

no means of purchasing this power at generation cost. Instead, we must pay full retail prices, including high transmission and distribution charges—even when the source of generation is literally next door. This undermines the principles of equity and energy justice.

3. Enhancing Community Support and Engagement

Providing the host community with access to cheaper, locally generated power will strengthen local support for the project, reduce resistance to future developments, and improve the long-term relationship between developers, government, and rural communities.

4. Alignment with Broader Policy Goals

Ensuring local benefit-sharing aligns with NSW Government commitments to a fair and inclusive energy transition. It also sets a precedent for better outcomes in other renewable energy zones.

Recommendations

We respectfully request that the NSW Department of Planning and relevant stakeholders:

- Investigate the feasibility of establishing a local energy supply scheme, community microgrid, or embedded network arrangement that enables Brewongle landowners to access solar-generated electricity directly.
- Work with the network operator and project developer to explore options for reducing or waiving distribution charges for local consumers.
- Incorporate local energy access into project conditions or community benefit-sharing mechanisms.
- Ensure that the final project approval reflects the principle that host communities should not be excluded from the benefits of the infrastructure they host.

Conclusion

The Brewongle solar project offers an opportunity to lead by example in ensuring that regional communities are not only participants in but beneficiaries of the clean energy future. We urge the Department to consider this proposal as a practical and equitable approach to energy development in regional NSW.

We would welcome the opportunity to engage further on this matter and are available to discuss potential pathways to achieve this goal.

Sincerely,
Toby and Sue Jones



On Behalf of the Brewongle Community

Submission to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Re: Brewongle Solar Farm Proposal – Community Access to Locally Generated Power

Date: 16th June 2025

From: Toby and Sue Jones

On Behalf of: Landowners and Residents of Brewongle

Contact: tobyone.co@gmail.com

Introduction

We write in response to the proposed large-scale solar energy development at Brewongle. As residents and landowners within the affected locality, we recognise the importance of transitioning to renewable energy and appreciate the role that regional communities like ours will play in helping New South Wales achieve its clean energy objectives.

We support the development of renewable infrastructure in principle. However, we respectfully submit that greater consideration must be given to the local community's access to the benefits of hosting such infrastructure, especially in relation to affordable energy.

Proposal

We propose that the NSW Government, in collaboration with the project proponents and relevant regulatory bodies, ensure that:

All landowners and residents in Brewongle are given the opportunity to access electricity generated by the Brewongle solar farm at a fair and reduced rate, with minimal distribution or transmission charges.

This would provide a meaningful and practical form of benefit-sharing for a community that is directly impacted by the presence of large-scale energy infrastructure.

Rationale

1. Fair and Equitable Benefit Sharing

Communities hosting energy projects experience a range of impacts—visual, environmental, and social. It is reasonable and just that they also benefit directly from the infrastructure they accommodate.

2. Local Access to Local Energy

While electricity generated at Brewongle will feed into the state grid, local users currently have