

The EIS presented by UPC is a fine document and UPC and EMM should be commended for their work. In this submission the aim to raise a few areas that should see further development in the EIS.

Visual Impact. There is only one strip of screening provided in the EIS. Further screening should be considered where solar panels are more visible from passing traffic and on roads and driveways that approach the panels. The EIS talks of vehicles passing at speed, many people do stop and admire the landscape so further screening should be provided. This additional screening will replace some of the vegetation lost due to necessary clearing for siting panels and access roads.

Road Maintenance. UPC has proposed that the condition of roads will be monitored and repaired as required. Some sections of sealed roads in the approaches to the proposed sites are in a fragile condition with a poor underlying structure and will surely fail under increased load. See photo below of the intersection of Salisbury St and East St Uralla – this intersection would see heavy use during construction of the solar farm. Repeated repair will only cause delay to local traffic and the project itself. These fragile sections would better see major replacement work before the project would grow to a high level and so have a smaller overall impact on traffic.

Some sections of dirt road will also quickly break down and will require frequent work. These should also be considered for upgrade early in the project period.

Dirt roads will also raise dust with high use and some sections should be upgraded where dust might be of concern to residents living nearby and overlooking these roads.

