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Re: Letter of Support for Spark Renewables – Wattle Creek Solar Farm development at Arthursleigh

**To whom it may concern,**

The University of Sydney is pleased to provide this letter of support for Spark Renewables in relation to their development application (Case ID SSD-63344210) for the Wattle Creek Solar Farm, located on the University's property in regional New South Wales (Arthursleigh, Brayton).

Spark Renewables was selected as the University's preferred partner following a competitive process, and we have since entered into a long-term collaboration to support the development of a hybrid solar and battery energy storage system (BESS) facility at Arthursleigh. This project represents a significant opportunity to advance the University's sustainability, research, and education objectives. As part of this agreement, the Wattle Creek Solar Farm will not only contribute to the decarbonisation of the electricity grid, but also serve as a platform for high-impact research and innovation. Under the Research and Education Agreement, the University and Spark Renewables will collaborate on a range of solar-focused research initiatives. Examples of potential projects/ research interests are:

- Solar energy forecasting and optimisation using meteorological and SCADA data;
- Agrivoltaics, including sheep grazing and biodiversity studies within solar farms;
- Solar cell materials and devices, including design, fabrication, characteristics and device modelling;
- Intelligent energy management systems and IoT applications;
- Testing of solar technologies through a dedicated on-site test bed.

Spark Renewables has committed to providing access to operational data, infrastructure, and a purpose-built research test bed to support these initiatives. The partnership also includes opportunities for student placements, internships, and collaborative grant applications, with a shared goal of advancing Australia's clean energy transition.

We believe the Wattle Creek Solar Farm will deliver long-term environmental, economic, and social benefits to the region and the state, while also strengthening the University's capacity to lead in solar energy research and innovation.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with Spark Renewables and to the successful delivery of this important project.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Cairney

Interim Deputy Vice Chancellor Research

The University of Sydney