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Bendemeer Solar Farm Project Number 21-242

Zero carbon-emission, electrification programs such as those planned for the Bendemeer Renewable Energy Hub are critical for a cleaner energy future for the New England region, Australia and the planet. Climate change caused by increased carbon in the atmosphere is an existential threat for humanity, and for future animal and plant diversity. Existing coal-fired generation needs to be urgently replaced with solar, wind and other renewable electricity resources, leading to energy systems that are cleaner, cheaper, more reliable and more secure.

The Bendemeer Solar Farm Project is a key step in the transition to decarbonised energy. It is landholder driven, has the support of the local community, due to the obvious health, economic and climate benefits of high-quality solar energy. The proposed photovoltaic solar facility with an indicative capacity of 200 MW will make a major contribution to the provision of renewable energy for the community and the NSW electricity grid. The Project developers, Athena Energy Holdings Pty Ltd have an impressive record of achievement in providing clean and sustainable energy solutions across the Asia Pacific. Key environmental and social issues were identified in the preliminary environmental assessment, and appropriate mitigation measures are described in the Environmental Impact Statement.

I fully support this Project.

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Sincerely,

Emeritus Professor of Chemistry