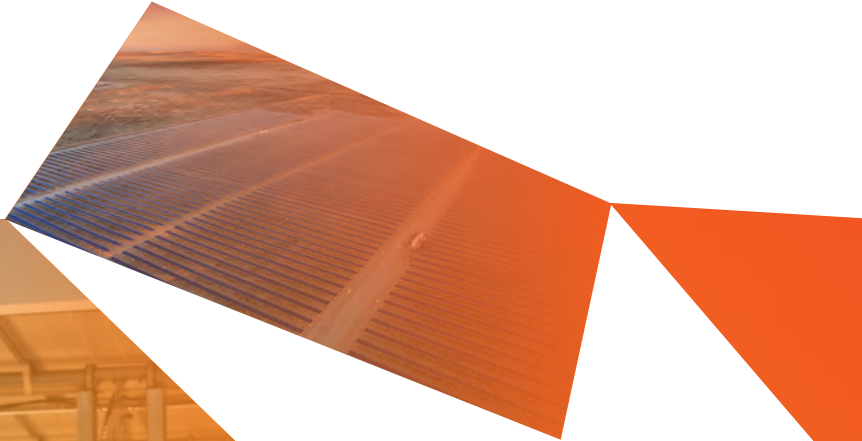


Appendix B

Consultation Material

Orange Grove
Sun Farm



Summary of consultation record and outcomes

Table 1 Consultation record and outcomes – regulators and industry stakeholders

Stakeholder	Method of engagement	Date	Purpose	Outcome/comments
GSC	Phone call	13-Oct-17	Arrange meeting	To introduce OVERLAND to GSC and arrange a formal meeting of introduction.
	Email	16-Oct-17	Arrange meeting	Introduction email to the General Manager at GSC.
	Email	18-Oct-17	Arrange meeting	Meeting confirmation with the General Manager and Director Planning and Environmental Services.
	Meeting	24-Oct-17	General project briefing	Introduced OVERLAND to GSC.
	Phone call	25-Oct-17	Amend GSC letter of support	Request to update letter of support from GSC to provide additional project related detail.
	Email	08-Dec-17	Notify GSC of SEAR's	Email re SEARs application being uploaded to the DPE website distributed to the General Manager and Director Planning and Environmental Services.
	Email	05-Feb-18	Arrange meeting	Acknowledgement of SEAR's input and request for meeting.
	Meeting	22-Feb-18	General project briefing	Met with Manager Planning and Development to provide an overview of the Orange Grove Sun Farm Project. Meeting to discuss the project with council with particular reference to council's SEAR's response namely: 1. Traffic volumes during construction, referencing whether bussing workers to site would be required; 2. Dust suppression; 3. Accommodation of the construction workforce; and 4. Use of Old Blue Vale Road during construction.
	Phone call	01-Mar-18	Notified GSC of Kibah quarry	Call to Manager Planning and Development regarding the gravel pit on Kibah property to confirm that discussions with the landholder confirmed it is managed by GSC.
	Email	04-Mar-18	Request	Request regarding clarification of GSC's requirement for consideration of dust suppression treatments.
	Email	05-Mar-18	Reply from GSC	GSC clarified that alternative road treatments would need to be submitted to GSC for consideration.
	Delivery	13-Mar-18	Deliver Factsheets	Orange Grove Sun Farm factsheets dropped off for display at GSC reception.

Table 1 Consultation record and outcomes – regulators and industry stakeholders

Stakeholder	Method of engagement	Date	Purpose	Outcome/comments
LLS North West	Email	05-Feb-18	Arrange meeting	Acknowledgement of SEAR's input and request for meeting.
	Phone call and email	Multiple	Arrange meeting	Arranged a meeting at the LLS North West office in Gunnedah.
	Meeting	09-Mar-18	General project briefing	Introduced OVERLAND to six people from LLS and provided an overview of the Orange Grove Sun Farm project. Fielded questions in relation to the project. Of particular concern to the group is Koala habitat and limiting any potential impact upon the local Koala population.
OEH	Email	05-Feb-18	Arrange meeting	Acknowledgement of SEAR's input and request for meeting.
	Phone call and email	Multiple	Arrange meeting	Arranged a meeting at the OEH office in Dubbo.
	Meeting	28-Feb-18	General project briefing	Introduced OVERLAND to OEH and provided an overview of the Orange Grove Sun Farm project. Discussed biodiversity matters.
DPE – DRG	Email	05-Feb-18	Arrange meeting	Acknowledgement of SEAR's input and request for meeting.
	Phone call and email	Multiple	Arrange meeting	Arranged a meeting at DRG's offices in Maitland.
	Meeting	21-Feb-18	General project briefing	Provided an overview of the Orange Grove Sun Farm project. Fielded questions. Reviewed the tenements overlaying the site and had general discussion regarding the tenements. DRG advised it is unlikely the tenement they manage will be put to the market in the near future. Further, it is unlikely the project would impact the tenement.
	Email	20-Mar-18	Acknowledgement	DRG acknowledged OVERLAND's advice re the Kibah gravel pit, officially known as Gunnedah Ridge South.
RMS	Email	05-Feb-18	Arrange meeting	Acknowledgement of SEAR's input and request for meeting.
	Phone call and email	Multiple	Arrange meeting	Arranged a meeting at the RMS offices in Grafton.
	Meeting	16-Feb-18	General project briefing	Provided an overview of the Orange Grove Sun Farm project. Fielded questions. Discussed the broader outline of the TIA being undertaken. No major issues assuming the TIA is thorough.
RFS	Email	05-Feb-18	Arrange meeting	Acknowledgement of SEAR's input and request for meeting.
	Phone call and email	Multiple	Arrange meeting	Attempted to arrange meeting in Coffs Harbour after RFS's invitation.
EPA	Email	05-Feb-18	Arrange meeting	Acknowledgement of SEAR's input and request for meeting.
	Email	06-Feb-18	Reply to meeting request	EPA replied that as the proposed activity isn't a scheduled activity in the POEO Act it won't require an EPL with the EPA.

Table 1 Consultation record and outcomes – regulators and industry stakeholders

Stakeholder	Method engagement	Date	Purpose	Outcome/comments
DPI	Email	05-Feb-18	Arrange meeting	GSC will be the appropriate regulatory authority for the purposes of the POEO Act.
	Phone call	06-Mar-18	Arrange meeting	Acknowledgement of SEAR's input and request for meeting. DPI had tried to contact OVERLAND but did not leave a message and phone ID was blocked. OVERLAND were advised that DPI don't do face to face meetings. DPI's main issue is ability to rehab land at the end of the projects life.
Fire & Rescue NSW	Email	05-Feb-18	Arrange meeting	Acknowledgement of SEAR's input and request for meeting.
Safe Work NSW	Email	05-Feb-18	Arrange meeting	Acknowledgement of SEAR's input and request for meeting.
	Phone call	06-Mar-18	Arrange meeting	Left message requesting a meeting or otherwise.
CASA	Email	02-Feb-18	General project briefing	Provided a copy of the preliminary site boundary and requested details of CASA registered aerodromes in the vicinity of the site and whether there were any concerns with the project's location.
	Email	02-Feb-18	Response from CASA	CASA noted that the project is sufficient distance from Gunnedah Airport and Lake Keepit Aircraft Landing Area (ALA) to not be of any concern to air navigation. CASA also noted that modern solar panels are designed to absorb light and not to reflect it.
Santos	Phone call and email	Multiple	Arrange meeting	Arranged a meeting at the Santos office in Narrabri.
	Meeting	06-Mar-18	General project briefing	Introduced OVERLAND to Santos Narrabri and provided an overview of the project. Santos manages the overlaying PEL tenement on behalf of the owner and doesn't have any issues with the project.
	Letter	12-Apr-18	Confirmation of no conflict	Santos, as operator of PEL 001, advised it is unlikely that the project as described in the PEA would conflict with prospecting activities that Santos may undertake in PEL 001.
Gunnedah Chamber of Commerce	Phone call and email	Multiple	Arrange meeting	Spoke with the Chamber President to arrange a meeting.
	Meeting	27-Mar-18	General project briefing	Met with the Chamber Vice President to provide project overview.
State Member for Tamworth	Phone call and email	Multiple	Arrange meeting	Arranged a meeting at Parliament House (Sydney).
	Meeting	03-May-18	General project briefing	Met with the incumbent member to discuss the project.

Table 2 Consultation records and outcomes – surrounding landholders and other stakeholders

Stakeholder	Method of engagement	Date	Purpose	Outcome/comment	
R1	Phone call	01-Aug-16	Initial contact	Contacted landholder about providing land for the sun farm.	
	Meeting	15-Feb-18	Project briefing	Met with landholder on-farm to provide a project overview. OVERLAND requested that the meeting be rescheduled until a third party representing the landholder's interests could be present.	
	Phone call	18-Feb-18	Follow-up	Contacted landholder regarding meeting.	
	Phone call	22-Feb-18	Follow-up	Left voicemail regarding meeting.	
	Phone call	27-Feb-18	Follow-up	Contacted landholder regarding meeting.	
	Phone call	13-Mar-18	Follow-up	Left voicemail regarding further meeting, upcoming community information session, and to advise a factsheet left in mailbox.	
	Phone call	13-Mar-18	Project briefing	A relative of the landholder responded to voicemail. The relative advised they are the Power of Attorney for the landholder and contact person. OVERLAND provided a brief on the project to the landholder's relative. The relative declined OVERLAND's offer to meet.	
	Community information session	15-Mar-18	General project briefing	Landholder and their relative attended the community information session. Landholder and their relative had questions about visual, fire management, runoff and erosion, EMF, glare, flooding, noise, EIS submission date, land values, animal control/habitat, temperatures, ground water, weed control, project life span and decommissioning.	
	Phone call	3-Apr-18	Follow-up	Attempted to contact the landholder's relative in follow-up to conversations during the community information session. Left message to contact.	
	Phone call	10-Apr-18	Follow-up	Attempted to contact the landholder's relative in follow-up to conversations during the community information session. Left message to contact.	
	Email	12-Apr-18	Email	Landholder's relative emailed a list of questions about the project and requested a copy of the draft EIS.	
	R2	Phone call	07-Feb-18	Project briefing	Introduced OVERLAND and arranged a meeting either at their home in Sydney or at their property. Landholders advised they will travel to their property.
		Meeting	13-Feb-18	Project briefing	Met with the landholders to provide a project overview, details about the site selection process and outline of the planning process. Landholders raised questions over glare from the solar panels. Drove across property with the landholders to the site boundary.
Phone call		14-Feb-18	Project briefing	Clarified the proposed development footprint with the landholders. Discussed EIS submission and assessment process.	
Phone call		14-Feb-18	Project briefing	Discussed the proposed solar panel and tracking technology.	

Table 2 Consultation records and outcomes – surrounding landholders and other stakeholders

Stakeholder	Method of engagement	Date	Purpose	Outcome/comment
	Phone call	22-Feb-18	Request from landholder	Landholders requested information on the solar panel and tracking technology and a map of the development footprint. Discussed project layout and landscape management plans. Advised landholders about the community information session.
	Phone call	27-Feb-18	Project update	Landholder called to check on arrival of information requested. Advised parcel express posted to their principal place of residence in Sydney as requested. OVERLAND asked for a follow up meeting.
	Phone call	28-Feb-18	Project update	Landholder called to confirm receipt of the parcel in Sydney. Landholder requested a copy of the infrastructure layout. OVERLAND advised that a layout was in preparation and would be available in the public EIS document.
	Phone call	01-Mar-18	Request from landholder	Landholder requested a copy of the infrastructure layout. OVERLAND advised that a layout was in preparation and would be available in the public EIS document.
	Phone call	05-Mar-18	Arrange a further meeting	Call to landholder and requested a further meeting.
	Phone call	07-Mar-18	From landowner	Landholder returned call and established a meeting time with OVERLAND.
	Meeting	14-Mar-18	Project update	OVERLAND tabled a draft indicative infrastructure layout of the sun farm to discuss visual impacts and landscape management. OVERLAND permitted to take photos from the landholder's veranda, which were used to inform the assessment of visual impacts and preparation of a photomontage (refer to Photograph 5.5 in Appendix G).
	Community information session	15-Mar-18	General project briefing	Landholders attended the community information session. Landholder had questions about visual, fire management, runoff and erosion, electromagnetic fields, glare, flooding, noise, EIS submission date, land values, animal control/habitat, temperatures, ground water, weed control, project lifespan and decommissioning.
	Phone call	9-Apr-18	Meeting request	Contacted landholders to request a meeting in Sydney at their home on the property to table the draft photomontage.
	Email	10-Apr-18	Request from landholder	Request to provide written response to queries previously discussed.
	Email	12-Apr-18	Landholder follow-up	Follow-up to email of 10-Apr-18.
	Email	17-Apr-18	Landholder follow-up	Follow-up to email of 10-Apr-18.
	Email	17-Apr-18	Reply to landholder	Provided a reply to the landholders and again requested a meeting.
	Email	18-Apr-18	Reply to landholder	Provided further reply to the landholders advising the requested EIS documents are draft and will be available once the EIS is lodged. OVERLAND again requested a meeting.

Table 2 Consultation records and outcomes – surrounding landholders and other stakeholders

Stakeholder	Method of engagement	Date	Purpose	Outcome/comment
	Email	19-Apr-18	Landholder request	Request for EIS documents prior to EIS lodgement.
	Email	30-Apr-18	Landholder request	Follow-up of request for EIS documents prior to EIS lodgement.
	Email	8-May-2018	Landholder request	Follow-up of request for EIS documents prior to EIS lodgement.
R7	Phone call	March 2017	Request for easement	Provided a project brief and enquired if they would be interested in allowing an easement through their land for exporting power from the project. Landholder declined.
	Phone call	13-Mar-18	General project briefing	Provided the landholder with an overview of the Orange Grove Sun Farm project and advised a factsheet had been placed in their letter box. The landholder has read the factsheet and had questions about whether an embankment was being placed around the sun farm. Advised the landholder there's no plan for an embankment around the sun farm site.
	Community Information Session	15-Mar-18	General project briefing	Landholders attended the community information session.
	Phone call	16-Apr-18	Enquiry regarding R13	Contacted the landholder regarding R13 (refer below) as the house is on their property. Advised that their relative lives in the house. Answered questions about flood studies and reaffirmed no embankment is planned around the perimeter of the sun farm.
R8	Property visit	15-Mar-17	Contact landholder	OVERLAND visited the property during mid-afternoon and left a business card plus note to please contact OVERLAND regarding providing land for the sun farm.
	Phone call	13-Mar-18	Arrange meeting	Obtained contact details for the new title owner of the property (resides in Sydney) to introduce OVERLAND and arrange a meeting to provide a project brief. Advised community information sessions on 15 and 16 March in Gunnedah and that a factsheet was delivered to the property.
	Text message	13-Mar-18	Request for information	Landholder requested that a map showing the project area be emailed to them.
	Email	13-Mar-18	Provision of information	OVERLAND emailed a PDF copy of the factsheet that included a project map.
	Email	14-Mar-18	Landholder query	Landholder had a question regarding the project area. OVERLAND sent a reply via email.
	Text message	14-Mar-18	Landholder request	Request from landholder to change Thursday 15 March meeting time. OVERLAND agreed.
	Phone call	15-Mar-18	Landholder advice	Request from landholder to change meeting time / day.
	Phone call	15-Mar-18	Landholder advice	Landholder called to advise they were at the Gunnedah Saleyards and could meet. OVERLAND agreed to meet in park adjacent to main street.
	Meeting	15-Mar-18	General project	Met with landholder and another party at Wolseley Park, Conadilly Street, Gunnedah. Provided a project

Table 2 Consultation records and outcomes – surrounding landholders and other stakeholders

Stakeholder	Method of engagement	Date	Purpose	Outcome/comment
			briefing	overview, confirmed the infrastructure footprint and landholders working with OVERLAND, discussed EIS studies. Landholder had questions about visual, fire management, runoff and erosion, electromagnetic fields, glare, flooding, noise, EIS submission date, land values, animal control/habitat, temperatures, ground water, weed control, project life span and decommissioning.
Community information session		15-Mar-18	General project briefing	Landholder and another party attended the community information session. Landholder had questions about visual, fire management, runoff and erosion, EMF, glare, flooding, noise, EIS submission date, land values, animal control/habitat, temperatures, ground water, weed control, project life span and decommissioning.
Community information session		16-Mar-18	General project briefing	Landholder attended the community information session and was the only non-project related attendee. Landholder had questions mainly relating to site selection from an electricity grid perspective.
Phone call and text message		16-Mar-18	Obtain photo from residence	OVERLAND left voice and text messages with landholder requesting access to allow for a photo to be taken from their house on the Orange Grove property. No response.
Email		17-Mar-18	Notification and request for information	Landholder requested all correspondence be via email as the property's letter box is only occasionally checked as the landholder resides permanently in the Sydney area. Landholder enquired how the general community would be notified of the 30-day EIS public exhibition period.
Email		19-Mar-18	Reply to email	OVERLAND acknowledged landholder's request for all correspondence to be via email. Provided a reply regarding DPE's process of notification and advised OVERLAND would also make contact advising the 30-day period had commenced. Provided (as verbally offered) the following: 1. A copy of the preliminary environmental assessment; and 2. A copy of the SEARs. Closed by offering to meet again in person to provide further information on issues of concern.
Email		23-Mar-18	Request for information and offer to meet	Landholder asked when a response to queries raised would be provided along with those raised at the community information session. Requested: 1. A map showing the distance of the project to the residence; and 2. A copy of the surface water assessment. Offered to meet in Sydney on 29 or 30 March.
Email		23-Mar-18	Reply to email	OVERLAND advised that no preliminary or draft documents can be emailed to the landholder. Offered to meet in person in Sydney if the landholder is available.
Email		27-Mar-18	Outline of landholder's situation and expectations.	Landholder provided an outline of their situation and expectations.
Email		28-Mar-18	Request to	OVERLAND requested clarification on landholder's expectations.

Table 2 Consultation records and outcomes – surrounding landholders and other stakeholders

Stakeholder	Method of engagement	Date	Purpose	Outcome/comment
			provide further information	
	Email	29-Mar-18	Reply to OVERLAND's request	Landholder outlined expectations.
	Phone call	05-Apr-18	Follow-up	OVERLAND contacted landholder and offered to meet at residence in Sydney on 11 or 12 April 2018. Landholder did not want to meet in person and would only like to communicate via email.
	Email	05-Apr-18	Follow-up	Landholder sent email requesting all contact with OVERLAND be handled through email.
	Email	05-Apr-18	Follow-up	OVERLAND reiterated offer to meet in Sydney and informed landholder that there was no set date for the EIS submission, but that Landholder would be made aware once it becomes publically available.
	Email	06-Apr-18	Follow-up	Landholder outlined a series of financial and other commercial terms, that if OVERLAND agreed to enter into, the landholder would be willing to accept the project.
	Email	09-Apr-18	Follow-up	OVERLAND acknowledged receipt of the landholder's email.
	Email	09-Apr-18	Follow-up	Landholder emailed requesting an update on their request for OVERLAND to enter into an agreement with them.
	Email	19-Apr-18	Follow-up	Landholder emailed requesting an update on their request for OVERLAND to enter into an agreement with them.
	Email	20-Apr-18	Follow-up	Landholder emailed requesting an update on their request for OVERLAND to enter into an agreement with them.
	Phone Call	23-Apr-18	Follow-up	Landholder called OVERLAND requesting an update on their request for OVERLAND to enter into an agreement with them. OVERLAND explained that no decision around their request had been made. Landholder set a deadline for OVERLAND to respond.
	Phone Call	24-Apr-18	Follow-up	OVERLAND contacted landholder to advise the landholder that no decision had been made about the financial arrangement the landholder had request.
	Phone Call	27-Apr-18	Follow-up	OVERLAND contacted the landholder requesting permission to access their property to take photos to assess potential impact of the project. Landholder granted access to property.
	Email	01-May-18	Follow-up	Landholder emailed OVERLAND requesting an update on their request for OVERLAND to enter into an agreement with them.
	Phone Call	10-May-18	Follow-up	Landholder phoned OVERLAND requesting an update on their request for OVERLAND to enter into an agreement with them.
R9	Phone call	Multiple	Arrange meeting	Introduce OVERLAND and to arrange a meeting.
	Meeting	12-Mar-18	General project briefing	OVERLAND provided the landholders with an overview of the project. Main issues raised were in relation to construction period traffic during school bus and local peak periods.
	Meeting	15-Mar-18	General project briefing	Landholder attended the community information session.
R10	Phone call	01-Mar-18	Arrange meeting	Requested a meeting to introduce OVERLAND and provide a project overview. Landholder advised they were

Table 2 Consultation records and outcomes – surrounding landholders and other stakeholders

Stakeholder	Method of engagement	Date	Purpose	Outcome/comment
				unwell and would contact again in a week's time.
	Phone call	06-Mar-18	Arrange meeting	Landholder still unwell and unable to meet. Requested a call back in another week or so.
	Phone call	13-Mar-18	General project briefing	Landholder still unwell and unable to meet. Landholder had read the Orange Grove Sun Farm factsheet and did not have any questions.
	Phone call	13-Mar-18	Request	Contacted landholder to request contact information for surrounding landholder.
R11	Phone call	01-Mar-18	Arrange meeting	Introduced OVERLAND and arranged meeting.
	Meeting	06-Mar-18	General project briefing	Met with landholder and provided project briefing. Landholder asked questions about dust suppression and possible road degradation of Orange Grove Road during construction.
R13	Meeting	15-Mar-18	General project briefing	Occupant of residence (who is a relation of R7) attended the community information session.
	Phone call	17-Apr-18	Follow up with resident	Landholder asked questions about flood water impacts.
Namoi Pistol Club	Phone call	14-Feb-18	General project briefing	Contacted club founder and secretary to introduce OVERLAND and provide a project overview. Issues raised were in relation to glare and flooding. Advised community information session is being arranged.
	Phone call	23-Mar-18	General project briefing	Call to obtain the frequency of club meets. Further discussion in relation to glare and flooding. Overall no issue with the project. Secretary was aware the community information session was on but chose not to attend.
Gunnedah Services and Bowling Club	Delivery	13-Mar-18	Deliver factsheets	Orange Grove Sun Farm factsheets dropped off at the Gunnedah Services and Bowling Club for display in the foyer.
Carroll Store	Delivery	13-Mar-18	Deliver factsheets	Orange Grove Sun Farm factsheets pinned to the community notice board at the Carroll Store.
Gunnedah Solar Farm	Phone call	23-Apr-18	General project briefing	OVERLAND contacted Gunnedah Solar Farm to discuss their respective projects and the ongoing consultation with the local community.
	Phone call	24-Apr-18	General project briefing	Project manager from Gunnedah Solar Farm called OVERLAND to discuss their community consultation progress and provide a general project overview.

TransGrid consultation

23 April 2018

Attention: The Secretary
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY, NSW 2001

Dear Secretary

Letter of Support in Respect of EIS submission – Orange Grove Solar Farm

As the Transmission Network Service Provider to which the proposed Orange Grove 100MW Sun Farm, (“the project”) would connect to, we confirm that Orange Grove Sun Farm Pty Ltd (“the Proponent”) has been working closely and cooperatively with TransGrid to maximise efficiencies in the high voltage electricity transmission connection delivery methodology and topology.

We note that the Proponent has submitted a Connection Enquiry to TransGrid and is subsequently progressing in the connection process, as required under the National Electricity Rules.

All preliminary investigations undertaken to date confirm that the proposed generator connection to our network is feasible. To this extent, the proponent has been fully cooperative in all aspects of developing a generator connection solution that will meet all necessary requirements under the National Electricity Rules and *Electricity Supply Act 1995* (NSW) relating to reliability and safety of the electricity network during construction and operation of the project.

Furthermore, and as a practical measure for reducing potential environmental impacts of the development, we confirm that the Proponent has collaborated with TransGrid to develop transmission network connection options that will, as much as practicable, limit the development of new connection assets to areas located proximate to existing transmission infrastructure operational footprints.

Please contact myself should you have any further queries in relation to this letter or the Proponent’s interactions with TransGrid for the proposed solar farm development.

Yours Sincerely,



Darren Clarke
Customer Engagement Manager

Government and regulatory agencies consultation

Subject: Orange Grove Sun Farm
Date: Monday, 5 February 2018 at 11:58:32 AM Australian Eastern Standard Time
From: Sten Fraser
To: landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au
CC: Claire Burnes, David Richards, Jason Gibson
Attachments: J17210_OrangeGrove_Dept of Industry_V0-1.pdf, 171220 - Orange Grove Solar (SSD 8882)
- DPE Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements.pdf

ATTENTION: Graeme White, Manager, Assessment Advice

Dear Graeme,

Please see our letter attached regarding our Orange Grove Sun Farm project in which we acknowledge your response to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) dated 12 December 2017 providing details of assessment requirements as part of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs).

Overland Sun Farming are keen to arrange a meeting at your office at your earliest convenience to introduce ourselves and provide a brief overview of our Orange Grove Sun Farm project.

To this end, it would be appreciated if you could provide us with some suitable dates and times.

We look forward to your earliest response.

Regards

Sten

Sten Fraser | Land & Development Manager | **OVERLAND Sun Farming**

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2 February 2018

Graeme White
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Re: State significant development application – Orange Grove Sun Farm (SSD 8882)
Your ref: OUT17/48048

Dear Graeme,

We are writing to you on behalf of OVERLAND Sun Farming Pty Ltd (OVERLAND) in relation to the Orange Grove Sun Farm, a photovoltaic (PV) solar development proposed by OVERLAND on behalf of Orange Grove Sun Farm Pty Ltd. The proposal will be developed on a site within the Gunnedah Shire local government area (LGA), approximately 12 kilometres (km) east of the township of Gunnedah.

OVERLAND's personnel have successfully led benchmark renewable energy and infrastructure projects from start to finish and have a sound record that traverses early stage site identification, working with landowners and communities, obtaining consents and licences from government to build and operate, securing energy and grid connection contracts, arranging financing and managing construction and ongoing operations and power generation.

This experience includes responsibility for the development, financing, construction and operation of over 350 MW of large-scale, grid connected renewable energy generation projects in the National Electricity market.

The proposal is State significant development (SSD) under the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. OVERLAND will be supported by EMM Consulting Pty Limited (EMM) in the preparation of the environmental impact statement (EIS) to support the application for this proposal.

We acknowledge your response to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) dated 12 December 2017 providing details of assessment requirements for this proposal as part of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). The matters raised within your response were primarily in relation to potential impacts on Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL), soil erosion, potential important agricultural land and Crown lands or roads. We have reviewed this response and the SEARs and their attachments and will give consideration to the matters raised during the preparation of the EIS for this proposal. We have attached a copy of the SEARs for this proposal for your reference.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your office in Sydney to discuss this proposal. Should you have any questions or if you would be available to meet for a more detailed briefing, please do not hesitate to contact Sten Fraser at OVERLAND in the first instance.

Sten Fraser
Land & Development Manager, OVERLAND
sten.fraser@overlandsunfarming.com.au
M: 0407 665 999 or P: 03 9889 2023

Claire Burnes
Associate Environmental Scientist, EMM
cburnes@emmconsulting.com.au
M: 0477 717 272 or P: 02 4907 4804

Yours sincerely



Sten Fraser
Land & Development Manager
OVERLAND Sun Farming



Claire Burnes
Associate Environmental Scientist
EMM Consulting

Subject: Orange Grove Sun Farm
Date: Monday, 5 February 2018 at 11:59:24 AM Australian Eastern Standard Time
From: Sten Fraser
To: landuse.minerals@industry.nsw.gov.au
CC: Claire Burnes, David Richards, Jason Gibson
Attachments: J17210_OrangeGrove_DRG_V0-1.pdf, 171220 - Orange Grove Solar (SSD 8882) - DPE Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements.pdf

Dear Cressida

Please see our letter attached regarding our Orange Grove Sun Farm project in which we acknowledge your response to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) dated 13 December 2017 providing details of assessment requirements as part of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs).

Overland Sun Farming are keen to arrange a meeting at your office at your earliest convenience to introduce ourselves and provide a brief overview of our Orange Grove Sun Farm project.

To this end, it would be appreciated if you could provide us with some suitable dates and times.

We look forward to your earliest response.

Regards

Sten

Sten Fraser | Land & Development Manager | **OVERLAND Sun Farming**

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2 February 2018

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Newcastle NSW 2300
PO Box 506
Newcastle, NSW, 2300

Cressida Gilmore
Manager – Land Use
Department of Planning and Environment
Division of Resources and Geoscience
516 High Street
Maitland NSW 2320

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Re: State significant development application – Orange Grove Sun Farm (SSD 8882)
Your ref: OUT17/48446

Dear Cressida,

We are writing to you on behalf of OVERLAND Sun Farming Pty Ltd (OVERLAND) in relation to the Orange Grove Sun Farm, a photovoltaic (PV) solar development proposed by OVERLAND on behalf of Orange Grove Sun Farm Pty Ltd. The proposal will be developed on a site within the Gunnedah Shire local government area (LGA), approximately 12 kilometres (km) east of the township of Gunnedah.

OVERLAND's personnel have successfully led benchmark renewable energy and infrastructure projects from start to finish and have a sound record that traverses early stage site identification, working with landowners and communities, obtaining consents and licences from government to build and operate, securing energy and grid connection contracts, arranging financing and managing construction and ongoing operations and power generation.

This experience includes responsibility for the development, financing, construction and operation of over 350 MW of large-scale, grid connected renewable energy generation projects in the National Electricity market.

The proposal is State significant development (SSD) under the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. OVERLAND will be supported by EMM Consulting Pty Limited (EMM) in the preparation of the environmental impact statement (EIS) to support the application for this proposal.

We acknowledge your response to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) dated 13 December 2017 providing details of assessment requirements for this proposal as part of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). The matters raised within your response were in relation to potential conflict with petroleum exploration licence (PEL) 0001 (held by Australian Coalbed Methane Pty Ltd and Santos QNT Pty Ltd) and coal title exploration licence (EL) 7421 (held by the Secretary for DPE), as well as, potential conflict with the Gunnedah Solar Farm proposal west of the site (SSD 8658). We have reviewed this response and the SEARs and their attachments and will give consideration to the matters raised during the preparation of the EIS for this proposal. We have attached a copy of the SEARs for this proposal for your reference.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your office in Maitland to discuss this proposal. Should you have any questions or if you would be available to meet for a more detailed briefing, please do not hesitate to contact Sten Fraser at OVERLAND in the first instance.

Sten Fraser
Land & Development Manager, OVERLAND
sten.fraser@overlandsunfarming.com.au
M: 0407 665 999 or P: 03 9889 2023

Claire Burnes
Associate Environmental Scientist, EMM
cburnes@emmconsulting.com.au
M: 0477 717 272 or P: 02 4907 4804

Yours sincerely



Sten Fraser
Land & Development Manager
OVERLAND Sun Farming



Claire Burnes
Associate Environmental Scientist
EMM Consulting

Subject: Orange Grove Sun Farm
Date: Monday, 5 February 2018 at 11:57:57 AM Australian Eastern Standard Time
From: Sten Fraser
To: armidale@epa.nsw.gov.au
CC: Claire Burnes, David Richards, Jason Gibson
Attachments: J17210_OrangeGrove_EPA_V0-1.pdf, 171220 - Orange Grove Solar (SSD 8882) - DPE Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements.pdf

Dear Rebecca,

Please see our letter attached regarding our Orange Grove Sun Farm project in which we acknowledge your response to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) dated 12 December 2017 noting that the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has reviewed the draft Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) and has no further considerations to include about this proposal.

Overland Sun Farming are keen to arrange a meeting at your office at your earliest convenience to introduce ourselves and provide a brief overview of our Orange Grove Sun Farm project.

To this end, it would be appreciated if you could provide us with some suitable dates and times.

We look forward to your earliest response.

Regards

Sten

Sten Fraser | Land & Development Manager | **OVERLAND Sun Farming**

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2 February 2018

Rebecca Scrivener
Senior Operations Officer
Environment Protection Authority
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Newcastle, NSW, 2300

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E info@emmconsulting.com.au
www.emmconsulting.com.au

Re: State significant development application – Orange Grove Sun Farm (SSD 8882)
Your ref: EF13/5576 / DOC17/612749

Dear Rebecca,

We are writing to you on behalf of OVERLAND Sun Farming Pty Ltd (OVERLAND) in relation to the Orange Grove Sun Farm, a photovoltaic (PV) solar development proposed by OVERLAND on behalf of Orange Grove Sun Farm Pty Ltd. The proposal will be developed on a site within the Gunnedah Shire local government area (LGA), approximately 12 kilometres (km) east of the township of Gunnedah.

OVERLAND's personnel have successfully led benchmark renewable energy and infrastructure projects from start to finish and have a sound record that traverses early stage site identification, working with landowners and communities, obtaining consents and licences from government to build and operate, securing energy and grid connection contracts, arranging financing and managing construction and ongoing operations and power generation.

This experience includes responsibility for the development, financing, construction and operation of over 350 MW of large-scale, grid connected renewable energy generation projects in the National Electricity market.

The proposal is State significant development (SSD) under the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. OVERLAND will be supported by EMM Consulting Pty Limited (EMM) in the preparation of the environmental impact statement (EIS) to support the application for this proposal.

We acknowledge your response to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) dated 12 December 2017 noting that the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has reviewed the draft Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) and has no further considerations to include about this proposal. We have attached a copy of the SEARs for this proposal for your reference. We have reviewed the SEARs and their attachments and will give consideration to the matters raised during the preparation of the EIS for this proposal.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your office in Armidale to discuss this proposal. Should you have any questions or if you would be available to meet for a more detailed briefing, please do not hesitate to contact Sten Fraser at OVERLAND in the first instance.

Sten Fraser
Land & Development Manager, OVERLAND
sten.fraser@overlandsunfarming.com.au
M: 0407 665 999 or P: 03 9889 2023

Claire Burnes
Associate Environmental Scientist, EMM
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M: 0477 717 272 or P: 02 4907 4804

Yours sincerely



Sten Fraser
Land & Development Manager
OVERLAND Sun Farming



Claire Burnes
Associate Environmental Scientist
EMM Consulting

Subject: Orange Grove Sun Farm - GSC Ref: 1160865
Date: Monday, 5 February 2018 at 11:58:48 AM Australian Eastern Standard Time
From: Sten Fraser
To: council@infogunnedah.com.au
CC: Claire Burnes, David Richards, Jason Gibson
Attachments: J17210_OrangeGrove_Gunnedah Shire Council_V0-1.pdf, 171220 - Orange Grove Solar (SSD 8882) - DPE Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements.pdf

ATTENTION: **Carolyn Hunt**, Manager Development & Planning

Dear Carolyn

Please see our letter attached regarding our Orange Grove Sun Farm project in which we acknowledge your response to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) dated 12 December 2017 providing details of assessment requirements as part of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs).

Overland Sun Farming are keen to arrange a meeting at your office at your earliest convenience to introduce ourselves and provide a brief overview of our Orange Grove Sun Farm project.

To this end, it would be appreciated if you could provide us with some suitable dates and times.

We look forward to your earliest response.

Regards

Sten

Sten Fraser | Land & Development Manager | **OVERLAND Sun Farming**

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Level 3, 349 Coronation Drive, Milton, Qld, 4064
www.overlandsunfarming.com.au



2 February 2018

Carolyn Hunt
Manager Development and Planning
Gunnedah Shire Council
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Gunnedah NSW 2380

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PO Box 506
Newcastle, NSW, 2300

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E info@emmconsulting.com.au
www.emmconsulting.com.au

Re: State significant development application – Orange Grove Sun Farm (SSD 8882)
Your ref: 1160865

Dear Carolyn,

We are writing to you on behalf of OVERLAND Sun Farming Pty Ltd (OVERLAND) in relation to the Orange Grove Sun Farm, a photovoltaic (PV) solar development proposed by OVERLAND on behalf of Orange Grove Sun Farm Pty Ltd. The proposal will be developed on a site within the Gunnedah Shire local government area (LGA), approximately 12 kilometres (km) east of the township of Gunnedah.

OVERLAND's personnel have successfully led benchmark renewable energy and infrastructure projects from start to finish and have a sound record that traverses early stage site identification, working with landowners and communities, obtaining consents and licences from government to build and operate, securing energy and grid connection contracts, arranging financing and managing construction and ongoing operations and power generation.

This experience includes responsibility for the development, financing, construction and operation of over 350 MW of large-scale, grid connected renewable energy generation projects in the National Electricity market.

The proposal is State significant development (SSD) under the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. OVERLAND will be supported by EMM Consulting Pty Limited (EMM) in the preparation of the environmental impact statement (EIS) to support the application for this proposal.

We acknowledge your response to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) dated 12 December 2017 providing details of assessment requirements for this proposal as part of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). The matters raised within your response were primarily in relation to potential traffic impacts, flooding, population and housing, workforce and training, potential impacts on koala habitat, noise and dust impacts during construction, potential glare impacts on Gunnedah Airport and waste management. We have reviewed this response and the SEARs and their attachments and will give consideration to the matters raised during the preparation of the EIS for this proposal. We have attached a copy of the SEARs for this proposal for your reference.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your office in Gunnedah to discuss this proposal. Should you have any questions or if you would be available to meet for a more detailed briefing, please do not hesitate to contact Sten Fraser at OVERLAND in the first instance.

Sten Fraser
Land & Development Manager, OVERLAND
sten.fraser@overlandsunfarming.com.au
M: 0407 665 999 or P: 03 9889 2023

Claire Burnes
Associate Environmental Scientist, EMM
cburnes@emmconsulting.com.au
M: 0477 717 272 or P: 02 4907 4804

Yours sincerely



Sten Fraser
Land & Development Manager
OVERLAND Sun Farming



Claire Burnes
Associate Environmental Scientist
EMM Consulting



Mr Sten Fraser
Land Development Manager
Overland Sun Farming
PO Box 318
WELLERS HILL QLD 4121

24 October 2017

Dear Mr Fraser

Orange Grove 110MW Sun Farm Project

I refer to the above and your meeting with Council's General Manager and myself today.

Council writes to provide in principle support for the proposed solar farm on the Orange Grove Road near Gunnedah. Council understands that this is State Significant Development and that the NSW Department of Planning and Environment is the determining authority and that the Department will undertake a thorough assessment of the proposal including the requisite public consultation.

I understand that the proposed development will see a \$120m investment into the Gunnedah community and that 80 construction workers and 3 permanent employees will be required. This investment into our Shire is welcomed.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact me on 02 67 40 2100.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Johns
DIRECTOR PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Contact: 02 6740 2100
Reference:aj:vg

Subject: Orange Grove Sun Farm
Date: Monday, 5 February 2018 at 11:59:29 AM Australian Eastern Standard Time
From: Sten Fraser
To: Dale.Kirby@lls.nsw.gov.au
CC: Claire Burnes, David Richards, Jason Gibson
Attachments: J17210_OrangeGrove_LLS_V0-1.pdf, 171220 - Orange Grove Solar (SSD 8882) - DPE Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements.pdf

Dear Dale

Please see our letter attached regarding our Orange Grove Sun Farm project in which we acknowledge your response to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) providing details of assessment requirements as part of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs).

Overland Sun Farming are keen to arrange a meeting at your office at your earliest convenience to introduce ourselves and provide a brief overview of our Orange Grove Sun Farm project.

To this end, it would be appreciated if you could provide us with some suitable dates and times.

We look forward to your earliest response.

Regards

Sten

Sten Fraser | Land & Development Manager | **OVERLAND Sun Farming**

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2 February 2018

Dale Kirby
Team Leader, Land Services – Advisory Services
North West Local Land Services
Level 1, Government Office Building, 35-37 Abbott Street
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Newcastle, NSW, 2300

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E info@emmconsulting.com.au
www.emmconsulting.com.au

Re: State significant development application – Orange Grove Sun Farm (SSD 8882)

Dear Dale,

We are writing to you on behalf of OVERLAND Sun Farming Pty Ltd (OVERLAND) in relation to the Orange Grove Sun Farm, a photovoltaic (PV) solar development proposed by OVERLAND on behalf of Orange Grove Sun Farm Pty Ltd. The proposal will be developed on a site within the Gunnedah Shire local government area (LGA), approximately 12 kilometres (km) east of the township of Gunnedah.

OVERLAND's personnel have successfully led benchmark renewable energy and infrastructure projects from start to finish and have a sound record that traverses early stage site identification, working with landowners and communities, obtaining consents and licences from government to build and operate, securing energy and grid connection contracts, arranging financing and managing construction and ongoing operations and power generation.

This experience includes responsibility for the development, financing, construction and operation of over 350 MW of large-scale, grid connected renewable energy generation projects in the National Electricity market.

The proposal is State significant development (SSD) under the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. OVERLAND will be supported by EMM Consulting Pty Limited (EMM) in the preparation of the environmental impact statement (EIS) to support the application for this proposal.

We acknowledge your response to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) providing details of assessment requirements for this proposal as part of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). The matters raised within your response were primarily in relation to consideration of State and Commonwealth legislation, the *Gunnedah Koala Conservation Plan 2016* and the *North West Local Land Services Transitional Catchment Action Plan*. We have reviewed this response and the SEARs and their attachments and will give consideration to the matters raised during the preparation of the EIS for this proposal. We have attached a copy of the SEARs for this proposal for your reference.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your office in Gunnedah to discuss this proposal. Should you have any questions or if you would be available to meet for a more detailed briefing, please do not hesitate to contact Sten Fraser at OVERLAND in the first instance.

Sten Fraser
Land & Development Manager, OVERLAND
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Claire Burnes
Associate Environmental Scientist, EMM
cburnes@emmconsulting.com.au
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Yours sincerely



Sten Fraser
Land & Development Manager
OVERLAND Sun Farming



Claire Burnes
Associate Environmental Scientist
EMM Consulting

Subject: Orange Grove Sun Farm
Date: Monday, 5 February 2018 at 11:58:11 AM Australian Eastern Standard Time
From: Sten Fraser
To: michelle.howarth@environment.nsw.gov.au
CC: Claire Burnes, David Richards, Jason Gibson
Attachments: J17210_OrangeGrove_OEH_V0-1.pdf, 171220 - Orange Grove Solar (SSD 8882) - DPE Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements.pdf

Dear Michelle,

Please see our letter attached regarding our Orange Grove Sun Farm project in which we acknowledge your response to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) dated 12 December 2017 providing details of assessment requirements as part of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs).

Overland Sun Farming are keen to arrange a meeting at your office at your earliest convenience to introduce ourselves and provide a brief overview of our Orange Grove Sun Farm project.

To this end, it would be appreciated if you could provide us with some suitable dates and times.

We look forward to your earliest response.

Regards

Sten

Sten Fraser | Land & Development Manager | **OVERLAND Sun Farming**

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Level 3, 349 Coronation Drive, Milton, Qld, 4064
www.overlandsunfarming.com.au



2 February 2018

Michelle Howarth
Conservation Planning Officer
Office of Environment and Heritage
Level 1, 48-52 Wingewarra Street
Dubbo NSW 2830

Suite 6, Level 1, 146 Hunter Street
Newcastle NSW 2300
PO Box 506
Newcastle, NSW, 2300

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E info@emmconsulting.com.au
www.emmconsulting.com.au

Re: State significant development application – Orange Grove Sun Farm (SSD 8882)
Your ref: DOC17/596945

Dear Michelle,

We are writing to you on behalf of OVERLAND Sun Farming Pty Ltd (OVERLAND) in relation to the Orange Grove Sun Farm, a photovoltaic (PV) solar development proposed by OVERLAND on behalf of Orange Grove Sun Farm Pty Ltd. The proposal will be developed on a site within the Gunnedah Shire local government area (LGA), approximately 12 kilometres (km) east of the township of Gunnedah.

OVERLAND's personnel have successfully led benchmark renewable energy and infrastructure projects from start to finish and have a sound record that traverses early stage site identification, working with landowners and communities, obtaining consents and licences from government to build and operate, securing energy and grid connection contracts, arranging financing and managing construction and ongoing operations and power generation.

This experience includes responsibility for the development, financing, construction and operation of over 350 MW of large-scale, grid connected renewable energy generation projects in the National Electricity market.

The proposal is State significant development (SSD) under the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. OVERLAND will be supported by EMM Consulting Pty Limited (EMM) in the preparation of the environmental impact statement (EIS) to support the application for this proposal.

We acknowledge your response to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) dated 12 December 2017 providing details of assessment requirements for this proposal as part of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). The matters raised within your response were primarily in relation to biodiversity and offsetting, Aboriginal cultural heritage, historic heritage, water and soils and flooding. We have reviewed this response and the SEARs and their attachments and will give consideration to the matters raised during the preparation of the EIS for this proposal. We have attached a copy of the SEARs for this proposal for your reference.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your office in Dubbo to discuss this proposal. Should you have any questions or if you would be available to meet for a more detailed briefing, please do not hesitate to contact Sten Fraser at OVERLAND in the first instance.

Sten Fraser
Land & Development Manager, OVERLAND
sten.fraser@overlandsunfarming.com.au
M: 0407 665 999 or P: 03 9889 2023

Claire Burnes
Associate Environmental Scientist, EMM
cburnes@emmconsulting.com.au
M: 0477 717 272 or P: 02 4907 4804

Yours sincerely



Sten Fraser
Land & Development Manager
OVERLAND Sun Farming



Claire Burnes
Associate Environmental Scientist
EMM Consulting

Subject: Orange Grove Sun Farm
Date: Monday, 5 February 2018 at 11:58:40 AM Australian Eastern Standard Time
From: Sten Fraser
To: pes@rfs.nsw.gov.au
CC: Claire Burnes, David Richards, Jason Gibson
Attachments: J17210_OrangeGrove_RFS_V0-1.pdf, 171220 - Orange Grove Solar (SSD 8882) - DPE Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements.pdf

ATTENTION: Alan Bawden

Dear Alan,

Please see our letter attached regarding our Orange Grove Sun Farm project in which we acknowledge your response to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) dated 12 December 2017 providing details of assessment requirements as part of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs).

Overland Sun Farming are keen to arrange a meeting at your office at your earliest convenience to introduce ourselves and provide a brief overview of our Orange Grove Sun Farm project.

To this end, it would be appreciated if you could provide us with some suitable dates and times.

We look forward to your earliest response.

Regards

Sten

Sten Fraser | Land & Development Manager | **OVERLAND Sun Farming**

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Level 3, 349 Coronation Drive, Milton, Qld, 4064
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2 February 2018

Alan Bawden
NSW Rural Fire Service
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E info@emmconsulting.com.au
www.emmconsulting.com.au

Re: State significant development application – Orange Grove Sun Farm (SSD 8882)
Your ref: D17/4386 / DA17113010609 AB

Dear Alan,

We are writing to you on behalf of OVERLAND Sun Farming Pty Ltd (OVERLAND) in relation to the Orange Grove Sun Farm, a photovoltaic (PV) solar development proposed by OVERLAND on behalf of Orange Grove Sun Farm Pty Ltd. The proposal will be developed on a site within the Gunnedah Shire local government area (LGA), approximately 12 kilometres (km) east of the township of Gunnedah.

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This experience includes responsibility for the development, financing, construction and operation of over 350 MW of large-scale, grid connected renewable energy generation projects in the National Electricity market.

The proposal is State significant development (SSD) under the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. OVERLAND will be supported by EMM Consulting Pty Limited (EMM) in the preparation of the environmental impact statement (EIS) to support the application for this proposal.

We acknowledge your response to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) dated 12 December 2017 providing details of assessment requirements for this proposal as part of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). The matters raised within your response were primarily in relation to fire hazard and emergency management procedures, including availability of water for fire fighting. We have reviewed this response and the SEARs and their attachments and will give consideration to the matters raised during the preparation of the EIS for this proposal. We have attached a copy of the SEARs for this proposal for your reference.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your office in Coffs Harbour to discuss this proposal. Should you have any questions or if you would be available to meet for a more detailed briefing, please do not hesitate to contact Sten Fraser at OVERLAND in the first instance.

Sten Fraser
Land & Development Manager, OVERLAND
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Claire Burnes
Associate Environmental Scientist, EMM
cburnes@emmconsulting.com.au
M: 0477 717 272 or P: 02 4907 4804

Yours sincerely



Sten Fraser
Land & Development Manager
OVERLAND Sun Farming



Claire Burnes
Associate Environmental Scientist
EMM Consulting

Subject: Orange Grove Sun Farm
Date: Monday, 5 February 2018 at 11:58:22 AM Australian Eastern Standard Time
From: Sten Fraser
To: development.northern@rms.nsw.gov.au
CC: Claire Burnes, David Richards, Jason Gibson
Attachments: J17210_OrangeGrove_RMS_V0-1.pdf, 171220 - Orange Grove Solar (SSD 8882) - DPE Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements.pdf

Dear Matt,

Please see our letter attached regarding our Orange Grove Sun Farm project in which we acknowledge your response to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) dated 8 December 2017 providing details of assessment requirements as part of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs).

Overland Sun Farming are keen to arrange a meeting at your office at your earliest convenience to introduce ourselves and provide a brief overview of our Orange Grove Sun Farm project.

To this end, it would be appreciated if you could provide us with some suitable dates and times.

We look forward to your earliest response.

Regards

Sten

Sten Fraser | Land & Development Manager | **OVERLAND Sun Farming**

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www.overlandsunfarming.com.au



2 February 2018

Matt Adams
A/Manager Land Use Assessment
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Newcastle, NSW, 2300

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E info@emmconsulting.com.au
www.emmconsulting.com.au

Re: State significant development application – Orange Grove Sun Farm (SSD 8882)
Your ref: NTH17/00188

Dear Matt,

We are writing to you on behalf of OVERLAND Sun Farming Pty Ltd (OVERLAND) in relation to the Orange Grove Sun Farm, a photovoltaic (PV) solar development proposed by OVERLAND on behalf of Orange Grove Sun Farm Pty Ltd. The proposal will be developed on a site within the Gunnedah Shire local government area (LGA), approximately 12 kilometres (km) east of the township of Gunnedah.

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This experience includes responsibility for the development, financing, construction and operation of over 350 MW of large-scale, grid connected renewable energy generation projects in the National Electricity market.

The proposal is State significant development (SSD) under the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. OVERLAND will be supported by EMM Consulting Pty Limited (EMM) in the preparation of the environmental impact statement (EIS) to support the application for this proposal.

We acknowledge your response to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) dated 8 December 2017 providing details of assessment requirements for this proposal as part of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). The matters raised within your response were primarily in relation to traffic and transport. We have reviewed this response and the SEARs and their attachments and will give consideration to the matters raised during the preparation of the EIS for this proposal. We have attached a copy of the SEARs for this proposal for your reference.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your office in Grafton to discuss this proposal. Should you have any questions or if you would be available to meet for a more detailed briefing, please do not hesitate to contact Sten Fraser at OVERLAND in the first instance.

Sten Fraser
Land & Development Manager, OVERLAND
sten.fraser@overlandsunfarming.com.au
M: 0407 665 999 or P: 03 9889 2023

Claire Burnes
Associate Environmental Scientist, EMM
cburnes@emmconsulting.com.au
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Yours sincerely



Sten Fraser
Land & Development Manager
OVERLAND Sun Farming



Claire Burnes
Associate Environmental Scientist
EMM Consulting

From: [John Zammit](#)
To: [David Richards](#)
Cc: [Claire Burnes](#); [Sten Fraser](#); [Jason Gibson](#)
Subject: Fwd: Orange Grove Sun Farm in Gunnedah NSW proposed by Overland Sun Farming [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Friday, 2 February 2018 3:44:31 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi David,

FYI see correspondence from Casa re: Orange Grove

Regards
John

John Zammit | Development Manager | **OVERLAND Sun Farming**

M +61 433 293 427
L1, 23 Milton Parade Malvern VIC 3144
www.overlandsunfarming.com.au

Notice : This email and any file attachments are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please tell us immediately by return email and delete the document.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Windebank, Matthew" <Matthew.Windebank@casa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Orange Grove Sun Farm in Gunnedah NSW proposed by Overland Sun Farming [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: 2 February 2018 at 3:42:32 pm AEDT
To: John Zammit <john.zammit@overlandsunfarming.com.au>
Cc: Sten Fraser <sten.fraser@overlandsunfarming.com.au>, Jason Gibson <jason.gibson@overlandsunfarming.com.au>

UNCLASSIFIED

Good afternoon John,

As requested, CASA has reviewed the solar farm at Orange Grove, near Gunnedah NSW as mentioned below.

Modern solar panels are designed to absorb light and not to reflect it and in addition the majority of designs on the market also have an anti-glare coating to further reduce visual impact.

Gunnedah is the nearest aerodrome that CASA is aware of and this is location 12.5 km from the location of the proposed solar farm. There is the possibility that there are unregistered or uncertified aerodromes in the general vicinity but available records indicate the closest (Lake Keepit ALA) is 13

km from the solar farm site. Therefore the solar farm is sufficient distance from Gunnedah Airport and Lake Keepit Airstrip to not be of any concern to air navigation.

Regards

Matthew Windebank

Aerodrome Engineer
Air Navigation, Airspace & Aerodromes Branch
CASA \ Aviation Group
GPO BOX 2005 CANBERRA ACT 2601

T - 02 6217 1183

F - 02 6217 1500



From: John Zammit [<mailto:john.zammit@overlandsunfarming.com.au>]
Sent: Friday, 2 February 2018 2:07 PM
To: Windebank, Matthew
Cc: Sten Fraser; Jason Gibson
Subject: Orange Grove Sun Farm in Gunnedah NSW proposed by Overland Sun Farming

Hi Matthew,

I am writing to you on behalf of Orange Grove Sun Farm Pty. Ltd. in relation to the proposed solar development by Overland Sun Farming - the Orange Grove Sun Farm in Gunnedah NSW. I have attached a preliminary polygon of the site extent for your information.

Could you please let us know if there are any CASA registered aerodromes in the vicinity and if so, are there any issues with the location and orientation of the runway?

Community consultation – community fact sheet and information boards presented at the community information session (March 2018), newspaper articles and newspaper advertisement

Orange Grove Sun Farm

OVERVIEW

OVERLAND Sun Farming is proposing to develop the Orange Grove Sun Farm, a large-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) generation facility near Gunnedah, NSW. The Orange Grove Sun Farm will be located on land adjacent to, and connect into, the TransGrid 132 kV electrical distribution network. The sun farm will be made up of approximately 330,000 panels and cover an area of approximately 240 hectares (600 Acres).

Site location

The Orange Grove Sun Farm is proposed on a site approx. 12 kilometres east of Gunnedah, on Orange Grove Road.

Reasons for choosing this site include:

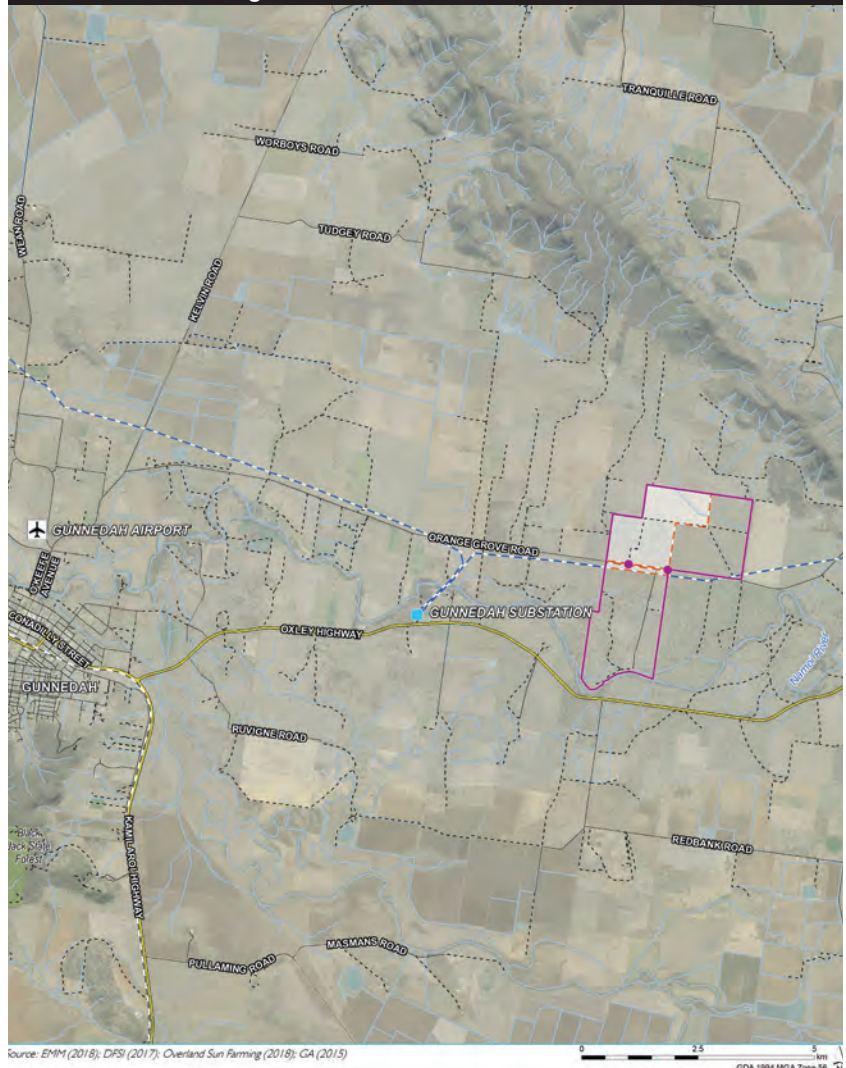
- high availability of solar radiation;
- the land has been settled, predominantly cleared and farmed over a long period and hence there will be minimal impacts on native vegetation and Aboriginal heritage;
- adjacent to the TransGrid distribution network which enables access to TransGrid's Gunnedah Substation whilst not adversely impacting sensitive native vegetation or heritage values in the surrounding landscape; and
- good access to the regional road network, which will allow infrastructure to be delivered to the site during the construction phase of the project.

Project components

Once constructed, the Orange Grove Sun Farm will include:

- a network of PV solar panel arrays;
- electrical collection systems, a project switchyard and a control room;
- a management hub, with demountable offices, amenities and equipment sheds;
- parking and internal access roads; and
- construction of a short electrical connection line to connect the sun farm to the substation.

Location of the Orange Grove Sun Farm



KEY					
	Orange Grove Sun Farm site boundary		Rail line		Watercourse / drainage line
	Development footprint		Main road		Waterbody
	Indicative site access point		Local road		State forest
	132 kV transmission line		Vehicular track		





Community information session

OVERLAND is seeking the views of local community members about the Orange Grove Sun Farm. We value your comments and insight and encourage you to attend the upcoming community information session to share your views with us.

The Baxter Room, Gunnedah Services and Bowling Club 313 Conadilly St, Gunnedah - Thursday 15 of March from 5.30pm to 7.30pm & Friday 16 of March from 8am to 10am.

About OVERLAND Sun Farming

OVERLAND Sun Farming is an Australian business that is developing a world class portfolio of solar energy “sun farms” across regional Australia. OVERLAND has been responsible for the development, financing, construction and operation of over 780 MW of renewable energy generation. During 2016, OVERLAND led the development and financing of two 20 MW solar PV plants in Queensland, in 2017 a further three large-scale solar PV projects in north western Victoria, totalling 320 MW and recently announced the construction of two projects in south-western NSW totaling 460 MW.

OVERLAND are developing future solar energy sun farms across Australia including proposed sun farms at Hay in south-west NSW and Wee Waa in north-west NSW.

Benefits of the project

It is anticipated that the project will provide a number of benefits to the local and wider community including:

- it will create employment opportunities, including a peak of between 100-120 employees during construction and up to five full-time positions during operations;
- it will generate enough electricity to power up to 30,000 homes each year;
- it will help NSW meet the renewable energy targets established under the NSW Government's Renewable Energy Action Plan;
- it will contribute to the Commonwealth Government's target of 33,000 gigawatt hours (GWh) of renewable energy generated by 2020; and
- it will increase energy security by contributing to a more diverse energy mix.

Approval process

The project is State Significant Development, and therefore OVERLAND is required to submit a Development Application and Environmental Impact Statement to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. OVERLAND is currently consulting with other government stakeholders including Gunnedah Shire Council.

Where to go for more information

For further information about the Orange Grove Sun Farm project, please visit our website.

www.overland.sunfarming.com.au/orange-grove-sun-farm






> **Welcome!**

Welcome to today's community information and feedback session for the proposed sun farm development.

OVERLAND Sun Farming is pleased to share our vision for the site with the community and your knowledge and views are greatly appreciated.

The purpose of this community information and feedback session is to:

-  *Provide you with information about the project.*
-  *Enable you to provide your views of the project.*
-  *Provide you with the opportunity to discuss the project directly with representatives from OVERLAND and members of the project team.*

> **THE PROJECT TEAM**

OVERLAND is an Australian-owned and operated business that is developing a world class portfolio of solar energy 'sun farms' across regional Australia.

OVERLAND has engaged independent planning and environmental consultants from EMM Consulting to help them to prepare a development application and supporting environmental impact statement.

Representatives from OVERLAND and the project team are here today to help answer your questions and hear your views on the project.

> **FORMAT**

Please take your time to review the information presented today.

We invite your input on the project and ask that you complete the feedback forms provided so that your comments can be taken into consideration.

If you would like to be kept updated with project news, please include your details on the feedback form, or visit OVERLAND's website.

Call John Zammit on m: +61 (0) 433 293 427
www.overlandsunfarming.com.au





> **Who is OVERLAND Sun Farming?**

OVERLAND is an Australian-owned and operated business that is developing a world class portfolio of solar energy 'sun farms' across regional Australia.

OVERLAND's vision is to produce clean solar energy on a large scale in rural areas across Australia and understands the importance of working closely with landowners, rural communities and local councils to develop sun farms that bring both environmental and economic benefits to regional Australia.

During project design, OVERLAND works with landowners and environmental specialists to develop efficient projects that avoid and minimise environmental impacts.

OVERLAND is committed to ensuring that renewable energy will be a growing part of Australia's future energy mix and appreciates the importance of protecting the natural environment, including ecological values and Aboriginal cultural heritage, where they operate.

> **NEED FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY**

To meet the State and Commonwealth government's renewable energy targets, sustained growth in the amount of electricity generated by renewable energy sources is essential.

As well as making important contributions to cleaner electricity generation in Australia, projects will also create local jobs and diversify the local economy.

OVERLAND has recently announced the upcoming construction of 320 MW of large scale sun farms in north-western Victoria and is seeking approval to develop three large scale sun farms in south-west NSW close to the towns of Balranald, Hay and Hillston.






> Environmental Impact Statement

> WHAT IS AN EIS?

The project is State Significant Development, and therefore OVERLAND is required to submit a Development Application and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment to obtain approval.

The EIS will assess the project's potential impacts on the environment, including consideration of the following key matters:

-  **biodiversity**
-  **heritage**
-  **visual**
-  **land use**

-  **noise**
-  **transport**
-  **water**

OVERLAND is currently completing all of the studies and assessments that are required under the NSW planning process.

> BENEFITS OF THE SITE

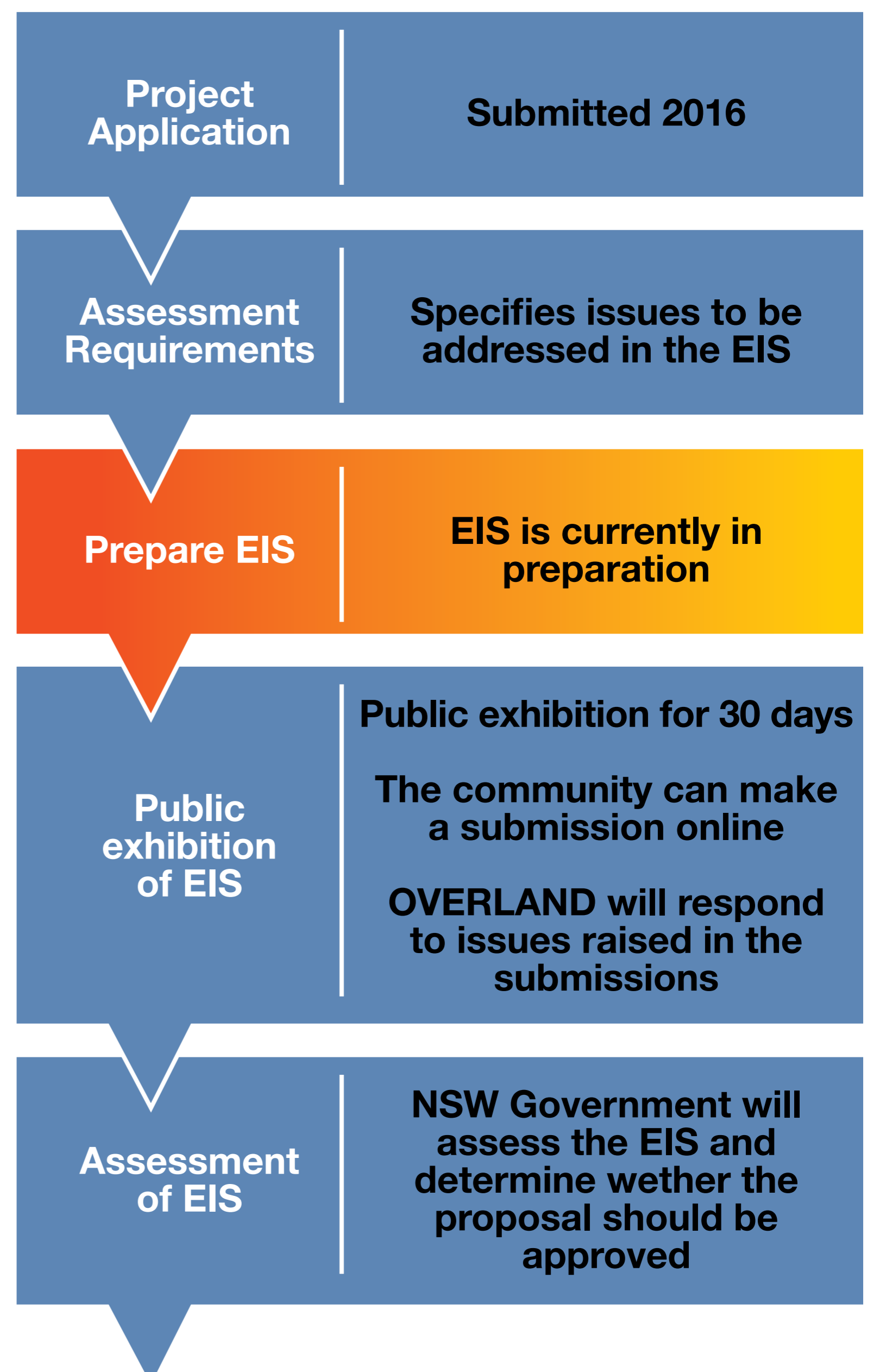
Climate – consistently high availability of solar radiation, which is ideal for solar development.

Condition – the highly modified and predominantly cleared landscape means there will be minimal impacts on native vegetation and Aboriginal heritage items.

Location – close proximity to the substation which will provide access to the electricity network.

Access – it has good access to the regional road network, which will allow infrastructure to be delivered to the site during the construction phase of the project.

> APPROVAL PROCESS



FACT SHEET

Solar farms in NSW

June 2016

NSW is leading Australia in the development of large-scale solar projects. These projects support jobs and investment in regional NSW, diversify the State's energy mix and drive down costs for future large-scale solar developments.



Moree Solar Farm (photo: Fotowatio Renewable Ventures)



53 MW solar farm Broken Hill. Photo AGL

Why solar energy?

The NSW Government is committed to providing a diverse, affordable and clean energy mix for NSW. Solar energy is a key part of that mix and is supported under the government's cornerstone renewable energy policy, the Renewable Energy Action Plan. Increasing solar energy in NSW will help the government meet its commitment to support the national Renewable Energy Target of 33,000 gigawatt hours (GWh) by 2020.

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), solar energy is the most abundant energy resource on earth, with about 885 million terawatt hours (TWh) reaching the surface of the planet every year.

Australia has the highest average solar radiation per square metre of any continent in the world. NSW has an abundance of excellent solar resources and established electricity infrastructure that makes it attractive to solar farm developers.

More than 340,000 NSW households have installed rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, representing over 1,000 megawatts (MW) of installed capacity. Solar farms use the same technology as rooftop solar systems, but on a larger scale.

Large-scale solar farms in NSW

There are currently three operational large-scale solar PV projects in NSW, with an installed capacity over 200 MW: the Nyngan Solar Plant (102 MW), which is the largest solar farm in Australia, the Broken Hill Solar Plant (53 MW) and the Moree Solar Farm (56 MW). These solar farms generate enough electricity to power 75,000 NSW homes each year.

NSW solar farm projects with around another 1,000 MW of capacity either have planning approval or are seeking approval. These projects are located across NSW in regional areas including Manildra, Temora, Gunnedah, Parkes, Griffith, Dubbo and Glen Innes.

Planning and approvals

Large-scale solar projects in NSW are subject to the relevant planning controls and assessment criteria. Both the total capital value and the electrical power output of the project determines which consent authority assesses and determines the development application. In general:

- projects with a capital value of less than \$5 million are assessed and determined by the host council(s)
- projects with a capital value of \$5-30 million are assessed by the host council(s) but determined by the Joint Regional Planning Panel
- projects with a capital value of more than \$30 million (or \$10 million in an environmentally sensitive area) are classified as state significant developments (SSD) and assessed by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE).

As part of the planning process, project proponents are required to prepare Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), detailing any impacts and proposed management and mitigation measures. For solar farms, the main impacts occur during the construction phase and are not ongoing.

Community engagement

Project proponents are required to undertake detailed consultation with affected landowners surrounding the development, the local community and local council. The EIS must describe the consultation that was carried out, identify the issues raised during this consultation, and explain how these issues have been addressed.

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage 2015 Community Attitudes to Renewable Energy survey found overwhelming support for the use of renewable energy across the state with 89% of respondents supporting the construction of solar farms in NSW.

The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) commissioned independent research in 2015 which also showed strong support for solar farms and recommended best practice community consultation guidelines for proposed solar farms.

Key community benefits

Solar farms provide a range of social and economic benefits to the wider community while helping to meet NSW energy needs.

They drive investment and growth in regional NSW. Communities that host solar farms benefit from increased business during construction and operation.

Other benefits may include:

- employment opportunities during construction, including engagement of local contractors and materials and service providers
- long term local employment opportunities over the life of the project
- contributions to local infrastructure improvements
- education and training of contractors and local residents
- reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- increased energy security through a more diverse energy mix
- rent received by local landowners from the developer.

Project considerations

Traffic and road safety

Traffic and transport impacts are primarily limited to the construction of solar farms and may result from haulage of components, contractor movements and transport of employees to and from the site. Increased vehicle numbers may result in localised impacts on the road network during construction. However, traffic movements are confined to standard hours of construction and proponents must repair any damage to the roads. Traffic and haulage impacts are managed in consultation with the Roads and Maritime Services, local councils and landholders. They also form part of any EIS and measures are implemented to reduce risks and maximise safety.

Visual

Solar farms are not considered to be reflective. Photovoltaic panels are designed to reflect as little light as possible (generally around 2% of the light received) to maximise their efficiency, absorb sunlight and convert it to electricity. Minimising the light reflected from solar panels is a goal of panel design, manufacture and installation. The glare from panels is significantly less than that from bodies of water. Where appropriate, vegetation buffers are included as part of the planning approval of a solar farm to minimise visual impacts.

NSW IS HOME TO AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST SOLAR PLANT AT NYNGAN



1.36 m
solar photovoltaic panels



102 MW
capacity



250
construction
jobs



33K
homes
powered



\$300m
investment



Nyngan Solar Plant (Photo: AGL)

Biodiversity

Generally, OEH recommends that, where possible, solar farms should be located in areas where vegetation clearing is not required. If clearing is unavoidable, offsets may be required. Any EIS must consider measures to minimise, avoid and/or offset biodiversity impacts in accordance with the relevant Commonwealth, NSW and local guidelines.

Aboriginal cultural heritage

Potential impacts associated on Aboriginal cultural heritage items or sites must be assessed, mitigated and/or managed in consultation with the local Aboriginal community and OEH. This assessment is provided in the solar farm EIS, which is considered by the relevant determining authority.

Noise

The only noise emitted from an operational solar farm is minimal mechanical noise from the inverter and transformers with cooling fans for temperature regulation. They are contained within enclosed buildings in the centre of the development to minimise impacts beyond the boundary of the site. Any noise is

generated during daylight hours only and is generally below ambient levels.

Greenhouse gas emissions

During plant operation, photovoltaic modules emit no pollution, produce no greenhouse gases and use no finite fossil-fuel resources. For large scale solar projects which typically have a life of around 25 years, the energy payback would be between two and three years, depending on the solar panel type chosen. The Nyngan Solar Plant, for example, will supply approximately 231,000 MWh of electricity per year, avoiding some 203,300 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂ equivalent) per annum.

Decommissioning

The typical project life of a solar farm is 25 to 30 years and includes the requirement to decommission and rehabilitate the site, with the aim of returning the site to its pre-existing condition. All infrastructure (above and below ground) is removed, allowing agricultural land use activities or other land uses in the area, to resume.

Further reading:

www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au

www.planning.nsw.gov.au

www.environment.nsw.gov.au

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/communities/community-attitudes.htm

www.arena.gov.au

www.iea.com

www.irena.org

www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au

Solar farm companies eye off Gunnedah

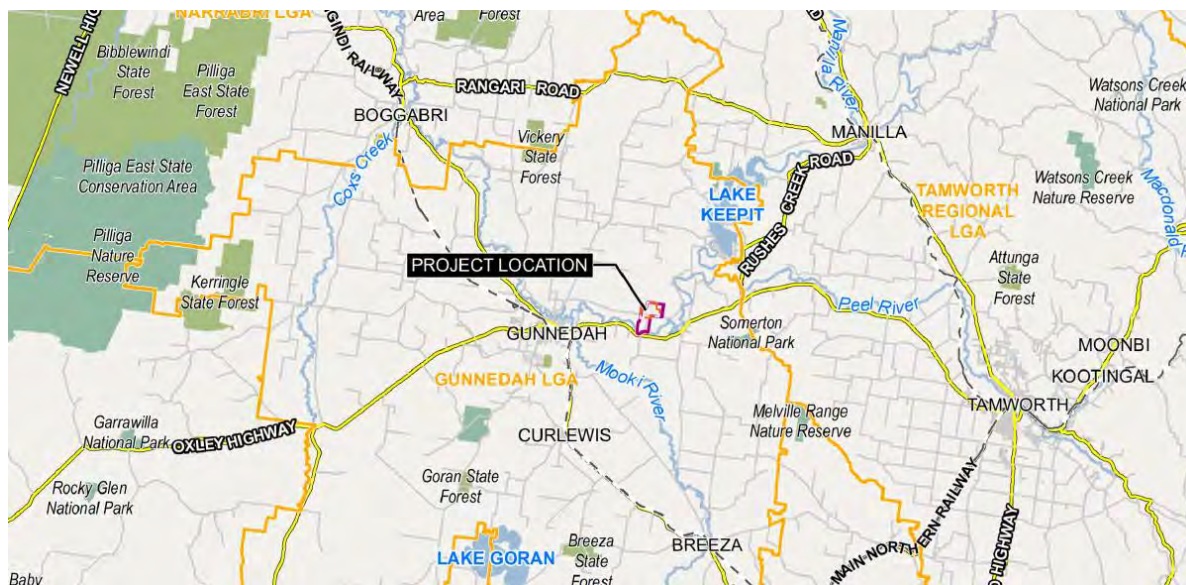
Vanessa Höhnke

News



Gunnedah has become a hot spot for proposed solar farms. Orange Grove Sun Farm has joined Photon Energy in submitting an application to the Department of Planning and Environment in November 2017 for a solar farm on Orange Grove Road.

Orange Grove Sun Farm has proposed a 110 megawatt farm with an estimated capital investment of \$120 million. The project overview stated that about 80 full-time employees would be needed during construction, and three full-time employees during operations.



This map shows the proposed site area. Image taken from Overland Sun Farming's Preliminary Environmental Assessment.

In the preliminary environmental assessment, which was prepared by parent company Overland Sun Farming, a letter from Gunnedah Shire Council's Andrew Johns was included, which expressed support for the venture because of the investment value and employment opportunities.

"Looking at the project from an economic development perspective, a potential \$120 million investment into the Gunnedah community and the possibility of 80 construction workers and up to three permanent employees, is a welcome investment," Mr Johns said.

"The council has a strong focus on economic development and investment, and welcomes projects facilitating growth and prosperity in the shire.

“We understand the State Department will undertake a thorough assessment of the proposal, including interrogation of the project’s environmental planning credentials, before a decision is made.”



An image taken from Overland Sun Farming's Preliminary Environmental Assessment.

Overland’s land and development manager, Sten Fraser, said the Orange Grove Road site was chosen because of various factors.

“Things that we considered include the support of the landowner, the land being general farming and having a history of intensive farming (to minimise any impacts on native flora and fauna), and being close to the electricity network,” he said.

“We are carrying out various assessments of the land, electrical network system etc. If everything continues to look positive, we will apply for planning consent for the solar farm.

“We have and will increasingly expand our communication with stakeholders as our project progresses.”

In the documents submitted to the NSW government, Overland Sun Farming points to climate data from the Bureau of Meteorology, which shows the site has an average of eight to night hours of sunshine a day, with an average of 68.8 cloudy days.

“The Gunnedah Shire region experiences a consistently high availability of solar radiation, and is therefore ideal for large-scale solar development,” the document states.

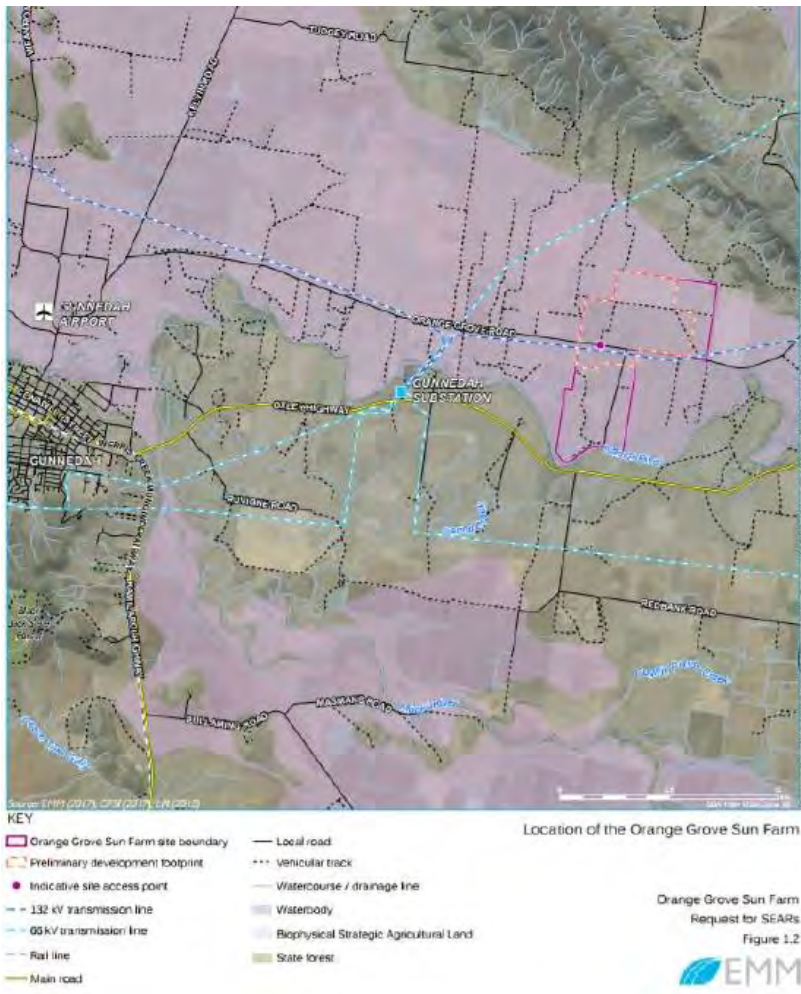
The site is within the Namoi River catchment and at its closest point it is approximately 2.3km north of

the Namoi River and lies within Gunnedah Shire Council's flood planning area.

“Preliminary consideration of published Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Department of Primary Industries Water (DPI Water) regional flooding information identified the site as within an area of the floodplain that may be subject to inundation during large floods,” the document states.

The site is zoned RU1 Primary Production under the Gunnedah Local Environmental Plan 2012 (Gunnedah LEP) and has been “highly modified by past disturbances associated with land clearing, cropping, livestock grazing and weed invasion”. It is currently used for livestock grazing and cropping.

The area is mapped as biophysical strategic agricultural land (BSAL) as defined by the Strategic Agricultural Land Map – New England North West regional mapping presented in State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007 (the Mining SEPP).



An image taken from Overland Sun Farming's Preliminary Environmental Assessment.

The site is approximately 4.2 km north-east of TransGrid's Gunnedah Substation at its closest point. The 132 kilovolt (kV) transmission line traverses the landscape close to the south-eastern corner of the site before it crosses to the southern side of Orange Grove Road.

Ironbark Energy is in the process of trying to establish a solar farm on the [old Gunnedah Abbatoir site on Quia Road](#).

MARCH 9 2018 - 5:30PM

Photon Energy and Overland Sun Farming seek community consultation

Vanessa Höhnke

News



Looking towards the proposed solar farm site for Photon Energy on Orange Grove Road.

Orange Grove Road residents will voice their thoughts on two proposed solar farms next week. Phil Glover, Leah Woods and Chris Avard are among the locals who will attend one-on-one meetings with Photon Energy and community consultations with Overland Sun Farming, the parent company of Orange Grove Sun Farm.

Both solar companies have proposed solar farms on Orange Grove Road, with the impact of flooding a common concerns amongst would-be neighbours.

[In January](#), Phil Glover spoke to the NVI about his concerns for his property and livestock if the proposed Photon Energy site at 765 Orange Grove Road is approved because it is situated on a floodplain.

Report a map error [Orange Grove Rd New South Wales 2380](#)

On Thursday, Mr Glover said he will be meeting with both Photon Energy and Overland and will focus on what the companies have to say.

Nearby neighbour Leah Woods will also be speaking to both parties next week, with an appointment with Photon on Tuesday afternoon. Mrs Woods and her husband live directly next door to the proposed Photon Energy site and have concerns about how it will impact them on a daily level and also in times of flood.

Up on the hill, Chris Avard and his neighbours Graeme and Emma Brown, Col and Jenny Kemba will “collectively sit down and discuss our concerns” with Photon next week. In January, Mr Avard told the NVI he did not want the project to impact his outlook or the capital value of his property.

"I think all these projects have got to be taken on their merit and I'll try and stay on form with what they're proposing," he said.

Mr Avard said he would like to see "accurate data" and flood modelling for both the Photon site and the Overland site.

"It will be interesting to see how they address [potential flooding]," he said.

A spokesperson for Photon Energy said the project manager of the Gunnedah solar farm, Nick Guzowski, will represent Photon Energy at the one-on-one meetings. He will be accompanied by representatives from environmental and community relations consultants pitt&sherry KMH Environmental.

"There will be a total of nine meetings with up to several people attending some of the meetings," the spokesperson said.

"Photon Energy has requested the meetings as a proactive step to update the community. A key reason for the meetings is to discuss flood modelling with residents."

Photon Energy's business development manager Robert Ibrahim said the meetings would focus on "coming back to residents with answers to questions they have raised".

"We will also be sharing photomontages of what the solar farm will look like from neighbouring properties," he said.

"Following the community consultation, we will finalise our Environmental Impact Statement in preparation for submission to the Department of Planning and Environment in April."

Overland Sun Farming will hold community information and feedback sessions in the Baxter Room at the Gunnedah Services and Bowling Club on March 15 from 5.30pm-7.30pm and March 16 from 7am-9am.

MARCH 12 2018 - 5:00PM

Gunnedah and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry welcomes renewable energy

Vanessa Höhnke

News



Gunnedah and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry vice president Michael Broekman. Photo: Vanessa Höhnke

Gunnedah Chamber of Commerce's Michael Broekman says proposed solar farms could spell good news for the shire.

[Both Photon Energy and Orange Grove Sun Farm \(child company of Overland Sun Farming\) are currently in the midst of community consultation](#) to establish solar farms on Orange Grove Road near Gunnedah.

Photon is proposing a 155 megawatt solar farm with an estimated capital investment of \$201 million solar farm while Orange Grove Sun Farm is proposing a 110 megawatt solar farm with an estimated capital investment of \$120 million. Both projects would create jobs for construction and operations.

"We're always proactive when it comes to regional development and look forward to this activity that will create jobs for our future," Mr Broekman said.

"The jobs that these types of industries create are more high-tech jobs and is something that the next generation is looking for.

"We're very supportive of innovations creating energy that is cost-effective, that is creating opportunities for the future workforce of Australia."

While the proposed solar farms would be "breaking ground" in Gunnedah, the chamber's vice president is aware that Orange Grove residents are worried about the possible impact of flooding. "The concerns that the landholders have in the area need to be listened to as they've been there and done that and lived through it but in the case in this type of development we've got to put our trust in the development process," Mr Broekman said.

"The state government has put a huge amount of time to make sure everyone is considered and environmental impact statements are thorough and there's opportunity for all residents and concerned parties to make input to the environmental impact assessment.

"So it's important that anyone concerned keeps abreast of the information that's put out, so they can put their views forward so this can be not only a good project but a great project for the people that are involved and the wider community."

NEWS

Keli takes our voice to commission

BY VANESSA HÖHNKE

GUNNEDAH'S Keli McDonald is in New York, pushing for the rights of rural women.

Ms McDonald is one of 11 women from the National Rural Women's Coalition (NRWC) attending the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. Gomeri Elder Lisa Shipfly from Tamworth is also attending.

Ms McDonald is the chief executive officer of the NRWC and said the coalition felt strongly about this year's theme of women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work and the empowerment of rural women and girls.

"We showed a keen interest ... so we felt that we really needed to be there so that the voices of Australian rural women were heard," she said.

"Though in Australia we're quite privileged compared to other countries, there's still a long way for us to go as well, especially in concerns to security for women, economic power for women and finan-



Keli McDonald.

cial power for women.

"I'm really looking forward to listening to a lot of presentations from around the world and hopefully we can bring back ideas and strategies that we can instigate in rural Australia."

NRWC will also be making two presentations during the commission - one "advancing women through e-learning" and one on family violence.

"My keen interest is improving the lives of rural women," Ms McDonald said.

"A lot of rural women don't have the same oppor-

tunities as their sister in the city because of geographical isolation and the cost of travel, so through e-learning we can help bridge that gap and we know if we educate women and we make women leaders, that changes the outcomes of women's families and they also enrich communities.

"So at the end of the day, if we strengthen rural women, we strengthen rural communities."

The CEO said more than 5000 women from almost 170 countries were attending the event.

"We're very excited about going," Ms McDonald said.

"I think it's just about that connection, sharing what we know and what has worked here in rural Australia and hopefully get contacts and tips about what's working in other countries because there are issues that are happening in other countries that are becoming emerging issues in Australia."

To follow the NRWC's journey, visit www.facebook.com/NRWCandNetwork/



SHOWCASE OF TALENT: Artists Lorraine Maddigan and Tammey McAllan at the exhibition opening at the Art Shed in Boggabri on Friday night. Photo: Supplied

Boggabri embraces exhibition

MERTON Street in Boggabri saw plenty of foot traffic on Friday night, with a new art exhibition launched.

About 50 people turned out to see the works of photographer David Chappel, Boggabri Men's Shed, and artists Tammey McAllan, Jade Punch, Lorraine Maddi-

gan and Tamar Greatrix.

The exhibition was held in the Art Shed, which was established in late 2017.

"It was such a great turnout and a lot more locals than I thought too," Tammey McAllan said.

Local shop owner Wadette Shaw kept Hassab's Fashion

open late for the event, and the Commercial Hotel provided happy hour cocktails.

"All the feedback was really good. I think people were excited it's going to be a regular event [now]," Ms McAllan said.

The event also raised funds for Boggabri's Jo Bell.

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WEATHER

TODAY	TOMORROW	THURSDAY
Sunny Min: 17°C Max: 33°C	Partly cloudy Min: 17°C Max: 32°C	Mostly sunny Min: 17°C Max: 33°C
		FRIDAY
		Sunny Min: 18°C Max: 35°C

CONTACTS

The Namoi Valley Independent is published every Tuesday and Thursday and can be read online seven days a week at www.nvi.com.au. We welcome your inquiries on the platforms below.

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ORANGE GROVE SOLAR FARM
Community Information Session

OVERLAND Sun Farming invites you to attend a community information and feedback session on the proposed Orange Grove Sun Farm, approx. 12 kilometres east of Gunnedah on Orange Grove Road.

Date: Thursday 15th March from 5:30pm to 7:30pm & Friday the 16th of March from 7:00am to 9:00am
Venue: The Baxter Room, Gunnedah Services and Bowling Club, 313 Conadilly St, Gunnedah

Representatives from OVERLAND and the project team will be available to discuss the proposed solar farm project, answer your questions and hear your views.

For further information about the Orange Grove Sun Farm, please visit OVERLAND's website.
www.overland.sunfarming.com.au/orange-grove-sun-farm

OVERLAND SUN FARMING

MARCH 20 2018 - 4:50PM

Local residents share concerns about potential impacts of solar farms

Vanessa Höhnke

News



CONCERNS: Emma and Graeme Brown with their children Darby and Maggie on their property, which looks down on the proposed Photon Energy site. Photo: Vanessa Höhnke

For Graeme and Emma Brown, 2018 was going to be a time of exciting change for their family. The couple are building a house on Tudgey Road to share with their two children Darby and Maggie, with hopes to move in before Christmas.

But now the Browns' anticipation is marred by uncertainty as Photon Energy proposes a solar farm, which will stretch across the view they fell in love with when they bought the property.

"We're 20 metres above the solar farm. We planned our house to have the aspect that looks down towards the site," Mr Brown said.

"Whatever they do, it's just in the wrong position.

"You can't hide 480,000 panels."

Report a map error **Myalla, 616 Tudgey Rd, Kelvin NSW 2380**

Photon Energy is proposing to establish a 300-hectare solar farm on a 692-hectare site on Orange Grove Road, which is parallel to Tudgey Road. The 155-megawatt project would be established on farm land leased from a local handholder, and is a natural floodplain.

The Browns were among a number of residents who had one-on-one meetings with Photon Energy last week and were given photographs of their specific outlook with a projected image of a solar farm superimposed on it.

"Residents once again raised their concerns regarding site layout, visual impacts and flooding effects," Gunnedah solar farm manager Nick Guzowski said on behalf of Photon Energy.

“Photon has taken their feedback on board and have made amendments to the site. A flood study and photomontages have been utilised to assess the effects of flooding and visual impacts on the proposed solar farm.”

A Photon Energy spokesperson said the footprint has been recently revised to “minimise the impact of flooding and accommodate the tracking panels”.

The Browns said the revision means the proposed area is now closer to their property.

“We’re not opposed to solar, but we’re opposed to the position of it,” Mrs Brown said.

“We bought into a rural setting and we’d like it to stay that way.

“The aesthetics of it and the value of our property we believe will decrease because of the Photon property opposite.”



Residents at the Overland Sun Farming community consultation meeting on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Overland Sun Farming is also proposing a solar farm on Orange Grove Road and held community consultation meetings in Gunnedah on Thursday and Friday.

The meetings attracted many local residents who had the chance to ask questions and express any concerns about the proposed 110-megawatt solar farm.

Main issues raised by residents were the potential impact of flooding, traffic measures and the impact on visual outlook.

Flooding was a hot topic in the room, with many older residents bringing along old photos of historic floods, including John Sutherland who has lived on Orange Grove Road since 1984.

Mr Sutherland said the position of Overland’s site would get flooded if the Namoi River reached nine metres, while Photon’s site would get flooded if the river reached about seven metres.

Overland’s land and development manager Sten Fraser said “the most common theme discussed to date concerns historical flooding in the Orange Grove area”.

“Numerous sites were considered as part of Overland’s site selection process. Due to flooding in the district, identifying land that was understood to be less impacted during major flood events became paramount,” Mr Fraser said.

“Overland understands the significance of minimising impact to the natural flow of water across the land... and is undertaking studies using engineering experts to aid the development of the final design of the Sun Farm.”

Chris Mammen lives on Orange Grove Road and said he and fellow parents had concerns about the safety of their children getting on and off the school bus if either of the solar farm proposals goes ahead.

Overland said traffic movements, including school bus schedules, would be managed under the traffic management plan for the solar farm, and Photon said it will “work with contractors and endeavour to minimise truck access to the site during school pick-up and drop-off hours”.

While they have issues with Photon’s Energy’s proposal, the Browns are “very supportive” of Overland’s proposal because they believe it would impact less people.

“[Overland] is willing to get that little bit less power [from the TransGrid] to accommodate the residents,” Mrs Brown said.

“They’re not going to plonk it where it benefits them the most.”

Photon Energy is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement to submit to the Department of Planning and Environment in April.

APRIL 10 2018 - 3:00PM – Namoi Valley Independent

Photon Energy prepares to submit EIS for proposed solar farm in Gunnedah

Vanessa Höhnke



Colin and Jennie Kember are concerned that their outlook will be impacted by the proposed Photon Energy solar farm. Photo:Vanessa Höhnke

A NUMBER of Gunnedah locals are anxiously awaiting the next step in a major solar farm proposed for the area.

Photon Energy is preparing to submit its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a 155-megawatt solar farm. The farm would be established on a 692-hectare site on Orange Grove Road, which is parallel to Tudgey Road.

On Tuesday, a spokesperson for Photon Energy said the company is “finalising the EIS submission for Gunnedah”, which will be submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment

We anticipate that this will be formally submitted next week and placed on public exhibition shortly after.

Photon Energy spokesperson

“We anticipate that this will be formally submitted next week and placed on public exhibition shortly after,” the spokesperson said.

Colin and Jennie Kember are among the residents who await the outcome.

When the couple purchased land at the end of Tudgey Road, they thought they had their own little slice of paradise.

This vision has been somewhat shattered by Photon Energy's proposed 300-hectare solar farm.

They try and tell us that it's not going to affect us, but how will it not affect us?

Colin Kember

The Kembers' property has a direct view out over the area where the footprint is currently proposed, and they're not happy.

"They try and tell us that it's not going to affect us, but how will it not affect us?" Mr Kember said.

"Our main selling point down the track is visual, which is why we bought it." His wife said they scrimped and saved for the 611 acres of property.

"We always strove to get to this point; 12 months down the track, this happened," Mrs Kember said.

"It's pretty disappointing when something you've been striving for, for your whole life is impacted by something like this."

In March, a Photon Energy spokesperson said the footprint had been recently revised to "minimise the impact of flooding and accommodate the tracking panels".

The revisions followed meetings with Orange Grove Road residents who had concerns about its original proposed position on a floodplain and the proximity to their properties.

"Following the recent community consultation, we have taken on board neighbours' concerns and have moved the solar farm a further 600 metres away from Orange Grove Road," Gunnedah solar farm manager Nick Guzowski said on behalf of Photon Energy in March.

Photon Energy proposes to maintain vegetation, "particularly trees to the north of the solar farm so as to minimise visual impact".

Solar company Overland Sun Farming is hot on Photon Energy's heels, proposing a 110-megawatt farm on Orange Grove, with an estimated capital investment of \$120 million.

The company held its first community consultation meetings in March, with many locals raising concerns surrounding potential impact of flooding, traffic measures and the impact on visual outlook.

Other stakeholders

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Santos

12 April 2018

Mr Sten Fraser
Land Development Manager
Overland Sun Farming
Orange Grove Sun Farm Pty Ltd
Level 3
349 Coronation Drive
MILTON QLD 4064

Dear Mr Fraser

Re: Orange Grove Sun Farm and Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL) 001

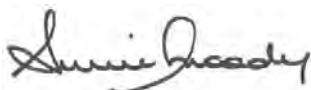
Thank you for briefing of 6 March 2018 in relation to Orange Grove Sun Farm Pty Ltd's proposed Orange Grove Sun Farm at Orange Grove Road, Gunnedah, NSW, 2380.

The licence for PEL001 is held as a joint venture between Santos QNT Pty Ltd and Australian Coalbed Methane Pty Ltd, with Santos QNT Pty Ltd being the Operator of the licence.

Santos has reviewed the Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) for this project in relation to our operations in this area. It is unlikely that the Project as described in the PEA would conflict with prospecting activities that we may undertake in PEL 001.

Thank you for advising us of this Project and providing an opportunity to comment. It would be appreciated if you could retain my details on your distribution list to receive information in relation to the progress of this proposal.

Yours sincerely



Annie Moody
Team Leader, Community and Land