

29th August 2018

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NSW Department of Planning & Environment
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**Submission by Ecowise Services
– Springdale Solar Farm**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to lodge a submission for the Springdale Solar Farm public exhibition phase.

Ecowise Services is one of the largest Electrical Contracting firms in SENSW, and based in Canberra.

We have maintained 3 of the large-scale solar farms in the ACT region, so we have first-hand experience of what another large scale solar farm like Springdale will represent for local employment and the contracting community.

Ecowise Services has seen the following real-world examples occur from our existing solar farm maintenance work after the sites become commissioned:

1. The Operations & Maintenance workload creates higher quality tradesperson jobs plus a skills training boost for the contractors maintaining the site. Real local jobs;
2. The Operations & Maintenance workload creates demand for extra apprenticeships. Real local apprenticeships;
3. The Operations & Maintenance workload triggers local innovation and investment by local contractors. For our existing large-scale solar farm maintenance workload, Ecowise Services invested in developing and prototyping our own machine for cleaning the thousands of solar panels across our sites. This flowed through to a local engineering firm to construct the machine, and local Wholesalers supplying parts. Real local innovation and investment by local contractors; and
4. The Operations & Maintenance phase usually creates an obligation for a range of duties like ongoing fire management/mitigation, erosion control and weed control. We have seen first-hand the spending on equipment

and infrastructure that triggers, plus a strong motivation in the O&M contractor to satisfy those ongoing obligations.

The above is our real world experience of other large-scale solar farms in the ACT region, which we feel is overwhelmingly positive for some parts of local communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to make Ecowise Services' submission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark', followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that ends in a small vertical stroke.

Mark Larsen
Managing Director