



# Engagement Report

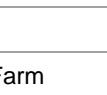

## Tilbuster 2 Solar Farm

Enerparc Australia Pty Ltd

15 November 2024

→ **The Power of Commitment**



<b>Project name</b>		Stage 2 Tilbuster Solar Farm					
<b>Document title</b>		Engagement Report   Tilbuster 2 Solar Farm					
<b>Project number</b>		12636761					
<b>File name</b>		12636761_REP_Tilbuster 2 Solar Farm_Engagement Report.docx					
<b>Status Code</b>	<b>Revision</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Reviewer</b>		<b>Approved for issue</b>		
			<b>Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
S4	0	E Strauss	L King		S Murphy		15/11/24

**GHD Pty Ltd | ABN 39 008 488 373**

Contact: Lisa King, Technical Director - Environment | GHD

GHD Tower, Level 3, 24 Honeysuckle Drive

Newcastle, New South Wales 2300, Australia

T +61 2 4979 9999 | F +61 2 9475 0725 | E ntlmail@ghd.com | [ghd.com](http://ghd.com)

© GHD 2024

This document is and shall remain the property of GHD. The document may only be used for the purpose for which it was commissioned and in accordance with the Terms of Engagement for the commission. Unauthorised use of this document in any form whatsoever is prohibited.

## Acknowledgement of Country

GHD acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the land, water and sky throughout Australia on which we do business. We recognise their strength, diversity, resilience and deep connections to Country. We pay our respects to Elders of the past, present and future, as they hold the memories, knowledges and spirit of Australia. GHD is committed to learning from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the work we do.



# Contents

<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background	3
1.2 Proposal overview	3
1.3 Purpose of this report	3
1.4 Limitations	4
<b>2. Key features of the regional study area</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3. Undertaking engagement guidelines for state significant projects</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4. Engagement activities</b>	<b>7</b>
4.1 Objectives of engagement	7
4.2 Key stakeholders	7
4.3 Requirements of the SEARs	7
4.4 Description of key activities	8
4.4.1 Aboriginal consultation	8
4.4.2 Community and stakeholder consultation	9
4.4.3 Neighbour engagement	11
4.4.4 Community drop-in session	13
<b>5. Key issues raised</b>	<b>14</b>
5.1 Stakeholder agency issues	14
5.2 Community and neighbour issues	15
5.3 Design changes in response to issues raised	17
<b>6. Future engagement</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>7. References</b>	<b>19</b>

## Table index

Table 1.1	Engagement SEARs	4
Table 3.1	Guidelines requirement and proposal response	6
Table 4.1	Community and stakeholder consultation activities undertaken for the proposal	7
Table 4.2	Neighbours consulted for the proposal	11
Table 5.1	Key issues raised by stakeholder entities during consultation for this EIS	14
Table 5.2	Key issues raised by neighbours and the community during consultation for this EIS	15

## Figure index

Figure 4.1	Extracts from the project website	10
Figure 4.2	Neighbour locations	12
Figure 4.3	Community drop-in session	13

## Appendices

Appendix A	Neighbour engagement
Appendix B	Community drop-in session

# Glossary

Term	Definition
ACHAR	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
AHD	Australian Height Datum
ARC	Armidale Regional Council
BAM	Biodiversity Assessment Method
BCS	Biodiversity, Conservation and Science
CCS	Community Consultation Strategy
CEC	Clean Energy Council
CEEC	Critically endangered ecological communities
DCCEEW	Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DPE	Department of Planning and Environment
DPHI	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
EARs	Environmental assessment requirements
EEC	Endangered ecological communities
EIS	Environmental impact statement
Enerparc	Enerparc Australia Pty. Ltd.
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
EP&A Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
EPL	Environmental Protection License
GHD	GHD Pty Ltd
ha	Hectare
HEV	High Environmental Value
km	Kilometre
kV	Kilovolt
LGA	Local Government Area
ML	Megalitre
mm	Millimetres
MW	Megawatt
MWh	Megawatt per hour
NSW	New South Wales
OWWMS	Onsite waste water management system
Proposal	The construction, operation and decommissioning of a ground-mounted photovoltaic (PV) solar array, which would generate approximately 140 MW.
Project	Approved Stage 1 of Tilbuster Solar Farm
PV	Photovoltaic
RECBF	Renewable Energy Community Benefit Fund
REZ	Renewable Energy Zone
RFS	Rural Fire Service
SEARs	Secretary's environmental assessment requirements

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
SSD	State Significant Developments
SSI	State Significant Infrastructure
UNE	University of New England
WAL	Water Access Licence

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

Enerparc is developing the Tilbuster Solar Farm (State Significant Development (SSD) 9619), which was approved under Section 2.22 and Clause 20 of Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) on 3 March 2022. The Tilbuster Solar Farm (the project) is located approximately 15 kilometres (km) north of Armidale in the Armidale Regional local government area (LGA).

The project involves the construction, operation and decommissioning of a new solar farm with a generating capacity of 150 megawatts (MW) and 15 MW/30 MW per hour (MWh) of battery energy storage. The solar farm will connect to the existing Transgrid 330 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, which traverses the site and connects the Dumaresq Substation to the Armidale Substation.

Due to design refinements made in response to ecological and heritage constraints identified during the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the project was approved with a lower MW capacity than originally anticipated. As a result, Enerparc have acquired adjacent land and proposes developing Stage 2 of the project to maximise the generation potential of the site (the proposal).

The proposal is located on land adjoining the project and would make use of transmission, storage and construction facilities on that site.

## 1.2 Proposal overview

The proposal involves the construction, operation and decommissioning of a ground-mounted photovoltaic (PV) solar array, which would generate approximately 140 MW in addition to the 150 MW generated by the project.

The proposal site is located at Lot 4 DP800611, 11915 New England Highway, Black Mountain NSW 2365. The proposal site has an area of approximately 250 hectares (ha), with the proposed development to be constructed on approximately 140 ha of this land.

In total, the construction phase of the proposal is expected to take nine months, and the facility is expected to operate for around 30 years or extended pending further approvals. The proposal would be constructed as part of the overall construction of the approved project. This would reduce the construction period for the proposal and minimise impacts on the community.

The primary access point for light and heavy vehicles during construction and operation would be via an existing access off the New England Highway, which is currently under construction for the project. Temporary construction compounds and laydown areas would also be located on the project site.

Construction of the proposal is anticipated to take nine months, with work commencing, pending approval, in early 2025. Up to 100 construction workers would be required.

Up to five full time equivalent operations and maintenance staff and service contractors would operate the proposal as part of the operation of the approved project. Existing transmission and storage infrastructure within the approved project footprint would be used to connect the proposal to the national electricity grid.

## 1.3 Purpose of this report

GHD has prepared this report to summarise the engagement undertaken for the proposal by Enerparc and to address the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issued by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) for the proposal. A summary of the SEARs is provided in Table 1.1 together with the relevant sections of the report addressing the particular requirement.

The Engagement Report will support the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposal.

Table 1.1 Engagement SEARs

SEARs	Where addressed in this report
<p>Detail engagement undertaken and demonstrate how it was consistent with the <i>Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects</i>. Detail how issues raised and feedback provided have been considered and responded to in the project. In particular, applicants must consult with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The relevant Department assessment team.</li> <li>– Any relevant local councils.</li> <li>– Any relevant agencies.</li> <li>– Relevant infrastructure and service providers.</li> <li>– Any exploration licence and/or mineral title holders.</li> <li>– The community.</li> <li>– If the development would have required an approval or authorisation under another Act but for the application of s 4.41 of the EP&amp;A Act or requires an approval or authorisation under another Act to be applied consistently by s 4.42 of the EP&amp;A Act, the agency relevant to that approval or authorisation.</li> </ul>	<p>Section 3, 4 and 5</p>

## 1.4 Limitations

This report has been prepared by GHD for Enerparc Australia Pty Ltd and may only be used and relied on by Enerparc Australia Pty Ltd for the purpose agreed between GHD and Enerparc Australia Pty Ltd as set out in this report.

GHD otherwise disclaims responsibility to any person other than Enerparc Australia Pty Ltd arising in connection with this report. GHD also excludes implied warranties and conditions, to the extent legally permissible.

The services undertaken by GHD in connection with preparing this report were limited to those specifically detailed in the report and are subject to the scope limitations set out in the report.

The opinions, conclusions and any recommendations in this report are based on conditions encountered and information reviewed at the date of preparation of the report. GHD has no responsibility or obligation to update this report to account for events or changes occurring subsequent to the date that the report was prepared.

The opinions, conclusions and any recommendations in this report are based on assumptions made by GHD described in this report. GHD disclaims liability arising from any of the assumptions being incorrect.

## 2. Key features of the regional study area

The analysis of the social baseline of the local and regional study relevant to the proposal undertaken in the Social Impact Assessment (SIA; GHD, 2024) found the following:

- The proposal site is located in Black Mountain, accessed via an unnamed Crown road being constructed as part of the Stage 1 project, to the west of the New England Highway.
- The proposal is located on an area of cleared land currently used for agricultural purposes, including cropping and grazing.
- The local and regional community has a rich history centred around agriculture, with farming being a major source of employment and a key part of the area's identity.
- Residents of the local study area would regularly travel along the New England Highway to access goods and services in either Armidale or Guyra.
- The local study area was characterised by rural, agricultural areas, with the population concentrated in the regional city of Armidale, located approximately 14 km south of the proposal site.
- Economic diversification is a key priority for the region, particularly to attract and retain younger families with more diverse skills.
- Armidale LGA had a lower median age (37 years) compared to the New England and North West region (41 years) and NSW (39 years).
- There was a high level of cultural diversity in the area, which was supported by SIA consultation findings which confirmed a high population of Ezidi refugees and migrant workforce relocating to the area.
- The establishment of the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) highlights the community's commitment to advancing renewable energy projects, with most of the Armidale LGA included in this zone.
- Household incomes in Armidale are generally higher than those in the broader New England and North West region.
- Armidale LGA's largest employer industry was education and training (19.5 per cent) in 2021, followed by health care and social assistance (15.0 per cent) and agriculture, forestry and fishing (10.7 per cent).
- The construction industry employs 6.1 per cent of Armidale LGA's labour force. Despite this, construction was the third largest industry by economic output.
- A higher proportion of the population in Armidale LGA have completed certificate and tertiary level education compared to the New England North West region and NSW.
- Armidale has a long-standing focus on education and training as its primary industry, promoting entrepreneurial growth, research development, and continuous innovation, all underpinned by the support of the University of New England (UNE).
- Overall, quarterly unemployment rates for Armidale LGA show that the region has had a higher unemployment rate compared to NSW. As of March 2024, unemployment was lower in the LGA than the state.
- Labour force participation in the LGA was lower than the state, which was supported during SIA consultation, with some stakeholders noting employment challenges in the region potentially due to a skills shortage.
- There is an extensive variety of community facilities and services in the regional study area from education to early childhood services.
- There are identified housing challenges in the region, with a low vacancy rate and high occupancy rates.
- The Armidale region is culturally diverse, with a large population of Ezidi refugees, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, construction workforces and younger student population.

### 3. Undertaking engagement guidelines for state significant projects

As required by the SEARs (see Table 1.1), engagement for the proposal has been undertaken with reference to the requirements outlined in Appendix A of *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects* (DPHI, 2024), as summarised in Table 3.1.

**Table 3.1** Guidelines requirement and proposal response

Requirement	Response
Implement any engagement activities required by the SEARs (including engagement with relevant government agencies, council and the community).	See Section 4.3.
Inform the community about the opportunities to engage.	Enerparc have created a web page for the project, which has been updated to include information on the proposal. The web page includes information about the proponent and the project and provides the opportunity to leave feedback via an online form. Contact details (phone, email and postal) are also provided for any other contact.
Explain how community feedback will be considered and documented.	Details about the importance of community feedback is provided on the project web page.
Provide relevant information in plain English so that potential impacts and implications can be readily understood.	The web page and other collateral is written in plain English. Maps and photos are included to improve understanding.
Be clear about the level of influence engagement will have by identifying what elements can be changed as a result of feedback.	Enerparc have a dedicated project web page and provides regular newsletters to proposal neighbours. These provide the opportunity to submit feedback digitally and in writing. The information provided clearly states that feedback will be considered during proposal design development and construction.
Give the community the opportunity to voice their concerns or share local knowledge so that this information can be considered early on in the planning, design and assessment.	As above.
Consider the issues raised by the community, council and relevant government agencies when making project refinements and accurately reflect how these issues have been addressed in EIS documentation.	Issues raised during engagement for the EIS are discussed in Section 5.
Keep the community, council and relevant government agencies informed with up-to-date information on the project.	The community and other stakeholders are kept informed of the proposal through the web page and project newsletters. Relevant government agencies were contacted about the proposal as described in Section 4.4.2.
The community is able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Seek clarification about the project and its impacts.</li> <li>– Provide timely feedback to the proponent about aspects of the project which they support, do not support or wish to be adjusted.</li> <li>– Provide clear reasons for any concerns to enable the proponent to consider possible alternative approaches to address the issues.</li> </ul>	A number of methods have been provided to enable to community to seek information and provide feedback on the proposal. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Project web page.</li> <li>– Regular project newsletters.</li> <li>– Face to face meetings, emails and phone calls with neighbours and other stakeholders.</li> <li>– Emails with nominated government agencies.</li> <li>– Community drop-in session.</li> </ul> Further detail is provided in Section 4.

## 4. Engagement activities

### 4.1 Objectives of engagement

The objectives of the engagement undertaken for the proposal are:

- Identify effective methods to inform the community about the proposal.
- Facilitate engagement with the community, including allowing meaningful contributions from the community into the environmental assessment and proposal development.
- Obtain social license to operate from the local community, allowing for good long-term relationships with community stakeholders.

### 4.2 Key stakeholders

Enerparc has conducted a comprehensive engagement program with stakeholders, landholders, agencies and communities from 2018 for the approved project to the proposal planning and approval process in 2024. A Community Consultation Strategy (CCS) was developed for the project that identified ways to inform the community about the project and facilitate engagement within the community (NGH, 2018). In accordance with the CCS, a range of community and stakeholder activities have been undertaken since 2018, including a community session and open house event in 2020, and several ongoing landholder discussions.

Community and stakeholder groups that have been consulted for the project and as part of the proposal EIS include:

- NSW Government departments and agencies.
- Associated landowners.
- Adjacent neighbours.
- New England North West community.
- Local contractors and labourers.
- University of New England (UNE).
- Transgrid.
- Local Government - Armidale Regional Council (ARC).
- Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal groups.
- Enerparc maintain a consultation log with records of all feedback received by phone, email or meeting and their responses to the feedback.

### 4.3 Requirements of the SEARs

Consultation activities undertaken in response to the requirements of the SEARs are summarised in Table 4.1. Additional detail is provided in Section 4.4.

*Table 4.1 Community and stakeholder consultation activities undertaken for the proposal*

<b>Requirement for engagement with:</b>	<b>Activity/s</b>
Department assessment team	Emails were sent to the department assessment team at key milestones to keep them updated during preparation of the EIS.
Local council	Correspondence requesting notification of any issues of concern to be addressed in the EIS was sent to Armidale Regional Council on 1 July 2024. A meeting to discuss the proposal was held with council on 20 May 20024. Enerparc gave an overview of the proposal and council expressed their support. Potential impacts to neighbours were discussed.

Requirement for engagement with:	Activity/s
Relevant agencies	Correspondence requesting notification of any issues of concern to be addressed in the EIS were sent to the following agencies on 1 July 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Transport for NSW (TfNSW).</li> <li>– Rural Fire Service.</li> <li>– Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW).</li> <li>– Heritage NSW.</li> <li>– WaterNSW.</li> <li>– Crown Lands.</li> <li>– Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries.</li> <li>– Department of Primary Industries – Agriculture.</li> <li>– Environment Protection Authority (EPA).</li> <li>– Department of Regional NSW.</li> </ul>
Relevant infrastructure and service providers	Correspondence requesting notification of any issues of concern to be addressed in the EIS was sent to Transgrid on 1 July 2024.
Exploration licence and/or mineral title holders	No exploration licences or mineral title holders would be impacted by the proposal.
The community	<p>Enerparc have created a web page for the project, which has been updated to include information on the proposal. The web page includes information about the proponent and the project and provides the opportunity to leave feedback via an online form. Contact details (phone, email and postal) are also provided for any other contact.</p> <p>Newsletter updates regarding the project and proposal were also provided to 21 neighbouring properties in July 2024. A feedback form and postpaid envelope were also provided with the newsletters. Contact details (phone, email and postal) were provided for any other contact.</p> <p>Face to face meetings with neighbours were conducted in July and September 2024 to discuss the proposal and present photomontages when available. Follow up phone calls and emails were made to neighbours that were not available for meetings.</p> <p>A community drop-in session was held at the Council chambers from 5:00 to 8:00pm on 17 October 2024. Five groups attended the session.</p>
Approval or authorisation agencies	Crown Lands, DCCEEW and EPA are approval agencies for the proposal. Correspondence requesting notification of any issues of concern to be addressed in the EIS were sent to these agencies on 1 July 2024.

## 4.4 Description of key activities

### 4.4.1 Aboriginal consultation

Consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders commenced in April 2024 and has been conducted in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents* (DECCW 2010) incorporating the following:

- Stage 1 – Notification and registration of Aboriginal parties.
- Stages 2 and 3 – Project information and Review of Assessment Methodology.
- Stage 4 – Review of draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) by registered Aboriginal stakeholders.

Following the notification process, aa organisations responded to be registered for subsequent consultation through the proposal. Representatives from the four organisations participated in the field investigation of the study area (which incorporated the development footprint for the proposal) and discussions around tangible and intangible values as part of the Aboriginal heritage stakeholder consultation process for the ACHAR. Further details relating to the ACHAR consultation process is detailed in the ACHAR (OzArk 2024).

## 4.4.2 Community and stakeholder consultation

A key communication tool is the project website (<https://tilbustersolarfarm.com.au/>), which has been active since 2018 and is regularly updated. The website has details of the approved project and the proposal and contact details (phone and email); see Figure 4.1. It also provides a link to the application on planning portal.

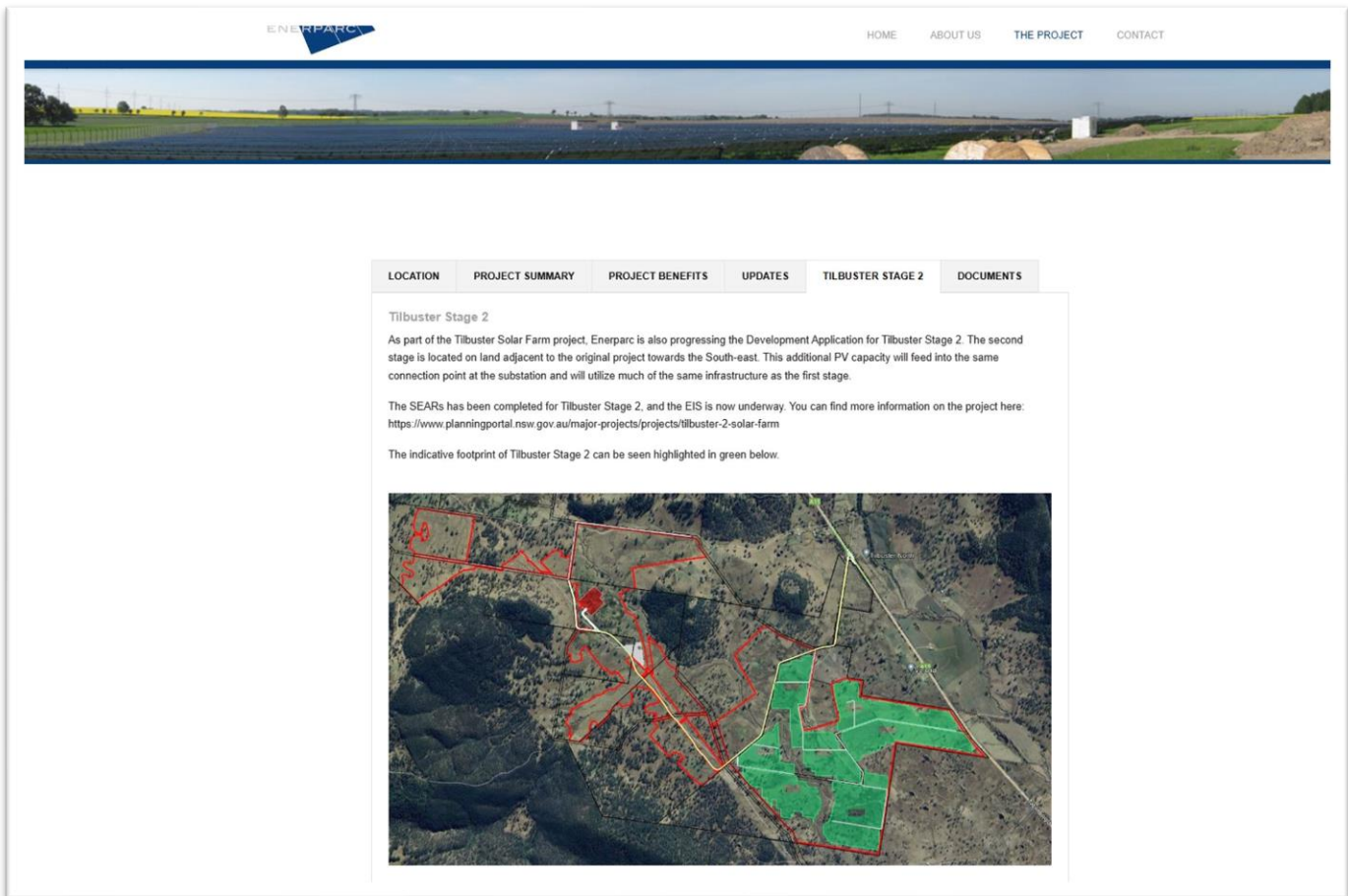
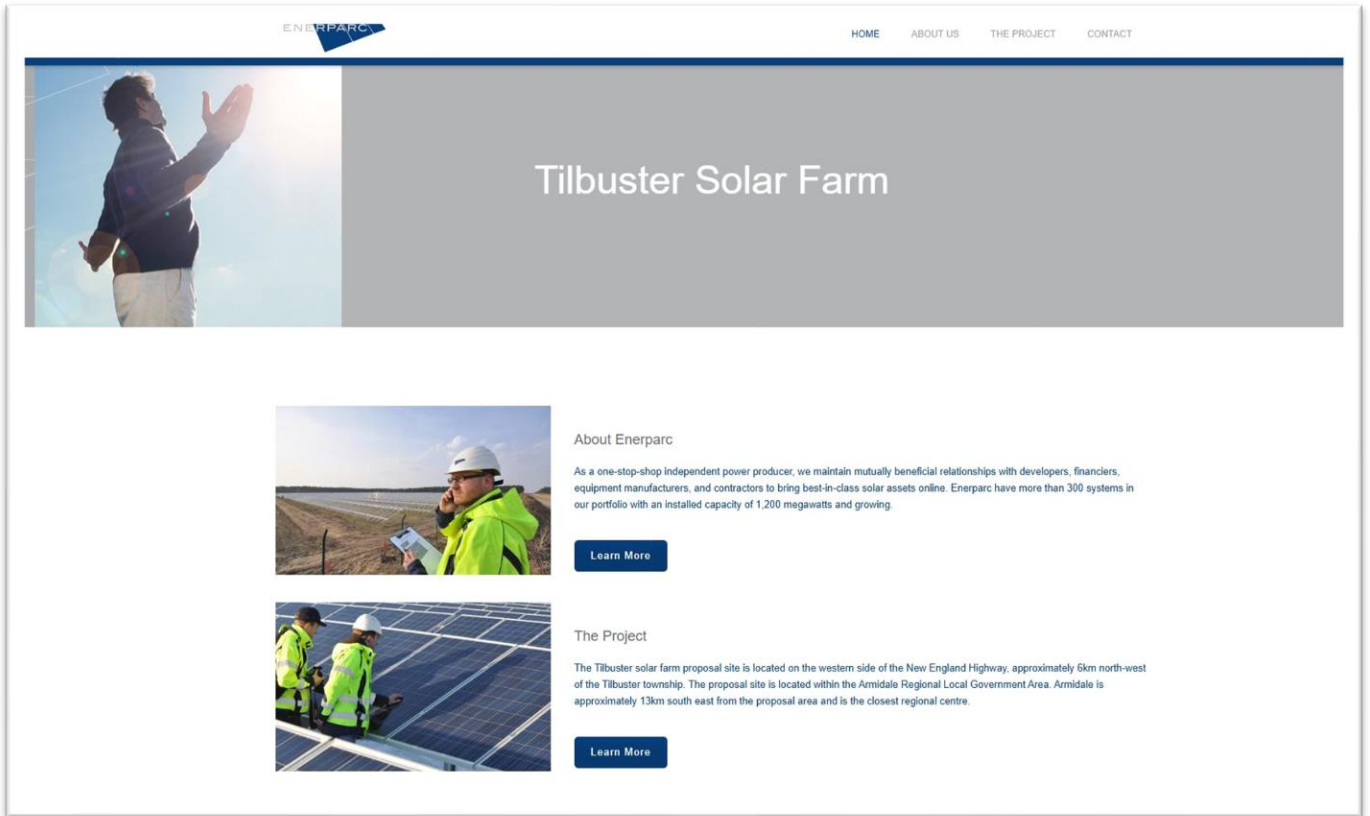


Figure 4.1 Extracts from the project website

An email providing information on the proposal and requesting feedback on issues of concern was sent to the following stakeholder agencies on 1 July 2024:

- Transport for NSW (TfNSW).
- Rural Fire Service (RFS).
- NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW).
- Heritage NSW.
- WaterNSW.
- Crown Lands.
- Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries.
- Department of Primary Industries – Agriculture.
- Environment Protection Authority (EPA).
- Department of Regional NSW.
- Transgrid.
- Armidale Regional Council (ARC).

Responses were received from all agencies apart from Agriculture and Department of Regional NSW. Responses and how they are addressed for the proposal are summarised in Table 5.1.

### 4.4.3 Neighbour engagement

All neighbours within two kilometres of the proposal were identified as key stakeholders. Stage 1 neighbours that fell outside of this buffer were also included to ensure project continuity. 15 neighbouring properties were consulted as summarised in Table 4.2 and shown in Figure 4.2.

Properties that are associated with the proposal landowner or the Stage 1 landowner are also identified in Table 4.2.

**Table 4.2** Neighbours consulted for the proposal

Map ID	Associated properties	Property name	Address
2	No	Taits Gully	11768 New England
3	As at November 2024, in the process of being purchased by Tilbuster Stage 1 landowner	Snake Gully	11853 New England
4	No	Hillwood	11924 New England
5	Same landowner as Tilbuster Stage 1 (currently tenanted)	Varuna	11947 New England
7	No	Tilthorpe	11966 New England
8	No	Ravensworth	12008 New England
9	Same landowner as Tilbuster Stage 1	Annaleey	12029 New England
10	Landowner is relative of Tilbuster Stage 1 landowner	Tilbuster North	12024 New England
11	No	Minmai	12173 New England
12	No	Caringle	12175 New England
13	No		12177 New England

Map ID	Associated properties	Property name	Address
14	No	Pinch Flat	12150 New England
15	No	Hilltop	12253 New England
16	No	Lydbrook	12248 New England
17	No	Uralba	12250 New England

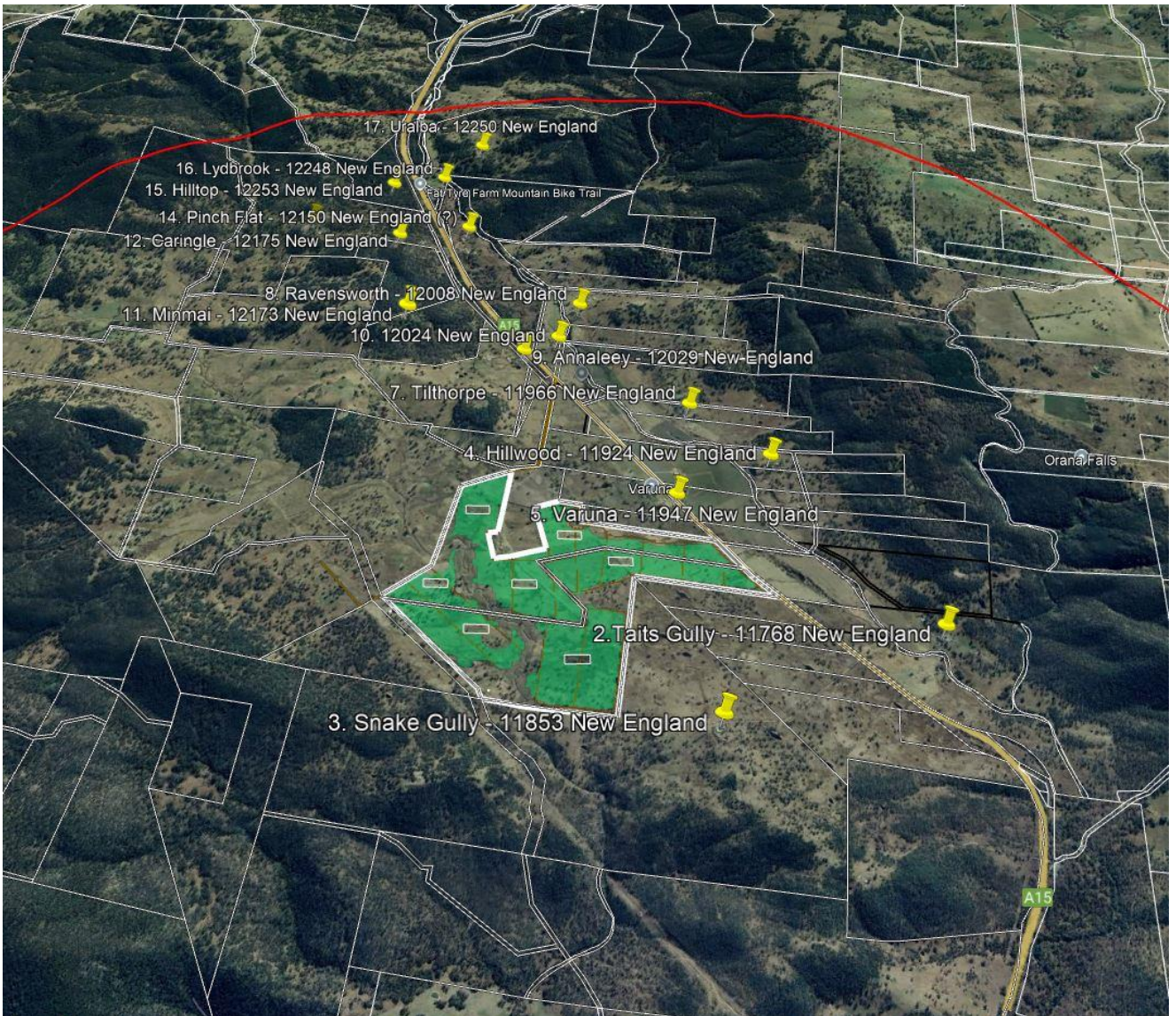


Figure 4.2 Neighbour locations

- Engagement with neighbours included the following key activities during the preparation of the EIS (copies of all written material is included in Appendix A):
  - A project newsletter was sent to all neighbours in July 2024. A feedback form and postpaid envelope were also provided with the newsletters. Contact details (phone, email and postal) were provided for any other contact.
  - A letter notifying neighbours of the upcoming visual impact assessment and requesting access for specialists to take photographs was sent in July 2024.

- Emails and face to face meetings with neighbours were conducted in July 2024 to discuss the proposal. Follow up phone calls and emails were made to neighbours in September 2024 that were involved in the visual impact assessment with an offer for a face-to-face meeting. No meetings were requested but additional emails on the findings of the visual impact assessment were sent to two landowners.
- Follow up letters were sent after the community drop-in session in October 2024 responding to issues raised during the session.

Engagement with the impacted landowner has been ongoing since project commencement. Enerparc will continue to work with the single landowner to manage interaction of the proposal with existing and ongoing agricultural activities.

#### 4.4.4 Community drop-in session

A community drop-in session was held at the Armidale Town Hall from 5:00 to 8:00 pm on 17 October 2024. The following specific engagement was undertaken for the drop-in session (copies of all written material is included in Appendix B):

- A project newsletter was sent to all neighbours in early October 2024. The newsletter was also sent to all residences within five kilometres of the proposal site.
- Advertisements for the drop-in session were placed in the Armidale Express and Guyra Gazette.
- Six groups (proposal neighbours) attended the session (see sign in sheet in Appendix B and Figure 4.3).



Figure 4.3 Community drop-in session

# 5. Key issues raised

## 5.1 Stakeholder agency issues

The key issues raised in response to direct contact made with stakeholder agencies is summarised in Table 5.1.

**Table 5.1** Key issues raised by stakeholder entities during consultation for this EIS

Key issue raised	Where in the EIS
<p><b>Department of Regional NSW – Fisheries</b> Response received on 2 July 2024 Noted that SEARs request an aquatic biodiversity impact assessment to be undertaken if required, which satisfies Fisheries without the need for further input.</p>	<p>The proposal would not impact on KFH or third order and above streams. Therefore an aquatic biodiversity impact assessment is not considered to be required.</p>
<p><b>WaterNSW</b> Response received on 3 July 2024 Noted that there are no WaterNSW lands or assets located close to the development site. If the project is required to extract water from existing or new groundwater bores, a regulated water source, or undertake flood works they will need to apply for a Water Access Licence (WAL) from WaterNSW. WaterNSW would appreciate being advised when the EIS is exhibited.</p>	<p>Water extraction or flood works are not proposed. Water impacts are addressed in Section 6.8 of the EIS.</p>
<p><b>Heritage NSW</b> Response received on 1 July 2024 Replied that they would only respond once documents are submitted to the Planning Portal.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p><b>DCCEEW – Biodiversity, Conservation and Science (BCS)</b> Response received 15 July 2024. Provided a list of threatened species that commonly occur in the area with the understanding that these species will be assessed in the EIS via target surveys. Noted the potential presence of endangered ecological communities (EECs) or critically endangered ecological communities (CEECs), noting that CEECs are Serious and Irreversible Impact entities under the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) 2020. Stated a requirement for mapping of CEECs and EECs in accordance with the BCS North East Branch Principles and the need to confirm the location and extent of Category 1 Exempt Land. Provided standard and project specific environmental assessment requirements (EARs). These are addressed in Appendix A. Following a site visit with BCS on 14 August 2024, additional pre-lodgement advice was issued in a response dated 2 September 2024.</p>	<p>The specific requirements provided by BCS are addressed in Appendix A of the EIS. All recommendations of the pre-lodgement advice were incorporated into the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR).</p>
<p><b>EPA</b> Response received on 15 July 2024 The EPA was consulted and provided comment on the Industry Specific SEARs for large-scale solar energy projects. The EPA notes that the proposal does not need an EPL and that they have no further comment.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p><b>RFS</b> Response received 1 July 2024 The RFS noted that the site is partially bushfire prone. As such, the EIS shall include a bushfire assessment that identifies any potential bushfire threat and nominates appropriate mitigation measures to address those threats. As a minimum, the assessment shall address the requirements of Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019.</p>	<p>The potential bush fire hazard is addressed in the Section 6.11 of the EIS.</p>

Key issue raised	Where in the EIS
<p><b>Crown Land</b> Response received 23 July 2024</p> <p>Recommends that Enerparc consult with Crown lands as soon as possible to initiate the process required for accessing or using Crown roads. It is recommended that Enerparc apply to close and purchase the Crown road within the development footprint.</p> <p>There is a Crown Road and Crown Reserve outside the development footprint. If the scope of the project changes to include this land, then further advice needs to be sought from Crown Lands.</p>	<p>Enerparc has commenced liaison with Crown Lands regarding the Crown road within the development footprint. This is further discussed in Section 6.3 of the EIS.</p>
<p><b>TfNSW</b> Response received 24 July 2024</p> <p>Detailed requirements for the traffic generation assessments and traffic surveys. If workforce accommodation is proposed, the Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) is required to assess the worst-case scenario based on the inclusion of the workforce accommodation camp. The TIA is also required to include details of all high risk Over Size Over Mass (OSOM) loads and vehicle configurations for the project and provide concept level route analysis.</p>	<p>The TfNSW requirements provided are addressed in the TIA for the proposal (Appendix I of the EIS).</p>
<p><b>Transgrid</b> Response received 26 July 2024</p> <p>As Enerparc are proposing a change to the 200 MW connection to Transgrid's 330 kV transmission line 8C (Transgrid Network) they are required to formally notify Transgrid of the proposed change via the correct network connection process and communication channels, as defined by the National Electricity Rules, so a thorough assessment can be undertaken by Transgrid.</p>	<p>Enerparc will engage directly with Transgrid regarding the connection application.</p>
<p><b>Armidale Regional Council</b> Response received 1 August 2024</p> <p>Council has made several recommendations to be included in the BDAR including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Assessment of koala habitat.</li> <li>– Consideration of impacts to High Environmental Value (HEV) land.</li> <li>– Consideration of proposed security fencing in terms of risk of entanglement for wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Additional responses included addressing potential cumulative impacts arising from the REZ in terms of concurrent renewable projects as well as accommodation requirements for the required REZ workforce.</p> <p>Other potential impacts arising from the project include impacts to waste and traffic, requiring the preparation of a TIA. Council also requires the preparation of a dilapidation report pre and post construction and a section 68 Application for the installation and operation of an onsite waste water management system (OSWWM), if required.</p> <p>Council's Renewable Energy Community Benefit Fund (RECBF) is suggested to be considered in the EIS.</p>	<p>The biodiversity issues raised by council are addressed in the BDAR for the proposal (Appendix J of the EIS).</p> <p>Cumulative impacts are addressed in Section 6.17 of the EIS.</p> <p>Waste impacts are addressed in Section 6.12 of the EIS.</p> <p>Traffic impacts are addressed in Section 6.6 of the EIS. The need for dilapidation reports is also addressed in this section.</p> <p>An OSWWM is not proposed.</p> <p>The RCBEF is considered in Section 6.15 and 6.16 of the EIS.</p> <p>The specific requirements provided by Council are addressed in Appendix A of the EIS.</p>

## 5.2 Community and neighbour issues

Feedback received from the community and neighbours during the preparation of the EIS is addressed in Table 5.2.

**Table 5.2** Key issues raised by neighbours and the community during consultation for this EIS

Key issue raised	Response	Where in the EIS
Lack of information provided to neighbours and the community	The activities undertaken to inform and involve the community are described in this section. Additional input is possible during the public exhibition period.	Section 5 of the EIS and this report (Appendix D)

Key issue raised	Response	Where in the EIS
Visual and landscape character impacts	Visual and landscape character impacts have been assessed for the proposal. Visual impacts were identified as low or very low, with the exception of two locations that were rated as moderate. Mitigation is proposed for these receivers.	Section 6.4 and Appendix G
Economic benefit for and support from only one landowner	The economic benefits of the proposal are assessed in the EIS. In summary, the community is expected to indirectly benefit from the proposal with a direct contribution also made to Council's RECBF.	Section 6.16
Property and road access affected by proposal traffic	The traffic impact assessment for the proposal found there would be negligible impacts on public road access and safety.	Section 6.6
Need for the proposal	The need for the proposal is addressed in Section 2 of the EIS. They key driver for the proposal is to maximise the electricity generation of the project given the reduction in developable land for Stage 1.	Section 2
Appropriate approval pathway	The approval pathway for the proposal is confirmed in Section 4.	Section 4
Inappropriate site	The process for site selection is described in Section 2. The key justifications for the suitability of the site are listed in Section 7.1.	Section 2.3 and 7.1
Additional transmission lines required	No additional transmission lines are proposed.	N/A
Water quality and flooding	The proposal would not significantly impact on water quality and hydrology, given implementation of recommended mitigation measures. All key waterways (3 <sup>rd</sup> order and above) are avoided.	Section 6.8
Soil erosion	Soil erosion is investigated in detail in this EIS. Soil within the proposal site was surveyed and specific measures to mitigate potential erosion proposed.	Section 6.2 and 6.3
Change of land use to industrial – loss of agricultural land	Impacts to agricultural land are addressed in detail in this EIS, including impacts to land use, agricultural use and land use conflict. In summary, as continuing agricultural use will occur on site following construction and the land will be returned to its former state on decommissioning, the impact to agricultural land is considered minor.	Section 6.3 and Appendix F
Traffic accidents and road safety	The traffic impact assessment for the proposal found there would be negligible impacts on public road access and safety.	Section 6.6
Future additional development	No future additional development is proposed.	N/A
Bushfire hazard	Bush fire hazard is assessed in the EIS and mitigation measures are proposed to reduce and avoid an increase in bush fire risk.	Section 6.12
Contamination from chemicals in solar panels	Recent research into leaching of cadmium from solar panels into the soil found the risk is low (Michael McLaughlin, Adelaide University, 2023). The EPA has noted that solar cells generally contain metals in small amounts that do not leach and do not present a risk to the environment. The key risk is at the disposal stage. The NSW Government is currently funding research in this area, which will be implemented as appropriate for proposal decommissioning ( <a href="https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/working-together/grants/infrastructure-fund/circular-solar-trials">https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/working-together/grants/infrastructure-fund/circular-solar-trials</a> ).	Section 3.3.3
Biodiversity impacts – threatened species, wilderness	Biodiversity impacts are assessed in detail in this EIS. Key areas of high conservation value are avoided. Unavoidable impacts would be offset as required under legislation and compensatory planting would be undertaken across the site.	Section 6.7 and Appendix J
Carbon footprint	The proposal would have a carbon footprint primarily associated with manufacturing and transport of panels, and vehicle and machinery use during construction. On balance, the reduction of carbon emissions due to the generation of clean energy for 30 years is considered to outweigh the relatively small carbon footprint of proposal construction.	N/A
Biosecurity	Measures to manage the biosecurity risk are provided in Section 6.3.	Section 6.3 and Appendix F

Key issue raised	Response	Where in the EIS
Disposal of panels on decommissioning	Managed of waste is addressed in Section 6.13. Opportunities to recycle obsolete panels would be investigated on decommissioning in line with current best practice at that time.	Section 6.13
Health and lifestyle impacts	Potential impacts to community wellbeing are assessed in the Social Impact Assessment for the proposal. The assessment found a low risk of impact with mitigation of proposed measures.	Section 6.15 and Appendix L
Cultural heritage impacts	All sites of known cultural heritage value (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal) are avoided. Aboriginal stakeholders have been consulted and involved during development of the EIS and proposal design.	Section 6.9 and Appendix J
Negative impact on property values and increased insurance costs	It is not expected that the proposal would have a negative impact on property values. There are few offsite impacts once the proposal is constructed. Social and economic impacts are further discussed in Section 6.15 and 6.16.	Section 6.15 and 6.16
Increased crime	The potential for increased crime is investigated in the social impact assessment for the proposal. The risk was assigned a low residual rating and measures to mitigate this risk are proposed.	Section 6.15 and Appendix L
Foreign ownership of the proposal once constructed	Enerparc Australia Pty Ltd, based in Sydney, is a subsidiary jointly owned by Australian citizens and German investors. Upon completion, the proposal will be owned by EP Sunspot 5 Pty Ltd which in turn is owned by an investment vehicle of INGKA Holding, headquartered in the Netherlands, and the largest franchisee of IKEA retail stores.	N/A
Modern slavery issues associated with panel construction	Due to the global nature of supply chains, the renewable energy sector in Australia faces the same modern slavery risks as other countries. Given the complexity of human rights issues within these supply chains, Enerparc acknowledges its responsibility to uphold internationally recognized human rights standards. As a signatory to the Clean Energy Council's (CEC) Best Practice Charter, Enerparc is committed to the CEC's pledge, which affirms our corporate responsibility to respect human rights and includes the following actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Implementing appropriate procedures to manage the risk of modern slavery in our operations and supply chains.</li> <li>– Considering modern slavery risks when selecting and managing suppliers.</li> <li>– Seeking to contractually require our suppliers to adopt effective procedures to manage their own modern slavery risks.</li> <li>– Raising awareness of modern slavery risks within the various forms of clean energy.</li> <li>– Collaborating with CEC members, suppliers, and other relevant stakeholders to fulfill these commitments, in compliance with competition laws.</li> </ul>	N/A

## 5.3 Design changes in response to issues raised

Key changes made to the design in response to feedback received during the preparation of the EIS include:

- Exclusion of key areas of biodiversity value, i.e. native vegetation and waterways, following input from BCS.
- Exclusion of areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage value following input from Indigenous stakeholders.
- Exclusion of key agricultural infrastructure and provision of ongoing agricultural uses following completion of construction of the proposal in response to negotiation with the single impacted landowner.
- Provision of a screening planting (up to 60 metres wide) along the New England Highway and funds for at property screening planting following input from neighbouring property owners.

## 6. Future engagement

If development consent is granted for the proposal, Enerparc will continue to engage with stakeholders, including community members throughout the construction and operation of the project.

Key consultation activities will include:

- Ongoing regular local stakeholder briefings and meetings, including Armidale Regional Council and adjoining neighbours and landowners.
- Regularly updates on the project website.
- Regular community notifications as the project progresses through construction and into operation.
- Ongoing operation of the community telephone line, email address, mailbox and website, with set response times for project queries and complaints.

The complaints management process for the proposal during construction and operation will allow anyone in the community to submit complaints if they believe any action is having a detrimental impact on the community, the environment, or their quality of life. The complaints management process will be made publicly available and include a feedback process through which the complainant is provided with information in relation to how their concern has been assessed, considered and, where feasible, addressed. An escalation process will also be outlined for complaints that are unable to be resolved satisfactorily.

## 7. References

GHD 2024, Tilbuster 2 Solar Farm: Social Impact Assessment, report prepared for Enerparc.

NGH, 2016, Environmental Impact Statement; Tilbuster Solar Farm, October 2020, report prepared for Enerparc.

OzArk, 2024, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report: Tilbuster 2 Solar Farm., report prepared for Enerparc.

# Appendices

# **Appendix A**

## **Neighbour engagement**



## TILBUSTER SOLAR FARM

Project Update - July 2024

Dear Resident,

In this newsletter update, we would like to update you on the progress of the Tilbuster Solar Farm and inform you of the proposed Tilbuster Solar Farm Stage 2 located directly adjacent to the approved project (see Attachment 1).

Your input as a neighbouring landowner is important to us and so we would like to offer you the opportunity to discuss the proposal with us if you wish.

Since the approval of the Tilbuster Solar Farm (SSD-9619) in 2022, the project has progressed into the preliminary design stage where Enerparc is working in consultation with regulatory authorities to best optimise the project layout and adhere to all required constraints and project parameters. We are also currently undertaking the detailed design of the New England Highway intersection upgrade which will commence prior to the construction of the solar farm.

One of the key outcomes for construction scheduling is the current DA Modification process to the existing Development Approval. The substation which allows the connection of the solar farm to the existing 330kV electricity line has been relocated to a more suited location within the site where significantly less native vegetation and water streams would be impacted.

The Tilbuster Solar Farm has seen some capacity reductions in the development footprint from the initial 300 MW proposed in SEARs to the approved 152 MW project. So much so, that the capacity from the proposed Stage 2 project is now needed to make full use of the grid connection infrastructure and related requirements intended for Tilbuster Solar Farm Stage 1.



Website:  
[tilbustersolarfarm.com.au](http://tilbustersolarfarm.com.au)



Contact:  
1300 315 535



Email:  
[info@tilbustersolarfarm.com.au](mailto:info@tilbustersolarfarm.com.au)

## Tilbuster Stage 2 – 140 MW

Stage 2 of the Tilbuster Project would be located directly southeast of Stage 1 on a development footprint of approximately 180 hectares at 11915 New England Highway Black Mountain 2365.

There are many synergies between the two projects which will share the same TransGrid Connection point, on-site substation and site access road from the New England Hwy.

Stage 2 would feature 140 MW of installed solar panels connecting to the existing 330kV electricity line using the same grid infrastructure proposed in Stage 1.

Many specialists' environmental studies have already been undertaken for Stage 2 and an Environmental Impact Statement is currently being prepared to assess the impacts of the project in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. As part of these assessments, we will be conducting field investigations and may contact you to discuss access to your property as part of the assessments. Your cooperation and feedback are greatly appreciated as we move forward with the development of the proposal.

Enerparc recognises the importance of community and neighbourhood engagement and prioritises active engagement and listening to local residents. We are committed to providing you with up-to-date information on the project and approval process, as well as addressing any questions or concerns you may have about the proposed solar farm.

Should you have any immediate questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us via the dedicated project website, phone number or email provided. We have also attached a feedback form with reply-paid envelopes provided for your convenience.

Yours Sincerely,



Eric Tran  
Enerparc Project Manager



Website:  
[tilbustersolarfarm.com.au](http://tilbustersolarfarm.com.au)

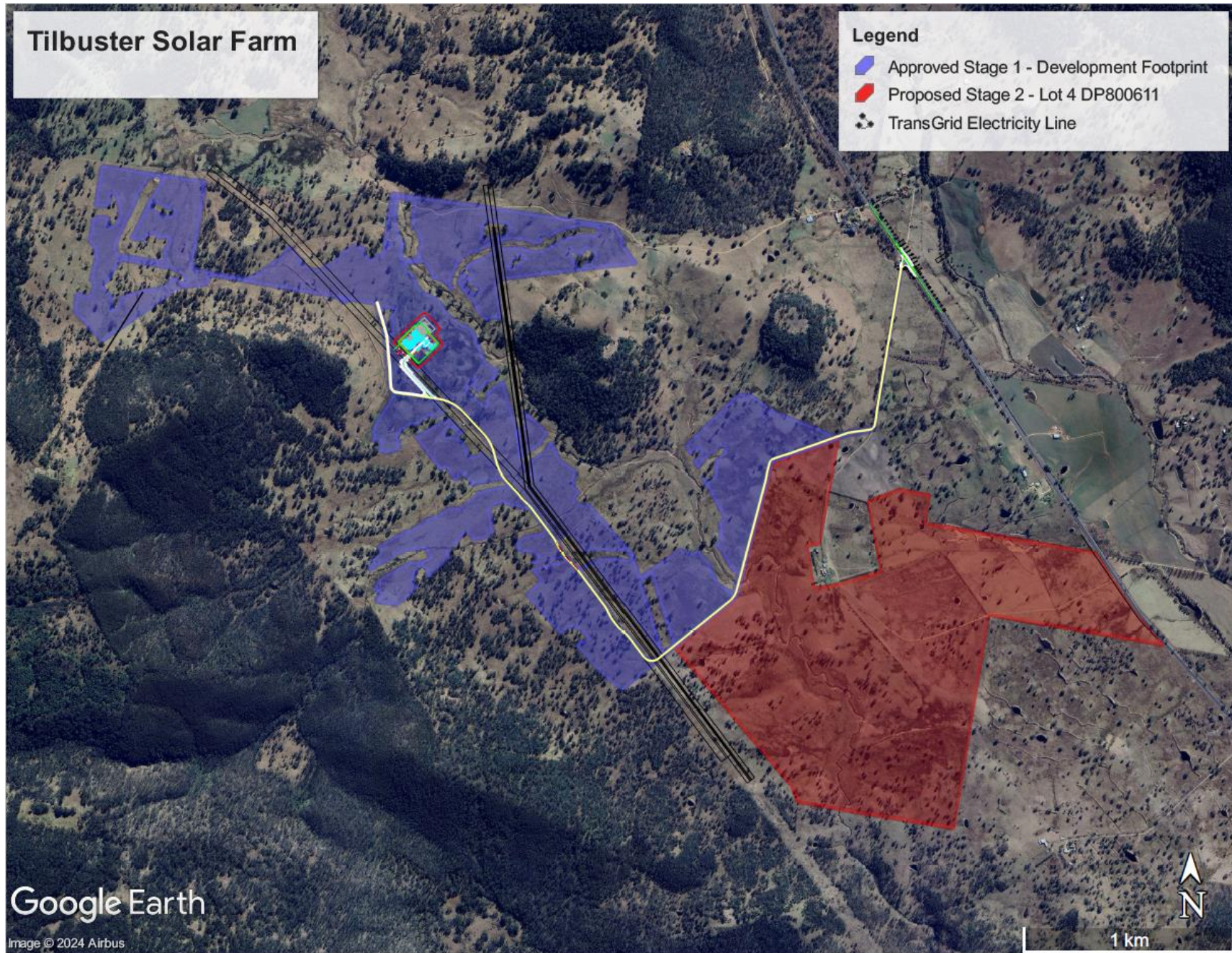


Contact:  
1300 315 535



Email:  
[info@tilbustersolarfarm.com.au](mailto:info@tilbustersolarfarm.com.au)

# Attachment 1 – Site Map



# Feedback Form

We are always interested in feedback from the community and hope to provide multiple avenues for residents to respond.

You can return your feedback using the reply-paid envelopes provided.

What are your views on the Tilbuster Solar Farm in general?

What are your views on the proposed Tilbuster Solar Farm Stage 2?

What other concerns or comments would you like us to consider in moving forward with this proposal?  
Would you like to arrange a meeting with Enerparc to discuss the proposal further?



12.07.2024

Dear Resident,

I write to you on behalf of **Enerparc Australia Pty Ltd** regarding the proposed Tilbuster Solar Farm Stage 2 at 11915 New England Highway Black Mountain 2365.

As part of the specialist studies being undertaken for the Environmental Impact Statement, we wish to undertake a visual impact assessment from your property as a neighbouring landowner to the proposal site. This would involve photos being taken from viewpoints of your residence by expert consultants in the **last week of July**.

It would be appreciated if you could please let us know at your earliest convenience whether you wish to be included in this assessment either by the phone or the email address provided.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Tran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Eric Tran  
Enerparc Project Manager

T: +61 2 8607 8774  
M: +61 425 275 419  
e.tran@enerparc.com  
223 Liverpool Street, Darlinghurst, NSW, 2010  
Sydney, Australia



Addressed to Resident  
New England Highway  
Black Mountain NSW 2365

31.10.2024

Dear Residents

I am writing to follow up on the Tilbuster Solar Farm – Stage 2 Community Information Session held at the Armidale Town Hall on October 17, 2024. We would like to thank everyone who attended and for sharing your honest feedback with us. Your presence and participation were greatly appreciated, and we considered the event a success and an important opportunity to connect with the local community.

We hope we addressed your questions during the session and have taken your concerns into account as we strive for a balanced outcome. It's clear that many residents care deeply about the Armidale area and its future. Your insights are invaluable in helping us make informed decisions and so we are grateful for your willingness to engage and collaborate.

We have carefully considered the concerns expressed by neighbouring residents and are happy to propose additional measures that can be implemented as part of our commitment to community integration. We understand that visual amenity, particularly along the New England Highway, is a key concern for residents along with road safety.

Therefore, in addition to the proposed planting along the New England Hwy currently included in the design, we will incorporate an additional **40-meter green zone for community native vegetation planting** into the next stage of the design development. This would result in a minimum 60-meter setback and buffer planting, which should not only enhance the aesthetics along the highway but offer ecological benefits and harmonise with the surrounding landscape as best as possible.

We have also considered your feedback on individual property visual amenity and propose a **\$2,000 fund for vegetation planting** for relevant neighbouring properties, allowing you to plant as you see fit. If you're interested, please reach out to us, and we will arrange for reimbursement for planting at the start of construction.



As we move forward, we recognise that this project may cause some inconvenience to our affected near neighbours. To alleviate this, we are offering a **reimbursement of 50% of your electricity bills over a two-year period**, commencing at the start of construction. The total reimbursement will be capped at \$3,000 and require proper documentation of your electricity expenses. If you are interested in participating in this program, please reach out to us.

Lastly, we want to clarify a misconception raised during the recent information session regarding a potential Stage 3 expansion into the "Snake Gully" property. As discussed, we assure you that this will not occur, as the additional solar modules from Stage 2 will fully meet the grid connection approval capacity of 200 MW (AC).

As for the next steps, the Environmental Impact Statement is currently being finalised and will be submitted before Christmas and placed on public exhibition in the New Year. You will be able to view all project documentation at that time and provide further input. The project website will also be updated with the latest project information but as always, we are open to be contacted at any time.

Thank you once again for your feedback and engagement and please feel free to reach out if you have any further questions or ideas.

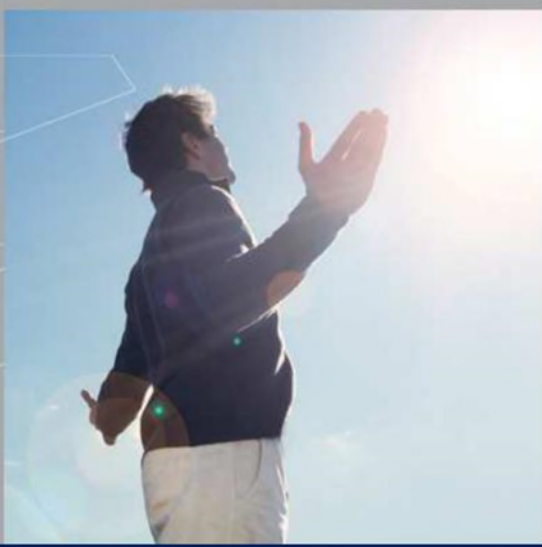
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Tran". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Eric Tran  
Enerparc Project Development Manager  
223 Liverpool Street, Darlinghurst, NSW, 2010

# **Appendix B**

**Community drop-in session**



## TILBUSTER SOLAR FARM Stage 2 Open House Invitation – 17 October 2024

### Community Information Session

Following the success of the Open House Event for the Tilbuster Solar Farm, Enerparc will be hosting a Community Information Session for Tilbuster Stage 2 in the local Armidale area.

Enerparc is currently preparing the project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Stage 2 which is to be submitted to the NSW State Government and will be viewable once the project reaches the public exhibition stage.

Prior to the submission of the EIS however, we will be holding a Community Information Session inviting all members of the community to attend on **17th October between 5 – 8 pm**. This event will be hosted at **Armidale Town Hall (127 Rusden Street)** where you are welcome to drop in at any point during the available times for one-on-one discussions.

During the information session, project representatives from Enerparc Australia will be available to answer any questions regarding the EIS, environmental assessments or the State approval process. We hope to provide an opportunity for those who attend to better understand the benefits of our project whilst also making ourselves available in person to address any questions the community may have regarding the Tilbuster Solar Farm in general.

We will notify you once the EIS reaches the public exhibition stage and provide details as to where we will be making printed copies of the EIS accessible to the community. We hope you can attend the event and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. We are always available via phone, email or our project website below.



Website:  
[tilbustersolarfarm.com.au](http://tilbustersolarfarm.com.au)



Contact:  
1300 315 535



Email:  
[info@tilbustersolarfarm.com.au](mailto:info@tilbustersolarfarm.com.au)



Home / Classifieds / Notices

Public Notices

## Tilbuster Solar Farm - Stage 2

Community Information Session

Tilbuster Solar Farm - Stage 2

Enerparc will be holding a community information session in Armidale to provide further information about the proposed Tilbuster Solar Farm - Stage 2.

The session will offer a forum to learn more about the proposal and provide feedback to Enerparc representatives.

Feedback can also be provided to: <http://tilbustersolarfarm.com.au>

The format is a drop in session to encourage one on one discussion on: Thursday 17th October, 5pm-8pm at Armidale Town Hall 127 Rusden Street, Armidale.

11/10/2024 Tilbuster, 2350

Tilbuster, 2020

<https://tilbustersolarfarm.com.au/>

## Community Information Session Tilbuster Solar Farm - Stage 2

Enerparc will be holding a community information session in Armidale to provide further information about the proposed Tilbuster Solar Farm - Stage 2.

The session will offer a forum to learn more about the proposal and provide feedback to Enerparc representatives.

Feedback can also be provided to:  
<http://tilbustersolarfarm.com.au>

The format is a drop in session to encourage one on one discussion on:

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October,  
5pm-8pm**  
at Armidale Town Hall  
127 Rusden Street, Armidale

 View Photo

 Share

Ad

## Other marketplaces

[View Property](#) 



[AgTrader](#) 



[Country Cars](#) 



[Horse Deals](#) 



[Jobs](#) 



Ad

---

AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY MEDIA



---

THE ARMIDALE EXPRESS



---

OUR SITES



---

SUBMIT







# Guyra Gazette

Wednesday October 9, 2024

Circulation 1750

P: 6779 2132

E: news@gala.org.au, advertising@gala.org.au

www.guyragazette.com.au

## TroutFest draws visitors to town



The TroutFest markets were well received by visitors and locals with most stallholders reporting good sales

The TroutFest held over the long weekend once again drew people to Guyra from far and wide. While they were in town there was plenty to keep them busy, from workshops to market stalls, open gardens, art displays and plenty of fish-

ing related activities.

The festival is an annual event held to celebrate the start to the trout season and injects extra dollars into the local economy.

One of the big drawcards is the kids fishing clinic and

even the strong winds didn't deter the youngsters. They were able to learn new skills from experts - from casting a line to catching a bite. fish care and handling, and rules and regulations- with the hope that the extra knowledge

will promote a love of fishing for the next generation.

Other attractions which were well supported was the art show and metal masterpiece competition, which attracted dozens of entries.

*continued page 2 >>>*

## ST MARY OF THE ANGELS SCHOOL OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 19TH OCTOBER

Time: 11am - 1pm

Address: 36 Wirruna Street Guyra

- GUIDED SCHOOL TOURS
- SAUSAGE SIZZLE LUNCH



We would love for you to join us!



The fishing clinic was held in windy conditions



## Have your say on the New England Renewable Energy Zone network infrastructure project

The Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) is leading the delivery of the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). The New England REZ will be serviced by new network infrastructure, including transmission lines and energy hubs, to transfer power generated by solar and wind projects to electricity consumers.

### Applications now open for community reference group

We are inviting members of the community to join our community reference group for the New England REZ network infrastructure project.

The community reference group will provide a forum between EnergyCo, community representatives and key stakeholders to provide project information and facilitate community feedback. We are looking for a mix of people who live locally or representatives from local community, environment, First Nations and industry groups.

Applications are due by 5pm on Friday 8 November 2024.

Please visit our website at [energyco.nsw.gov.au](https://energyco.nsw.gov.au) or contact us for details on how you can apply.

### Get in touch

For more information, contact our team on 1800 061 114 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday) or email [nerez@energyco.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nerez@energyco.nsw.gov.au).

Visit [energyco.nsw.gov.au](https://energyco.nsw.gov.au) for our latest project updates.



581916

## TroutFest draws visitors to town

>>> *from page 1*

Adding to the festive atmosphere were the market stalls which filled Bradley Street and the display of vintage cars.

Many visitors also took the opportunity to book tours to the Costa Tomato and Deano's Trout farms, promoting local produce.

The Rotary Club Book Fair, held in conjunction with TroutFest was well supported raising more than \$3,000 which will be using to support project in the community.

Three local gardens which were open to the public attracted a steady stream of visitors, adding to the overall success of the weekend.

TroutFest was first held in 2016 and is now an annual event which attracts visitors and continues to deliver on its objective to bring business to town and to promote the Guyra district as a trout fishing destination.



Guyra artist Terry Boys with Lynne Chapman. Terry won two categories of the Art Competition: Special category "Flowers" and "Drawing/Pastels and Printmaking" as well as a Highly commended.



Neil and June Paine with John and Barbara Ross at the 'Rose Cottage' Open Garden



The Metal to Masterpiece competition was won by David Roost (pictured left), Graham Ramage was second and Elsie Post (pictured above) received an encouragement award for her amazing entry. Graham Newton was the judge.



Louise Pearson of Our Little Gallery (with Robin Godlinton and Gwyneth Pearson ) won the Sculpture/Collage/3D art category of the TroutFest Art Competition and a Highly commended for the Window dressing contest.

## TroutFest Art Show

Other prizes in the Art Show and window dressing were as follows:

Harvest Collective and Crop Hair Design were first in the window dressing contest. Kim Rhoades from Tenterfield was judge and also for the photography. Executive Officer of Arts North West Lauren Mackley from Tamworth judged the other art categories.

Glen Innes Artist Anne Hazelwood won the Acrylics/Oils section, Evelyn Owen of Bateau Bay won the photography and Lynne Short of Tamworth won the Watercolor Section.

Sophie Rumbel won the 11-12 year old youth art section, Matilda Tomkin won the 13-15 year old

section, Ryan Saunders won the Youth Photography award with Mateo Brazier second and Alex Pollard Highly Commended.

Thank you to all people who entered art and window dressing and to the schools of the district for their participation. It was especially great to have several entries in the Youth Art and Photography Sections from Guyra Central School.

The organizers sincerely thank sponsors for prizes for all the categories: June and Neil Paine, Sue Ross Real Estate, Ganesh from the Royal Hotel, James Warren, the Lions Club, the Rotary Club, Vu and Nhu of Guyra Pharmacy, Ray White Real Estate, Costas Well Grown and McLean Care.



James Warren from the Australian Poetry Hall of Fame was second in the Window Dressing Competition as well as entering several art works.

# What's HOT

**Businesses** getting behind the Trout Festival with some great window displays and support for the committee

**The wonderful** IGA staff

**People** out collecting roadside rubbish

**Volunteers** who help out when called upon

# What's NOT

**Long lines** waiting to catch a bus after the Cold Chisel concert

## JOKE of the week

What did the triangle say to the circle?  
You're pointless

### Bureau of Meteorology

# Weather

## WATCH

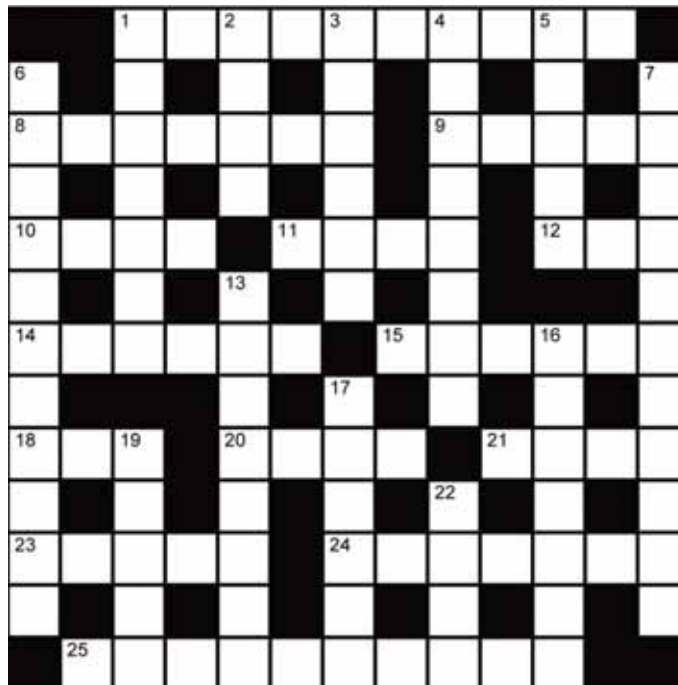
### Guyra MPS

Date	Day	Min	Max	Rain
1	Tues	3.5	16.4	2.0
2	Wed	4.1	15.4	0
3	Thurs	5.9	15.0	0
4	Fri	0.3	18.1	0
5	Sat	8.3	19.8	0
6	Sun	7.9	21.3	0
7	Mon	5.8	23.1	0

Rain this week 2.0mm  
 Oct. rainfall 2.0mm  
 Rainfall YTD 602.2mm  
 Rainfall last YTD 570.8mm  
 Ave. rain to Oct. 691.6mm

Information supplied by Jeff Martin, Observer for Bureau of Meteorology

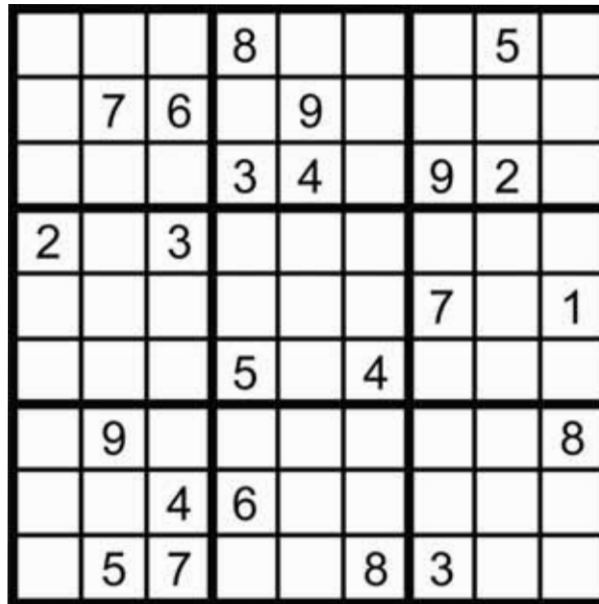
## QUICK CROSSWORD



- ACROSS:**  
 1. Dumb-struck (10)  
 8. Despondent (7)  
 9. Luxurious (5)  
 10. Actor's part (4)  
 11. Nitwit (4)  
 12. Modern music (3)  
 14. Improve (6)  
 15. Not plentiful (6)  
 18. Wilt (3)  
 20. Part of the eye (4)  
 21. Cauliflower head (4)  
 23. Purple colour (5)  
 24. Pandemonium (7)  
 25. Puzzling (10)

- 1DOWN:**  
 1. Academic (7)  
 2. Glimpse (4)  
 3. Former name of Sri Lanka (6)  
 On Your Collar, song (8)  
 5. Sudden fall (5)  
 6. Argumentative (11)  
 7. Famous British furniture maker (11)  
 13. Mishap (8)  
 16. Noisy (7)  
 17. Cold season (6)  
 19. Garish (5)  
 22. Three-some (4)

## SUDOKU - Hard



2	6	3	8	1	4	7	5	9
5	1	7	6	3	9	4	8	2
8	9	4	2	5	7	6	3	1
6	3	2	4	8	5	9	7	1
1	4	7	3	9	2	8	6	5
9	8	5	1	6	7	3	4	2
1	8	5	3	4	6	9	2	7
4	7	6	2	9	5	8	1	3
9	3	2	8	7	1	6	5	4

**Across:** 1. Speechless, 8. Unhappy 9. Plus, 10. Role, 11. Dolt, 12. Pop, 14. Enrich, 15. Scare, 18. Sag, 20. Iris, 21. Curd, 23. Mauve, 24. Turmoil, 25. Mysterious.  
**Down:** 1. Scholar, 2. Espy, 3. Ceylon, 4. Lipstick, 5. Slump, 6. Quarrelsome, 7. Chip-panale, 13. Accident, 16. Raucous, 17. Winter, 19. Gaudy, 22. Trio

### Meals on Wheels

Oct 10	Jim Betts
Oct 11	Golf Ladies (Jenny)
Oct 14	Lions Club (Bob)
Oct 15	Toni Kirkman
Oct 16	Steve Norris

### Street Stalls

Oct 17	Hospital Aux.
Oct 18, 19	Lions Club
Oct 24, 25	Freemasons. Lodge

### Service Clubs

**LIONS CLUB** dinner meetings 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month at Guyra Bowling Club, 7pm. Ph: Geoff Reeves 6779 1257

**ROTARY CLUB** dinner meetings 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month 6pm for 6.30pm at Guyra Cafe  
 Ph: Hans Hietbrink 0402 044 891

### Church Notices

**St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Church** Mass 6pm Saturday from September 7th, 9am Sunday. Weekday Mass Monday – Friday 9am. **Contact:** 6779 1036

**St. James' Anglican Church** 9am Sunday, followed by morning tea. Doors open from 8:30am. All welcome! Contact Rev. Tim Stevens 6779 1111

**St. Columba's Presbyterian Church** 9am Sunday followed by morning tea. **Contact:** Rev. Andrew Campbell 0447 724 536  
**Ben Lomond service Sunday October 13th 2pm**

**The Chapel:** 66 Llangothin Street: Sunday Service: 10am

**Contact:** Pastors Linden & Kerrie Pollard 0455 232 073.

**Seventh-day Adventist Church:** Aboomala Street, Sabbath School 10.00am Saturday Divine Service 11.30am Saturday. **Contact:** Minister Luke Reeves 0410 761 320 Church Clerk 6779 1587

**Uniting Church:** 57 Ollera Street: Regular Sunday Service: 9.30am **Contact:** Di Burey 0428 791 742

**Church of Freedom** (Cnr. Boorolong & Nincoola Sts.) Sunday worship: 10am Prayer meeting: Tuesday 6.30pm Bible discussion: Wednesday 6.30pm Pastors: Jeff & Sharon Ritchie 0421 847 973 Chaplaincy services: Dan McGinty 0409 399 270

# Tradies breakfast



Dasha's Hardware hosted a tradie breakfast on Friday October 4th. Fifty tradies joined the Dasha's team, sharing a bacon and egg roll while raising \$1795.00. The funds raised will be donated to Can Assist Guyra,

helping local families going through cancer treatment.

Dasha's would like to thank Anne, Geoff, Kerry and Wayne for cooking a beautiful breakfast, Guyra Country Fresh for donating the bread rolls, and

Chris the coffee man for providing great coffee.

To get the conversation started about good mental health in tradies, Dasha's also auctioned two Trademutt shirts and a Dewalt angle grinder.

Thank you to Terry Williams for doing the auction. Thank you to all our wonderful tradies for supporting us and our day.

*Dasha & Tania*

**THE NATIONALS**  
*for Regional Australia*

**Barnaby  
JOYCE MP**  
NATIONALS FEDERAL  
MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

*Delivering  
for Guyra*

02 6761 3080  
barnaby.joyce.mp@aph.gov.au

Authorised by Barnaby Joyce MP, National Party of Australia, 17/454-456 Peel Street, Tamworth NSW 2340.

 **Australia Day Awards** 

**Nominations are now open and  
CLOSE on Wednesday, 6th December**

- **Forms** are available at the GALA Centre, 136 Bradley St  
*or by emailing:* [dorothy@gala.org.au](mailto:dorothy@gala.org.au)  
*or online at:* [www.armidaleregional.nsw.gov.au](http://www.armidaleregional.nsw.gov.au)
- **Enquiries** should be directed to Rita Williams 6779 1182  
or Dorothy Lockyer on 6779 2132.
- **Completed forms** can be posted to: PO Box 170, Guyra,  
or emailed to: [dorothy@gala.org.au](mailto:dorothy@gala.org.au)  
or delivered in person to GALA.
  - **Please mark** completed forms:  
"ATTENTION: Australia Day Nomination"

**Award Categories are:**

- Guyra Citizen of the Year (over 25 years)
- Guyra Young Citizen of the Year
- Guyra Community Service Award
- Guyra Sportsman of the Year
- Guyra Sports Team of the Year
- Guyra Contribution to Sport & Recreation
- Guyra Art, Drama, or Music Award
- Guyra Environmental Citizen of the Year
- Guyra Community Event of the Year

# Looking for rural women to represent Guyra

The Land RAS/ASC Rural Woman of the Year competition 2025 (formerly Showgirl) is the perfect opportunity for you to get involved, connect with like-minded woman, and have your voice heard on the issues that matter most to rural communities.

This annual competition celebrates the incredible contributions of rural woman across Australia, highlighting their resilience, creativity, and leadership. It's not just about winning; it's about coming together to share experiences, ideas, and strategies for tackling the unique challenges we face in our rural areas.

Participating in the competition is a fun and engaging way to meet fellow rural woman who share your passion for making a difference. You'll have the chance to network, share your story, and learn from one another in a supportive environment.

Whether you're a seasoned advocate or just starting out, this is an excellent platform to express your views and collaborate with others who are equally committed



Guyra Show Society is looking for entrants in the Rural Woman competition for 2025

to improving our rural communities.

From agriculture and sustainability to health and education, your voice can play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our rural areas. Together, we can inspire change and create a positive impact on our

communities.

The Guyra Show Society encourages all rural woman of Guyra over the age of 18 to consider entering the competition. Join us in making a difference, one voice at a time!

For more information on how to enter, visit the website

<https://www.guyrashow.guyra.net> / or contact Rita Williams at [rita-williams@bigpond.com](mailto:rita-williams@bigpond.com).

Let's make this year's Rural Woman of the Year competition a celebration of community, resilience, and empowerment!"

## New school leaders for 2024-2025

Guyra Central School announced their 2024-2025 School Captains at an assembly held on Wednesday September 25th.

Treigh Bonser-Karhu (Captain), Annabelle Collins (Captain), Aukustino Alefosio (Vice Captain), Lillianna Eddy (Vice Captain) and Ingrid Chilcott-Geere (Vice Captain) were each inducted into the Guyra Central School leadership team.

Guyra Central School would like to acknowledge and thank our outgoing Year 12 student leaders, Jada Alefosio, Brooke Grills, Max Raper and Trisha Mae Varley for their dedication and leadership they provided to our students and our school during 2023/2024.



Above | to r: Lillianna Eddy, Troy Bonser-Karhu, Annabelle Collins, Ingrid Chilcott-Geere and Aukustino Alefosio



# Classifieds Trades & Services

## WANTED

**OLD IRON** single beds. Phone Tony on 048 1144 634

## HISTORICAL MUSEUM

**GUYRA HISTORICAL MUSEUM** is open by appointment. Enquiries to 6779 2132 during business hours.

## PROBUS NOTES

Our next meeting is on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October at the Bowling Club at 10am. Any new members would be most welcome to attend.

We have a guest speaker on lead lighting then morning tea. We will then have a movie, "The Great Escape" at the Council chambers. Unfortunately, our dinner at Red Lion in Glencoe has been put off until 11<sup>th</sup> November, our next meeting day.

*Judy Jackson*

## RAFFLE RESULTS

**ST MARY** of the Angels Catholic Parish: voucher winner Leigh Ramage, 100 Club 1st Dot Davidson, 2nd Meg Simpson (redonated), 3rd Bev Mitchell. Thank you for your support.

**GUYRA ROTARY CLUB** fishing raffle won by Louise Handebo. Thanks to everyone for your support at our Book Fair over the weekend.

## FOOD PANTRY

### Food Pantry at The Chapel

66 Llangothlin Street, Guyra

**OPEN this FRIDAY 9am-12pm**

Contact: 0455 232 073

## CLAIM THE DATE

### SUNDAY, 10th NOVEMBER

**GUYRA CUP** at Armidale Racecourse. Details to come.

### \*FRIDAY, 6th DECEMBER

**ROTARY CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL** from 4pm. Entertainment, markets, fun for the kids. Santa will be there.

**\*Note NEW DATE.**

### SATURDAY, 1st MARCH, 2025

**CANCER FUNDRAISER** Guyra's Got Talent at Guyra Bowling Club. Details and tickets coming soon.

## CLAIM THE DATE

Phone: 6779 2132

advertising@gala.org.au

## FUNDRAISER

### Volunteer Fundraiser for Guyra Rural Fire Service

Sausage Sizzle,  
Raffle, and Bowls

**Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> October**

**11am to 2pm**

Guyra Bowling and Recreation Club

Free to join in on the bowls,  
have lunch and a drink.

Get to know the locals behind keeping  
us safe in the bushfire season.

All ages event.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Community Information Session Proposed Tilbuster Solar Farm Stage 2

Enerparc will hold a community information session in Armidale to provide further information about the proposed Tilbuster Solar Farm – Stage 2.

The session will provide an opportunity to learn about the project and provide feedback to Enerparc representatives.

**Feedback can also be provided  
via the project website:**

<http://tilbustersolarfarm.com.au>

The format is a drop in session to encourage one on one discussion on:

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 5pm–8pm**  
at Armidale Town Hall  
127 Rusden Street, Armidale

## COURSES

**Work Safely at Heights**  
Thursday, 14th November

**Enter & Work in  
Confined Spaces**  
Friday, 15th November

**Bookings essential at**

**New England  
Community College**

(RTO#90145)

136 Bradley Street, Guyra

Phone: 6779 2132

or enrol online:  
[www.gala.org.au](http://www.gala.org.au)

## ENTERTAINMENT

### A - Z DISCO

or KARAOKE

*for all your music needs*

**Birthdays**

**Dance Parties ★ DJ**

*Dinos or Justin* 0412 037 396

## TRADES & SERVICES

**RALPH  
PLUMBER**

If I say I will be there, I will be there.

Licence No. 346186C

Rolph Luo

☎ 0431 277 450

✉ [wolfunec@yahoo.com.au](mailto:wolfunec@yahoo.com.au)

## CT ELECTRIC

ESSENTIAL ENERGY LEVEL 2 CONTRACTORS

PHONE: 02 6779 1273

ADDRESS: 101 BRADLEY STREET, GUYRA

EMAIL: [CTELECTRIC1@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:CTELECTRIC1@OUTLOOK.COM)

COMMERCIAL - INDUSTRIAL - DOMESTIC - RURAL

- REVERSE CYCLE AIR/CON
- TV AERIAL REPAIRS
- COOLROOM & GENERATOR HIRING
- WHITE GOODS AT BETTA ELECTRICAL PRICES
- SLAB HEATING
- GENERATORS
- HOUSEHOLD PUMPS
- STOCK PUMPS

ARC LICENCE: AU57787

ABN: 58 656 067 211

## PLUMBING & GAS FITTING SUPPLIES

- Drainage
- Solar Hot Water
- Septic Systems
- Bobcat & Backhoe Hire
- Excavator & Scissor Lift Hire
- Roofing
- Gas Heaters
- LPG Supplier
- Pumps
- Gas Fitters
- BOC Agents
- Water Tanks

RJ & KA Hammond  
**HAMMOND PLUMBING**  
67 Ollera St, Guyra  
Ph: 6779 1434

*Anne Lane*

your local Guyra  
Personal Travel Advisor.

0404 655 679 | [alane@mtatravel.com.au](mailto:alane@mtatravel.com.au)

[mtatravel.com.au/alane](http://mtatravel.com.au/alane)

With you all the way MOBILE TRAVEL MEETS!

# Soccer presentations

Guyra United Soccer held their end of season presentations at the fields on September 21st. They were blown away with the support for the event, with the majority of players turning out to accept awards. Normal trophies were presented to each of the teams along with a player's player and a coach's award for each of the sides.

## The coach's awards went to:

- Under 6 Spooks Ebonee Cruickshank
- Under 6 Caspers Quinn McRae
- Under 7 Spooks Willow Cruickshank
- Under 8 Ghosts Thomas Laing
- Under 10 Phantoms Darcie Campbell
- Under 10 Tigers Mathew Sauer
- Under 12s Toby Cussen
- 4th grade seniors Jaymie Donnelly
- 3rd grade seniors Cooper Brennan

## The Player's Player awards went to:

- Under 6 Spooks Hugo Miller
- Under 6 Caspers Fletcher Cleaver
- Under 7s Vinnie Furphy
- Under 8s Fergus McFarlane
- Under 10 Phantoms Harrison McRae
- Under 10 Tigers Chase Martin
- Under 12s Taharn Purvis
- 4th grade seniors Tom Lockyer
- 3rd grade seniors Blake Phillips.

A few special awards are handed out each year in recognition of hard work and dedication to the club. The David Martin memorial award is for



Guyra Under 12s received the David Martin memorial award is most outstanding team

the most outstanding team within the club. This year it was awarded to the under 12s side who went the whole season losing only a few games. In the finals they were beaten 2 to 1 by Norths United who eventually went on to win the grade.

The Club person of the year award is given to someone who is not expected to do things they do within the club but are always willing to and most of the time do it without being asked. This year that award went to Ashley Holt.

Thank you again to everyone who put their hand up to play, coach, cook a BBQ, be on the committee and finally to our sponsors. Royal Hotel, Robert's and Morrow,

DJAS Architecture, CT Electric, SA and RA

Tibbs, Beauty Basic by Em and finally (he isn't on the shirts) but thank you to Sisson Family Meats for their support during the fundraiser and presentations.

The club looks forward to seeing everyone again next season and keep an eye out for the AGM to be held in the next few weeks. This is a chance for people to come tell us what they want to improve in the club. Not just be stuck with a job for the coming season they are low stress meeting held at the Royal. Two of the things to be discussed this time is a possible twilight competition to be held in early 2025 and weather protection options at the fields.

*Mitch Hope*

## Ladies' Golf

Last week a few brave ladies played in cold and windy conditions. Leonie Taylor won the Par Medal round. Jenny Rogers was the runner up. Nearest the Pin winners were, Donna White on the 9th hole. Wendy George on the 18th hole.

This week is the Guyra Welding Works 4BBB Championships. Next week is a Stableford.

Some of our Ladies are playing in the Golf NSW Medal NEDGA District Playoff at Walcha. Good luck!

*Birdie*

## Vets Golf

Last Tuesday October 1st we played the Reg Taylor stroke plus a putting competition. The winner with nett 73 went to Colin Walls with Ian Taylor getting the gross with a score of 85. Ian also picked up two nearest the pins. Paul Redden was the best putter with 29. Next Tuesday is a stableford event.

Don't forget our three day carnival on 21st, 22nd and 23rd of this month. First day is a 4BBB MEDLEY. The second and 3 third days are a 36 hole stableford with 18 hole competition's each day.

There will be both men and ladies divisions for both these days. Nominations close on October 14th.

*Drake*

## Men's Bowls

On Sunday the 13th October social pairs will begin at 1pm. On Saturday the 19th October the Number 3 pennant team will travel to South Tamworth to play Kootingal at 8:45am. The loser of that game will play Wee Waa on Saturday afternoon, the winner will play Wee Waa Sunday morning. Cars will leave Guyra at 6am both days if required.

*Jack.*

## Midweek Golf

DON'T FORGET to get you teams in this week for the midweek golf 9 hole competition. Starts on Monday 14th October 2024.

Teams of 6 players. They can be golfers, non golfers, juniors, men, women, Vets, but must be a social member of the Bowling Club to play (do not have to be a golfing member.)

Nine hole, stableford event. Play any time from Monday morning to 5pm Sunday night.

Pay at bar and collect your score card before you play each week. Your handicap will be on the board at the club and changes every week.

Nomination form and guidelines will be available at the Bowling Club. Also available by emailing [leonie@gala.org.au](mailto:leonie@gala.org.au)

Please get your teams back to Leonie or the Bowling Club before the end of this week. If you wish to re-nominate the team you had last time then email [leonie@gala.org.au](mailto:leonie@gala.org.au) or message Leonie on 0400264944.

If you would like to play and are not in a team then send your name into Leonie and we will try and place you in a team. We have two people already who would like to join a team.

*Middy*

# Guyra Golf Club

## Mens Open

Start Time  
9am

Sunday 13th October 2024

All grades  
A, B & C  
Visitors  
welcome

Contact:  
Mick Jackson  
(0427 0009 409)  
for more  
information

Price  
\$30

Restaurant will be open for  
meals

Apologies Debbie McClean  
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~



# Attendance Form

Tilbuster Stage 2 - Community Information Session

Name	Address	Contact Details	Expression of Interest for Local Business Registry
Michael & Elizabeth Parry	Uralba, 12250 New England Hwy Black Mountain 2365	michael.parry61@gmail.com	
Drew Dawson	Pinch Flat Lots 5 N.E. Hwy	0475855333	NO CONSENT
Andrew Pearson	or Pirramoots Boorolany Rd Armidale	67712360	Would like to be mailed more information.
Dean Davidson	Tilthorpe 11966 NE HWY ARMIDALE		
John & Kathie Hunt	Hilltop 12253 New England Hwy Black Mountain.	hilltophunts@gmail.com	



[ghd.com](http://ghd.com)

→ **The Power of Commitment**