both the public and private sectors., including hydrological and hydraulic modelling and advice for Solar Farms and Wind Farms.
Reflective Glare Assessment team	Dr Peter Georgiou, SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd	Peter is currently Technical Director at SLR Consulting.
	Dr Neihad Al-Khaldy, SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd	Neihad is a Technical Director. He holds Green Star, CBD Lighting and NABERS Accredited Professional certifications. His areas of expertise include exterior lighting, solar, reflectivity and overshadowing.
Preliminary Geotechnical Investigation team	Michael Jones, Douglas Partners Pty Ltd	Michael is a Senior Geotechnical Engineer and Principal of the company with over 22 years experience in field assessments and reporting for a wide range of projects including extensive experience in infrastructure. Projects including solar farms. He is also the Regional Manager for Southern NSW and ACT.