

## APPENDIX C CONSULTATION



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31.07.2017

Dear Lizzie,

**RE: PROPOSED SOLAR FARM, CURRAWARRA – SUBDIVISION OF LAND**

In response to your letter dated 21 July 2017 concerning the proposed subdivision associated with the proposed solar farm development at Currawarra.

The proposed subdivision forms part of the State Significant Development and seeks to excise an area of land comprising of approximately one hectare.

I note the proposed subdivision is not in accordance with the requirements of the *Conargo Local Environmental Plan 2013*, as the proposal does not meet the minimum lot size requirements of 40ha in the RU1- Primary Production zone. However, as the proposed subdivision will not result in any additional dwelling entitlements, Council raises no objection to the proposed subdivision subject to the following;

- At the end of the life of the solar farm project, the infrastructure located on the 1 ha lot is required to be decommissioned, and
- The 1 ha lot is required to be consolidated back into the residual lot.

If you require any further advice in relation to this matter, please contact Shavaun Tasker, Town Planning Officer on (03) 5898 3053.

Yours Sincerely

**Julie Rogers**  
Manager Environmental Service  
Economic and Business Development



# Community Consultation Plan

CURRAWARRA SOLAR FARM

OCTOBER 2017



## Document Verification



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CCP – Currawarra Solar Farm

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PRINCIPLES

Best practice community consultation involves the community in all decision-making stages of a project. There is a role for the community from project conception, through the assessment process and on to project development. Effective community consultation has three important functions:

1. It facilitates deeper understanding of issues and decisions required for the project;
2. It improves the quality of decisions made for the project;
3. It allows people to be involved in decisions that affect their lives.

Important community engagement principles for a project include:

- Openness – combats assumptions and misinformation.
- Inclusiveness - consultation should be diverse and representative, not responding only to the most vocal stakeholders.
- Effective communication – requiring trust between parties and tools appropriate to the task.
- A communication strategy – clarity about what is being undertaken:
  - Inform - one-way communication to deliver information about the project.
  - Consult - two-way communication to seek input into the project.
  - Collaborate and involve – seek participation in elements of the project design and implementation.
- Early rather than late – to maximise engagement opportunities.
- Accountability – the process should be monitored and evaluated to ensure its aims are being achieved.

## 1.2 AIM OF THIS PLAN

This Community Consultation Plan (CCP) has been developed for the Currawarra Solar Farm.

The aim of the plan is to:

1. Identify effective methods to inform the community about the Currawarra Solar Farm
2. Facilitate engagement with the community, including input into the environmental assessment and project development.

The plan identifies:

- Community stakeholders for the project;
- Issues / risks related to the engagement of each stakeholder group;
- A consultation strategy for each stakeholder group;
- A set of activities against the project development time line to facilitate consultation.

Effective engagement will require an understanding of community stakeholders and prioritisation of potential impacts. It also relies on the community understanding the project and specific issues of interest to them, to enable effective participation. The focus of the consultation plan will be on providing this understanding and engagement.

While this plan will include the local Aboriginal community, additional consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders will be undertaken in accordance with Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (ACHCRP 2010). This process is not described in this plan and will be undertaken in addition to the consultation detailed in this document.

### **1.3 STRUCTURE**

The structure of this plan is:

1. Proposal overview
2. Identification of community stakeholders for the project
3. Issue management – what specific issues need consideration
4. Project based activities – what vehicles will be utilised in the consultation process.

### **1.4 IMPLEMENTATION AND REVISION OF THIS DOCUMENT**

The plan has been developed to coincide with the early planning and assessment stages of the project.

If the project is approved, consultation will also be required to continue into the construction and operational phases of the project. These phases will require a new or updated plan, to reflect any changes to consultation objectives but also the increasing knowledge gained about the community, and by the community.

### **1.5 RELEVANT GUIDELINES**

This CCP has been prepared with reference to the following guidelines / references:

- *Establishing the social licence to operate large scale solar facilities in Australia: Insights from social research for industry*, Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA).
- *Beyond Public Meetings: Connecting community engagement with decision making*, Twyford Consulting 2007.

## **2 PROPOSAL OVERVIEW**

The proposed 195MW solar farm is located at Lot 40 DP756344, Lot 109 DP756305, Lot 110 DP756305, Lot 106 DP756305, Lot 105 DP756305 Mayrung.

The construction phase would include the installation of photovoltaic modules (solar panels), mounted on steel frames over most of the site, as well as an Energy Storage Facility, electrical conduits, inverters, access tracks, site office and perimeter fencing.

An on-site electrical substation would also be constructed to allow connection into the existing 132kV overhead line which borders the site on the south and eastern boundaries.

Access to the site would be off Mayrung Road, Sunny Pines Road and Russells Road.

To avoid duplication, all detailed proposal information is contained within the Environmental Impact Statement and is not repeated here.

## 3 COMMUNITY PROFILE

Understanding the makeup and values of the community is essential to finding effective ways to reach the community as well as beginning to identify ways that the project may impact the community. This section provides a broad overview of the local government area, closest major town of Deniliquin and the locality of Mayrung.

### 3.1 EDWARD RIVER LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

In 2016 there was a merging of several council across NSW; Conargo Shire and Deniliquin Councils merged to form the Edward River Council (NSW Government 2017). The Conargo Local Government Area (LGA) had a population of 1540 people (ABS 2013a), and Deniliquin (state suburb) had a population of 7494 people, in the 2011 Census (ABS 2013c). The current estimates of Edward River Council, after the merger, is population 8972; covering an area of 8881km<sup>2</sup> (NSW Government 2017).

The Edward River LGA is part of the Riverina Bioregion of NSW, the bioregion generally experiences dry semi-arid climate with hot summers and cool winters (OEH 2016). The mean temperature ranges from a maximum of 23.6°C to a minimum of 9.5°C at Deniliquin (BOM 2017). Mayrung is in the subregion of Murray Fans Catchment Management Authority (CMA) which is centred around the Murray and Edward-Kooley river systems (OEH 2016). This area is characterised by meandering channels, floodplains, overflow lakes and swamps with extensive river red gum forests and low floodplains; Yellow Box and Black Box with saltbush on the high floodplains and white Cypress pines on deep sand (Morgan and Terrey 1992).

The median age of persons in the Conargo region is 41 years of age; this is only slightly higher than the Australian average of 37 (ABS 2013b). The 2011 census records state that only 2.1% of the population is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (ABS 2013a). A large portion, 92.5% of the community were born in Australia; 0.8% England, 0.6% Netherlands, 0.4% from the Czech Republic and New Zealand and 0.3% from United States of America (ABS 2013a).

The main local industry for employment within the Edward River LGA (Conargo) is sheep, beef cattle and grain farming (44.2 % in 2011), followed by dairy cattle farming at 12.1%, school education at 4.7% and residential care services, and other social assistance services, at 1.8% (ABS 2013a). The LGA is renowned for sheep breeding studs and cereal crops such as white, rice and canola and its distinctive natural environment (CSC 2016).

The regional Council defines the communities' environmental values as water, agriculture, wide open plains, and big skies (ERC 2016a). The region had been in economic decline in recent times due to the introduction of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan reducing water availability to the agricultural industry (ERC 2016a). This impacted hard on the community with the closure of many businesses (ERC 2016a). Employment between 2001 and 2011 fell by 27 percent in the area (ERC 2016a). Population and growth are now on a positive trajectory due to increases in rainfall levels and a grant from Destinations NSW to promote tourism in the area (ERC 2016b).

Edward River LGA is in Southern NSW, approximately 800kms from Sydney and approximately 350km to Melbourne (Google 2017). It encompasses the townships of Conargo, Blighty, Mayrung, Pretty Pine, Warragoon and Lindifferon (CSC 2016). Community spirit is deeply embedded in this community with issues such as water availability and the price of milk bringing the community together as one voice to bring about positive change (CSC 2016).

Some of the community facilities and economic features of the Edward River LGA include:

- Health and community Services are numerous throughout the LGA. They include; the Deniliquin Hospital, Deniliquin Community Health Centre and Mathoura Community Health Centre. Other services include; aged care, respite services, disability care facilities, Men's Shed, Friendship groups, Meals on Wheels, Italian Group, cemeteries and children, families and youth services (Deniliquin Council 2017).
- Emergency Services are mostly located at Deniliquin, they include: NSW Fire Brigades, NSW Ambulance Services, NSW Police, NSW Rural Fire Service Riverina Zone and NSW State Emergency Services (Deniliquin Council 2017).
- There are 13 Government Schools in the Shire, two Catholic, one independent and 1 Christian comprising of thirteen Primary, two Secondary and one combined. They include: Conargo Primary School, Blighty Primary School, Mayrung Primary School, Deniliquin High School, Deniliquin Christian School, Edward Public School, Deniliquin North Public School, Deniliquin South Public School, Jerilderie Public School, St Joseph's School (Jerilderie), St Michael's Primary School, Mayrung Public School (Australian Schools Directory 2017). The Riverina Institute of TAFE is also located at Deni and it is a campus for Melbourne Ausway College for international agricultural students (ERC).
- Recreation and sporting facilities include the Blighty Recreational Reserve, Deniliquin Sports Stadium, Edward River Oval, Pretty Pine Recreation Reserve and the Conargo Recreational Reserve (ERC 2016b; CSC 2016).
- Community facilities, Central Murray Regional Library, Blighty Recreational Hall, Boorooban Community Hall, Mayrung Community Hall, Conargo Community Hall, Waring Gardens, Rotary Parks, Scots Park Deniliquin, McFall Park, Burchfield Park, Bills Park and Conargo Park (ERC 2016b; CSC 2016).
- Active business organisations include; Business Enterprise Centre, Mathoura Chamber of Commerce, Deniliquin Business Chamber, and Mathoura Visitor & Business Centre (Deniliquin Council 2017).
- Events, Conargo Mother's Day Market, Deni Ute Muster, Deniliquin Fishing Classic and The Edward River Christmas Fair (ERC 2016b).
- Environmental attractions include the Murray Valley National Park and Murray Valley Regional Park. The Parks river red gum forests are home to 60 threatened fauna species and 40 threatened flora species (ERC 2016b). Other nature hotspots are the Gulpa Creek Trail, Redbeds Bird Hide and The Island Sanctuary (Deniliquin Council 2017).

### **3.1.1 Deniliquin**

Deniliquin is the closest major town to the locality of Mayrung. It is within 24 kilometres of the proposed solar farm site and approximately 670 kilometres south west of Sydney and 317 kilometres north of Melbourne (Google 2017). The population of Deniliquin (urban centre) was 7494 in the 2011 Census; comprising of 3.5% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, which is slightly higher than the Australian average of 2.5% (ABSc 2016). The median age is 44, which is slightly higher than the Australian median of 37 (ABS 2013c). In Deniliquin 87.1% of the population was born in Australia; 1.5% in England, 0.9% in New Zealand and Italy, Scotland, and South Africans 0.4% respectively (ABS 2016c).

The main local industry for employment in Deniliquin was Sheep, Beef Cattle and Grain farming at 5.4%; this is much higher than the Australian average of 1.2% (ABS 2016c). This is followed by, school education at 5.1%, grain mill and cereal product manufacturing at 3.7% (the Australian comparative is 0.1%),

Supermarket and Grocery Stores 3.6% and Hospitals at 3.2% (ABS 2016c). Full time employment in Deniliquin was 57.7% (Australian average was 59.7%), whilst the unemployment rate in 2011 was 4.4% (ABS 2016c). This was lower than the Australian unemployment rate of 5.6% (ABS 2016c). The median age for full time employment was 45, with a median personal income of \$478 (ABS 2016c).

Dominant occupations in the town are technicians and tradespeople (15.5%), professionals (14.5%), managers (13.6%), clerical and administrative workers (13.6%), followed by labourers (10.8%), sales workers (10.5%), and machinery operators and drivers (8.2%) (ABS 2016c). The proposed solar farm would provide opportunity of employment diversification as NSW moves towards a carbon neutral economy by the year 2050.

Deniliquin is fondly referred to by the locals as Deni (Deniliquin Council 2017). Edward River is a defining feature flowing through the town and is a central point for many recreational activities and events. Community events, facilities and economic features of Deniliquin include:

- Events include, the previously mentioned, Deni Ute Muster, Cruising Nationals Hot Rod Festival, and the Deniliquin XXXX Gold Fishing Classic (ERC 2017c).
- Major tourism attractions are the Edward River and Murray Valley Regional Park (ERC 2017c).
- Recreational and sporting facilities are the Deniliquin Sports Stadium, Waring Gardens, Rotary Park, Edward River Oval, Scots Park, The Island Sanctuary, Memorial Park, Townsend Park, McFaul Park, Burchfield Park, Skate Board Park, BMX Track, Harding Street Oval and Blake Botanical Reserve (ERC 2017c).
- Community facilities and clubs include the Deniliquin Town Hall, Multi Arts Centre, Deniliquin Swim Centre, Central Murray Regional Library, and Peppin Heritage Centre (ERC 2017c).
- Health services are in abundance in the township. They include aged care services, disability services, child and family services, youth services, cultural services, educational services, doctors, Deniliquin hospital (ERC 2017c).
- Services include the Deniliquin airport (5km from the CBD), taxi services, Deniliquin cemetery, civil marriage celebrants, animal service facilities and all core service industries (ERC 2017c).
- Business groups include Deniliquin Business Chamber, RDA – Murray and The Mathoura Visitor & Business Centre (ERC 2017c).

## **Mayrung**

Mayrung is a rural locality approximately 9 kilometres east of Lindifferon and 28 kilometres north-east of Deniliquin. The proposed solar farm is approximately 3.5 kilometres west of Mayrung. The locality of Mayrung is accessed via Moonee Swamp Road, Mayrung Road and Conargo Road and residence are sprawled out on large irrigated rural properties.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has 2011 statistics for Lindifferon (state suburb) which incorporates the locality of Mayrung. The population of Lindifferon (state suburb) in the 2011 Census was 244 people with a median age of 33; no aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people were recorded (ABS 2013d). In Lindifferon (state suburb) 93.5% of the population were born in Australia; 1.6% in the Czech Republic, 1.2% were born in Germany, Italy and Netherlands respectively (ABS 2013d).

The major industries for employment correlate with Deniliquin; Sheep, Beef Cattle and Grain farming were the highest employment industry at 57.5%, Dairy Cattle Farming at 17.1%, School Education at 5.5% followed by Motor Vehicle Retailing and Supermarket and Grocery Stores at 2.7% (ABS 2013d). The highest

response for occupation were Managers at 63.7%, the Australian average was 12.9%; followed by Labourers at 13.7%, Professionals at 8.2%, Clerical and Administrative Workers 6.2% and Technicians, Community and Personal Service Workers and Sales Workers each at 2.1% (ABS 2013d). The median weekly personal income in 2011 was \$456; slightly lower than the Australia average of \$577 per week and the unemployment rate was 2% compared to the Australian average of 5.6% (ABS 2013d).

## 4 STAKEHOLDER GROUPS AND CONSULTATION STRATEGIES

It is important to identify all key stakeholder groups and relevant characteristics and tailor engagement strategies to suit each group. Different levels of engagement suit varying degrees of potential impacts in the community. Where impacts are less significant, for example, the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) consultation spectrum suggests approaches such as 'Inform' and 'Consult'. Greater impacts on communities require approaches such as 'Involve', 'Collaborate' and 'Empower'. Appropriate strategies are set out below for each stakeholder group.

Stakeholder group	Defining characteristics	Consultation strategies
1. Adjacent neighbours	<p>Neighbours adjacent to the project and those who may be directly affected, for example: those with a view of infrastructure, noise or vibration from haulage route or construction activities.</p> <p>Three non involved residences are located within 1km of the site and may experience direct impacts.</p>	<p><b>Meet first</b> – Inform and consult</p> <p>Understanding the values and potential impacts to this group is highly important.</p> <p>Face to face consultation and direct feedback is required.</p> <p>Mitigation strategies may require changes to the project or the development of specific plans of management i.e. screening visual impact.</p> <p>All consultation should be documented.</p>
2. Near Neighbours (Residents of Lindifferon locality)	<p>Neighbours to the project and those who may be directly affected, for example: those with a view of infrastructure, noise or vibration from haulage route or construction activities.</p> <p>Being a major development close to a small settlement, direct impacts may be of great interest to residents and businesses. This is a large development with potential to define the locality in many ways.</p> <p>Approximately 7 residences are located between 1km and 2km of the site and may experience direct impacts.</p>	<p><b>Inform and Consult</b></p> <p>Understanding the values and potential impacts to this group is highly important. It will assist the assessment process and development of appropriate mitigation strategies.</p> <p>Face to face consultation and direct feedback is required.</p> <p>All consultation should be documented.</p>

Stakeholder group	Defining characteristics	Consultation strategies
3. Local Businesses	<p>No non-agricultural businesses are located within 2km of the site.</p> <p>Businesses within the locality of Lindifferon may experience some impacts.</p>	<p><b>Inform and Consult</b></p> <p>Understanding the values of this group will assist the assessment process and development of appropriate mitigation strategies.</p> <p>Direct contact and direct feedback is required. Potential opportunity to distribute project information and understand community sentiment.</p> <p>All consultation should be documented.</p>
4. Special interest groups	<p>Special interest groups, for example, recreational groups, sporting groups.</p> <p>None were identified specific to this proposal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<p><b>Inform and Consult</b></p> <p>These should be directly contacted.</p> <p>Specific information or assessment may be required to understand and mitigate impacts for these groups.</p> <p>An avenue to provide feedback or ask questions should be provided.</p>
5. Representative bodies	<p>Representatives of groups such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deniliquin Business Chamber</li> <li>RDA – Murray</li> <li>Mathoura Visitor &amp; Business Centre</li> <li>Mayrung Public School</li> </ul>	<p><b>Inform and Consult</b></p> <p>Specific information may be required for this group.</p> <p>An avenue to receive information and provide specific feedback or ask questions should be provided.</p>
6. Media	<p>Outlets to ensure a clear message is delivered:</p> <p>Local radio, television, newspapers (e.g. Deniliquin Pastoral Times), project website.</p>	<p><b>Inform</b></p> <p>A contact should be provided to this group, for further information if required.</p>

Stakeholder group	Defining characteristics	Consultation strategies
7. Broader community	<p>The town of Deniliquin is approximately 24km from the proposed solar farm. There are numerous residences and business located in and around the township.</p> <p>While direct impacts are unlikely, the project would be a large new development for the broader community.</p>	<p><b>Inform</b></p> <p>Newsletters, advertisements, website information used to relay information about the project.</p> <p>A contact should be provided to this group, for further information if required.</p>
8. Edward River Council	<p>The regions history has been rich in the irrigated cropping and sheep farming. The proposed solar farm would provide an economic stimulus for the area, during construction, and would be a positive step forward in the renewable energy sector.</p> <p>While direct impacts are unlikely, the project would be a large new development for the broader community.</p>	<p><b>Inform</b></p> <p>Advertisements and website information used to relay information about the project.</p> <p>A contact should be provided to this group, for further information if required.</p> <p>Direct contact with specific representative groups (Chamber of Commerce).</p>

## 5 ISSUE MANAGEMENT

A set of project-specific issues and risks to maximising community engagement in the project have been identified below. These issues pose potential risks to the effective identification and mitigation of impacts important to the community. Mitigation strategies have been developed below, specific to the identified issues. These have been incorporated into the Project-based Activities, in Section 6.

Issue	Risks	Mitigation strategies
The project may define / overwhelm the locality	<p>This may polarise the community.</p> <p>They may not feel that the project reflects their values.</p> <p>The scale of the project may overwhelm the existing local character.</p>	<p>Education material about the role of solar energy in the country's energy mix, the technology and its impacts.</p> <p>Early dissemination of information about the project and its specific justification and benefits, particularly with reference to developing new income streams on agricultural land and the ability to restore the land capability after decommissioning.</p> <p>Identify practical mitigation measures to help preserve community character.</p> <p>Seek direct input into how the project may reflect the communities 'personality' and values and how the benefits of the project may be spread to the local community.</p> <p>Clear communication of key environmental impacts and mitigation strategies of the project.</p> <p>Offer direct contact to project manager.</p>
Misinformation: Word of mouth / rumours first source of information	<p>Feel left out, disengaged, misinformed, disempowered.</p>	<p>Direct communication early to local community – adjacent landowners first, near neighbours second, then the wider community.</p>

Issue	Risks	Mitigation strategies
Lack of support for project	<p>Lack of interest, leading to low levels of public support.</p> <p>Unaddressed concerns may generate opponents of this project.</p> <p>Large proportion of jobs in the local area are reliant on the agricultural Industry, diversification may influence support of development of renewable infrastructure.</p>	<p>Early dissemination of information about the project and its justification and project benefits.</p> <p>Clear communication of key environmental impacts and mitigation strategies.</p> <p>Make participation easy – to ensure all concerns are addressed.</p> <p>Be creative – seek support for renewable project that demonstrates how benefits are felt at the local level.</p>
The approvals process can be complex.	<p>Perception that the process is too difficult to become involved in.</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>
Distrust in environmental assessment process.	<p>Distrust of impact identification and mitigation strategies.</p> <p>Suspicion that input will not be considered or valued.</p>	<p>Establish credentials of assessment team and RES Australia Pty Ltd. Present these in the EIS and in newsletters etc.</p> <p>Make participation easy – create opportunities to discuss issues with the team.</p> <p>Explain how input will be taken into account at various stages.</p>

Issue	Risks	Mitigation strategies
Fear of unknown / complex information	Exaggerated fears / misunderstanding of information.	Layman explanations of issues. Offer to follow up – one on one, or special interest meetings.
Relationship with community	Risk that during the long approval and assessment process, the community will lose enthusiasm, become disengaged or negative.	Milestone events should be identified early and celebrated. Emphasise community – solar farm partnership.
Representative	Risk of biased consultation, serving only the most vocal community members.  Sections of the community may be “overpowered” and may be marginalised.	Ensure community is engaged in a forum that minimises risk of debate being side tracked. Follow up with smaller groups where required. Use established social (and media) channels in dissemination of materials, i.e. sport clubs. Provide a range of ways for community to access information and input views.
Unified message	Differing messages may create confusion and mistrust.	Limit points of contact. Have message clearly set out for use, rather than reinventing it for each consultation activity.
Unequal distribution of benefits	Residents close to the development are likely to feel more strongly.	Identification of stakeholder groups should reflect differences in impacts.

## 6 PROJECT BASED ACTIVITIES

The following table outlines the different project stages and associated community consultation objectives and activities, in chronological order. The stages include:

- Decision to proceed with early investigations, proposal development
- Receipt of SEARs
- Detailed assessment and proposal development
- EIS on public exhibition, submissions reporting
- Approval determination
- Construction contract award
- Construction commences
- Operation commences
- Decommissioning commences.

### 6.1 MILESTONES

Milestone events should be celebrated, and used as an opportunity to keep the community on board. Milestones can include:

1. Announce project – notify near residents first, follow up with consistent information
2. Receipt of SEARs
3. Early studies and agency consultations update – meet the community face to face
4. Proposal finalised and EIS submitted – explain avenues for input
5. Submissions Report submitted – explain avenues for input
6. Approval – celebrate in a way that involves the community
7. Construction contractors awarded - opportunity for local employment
8. Construction commences - sod turning ceremony
9. Operation commences – public open day for commissioning

### 6.2 THROUGHOUT PROCESS

Relevant to all activities:

- One person would remain key spokesperson, this would be Mike Whitbread, RES Australia Pty Ltd Project Manager, to:
  - Limit points of contact, ensuring a clear message and no contradictions in terminology or project information.
  - Retain personal direct relationship with the community, identifiable face for the project.
- Feedback would be sought using a standard form where possible, allowing this information to inform the assessment (example provided in Appendix A). This form would be made available during meetings and on the project website.

Stakeholder group	Issue	Consultation objective	Community engagement activities	Format
<b>Decision to proceed with early investigations, proposal development, and receipt of SEARs</b>				
Adjacent landowners	May define locality Lack of support Other concerns	Inform and engage	Early dissemination of information about solar development generally. Early dissemination of information about the project and its justification and benefits. Seek direct input to include in assessment approach and development of proposal.	<b>Face to face meeting</b> <b>Include feedback form and encourage direct contact with Project Manager.</b>
Council	Misinformation Lack of support	Inform and engage	Ensure that the information is available Build relationship to understand their key issues	<b>Face to face meeting</b>
Near neighbours (Lindifferon locality)	May define locality Lack of support Unequal distribution of benefits Other concerns	Inform and engage	Early dissemination of information about solar development generally. Early dissemination of information about the project and its justification and benefits. Seek direct input to include in assessment approach and development of proposal, regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General feeling toward solar development</li> <li>• Specific feeling toward the Currawarra solar proposal</li> <li>• Specific concerns</li> <li>• Ways the project may reflect the communities 'personality' and values.</li> <li>• How the benefits of the project may be spread to the local community. For example, economic stimulus and local employment opportunities, or establishment of a Community Fund.</li> </ul>	<b>Newsletter/ factsheet drop</b> <b>Include feedback form and opportunity for follow up call by Project Manager.</b>

Stakeholder group	Issue	Consultation objective	Community engagement activities	Format
			Offer to meet Face to Face with Project Manager.	
	Distrust in environmental assessment process	Inform	Ensure the timelines and the stages for community input are clearly documented - use graphics and indicate where we are now at for the assessment. Make information on the project team and assessment team available	<b>Factsheet to include graphic showing stage of the process and opportunities for input</b> <b>Website, links to other projects and accreditations</b>
Local business owners	Misinformation	Inform and engage	Ensure that the information is available to the local community first. As well as letter drop, meet local business owners and offer to leave information with them to distribute. Build relationship with these owners and staff as they may assist to 'get the word out'.	<b>Face to face meeting with local business owners</b>
Broader community	Distrust in environmental assessment process. The approvals process can be complex.	Inform	Preliminary project announcement, including stage of assessment, likely timelines, ways in which the community can be involved.	<b>Media release, link to website</b>
<b>Detailed assessment and proposal development</b>				
Adjacent landowners	May define locality Lack of support	Inform and engage	Feed information into the final assessment to ensure all their issues have been identified and addressed by the project.	<b>Face to face meeting / Phone call</b>
Near neighbours	May define locality Lack of support	Inform and engage	Identify ways the community can participate in the project and seek input on these:	<b>Competitions, Adopt a tree, other programs</b>

Stakeholder group	Issue	Consultation objective	Community engagement activities	Format
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vegetation screen planting, adopt a tree (one for project, one for landowner?)</li> <li>A competition for the signage / logo for solar farm</li> <li>Other renewable or energy saving programs that the proponent could support?</li> </ul>	
Near neighbours	Fear of unknown, complex information	Inform and engage	Identify ways simplify and present the key information, seek feedback.	<b>Open house – specialist and project information</b>
Broader community	Unequal distribution of benefits Risk of biased consultation, serving only the most vocal community members.	Consult and inform	Feed information into the final assessment to ensure all community issues have been identified and addressed by the project, differentiating between stakeholder groups	<b>Newsletter, Website</b>
<b>EIS on public exhibition, submissions reporting</b>				
Adjacent landowners	Relationship with landowners and community	Inform and engage	Reinforce stage in the project and ways to have input	<b>Face to face meeting / Phone call</b>
Near neighbours	Relationship with community	Inform and engage	Celebrate milestone, reinforce stage in the project and ways to have input	<b>Newsletter</b>
Near neighbours	Fear of unknown, complex information	Inform and engage	Special interest groups – address specifically in meeting.	<b>Meeting with group, if required.</b>

Stakeholder group	Issue	Consultation objective	Community engagement activities	Format
<b>Approval determination</b>				
Near neighbours	Relationship with community	Inform and engage	Celebrate milestone, reinforce stage in the project and ways to have input. Thank the community for their support Publicise results of competition signage / logo?	<b>Newsletter</b>
Broader community	Differing messages may create confusion and mistrust. The approvals process can be complex.	Inform	Keep project information up to date. Provide link to relevant information including feedback form. Provide a contact for further information.	<b>Media release</b> <b>Website</b>
<b>Construction contract award</b>				
Near neighbours	Relationship with community	Inform and engage	Celebrate milestone, reinforce stage in the project and ways to have input. What opportunities for local employment?	<b>Newsletter</b>
<b>Construction commences</b>				
Near neighbours	Relationship with community	Inform and engage	Celebrate milestone, reinforce stage in the project and ways to have input. Notify about impacts that can be expected, avenues to complain, for more information. Develop an agreed notification protocol for potentially disruptive or high impact activities.	<b>Newsletter</b> <b>Event: sod turning</b> <b>Face to face meetings</b>
Broader community	Differing messages may	Inform	Keep project information up to date Provide link to relevant information including feedback form Provide a contact for further information	<b>Website</b>

Stakeholder group	Issue	Consultation objective	Community engagement activities	Format
	create confusion and mistrust.			
<b>Operation commences</b>				
Near neighbours	Relationship with community	Inform and engage	Celebrate milestone, reinforce stage in the project and ways to have input Notify about impacts that can be expected, avenues to complain, for more information.	<b>Newsletter</b> <b>Event: public open day</b> <b>Face to face meetings</b>
Broader community	Differing messages may create confusion and mistrust.	Inform	Keep project information up to date Provide link to relevant information including feedback form Provide a contact for further information	<b>Website</b>
<b>Decommissioning commences</b>				
Near neighbours	Relationship with community	Inform and engage	Reinforce stage in the project and ways to have input Notify about impacts that can be expected, avenues to complain, for more information.	<b>Newsletter</b> <b>Face to face meetings</b>
Broader community	Differing messages may create confusion and mistrust.	Inform	Keep project information up to date Provide link to relevant information including feedback form Provide a contact for further information	<b>Website</b>

## **7 MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

To ensure this plan is effective during the implementation of activities, and adapts as required to new information, the following review actions will be undertaken alongside implementation activities:

- Appoint and maintain a consultation manager for the project to implement activities and 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.
- Are the activities reaching a diverse and representative section of the community; do new activities need to be implemented?
- Has relevant information been passed back to:
  - Project developers
  - Assessment staff.

## 8 REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

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