VAST SOLAR JEMALONG HYBRID SOLAR PARK: 50MW PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) PLANT

COMMUNITY LIAISON PLAN

DRAFT – NOVEMBER 2017

Abstract:

This plan has been prepared to guide the community liaison activities for the planning, design and construction of Vast Solar's 50MW Photovoltaic (PV) Plant. It is a living document that builds upon the Draft Community Liaision Plan (June 2016) for Vast Solar's proposed 30MW CSP Plant that is also located at Jemalong. The June 2016 draft plan presented an update of previous drafts (2014/2015) that addressed Vast Solar's CSP Pilot Plant and the Jemalong CSP Plant (30MW).

Vast Solar regularly reviews and updates community liaison strategies and activities to enable stakeholder and community input to be incorporated and addressed in the project cycle of Vast Solar's projects.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION - PRINCIPLES AND APPROACH

Vast Solar aims to undertake community consultation and engagement activities in an inclusive and respectful manner to ensure that community issues are identified and addressed appropriately at all stages of project planning, development and approval and throughout the construction and operation of the proposal.

Principles that inform our approach to the development and implementation of this plan are to:

- **Inform the community** – provide balanced and objective information to assist community understanding throughout the proposal's development, planning and approval process and delivery.

- **Consult with the community** – provide opportunities for open communication between Vast Solar and stakeholders in order to obtain public feedback about ideas, the rationale, and options for the project that may influence project decisions.

- **Involve the community** - Identify issues and views to ensure that concerns and aspirations are understood and considered in the proposal's planning approval process and delivery.

- **Collaborate with the community** - Work together to develop understanding of all issues and interests to work out alternatives and reflect these preferred solutions.

- **Empower the community –** Where possible, provide a variety of opportunities and resources for stakeholders to contribute to solutions to the proposal's planning approval process and delivery.

The above principles are articulated in International Association for Public Participation's (IAP2) Spectrum that is designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public's role in any community engagement program. The Spectrum show that differing levels of participation are legitimate depending on the goals, time frames, resources and levels of concern in the decision to be made. The Spectrum is widely used and is quoted in most community engagement manuals.

Fundamental communication **principles** that guide our approach to engagement with project stakeholders are to:

- Communicate early and often
- Encourage community enquiries and feedback
- Actively seek opportunities to engage and inform the community
- Use all community engagement as an opportunity to educate and inform about the importance of CSP and energy storage
- Listen to feedback, investigate suggestions and always report back

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- Transparency with quality; ensure access to high quality, well-researched information that will assist stakeholders to better understand what is to happen and why
- Keep the general and local community and key stakeholders informed of project progress
- Ensure that new information in areas likely to be of interest or cause some impact is made available to key stakeholders in a timely way and in a useful form.

This plan will be reviewed and updated as the proposal progresses through project stages in accordance with the above principles and with due reference to guidelines that include:

- Establishing the social licence to operate large scale solar facilities in Australia: Insights from social research for industry, Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA).

1.2 THE AIM OF THIS PLAN

The aim of the Community Liaison Plan (CLP) is to provide a framework for consultation, engagement and positive, sustained relationships with the local community. It has been prepared to guide the community liaison activities for the ongoing development of Vast Solar's renewable energy projects.

This Draft Plan incorporates and builds upon strategies put in place for Vast Solar's 30MW Concentrating Solar Thermal Power (CSP) plant at Jemalong (CSP plant), NSW and includes many of the concepts and communication tools that were also used in development of Vast Solar's 6MWth (1MWe) concentrating solar thermal pilot plant and R&D plant (CSP Pilot Project) that is also located at Jemalong.

This plan has been developed for the planning and assessment stages of the Jemalong Solar PV Plant project (PV Plant) and incorporates information and issues raised for the 30MW CSP Plant, as this proposal is located on the identical site location (subject site) and consequently identical background environmental and social issues, the comments and requirements are pertinent. If the proposed Solar PV Plant project is approved, the plan will be updated to incorporate further consultation activities pertinent to the pre-construction, construction and operational phases of the project.

The primary aim of this document is to ensure that the proposed PV Plant takes intimate account of and is developed in a manner responsive to the values and expectations of the community, both locally in the Forbes/Parkes region, and more broadly as to the role of large-scale PV power generation for the benefit of regional, state and national economies.

Potential impacts have been identified and strategies of mitigation developed in consultation with the community. These strategies will continue to evolve with the benefit of community feedback over time. Potential opportunities will be identified to maximise the broader benefits of the project to the community and ensure the project supports the development and maintenance of a strong social license to operate, for the benefit of the PV Plant and of Vast Solar's CSP technology and the longer term Jemalong Solar Hybrid Park, of which the PV Plant is a first stage priority.

This document also includes information about:

- Consultation activities undertaken as part of Vast Solar's 6MW CSP Pilot Plant, as this project is a 'pilot' for the 30MW CSP plant.
- The consultation activities undertaken for the PV Plant, that are being phased appropriately for pre and post approval project stages.

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- Key project issues, potential impacts and mitigation measures required to address issues.
- Identified issues and areas of interest for stakeholders and information relevant to these areas.
- Details about how information from the Solar PV Plant proposal will be accessible to residents, businesses, stakeholders and other interested members of the community.
- Clear processes for managing stakeholder enquiries and feedback (including complaints) during planning, construction and operational stages from stakeholders, including how these interactions will be documented and responded to.
- Details of the communication process, designed to be open and effective.

2 THE PROJECT PROPOSAL - OVERVIEW

2.1 ABOUT VAST SOLAR

Vast Solar is an Australian Company developing solar energy generating technology known as Concentrating solar thermal power (CSP). CSP technology uses the thermal energy of the sun to produce power. The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and organisations that include Doosan Skoda are significant investors and/or partners in the Company and their work.

Vast Solar has undertaken CSP research and development activities since 2009. This has involved progressive development of demonstration facilities to trial, test and scale different aspects of the technology. Since 2011, three research and development projects or project 'phases' have been undertaken, with demonstration sites each built at Jemalong, 30 km west of Forbes, NSW.

In September 2016 a development application (SSD 14_6588) for the development of the Jemalong 30 MW CSP Plant and associated infrastructure was submitted. The 30MW CSP Plant proposal represents the culmination of the above Australian research and engineering innovation and will be Vast Solar's first commercial scale CSP plant. The proposal, will showcase Australian research and innovation to the local region, Australia and the world, and provide dispatchable renewable energy to the grid and contribute to state and national government commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Vast Solar expects to lodge an amendment to SSD 14_6588 on or about the same time as it lodges the Development Application and EIS for the Jemalong Solar PV Plant proposal, which will seek to amend the proposed location of the CSP Plant.

The proposed Jemalong Solar PV Plant is an independent PV Plant proposal, located on the identical site of the proposal 30MW CSP Plant, that Vast Solar proposes to develop in recognition of the growing demand for renewable energy. If approved, the PV Plant will be the first stage of the Jemalong Hybrid Solar Park that will showcase the value of co-located PV and CSP power generation facilities that will demonstrate to Australia and the world the capability to deliver dispatchable renewable power from CSP (able to be dispatched when PV cannot generate power, when the sun goes down) to complement renewable energy delivered by PV using the same transmission and grid connection infrastructure.

About CSP

CSP is part of a new generation of solar power that captures and utilizes thermal heat from the sun and has the ability to store and distribute renewable energy twenty four hours a day. This capacity is called 'dispatchable' power.

CSP power plants involve a solar array (a field of heliostats or mirrors), a receiver that captures the thermal energy from the heliostats, and usually (though not universally) now also include large-scale thermal energy storage. The thermal energy is used to create steam in a boiler, which drives a traditional steam turbine and electricity generator. Power so generated is then transferred to energy users via the grid.

Recent developments have seen significant advances in a form of CSP technology known as 'power tower' or central receiver configuration, where the heliostats reflect the sun's energy onto a thermal receiver at the top of a tower. 'Power tower' CSP has high solar concentration efficiency, delivering very high temperatures, which in turn provide better performance from the steam turbine and higher efficiency in energy storage. These attributes have strong potential to reduce the cost of CSP solar energy to levels comparable with wind generated energy and with the significant advantage of large-scale energy storage, which allows the energy to be delivered at times of highest demand or need in the network.

Thermal energy storage cost is a fraction of the cost of even the most modern battery technology and is likely to remain a more cost-effective solution at utility scale.

The challenge is to reduce the cost of 'power tower' systems, while maintaining the high temperatures and resultant high performance they offer. Vast Solar has developed innovative designs for a high efficiency/low cost, modular CSP power plant system, with integrated energy storage. Vast Solar modular design involves small towers and dedicated fields of heliostats and the use of a heat transfer fluid (HTF) to capture and transfer the heat collected from each tower to a common point of thermal storage.

2.2 THE PROPOSAL – THE JEMALONG SOLAR PV PLANT

The proposal site is located approximately 36 km west of Forbes within the Forbes Local Government Area. It is accessed from the Lachlan Valley Way to the north, via Wilbertroy Lane and Naroo Lane. The site is part of a 165 ha lot known as 'Hallidays', which in turn is part of the 15,478 ha Jemalong Station, a rural property managed for agricultural production. The site is mostly cleared and relatively flat farmland with a long history of cropping with small remnants of Poplar Box woodland (ranging from 0.1 to 0.5 ha) remaining.

There is no existing infrastructure on the proposal site. Directly north of the proposal site is the 'Hallidays' farm house, owned and maintained by the owner of Jemalong Station, Twynam Agricultural Group. The closest waterway to the site is Thurumbidgee Lagoon, filling intermittently when there is good rain, located approximately 400 m to the north of the proposal site. The Lachlan River is located approximately 3.7 km to the north.

The Jemalong 50 MW PV Plant would consist of the following components:

- Approximately 170,000 solar panels mounted on either a fixed or single axis tracking system
- A single access point to the site via Lachlan valley way to the north, Wilbertroy lane and Naroo lane
- Internal access tracks
- Operations and maintenance building with associated car parking;
- An electrical substation and switching yard
- Overhead and underground electrical cable reticulation

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- Security fencing and CCTV
- Native vegetation plantings to provide visual screening for specific receivers, if required
- Subdivision for the project site and for the electrical substation (and switching yard) and transmission line

The following elements that form part of the proposal would connect to the proposal site:

- A 5 km (approx.) 66kV overhead power line would be installed to connect into the existing West Jemalong Essential Energy substation
- Upgrade works to an unsealed all weather access track, within Jemalong Station, along the route of the existing farm gravel road access (Naroo Lane). This existing road was constructed and is maintained to carry large grain trucks during harvest, and would need only minimal upgrading.

Ancillary facilities would be located within the site boundary and would include:

- Material laydown areas
- Temporary construction site offices
- Temporary car and bus parking areas for construction workers transportation. Once the plant has been commissioned, a small car park would remain for the minimal staff required and occasional visitors
- Basic staff amenities

2.3 INDICATIVE TIMELINE – THE JEMALONG SOLAR PV PLANT

An indicative timeline for the Jemalong Solar PV Plant proposal is outlined in the table below.

Phase	Approximate commencement	Duration
Construction	June 2018	12 months
Operation	Winter 2019	30 years
Decommissioning	2049	6 months

2.4 BACKGROUND: CSP RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AT JEMALONG

After receiving approval from Forbes Shire Council, in December 2011 Vast Solar completed a small demonstration plant at Jemalong (Research & Development Phase 1). This plant consisted of 200 heliostats (mirrors) and one 25 metre tower and receiver. Demonstration of this small system enabled Vast Solar to prove the core performance of the CSP system, and from this base to raise the funds needed to expand the system to its full modular size of 699 heliostats.

During 2012, with financial support from the Australian Solar Institute (now the Australian Renewable Energy Agency; ARENA) and both financial and technical support from Doosan-Skoda Power, a large international power generation company based in Europe and owned by the huge Doosan corporation of Korea, the initial demonstration plant was expanded to include a further 500 heliostats (Research &

Development Phase 2). This enabled Vast Solar to proceed with a range of tests and trials, gathering data and information to validate the expected performance of the Vast Solar system, and providing valuable information and insights for refinement of components and systems. The Phase 2 plant however did not include a steam turbine or electricity generator, and was not connected to the electricity network.

Armed with the information gained from the Phase 2 plant, Vast Solar applied to its investors and to ARENA for funding to build a new and larger research, development and demonstration plant at Jemalong – the CSP Pilot (R&D Phase 3) to demonstrate the Vast Solar CSP system at multi-module scale, and in a power generating R&D plant connected to the electricity grid.

ARENA invited Vast Solar to submit a detailed project proposal for the Phase 3 Pilot. In February 2014 the funds required to complete the Phase 3 project were secured. The CSP Pilot (Phase 3) involves the construction and operation of five solar array modules, each consisting of one 27 metre tower and receiver, heat transfer fluid and 699 heliostats. Stored thermal energy will be passed through a steam generator to make steam that will drive a small (1.1MW) turbine and electricity generator. The CSP pilot plant includes both thermal energy storage and grid connection, to demonstrate the complete Vast Solar system from sun through storage to electricity.

Research and development at Jemalong

The CSP Pilot Plant (Phase 3) represents a major phase of the research and development program. This plant was connected to the grid in early 2017. Throughout 2017 Vast Solar has undertaken ongoing testing of the system, alongside further engineering and refinement of system. Vast Solar anticipates that the CSP pilot plant will be fully commissioned in late 2017 – early 2018.

Consultation with Council and with neighbours within a 0-5km radius of the site has been ongoing throughout development of the CSP Pilot Plant. Vast Solar regularly rings neighbours to inform them about current developments and activities such as testing of various components of the system that may emit sound or steam (that could be perceived as smoke) and to liaise and work with them on bushfire management plans, planting of trees for screening purposes and other matters as required and requested by local members of the community.

In 2014 plans to develop the first commercial scale CSP plant, the 30MW CSP plant, were commenced and the development application for this project was submitted in 2016 to be located on a parcel of land approximately 3 kms south of the CSP Pilot Plant, also at Jemalong.

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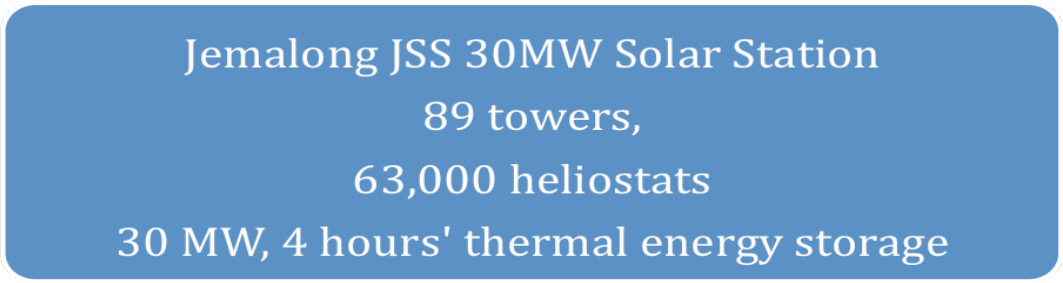
2.5 BACKGROUND: THE 30MW CSP PLANT PROJECT PROPOSAL

The development application for the Jemalong Solar Station (JSSI) proposal (now referred to as the Jemalong CSP Plant) to construct and operate a 30MW CSP power plant at Jemalong was submitted in late August 2016. The significant investment in this project triggered the requirement for an Environmental Impact Statement to be submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment.



The proposed site for the proposed CSP Plant at that time is the same site as for the PV proposed project discussed below.

The Jemalong CSP Plant proposal comprises the construction, operation and eventual decommissioning of a 30MW CSP plant with at least four hours thermal energy storage.

Key infrastructure components include:

- Fields of dual-axis tracking mirrors or 'heliostats' that track the sun (collectively called 'solar arrays').
- Thermal energy receivers, mounted on the top of 27 m towers, which capture the thermal energy reflected from the heliostats.
- Large scale thermal energy storage that which enables the system to generate steam and produce electricity at any time, night or day.
- Heliostats grouped in 'modules', with each module having its own thermal energy receiver.
- Connection to the West Jemalong substation.

A range of stakeholder engagement and communication activities were required to support this process and to identify and address community issues and possible project impacts and were duly undertaken and detailed in the Draft Community Liaison Plan (June 2016) for Vast Solar's proposed 30MW CSP Plant that was attached to the EIS along with Agency consultation details.

During the 2014 agency consultation, Vast Solar's planning consultant NGH Environmental contacted several Agencies to seek further advice regarding comments. The detailed responses for all agencies can be accessed on the DP&E SSD weblink:
http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=6588

Future steps in the development of the 30MW CSP Plant will be determined consequent to the submission of a request by Vast Solar to the Department of Environment and Planning to amend the proposed location of the CSP Plant to a nearby site on Jemalong Station.

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3 COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS

3.1 LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

Identified key local stakeholder groups are listed below.

Group	Defining characteristic	Identification of stakeholders
Neighbours	Potential to be affected most, during construction and operation	Adjoining properties including 3 residences
Residents within 5km	Some level of impact expected, during construction and operation	Residences within 5km
Bedgerabong Primary School	Located 10-15km away, is school to children of neighbours and other local stakeholders	Located within 10-15km of the site, an important community hub and contact point.
Bedgerabong Sport and Community Groups	Bedgerabong 'area' is within 5-10 km of CSP Pilot site and 10-20km of the PV site.	Bedgerabong Show; Tennis club; Picnic Race Club; Fire Brigade. All activities/groups that Vast Solar and staff contribute to or interact with.
Local community and businesses	Lesser impact expected, but may be opportunities for involvement ie. local contactors	The nearest towns (primarily Forbes)
Local council	Representatives of the community	Forbes and Parkes Shire Council
Local media	Able to ensure clear and consistent message is delivered	Local newspapers, television networks and local radio stations – Forbes Advocate newspaper, ABC Regional Radio Orange, Channel 7 Orange
Special interest groups	Defined by their shared interest in a particular issue or set of issues	Including Indigenous representative groups, country fire services and medical services, engineering interest groups, sport, wildlife groups, Community and local sporting groups.

In addition to Jemalong neighbours and the nearby Bedgerabong community, key identified local stakeholders include:

- Forbes Shire Council – Council Officers, Directors, Mayor and Councillors
- Forbes Shire Council Environmental Advisory Committee
- Forbes Shire Council Heritage Committee
- Forbes Shire Council Business and Industry Committee
- Parkes Shire Council - Council officers and Councillors
- Dubbo Shire Council - Council officers and Councillors

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- Lachlan Shire Council – Council officers and Councillors
- Central NSW Councils (Centroc)
- Member for Dubbo
- Residents adjoining the property
- Jemalong Polo Club
- Twynam Agricultural Group
- Local residents and businesses
- Forbes Urban LandCare Group
- Forbes Rural Fire Service
- Forbes Police Station
- Forbes and District Lions Club
- Rotary Club of Forbes
- Forbes Men & Women's Probus Clubs
- Forbes Advocate
- Central West Lifestyle Magazine
- Parkes Champion Post
- Daily Liberal
- Western Magazine
- Dubbo Weekender
- ABC Central West NSW
- Prime Television, Orange
- Forbes Community Radio (2LVR)
- Forbes Business Chamber
- Parkes Chamber of Commerce
- Parkes Champion Post
- Central West Orana Region of NSW Business Chamber
- Parkes Forbes Orana Business Enterprise Centre
- Local Land Services Central West
- National Parks & Wildlife, Forbes
- Local schools including Redbend Catholic College, Forbes High School
- TAFE Western – Forbes College

3.2 OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

The following agencies, elected representatives, Minister and media organisations have also been identified as important stakeholders for this project.

- ARENA CEO, Board and staff
- Clean Energy Finance Corporation
- Minister for the Environment and Energy, Hon Josh Frydenberg MP
- Australian National University and other University research partners
- NSW Department of Planning & Environment
- NSW and ACT Environment Protection Authorities
- NSW Fire and Emergency Services
- NSW Rural Fire Services
- ACT Chief Minister
- ACT Environment Department
- Minister for Industry
- Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry
- Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development
- Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development
- Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Environment
- NSW Premier, Gladys Berejiklian
- NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet
- NSW Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing, Special Minister of State, Hon. Anthony Roberts MP
- Member for Calare, Hon. Andrew Gee
- NSW Renewable Energy Advocate
- Greens Representatives in Orange (and other State Greens candidates)
- Australian Solar Thermal Energy Association (AUSTELA)
- Australian Solar Thermal Research Initiative (ASTRI)
- Institute for Sustainable Futures
- CSIRO
- University of New South Wales
- Bureau of Resources and Energy Economics
- Sydney Morning Herald

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- Australian Financial Review
- Energymatters.com.au
- CSP World
- Energy Business News
- Renew Economy
- Business and Climate Spectator
- Sustainability Matters
- The Australian

4 COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION STRATEGIES

The overall aim of consultation is to ensure that project is responsive to the values of the community. Potential impacts are identified and mitigation strategies developed in consultation with the community. Potential opportunities to maximize the broader benefits of the project to the community are explored and developed in conjunction with each project phase to provide the PV Plant project and Vast Solar's CSP projects at Jemalong with a social license to operate.

Community engagement and consultation with our project stakeholders is undertaken in accordance with the principles and approach described in section one of this plan utilizing the following strategies.

Communication strategies

- Establish and maintain clear lines of communication with our stakeholders
- Provide accurate, easy to understand, and timely information through a variety of channels, including face to face contact and through the website
- Work with our partnering agencies and organisations, such as ARENA, to implement appropriate communication channels and communication strategies
- Keep stakeholders informed throughout the project's lifecycle including the planning, construction and operational stage
- Identify and consider the diverse range of views and interests of stakeholders
- Follow ethical principles of conduct, be transparent and accountable, and report back to stakeholders and the community on project progress
- Continually re-evaluate communication activities and tailor them to changing needs of stakeholders and new project developments as they arise
- Establish and maintain protocols for managing communications
- Anticipate and openly engage with different stakeholder groups on identified and new issues that may emerge that may be pertinent to them.

Communication tools and action plan

Tool	Detail	Stakeholder group
Register of enquiries and complaints	• Maintain a project enquiry register to enable regular reporting on community issues or complaints relating to the project. The aims of the register are to: • Record all relevant enquiries or complaints regarding the project. • Prevent and reduce the impact of consequences of the enquiry to the community and stakeholders by prompt response to the enquiry. • Provide information about effectiveness of this Plan. • Support monitoring and evaluation of this plan and community consultation and engagement. • Assist identify and manage new or emerging community issues and concerns. • Enable Vast Solar to effectively report to key internal and	Local community and interested stakeholders State Government (to respond to planning concerns)

Tool	Detail	Stakeholder group
	external stakeholders.	
One-on-one meetings	Vast Solar has and will continue to initiate and provide interested stakeholders with face to face meetings to discuss the PV and CSP projects. These opportunities may be through individual meetings and/or group meetings. This personal approach gives Vast Solar the opportunity to directly acknowledge, receive and respond to feedback that stakeholders may have. One on one meetings held throughout the preparation of the PV plant EIS and to enable follow during the public display and submission period.	ALL
Presentations and events	Targeted presentations and events developed for specific stakeholders groups, such as the Forbes Council, where required. This may include presentations for neighbours, local stakeholders, government agencies and educational facilities. Site visits to the CSP pilot and/or proposed project site may be included.	ALL
Media releases	Media releases to be used to announce and align with key project milestones where appropriate.	ARENA, local, state and national media, government agencies and the broader community.
Phone and email	Vast Solar enquiry line (0419 478856), email address info@vastsolar.com, and website www.vastsolar.com provide stakeholders with the means to contact the project team, register issues and concerns and make suggestions. All community consultation communications promote the availability of these contact points.	ALL
Website	Information about Vast Solar projects to be regularly updated to reflect key project developments. Current information about Vast Solar projects is made available to view or download from the Vast Solar website. The website will include information regarding the EIS and the relevant public exhibition/submission details.	ALL
Community meetings and information sessions	Community meetings to be held during key project phases. During the EIS public display period, community information sessions may also be held for the local community (subject to sufficient interest). These meetings will include a project update briefing and a Q&A period.	ALL
Advertisements	Advertisements to be placed in local newspapers to inform local stakeholders about the information sessions that Vast Solar may host during the EIS exhibition period.	Local community
Fact sheets	Vast Solar prepare and make available fact sheets to provide a reliable source of information about the project as it progresses over time. Fact sheets are distributed to key and impacted stakeholders, via the website and as appropriate at community information sessions.	ALL

Tool	Detail	Stakeholder group
Educational Material	Vast Solar will investigate opportunities for educational presentations to be made to local schools, for secondary and higher education institutions to educate students about the use and benefits of PV and CSP technology, and what the projects mean to their community.	Local schools
Visual Materials	Visual materials, such as timelapse and aerial videos and possible diagrams and artist impressions may be prepared for use through the consultation and public exhibition period to assist audiences in understand the scale and specifics of the PV plant site and how it relates to the CSP plant proposal and the proposed Jemalong Hybrid Solar Park.	ALL
Submissions	As part of the EIS planning approval process, Vast Solar will accept, review and respond to each submission made regarding the project proposal.	Submission respondents
Submissions report	In response to submissions received during the planning approval process, a Submissions Report will be prepared to address all issues raised. This Submissions Report will be submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment.	Submission respondents

Community Information Sessions

Community information sessions will be held during the planning, construction and operation of the Solar PV Plant proposal. This draft of our CLP (current) details community liaison activities for the PV plant proposal, and early planning, development and assessment stages of the project. The following Information Sessions have been held or are currently being planned to align with key PV plant stages.

Vast Solar's community consultation is longstanding and our strategy is to maintain and build upon established relationships and to regularly update neighbour and other stakeholder contacts lists and liaise with new contacts. We have been engaging with Forbes Council, neighbours and other key stakeholders since 2011, and more formally since 2012 – 2013 when development approvals processes were initiated for the CSP Pilot Project. Our information sessions about the PV plant necessarily include updates and information about how the project relates to and complements Vast Solar's CSP projects. Many of the issues are similar (same site, environmental, visual and other matters) and so feedback from the community from earlier consultations sessions is included as relevant in the section below.

Date	Milestone	Information available at the session
September 2017	Request for SEARs lodged through DP&E	Project proposal Preliminary Environmental Assessment * Specialist reports for the Hallidays site online on the DP&E website as part of SSD 14_1688
October – November 2017	Preparation of the EIS	Morning tea and information session held at the Jemalong CSP Pilot Plant for neighbours Formal presentation to Forbes Shire council Follow up visits and meetings with neighbours who

		could not attend the morning tea.
November – December 2017	Public exhibition of the project EIS.	EIS and supporting documents and specialist studies. Instructions on how to submit a submission via the DP&E website via Vast Solar website, email and direct communications with stakeholders. Project information – website Community and/or neighbour further information sessions if requested/sufficient interest.
Late 2017/early 2018	Project determination and next steps.	EIS and supporting documents and specialist studies. Submission report in response to Agency submissions. *Further specialist reports Project Updates via website, presentations an events.

Note: If the proposed project is approved, further community information sessions may be planned consistent with the IAP2's Public Participation Spectrum of building more intensive community input and collaboration during detailed design, construction and operational project stages.

* Further specialist reports – as and if required.

5 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Community liaison for the PV Plant proposal will continue and build upon relationships Vast Solar has established with the local community since 2011 and subsequent engagement activities with the community. Consultation for the proposal relates to the same site that consultation has been undertaken for the proposed 30MW CSP Plant and many issues of potential concern to a PV plant are similar to those pertaining to the CSP plant proposal. This plan accordingly incorporates information and issues raised from the CSP community engagement and liaison process and will progressively add and address any further issues raised during the project phases.

5.1 CONSULTATION – THE JEMALONG SOLAR PV PLANT

The communication strategies, tools and action plan described in section 4 above will be used to engage with, inform and enable community feedback throughout the project cycle.

As at the time of submission of the EIS the following activities have been undertaken:-

- Agencies: Liaison and meetings with the Department of Planning and Environment
- NGH Environmental liaison with select Agencies and expert consultants to review and update expert studies pertinent to the site
- Vast Solar CEO meeting with Forbes Council General Manager and Senior Executives in May 2017 to provide a comprehensive update on Vast Solar CSP project developments
- Agencies: Vast Solar meetings to discuss the proposal, with respective executives from the Road and Maritime Services, Parkes and the Office of Environment and Heritage, Dubbo
- Neighbours: A site visit and morning tea was held at Vast Solar's CSP Pilot Plant on October 11. The event was very well attended with some 15-20 neighbours and interested local residents in attendance throughout the morning. Vast Solar's CEO made a presentation about Vast Solar's CSP projects and the PV plant proposal and an open question and answer session was held. Attendees were invited to tour the plant and interact with senior and operational staff.

- Neighbours: Subsequent to the above morning tea, all near neighbours (within 5-10km) were contacted by phone and subsequently one on one visits/meetings arranged and held with neighbours who were unable to attend the morning tea (4 persons) and with two neighbours whose properties are adjacent to the proposal site. The latter two neighbours had attended the morning tea and wished to meet to obtain further details and ask questions.
    - The main issues discussed related to visual impacts, landscape planting screenings and the location of the proposed transmission line. (PENDING!!!)

- Neighbours: Ongoing contact and liaison by Vast Solar operational staff with neighbours in relation to landscape watering, bushfire planning and inspection of buffers and other operational matters including site access for geological and survey consultants to undertake work for the proposed project. A high level of contact and cooperation by all parties noted.

- Forbes Shire Council: A formal presentation was made to Council by Vast Solar CEO and Corporate Affairs Executive on November 6. Vast Solar's PV proposal, rationale and the proposed Jemalong Hybrid Solar Park were discussed and question and answer time provided.
    - Matters raised included:

Further meetings, by request or as issues of concern may arise and information sessions and meetings will be held throughout the project cycle.

Information about the project proposal will be available on the Vast Solar website and the Department of Planning and Environment major projects website.

5.2 BACKGROUND: CONSULTATION FOR THE CSP PILOT PROJECT (CSP PILOT PLANT)

During the approval process for Vast Solar's Phase 3 CSP Pilot plant, Vast Solar undertook a range of community consultation activities to provide information and education about CSP technology.

As the CSP Pilot plant is constructed relatively close to a major road (Lachlan Valley Way), Vast Solar was keen to ensure stakeholders - especially neighbours - would have an appreciation of the likely impact of the CSP Pilot plant on visual amenity of the Jemalong area. Regular briefings were provided to Forbes Council commencing in early 2013 and Councillors and senior Council officers hosted to visit the CSP Pilot plant site during its construction.

The Development Application for the CSP Pilot plant was submitted to Forbes Council in mid 2013, and documents about the proposal were placed on public display between 14 June 2013 and 15 July 2013. Forbes Shire Council received three submissions during the exhibition period.

Feedback/information sought in these submissions included:

- support for the project and the local benefit it will bring to the region
- a request to visit the CSP pilot plant
- further information regarding the location of project infrastructure
- further detail regarding the long term plans of the CSP pilot plant, including future operation and possible expansion
- queries regarding potential glint and glare from infrastructure
- further information regarding proposed vegetation screening and site aesthetics
- request to alter access points during construction, to minimise potential impacts on the road network and irrigation systems
- clarification on construction and operational noise.

No objections were made in relation to the Phase 3 CSP pilot plant. Additional information was provided by Vast Solar to address issues raised in the submissions. During the planning approval stage, Vast Solar representatives liaised directly with nearby neighbours and provided further information about the project.

Prior to determination, Vast Solar representatives attended a full Council meeting which included a public forum, to speak about the project and provide the audience (public gallery) with an opportunity to ask any further questions. No questions or statements were received from the audience during this meeting.

5.3 BACKGROUND: CONSULTATION FOR THE 30 MW CSP PROJECT (THE CSP PLANT)

The CSP Plant proposal site (the site now proposed for the PV Plant) and the CSP Pilot plant are both located on Jemalong. The CSP Plant proposal site is within 1-2 kilometres of the CSP pilot plant. Consequently near neighbours are both familiar with the pilot and have properties or residences adjacent to or close-by the proposed CSP Plant site.

Building upon earlier consultation measures, the formal consultation process for the CSP Plant Project commenced in November 2014. An advertisement was placed in the Forbes Advocate newspaper, and invitations sent to Forbes and Parkes Shire Councils, to attend a community information session in Forbes. The consultation forum was held on 14 November 2014 at Jemalong Regional Education Centre. This session saw Vast Solar present to approximately 12 attendees. Many attendees were from the business community in Forbes and Parkes, interested in exploring opportunities that might exist for their businesses as part of project delivery. One significant local business in Forbes, already a supplier to Vast Solar for the CSP Pilot project, spoke of the significant contribution Vast Solar's activities had already made to his turnover.

This Consultation Forum ran for 2.5 hours, with over 2 hours being questions and answers and interaction between stakeholders present and the Vast Solar team. Formal feedback response sheets were also provided so that view of those present could be recorded and factored into project development.

The feedback from the Consultation Forum was overwhelmingly positive, with no negative views expressed. It was observed in the Forum by one of the community stakeholders that, despite the politically conservative leanings of the region and of the stakeholders represented, there was a common view that the development was positive for the region and presented significant opportunities for economic and employment benefits in Forbes and across the region.

An information presentation was also made to the Forbes Probus Club on 24 January 2014. This session was attended by a large combined group of the Men's and Women's Probus groups.
A similar information session was held with the Dubbo Seniors Group at Dubbo Workers Club in November 2014. While outside the Forbes/Parkes region, Dubbo has become a centre for solar power development and there is strong interest from stakeholders in Western NSW in large-scale solar development.

The strong interest shown by these groups and the positive feedback received provided reassurance for Vast Solar that the Project is likely to receive good and broad support across the spectrum of ages and community interests, even among traditionally very conservative community bodies.

Consequent to the formal consultation process in November 2014, Vast Solar continued to engage with neighbours, local community groups and strategic stakeholders via the distribution of regular updates and project information via the Vast solar website, placement of stories articles in local and national media, and via:

- Meetings with and presentations to Councillors and senior Council officers
- Face to face meetings with nearby neighbours
- Strategic presentations and events held in conjunction with research partners and relevant service groups.

5.4 BACKGROUND: KEY MESSAGES, THE JEMALONG CSP PLANT

Consistency of message is important for communicating clearly over a long time period and to positively share information with the community about the CSP Pilot Plant and the CSP Plant (30MW) proposed project. Key messages and terminology consistently communicated are as follows:

The technology

- Vast Solar is an Australian Company developing concentrating solar thermal energy generation technology known as Concentrating solar thermal power (CSP).
- CSP power plants involve a solar array (field of mirrors), a receiver that captures the thermal energy from the mirrors, and usually (though not universally) now include thermal storage. The thermal energy is used to create steam in a boiler, which drives a traditional steam turbine and electricity generator.
- The Vast Solar CSP system includes use of a heat transfer fluid (HTF) to collect and transfer thermal heat from the towers.
- Power tower CSP has high solar concentration efficiency, delivering very high temperatures, which in turn provide for better performance from the steam turbine and higher efficiency in energy storage.
- The cost of CSP, even using modern 'power tower' technology, is such that subsidies such as feed-in tariffs or similar supports may still be required for commercial viability.
- The challenge is to rapidly reduce the cost of 'power tower' systems, while maintaining the high temperatures and resultant high performance they offer.
- Vast Solar has developed innovative designs for a high efficiency/low cost solar thermal central receiver power plant system, with integrated energy storage.
- These attributes have strong potential to reduce the cost of solar energy to levels comparable with wind generated energy (around $100 per megawatt hour), with energy storage, to allow energy to be delivered at times of high demand or need in the network.
- In early 2014, Vast Solar received funding assistance from its investors and ARENA to build the CSP Pilot plant at Jemalong. This phase involves the construction and operation of five solar array modules, each consisting of one 27 metre tower and receiver and 699 heliostats.
- The CSP pilot plant will include both thermal energy storage and grid connection, to demonstrate the complete Vast Solar system from sun through storage to electricity.
- Construction on the 6MW CSP Pilot project is underway and scheduled to be complete by end 2017.
- In mid 2014, Vast Solar received confirmation of funding from ARENA, CEFC and a number of private investors to build a commercial scale, 30MW plant consisting of 89 modules. The planning approval process is underway. If approved, operations are forecast to commence approximately 22 months after the start of construction date. (Note: as at November 2017 the planning approvals process for the CSP Plant is pending the submission of a request to the Department for an amendment to the Development application submitted in 2016)
- The CSP Pilot plant and the 30MW CSP Plant are expected to bring significant economic benefits to the regional area including employment, use of local services (earthmoving, construction, fabrication, engineering, water, power and gas services) and will deliver a showcase for potential local and international investors (attracting local business and tourism). It will also demonstrate the potential for larger scale solar development in Forbes and Parkes Shires and

the broader Central West region of NSW. (Note: As at November 2017, the plan for CSP Pilot Plant and the CSP Plant is that they will be part of the Jemalong Solar Hybrid Park).

- Both the CSP Pilot and 30MW CSP Plant projects will demonstrate a safe, low-cost CSP power generating system incorporating thermal energy storage.
- Both projects will also demonstrate cost effective CSP power generation and energy storage capacity for small scale applications and possible industrial heat use.
- When complete, these facilities will be Australia's only operating CSP plants with thermal energy storage delivering power to the national electricity network.
- The projects will add to the knowledge base of Australia's energy sector (utilities, network operators, financiers, regulators) about the value and role of CSP technology in Australia's energy system.

5.5 KEY ISSUES – THE JEMALONG SOLAR PV PLANT AND THE JEMALONG CSP PLANT

The following table presents issues that have been identified as potential issues of concern to the community during the planning, construction and operation period of the CSP Plant project that can also reasonably be extrapolated to the Solar PV Plant given that the site location is identical. A Solar PV plant will entail less visual impacts as it does not include towers and is not a Major Hazards Plant.

The table lists issues and the CLP communication action to be taken to manage the identified issues.

The EIS prepared for the CSP Plant proposal (2016) includes specialist studies prepared to respond to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Secretary's environmental assessment requirements (SEARs). These studies address key issues identified in the table below. These studies, along with the mitigation measures and Environmental Management Plan requirements detailed in the EIS for key phases of the project, together provide a robust body of material to support effective project issues management and community engagement as it progresses.

The EIS specialist studies undertaken for the CSP Plant, submitted in 2016, are: -

- Biodiversity Assessment, presented in two parts:
  - Biodiversity Assessment, and
  - Impacts on Bird Populations and Recommendations for Bird Hazard Risk Management
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment
- Hydrology Report (including flooding)
- Glare and Glint Analysis Report
- Visual Impact Assessment
- Preliminary Hazard Analysis

In order to ensure the relevance of the baseline results and assessment of impacts from a PV plant, these studies were revised in late 2017 and updated for inclusion in the PV Plant EIS. Additionally, comments and recommendations from the SEAR s were incorporated into the revisions.

Community issues identified to date, for both CSP and PV plant proposals –

Issue	Relevant stakeholders	Response	Communication activities
Location issues	• Adjacent properties	• CSP Pilot plant relocation investigated but not possible due to the fact that the land suggested to the east was not available to Vast Solar, and the need to be close to the existing substation, and water supply • Undertaking to screen and protect the site with appropriate plantings. • CSP Plant – undertake to relocate connection powerline to substation on Jemalong property corridor and not across neighbours property.	• Meetings with adjacent residents to discuss location. • Letters sent to adjacent residents providing location issue response • Regularly notify neighbours of upcoming works. • Investigate/adjust project building layout further from road and neighbour's property. • Vast Solar contact details on all communication materials so stakeholders can readily contact team. • Provide visual materials
Glare from infrastructure	• Road users • Local Council • Adjacent properties • Aviation	• Perceived potential glare (from the receivers when illuminated) and glint (from mirrors) – unlikely given orientation. • Existing trees Jemalong Polo Centre to largely screen CSP Pilot from view from the road. • Vast Solar to plant additional screening vegetation on the paddock boundary to minimise any potential impact to neighbours. CSP Pilot and CSP Plant.	• Specialist study undertaken to characterize glare issues. Study indicate no material glare risks. • Communicate outcomes via information to community at upcoming information sessions and via website. • Update Council re progress to establish and maintain new plantings.
Noise during construction and operation	• Adjacent property owners • Local Council	• The Vast system does not require extensive civil works or heavy equipment. This minimises construction noise. • Noise from operation of installed plant and equipment will not be detectable above ambient noise from the distance of neighbouring properties or from the road (1km+). Some commissioning and periodic maintenance may cause noise, but these tasks will be isolated and not ongoing. • Noise emitted by the plant will be less than that emitted	• Address expected noise levels in information provided to the local community. • Notify nearby residents of any upcoming noisy activities or out of hours deliveries to site. • Phone number and email details included in all community materials so any community enquiries can be delivered

Issue	Relevant stakeholders	Response	Communication activities
		in typical farming operation and significantly less than noise generated by passing traffic.	direct project team.
Road damage, traffic and parking	• Adjacent property owners • Local Council • Road users	• The access route for site access modified to address concerns raised by near neighbours as to potential noise and impacts on road surfaces. • All parking will be contained within the property. • Heavy vehicle movement to and from site will be sporadic, via batch delivery rather than a daily stream. • Limited civil works required. This will require earthmoving equipment. All heavy vehicle parking within the Twynam property and project site	• Access arrangements communicated to adjacent land owners • Phone number and email details included in all community materials so any further enquiries can be raised with the project team.
Impacts on local fauna and flora	• Adjacent property owners • Local Council • National Parks & Wildlife • Environmental Protection Authority	• Vast Solar's system design aims to preserve native habitat and allow small animals to pass through site. • Impacts to flora and fauna were assessed during the planning approval stage. • CSP plant, a detailed study of impacts on avian fauna has been completed, confirming minimal risks for birds and bats. Risk mitigation measures discussed with consulting experts, ongoing studies will strengthen knowledge. • A comprehensive biodiversity study undertaken and recommendations will be followed. • There are minimal impacts expected on fauna in the area immediately adjacent to the site. • Vast Solar will monitor and register any impacts on local fauna.	• Communicate key findings from Biodiversity Study. • Vast Solar contact details included on all communication materials to assist enquiries to project team. • Prepare and disseminate fact sheet to respond to flora and fauna impacts.
Perceived devaluation of land based on other renewable projects	• Adjacent property owners	• The projects will be barely visible from nearby properties and from public roads. It is not expected that there will be any impact on land values. • Although loss of land value is highly unlikely and the site can be readily remediated upon decommissioning, Vast Solar takes these concerns seriously. • Vast Solar believes it is important to build a strong social	• Face to face meetings with local residents to explain the project throughout construction and operation. • Continuing education and information about the value and benefits of CSP systems for 21st century electricity. • Continuing information dissemination

Issue	Relevant stakeholders	Response	Communication activities
		license to operate (i.e. to build and maintain community support for CSP development), and that societal understanding of the benefits of CSP will help protect land values near CSP facilities. • Local zoning allows construction of this development and minimises any impacts associated with it.	about Vast Solar efforts to reduce solar energy costs. • Phone number and email details included so any further enquires can be made
Management of hazards and safety around the site during construction and operation	• Adjacent property owners • Local Council • Emergency services	• Vast Solar has prepared robust risk management, hazard management plans and emergency management plans. • Vast Solar has worked with world-leading specialists to develop safe operating procedures and emergency procedures relating to the storage and use of hazardous materials.	• Regular updates with Council in line with planning approval requirements. • Compliance with WHS regulations and standards • Development and maintenance of a safety culture • Comprehensive training, induction, and regular onsite Work Health and Safety staff briefings to communicate hazards, risks and safe work practices with staff. • Provide information about hazardous chemicals to explain why Vast Solar must restrict access to the project site. • Ensure comprehensive WHS procedures when receiving visitors to the site
Renewable energy's viability/ future	• ALL	• Project will demonstrate safe, low-cost CSP power generation incorporating thermal energy storage. • The project will add to the knowledge base of Australia's energy sector (utilities, network operators, financiers, regulators) about the value and role of CSP technology in Australia's energy system. • The project will also demonstrate cost effective CSP power generation and energy storage capability. • When complete, this plant will be Australia's only operating commercial scale CSP plant with storage and the capacity to dispatch power to the national electricity	• Presentations to key stakeholders • Events, launches and website containing information about the technology's benefits. • Use of research from previous studies to educate stakeholders about the technology and capabilities.

Issue	Relevant stakeholders	Response	Communication activities
		network. • Vast Solar CSP system has the potential to assist emerging economies modernize and develop industrial capacity with reduced reliance on fossil fuels.	

Additional issues

All additional issues identified by community stakeholders during ongoing informal community engagement and interaction and throughout the public exhibition period of the EIS will be incorporated into the above matrix, along with key messages and proposed communication response tools.

6 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The following review actions will be undertaken alongside implementation activities to ensure the effective delivery and responsiveness of this Community Liaison Plan.

a) Appoint and maintain a consultation manager for the project to implement activities and review this plan regularly.

b) Maintain project enquiries and complaints register. Regular review of the enquiries and complaints register to ensure all enquiries and complaints have been responded to.

c) Keep an accurate record of feedback from consultation activities, submissions made in response to the EIS and all correspondence with the community.

d) Media monitoring. Ongoing review of media coverage regarding the project to ensure that key messages are being consistently communicated and reflected in media coverage.

e) Feedback from staff. Discussion with staff about any feedback they may have received from the community regarding the project.

f) Feedback from Council. Ongoing contact with Forbes (and, potentially, with Parkes and Dubbo) Council as to information they may have concerning stakeholder views in relation to the project.

The Plan will be reviewed every six months and as required in response to submissions made in response to the public exhibition of the EIS. The Plan will be updated to ensure that the key messages, objectives, processes and activities remain relevant to, and effective for, each project phase.

The Plan will be publicly available via the EIS exhibition process and may be available to any stakeholders who wish to receive a copy.

Communication with Vast Solar's internal stakeholders including ARENA (including milestone reports) and other partners in this project will be provided through regular correspondence and activities including those provided for in contractual and other agreements.