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28<sup>th</sup> June 2022

NSW Department of Planning & Environment  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

**Submission by Ecowise Services  
- Blind Creek Solar Farm**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to lodge a submission for the Blind Creek Solar Farm public exhibition phase.

Ecowise Services is one of the largest Electrical Contracting firms in SENSW, and based in Canberra. Our employees live in the region's local communities like Gunning, Bungendore, Tarago, Goulburn, Yass, Murrumbateman and Canberra.

We have maintained all five of the Utility-scale solar farms in the ACT region (13MW Mugga Lane, 20MW Royalla, 11MW Williamsdale, 11 MW Gullen Range, and 2MW Majura), so we have first-hand experience of what another Utility-scale solar farm like Blind Creek will represent for local employment and the contracting community.

Ecowise Services has seen the following real-world examples occur from our existing solar farm maintenance work after the sites become commissioned:

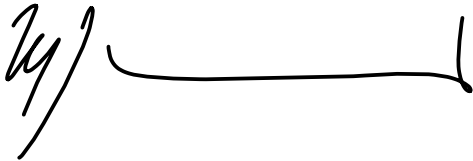
1. The Operations & Maintenance workload creates higher quality tradesperson jobs plus a skills training boost for the contractors maintaining the site. Real local jobs;
2. The Operations & Maintenance workload creates demand for extra apprenticeships. Real local apprenticeships;
3. The Operations & Maintenance workload triggers local innovation and investment by local contractors. For our existing Utility-scale solar farm maintenance workload, Ecowise Services invested in developing and

prototyping our own machine for cleaning the thousands of solar panels across our sites. This flowed through to a local engineering firm to construct the machine, and local Wholesalers supplying parts. Real local innovation and investment by local contractors; and

4. The Operations & Maintenance phase usually creates an obligation for a range of duties like ongoing fire management/mitigation, erosion control and weed control. We have seen first-hand the spending on equipment and infrastructure that triggers, plus a strong motivation in the O&M contractor to satisfy those ongoing obligations.

The above is our real-world experience of other Utility-scale solar farms in the ACT region, which we feel is overwhelmingly positive for some parts of local communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to make Ecowise Services' submission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a horizontal line that ends in a small vertical stroke.

Mark Larsen  
Managing Director