



15<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## **Muswellbrook Solar Farm SSD application submission**

Muswellbrook Coal Company (MCC), is a wholly owned subsidiary of Idemitsu Australia Pty Ltd, and is supportive of the Muswellbrook Solar Farm SSD application.

As a result of completing mining operations at the MCC site earlier in 2023, after 115 years of operation, Idemitsu is progressing post mining land use development of the site.

The Solar Farm project forms part of an exciting opportunity to redevelop the site, generate investment, provide future employment in the region and to enable ongoing contribution to the Muswellbrook community in the years ahead.

MCC owns most of the land on which the project is located, and this land is proposed to be leased to the project.

The Commonwealth and all NSW governments have committed to a net zero emission economy by 2050 or sooner (AEMO 2022) and the project will support the Commonwealth and NSW governments in achieving renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction targets.

In particular, the project will help achieve the objectives of the Commonwealth Government's Large Scale Renewable Energy Target (LRET) (DCCEEW 2022a), Paris Agreement 2015 targets and the NSW Government's Net Zero Plan (DPIE 2020b) and Energy Roadmap (DPIE 2020a) legislation.

As a State Significant Development located within the Hunter Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone, the project is strongly supporting the NSW Government's transition from coal to clean energy in the Hunter region and will have multiple benefits to the region.

More locally, the project is an important demonstration of the transition from coal mining to post mining land uses which aligns with NSW Planning Hunter Regional Plan 2041, a 20-year land use plan prepared under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act).

Muswellbrook Coal Company recognises the importance of regional employment opportunities in the Upper Hunter and draws attention to the economic benefit from the construction activity of this project, which will see a peak construction workforce of up to 200 people during construction of the solar farm, and up to 70 people during construction of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) infrastructure.

Muswellbrook Coal Company are eager to see the success of the Muswellbrook solar farm and witness the important part it will play in the transition to clean energy regionally.

Brett O'Kane  
Head of Muswellbrook Site