

CULCAIRN

SOLAR FARM

Community Information Booklet

NEOEN



www.culcairnsolarfarm.com.au

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ABOUT

Neoen is the developer of the Culcairn Solar Farm, and would be the project's long term owner and operator. The company is one of Australia's leading renewable energy power producers with 11 operating wind, solar & battery storage projects, including Coleambally Solar Farm, Numurkah Solar Farm and SA's Big Battery.

Neoen is proud to be the developer of choice for communities and we currently have two community-led projects where farmers asked Neoen to develop wind and solar on their land. We're here for the long term so we need to do things right, and want to ensure that the project delivers local and regional benefits.



We will be in the area meeting people ahead of the upcoming Development Application's public exhibition period, which we expect will begin in February 2020. If you would like more information, to meet or speak with one of us, please feel free to contact Patrick Dale or Michelle Croker. We have recently updated the project website (www.culcairnsolarfarm.com.au) and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) with current project information.

Patrick recently replaced Antoine Lajouanie as Project Manager, while Michelle who is local to the wider Albury region, has been leading our Community Engagement.


 Patrick Dale, Project Manager

 Michelle Croker, Community Engagement

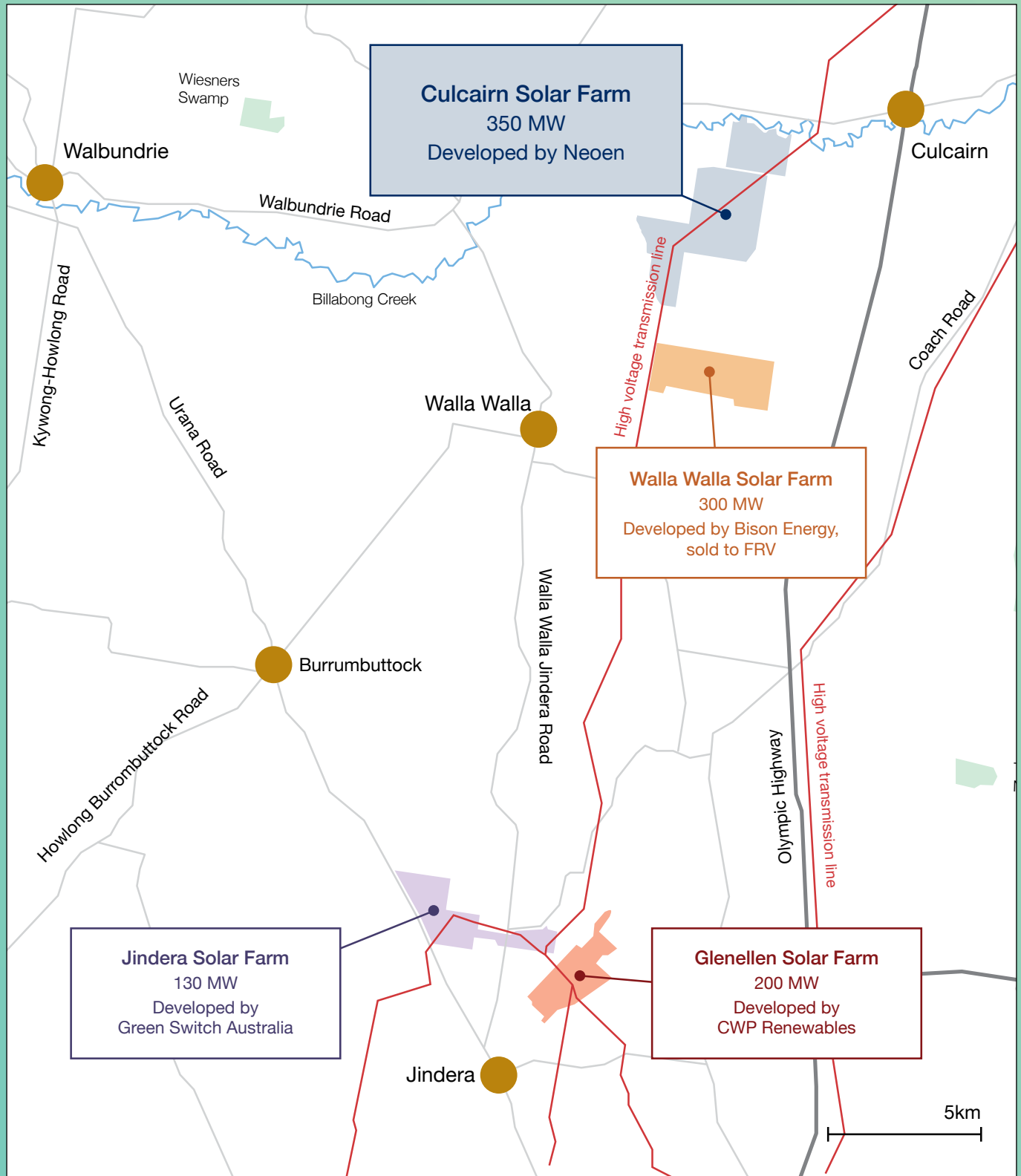
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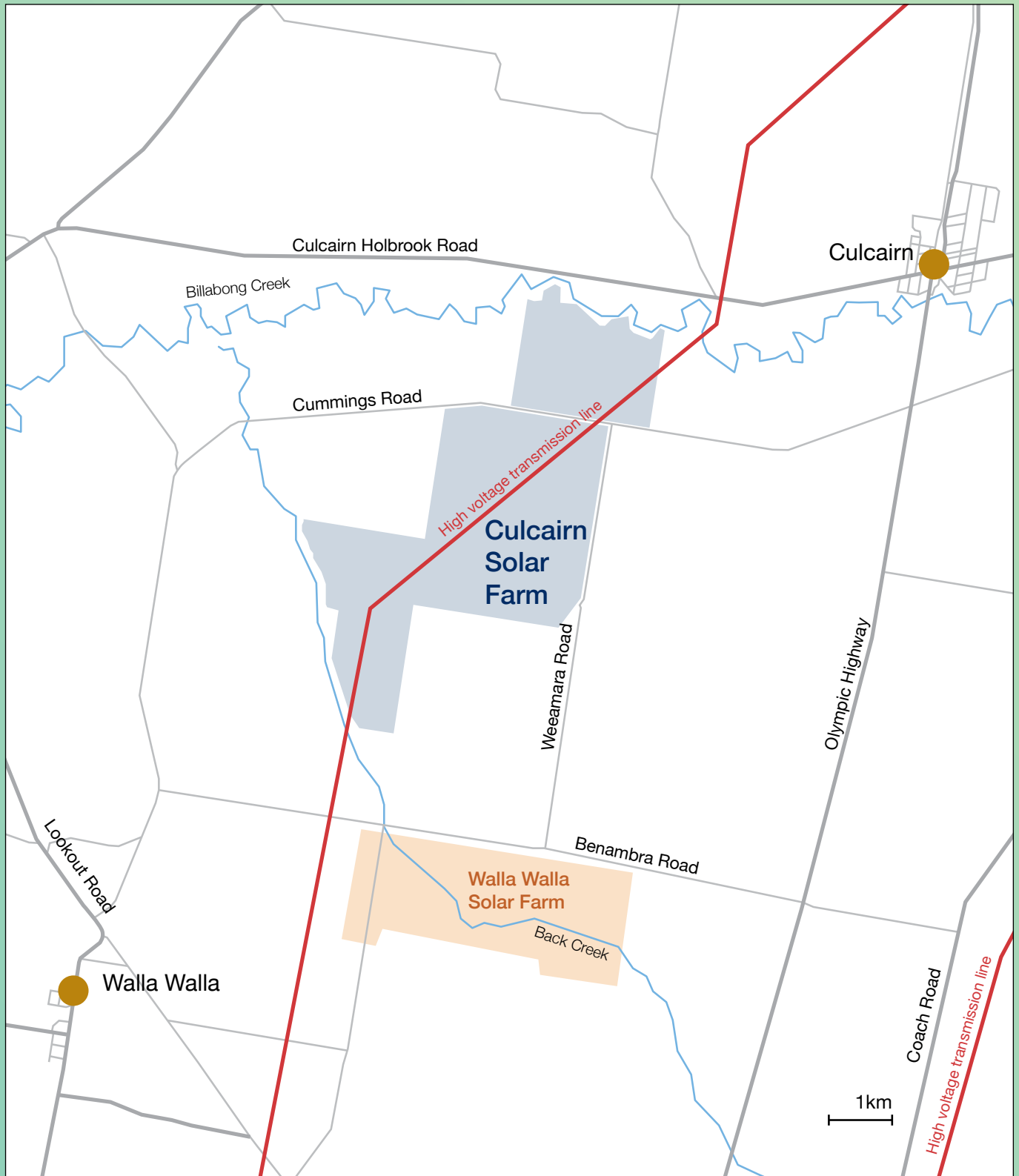
 patrick.dale@neoen.com

 michelle.croker@culcairnsolarfarm.com.au

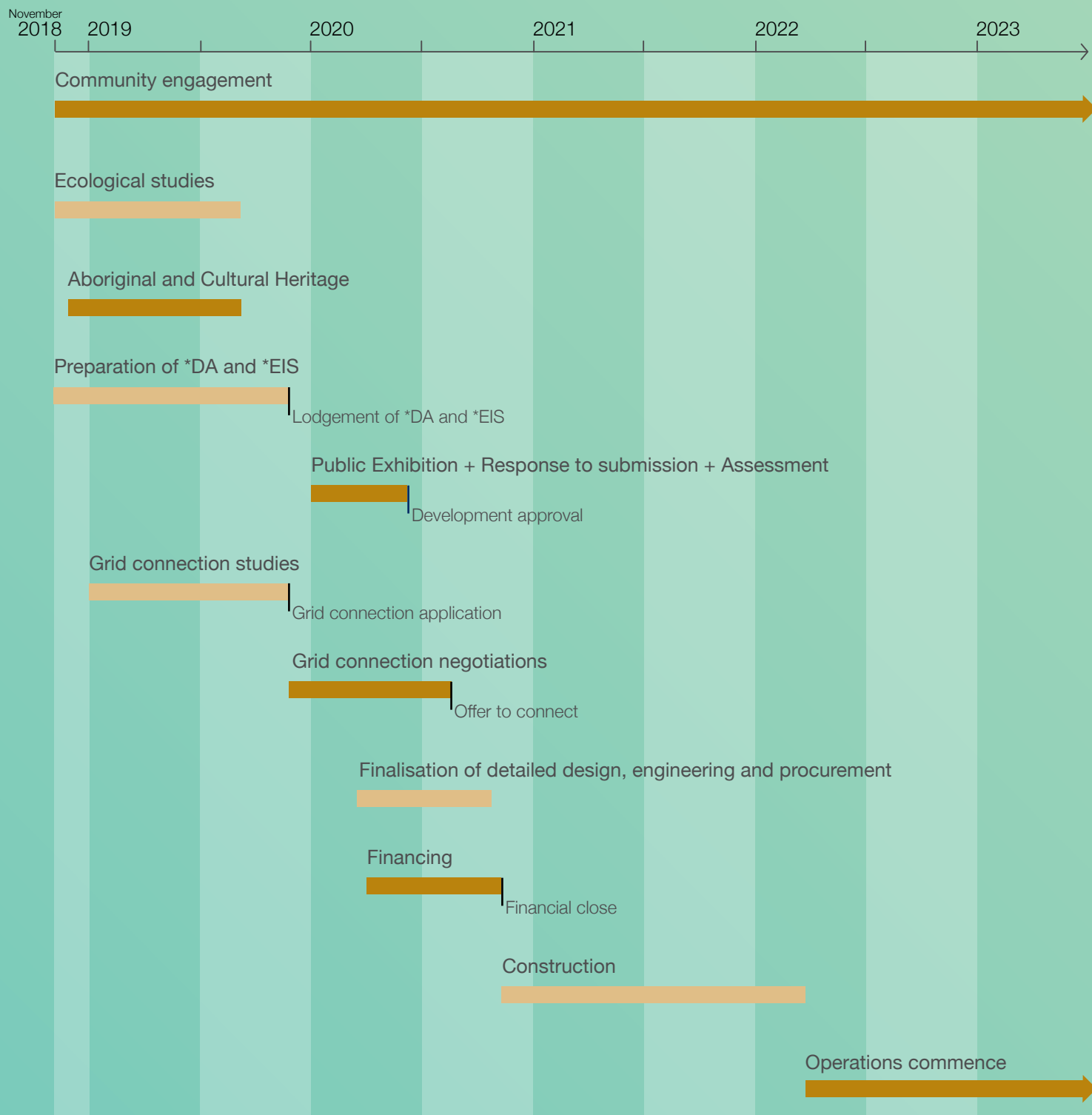
PROPOSED SOLAR FARMS IN THE REGION



CULCAIRN SOLAR FARM



PROJECT TIMELINE



*KEY

EIS

Environmental
Impact Statement

DA

Development application

DPE

NSW Department of Planning,
Industry & Environment

Please note that the timeline is subject to change. The latest information can be found on our website.

PROJECT LIFE CYCLE



BENEFITS



\$400-500 MILLION
INFRASTRUCTURE
INVESTMENT



~400 JOBS
CREATED DURING
CONSTRUCTION

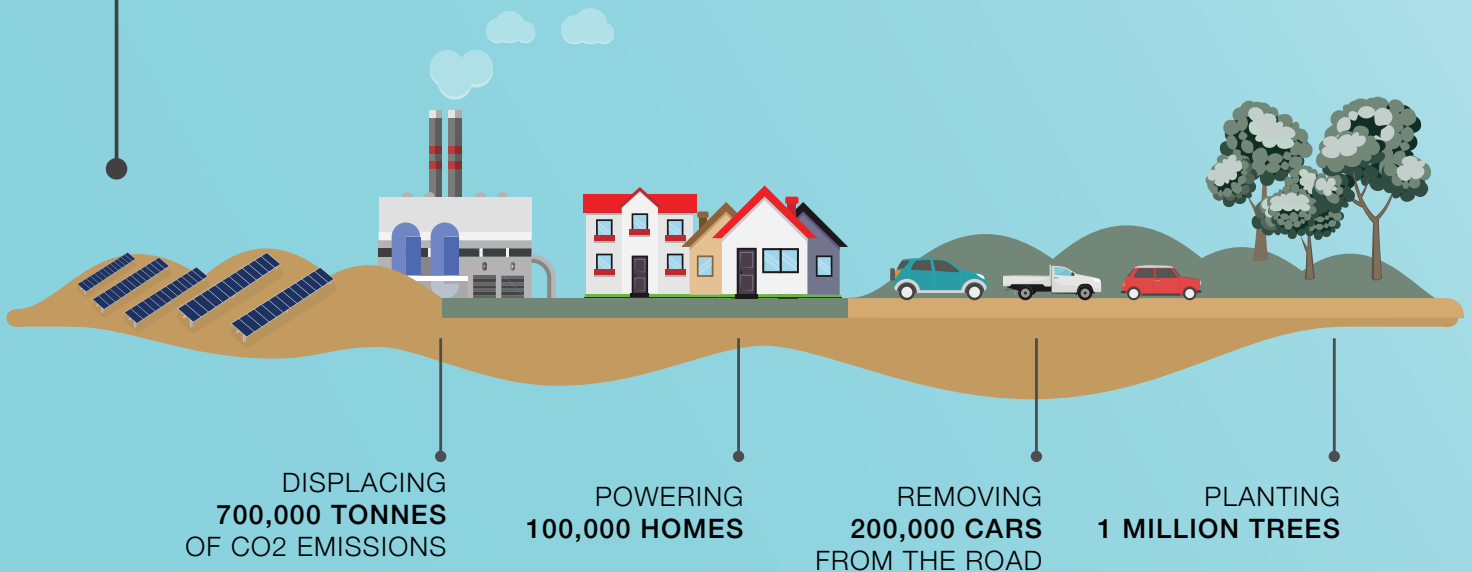


ECONOMIC BOOST
FOR LOCAL
ACCOMMODATION &
SERVICE SECTORS

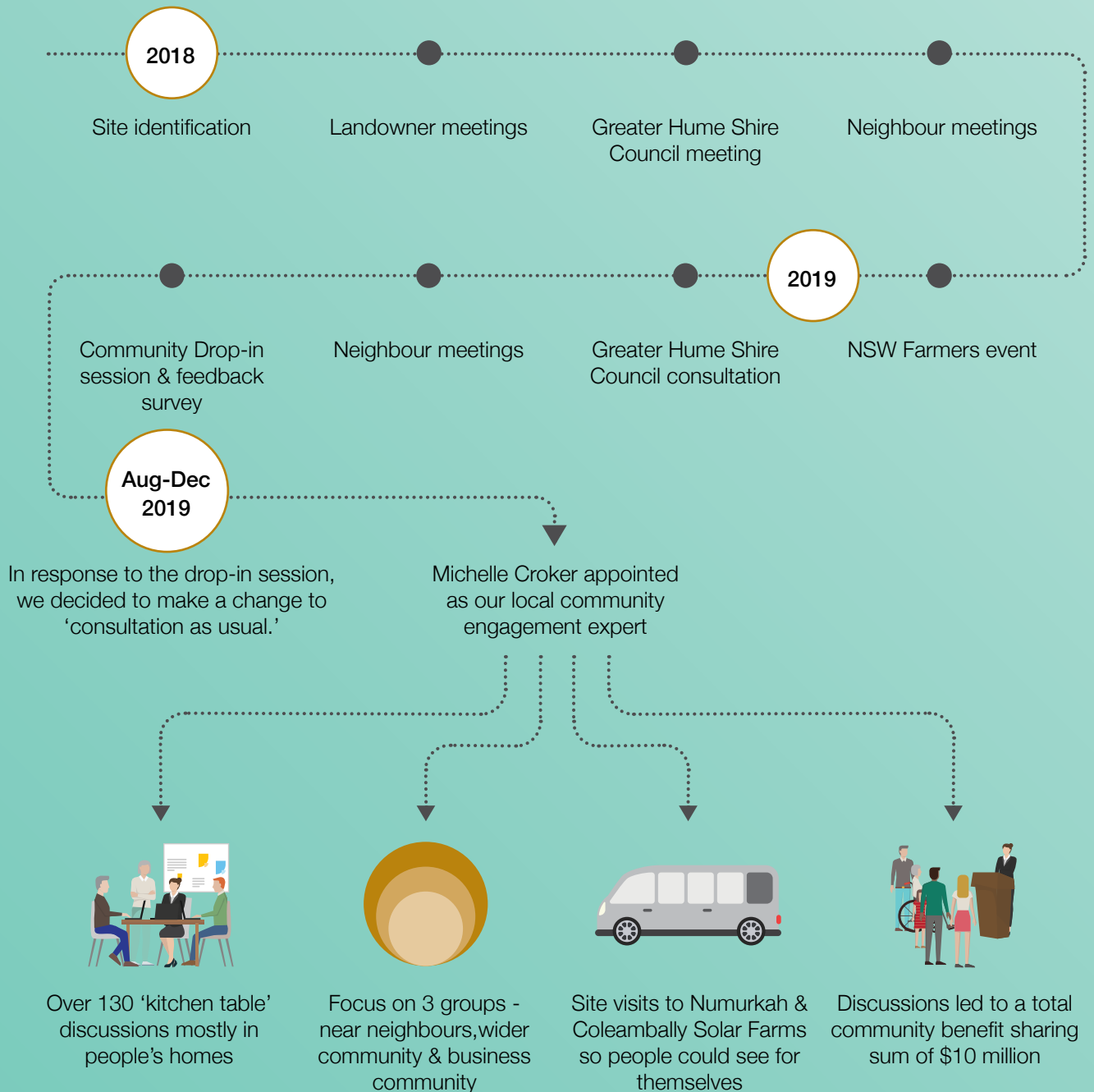


~7 JOBS
WHEN PROJECT IS
OPERATIONAL

ABILITY TO PRODUCE APPROXIMATELY
800,000 MWh
PER YEAR WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO:



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

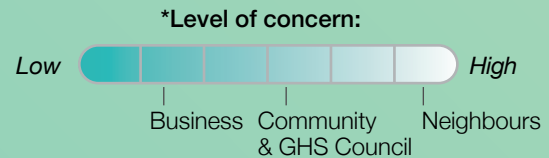


Concerns and opinions heard during the consultation and kitchen table discussions are recorded here as five main themes, alongside a summary of Neoen's responses.

The full version is detailed in the Community Relations Plan (which will be available during the public exhibition period).

THEME 1: CHANGES TO AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Many people expressed a belief in the importance of renewable energy but are concerned about the location of the project.



Loss of productive agricultural farmland

All groups were worried that the project was located on productive agricultural land. It was the most commonly expressed concern, though fewer members of the business community mentioned this.

Neighbours in particular were concerned about the loss of local farmland, impacting on farmers ability to acquire new leases and expand operations.

Response

- » Neoen combines sheep grazing with solar at all their solar farms in NSW & VIC with indications of 80% productivity levels. Panels provide shade and shelter to animals in the heat and the accumulation of dew and moisture along the edge of panels enables grass to grow even during drought conditions.
- » A short community information video was developed in August 2019, about the experience of a local farmer at Dubbo Solar Farm which identified the benefits of combining grazing with solar. The video can be viewed online at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=uO3k9EdZjml.
- » We are committed to combining and co-locating agriculture under the solar panels (sheep grazing and other potential options) as per industry best practice.

“

There are no issues with sheep-grazing co-existing with solar farms. Providing you have the right breed of merino or merino-cross and get stock numbers right, you can reach at least 80% of normal stocking rates. It's an opportunity and a win-win for farmers and renewable energy producers.

Tom Warren
Landowner
Dubbo Solar Hub, NSW



**The level of concern reflects the collated responses from the different groups*

Inequity concerns

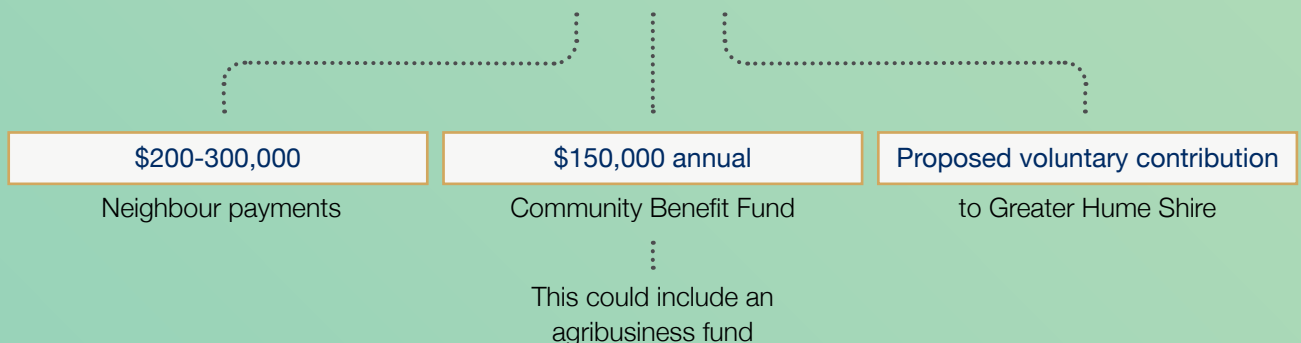
There is a perception that neighbours are losing potential agricultural land and will see changes to their rural views but are not deriving any financial benefits.

Response

- » Our experience on other solar farms in NSW and VIC is that there is no impact on neighbouring farms. Where farmers can take advantage of the opportunity to graze sheep there are benefits to neighbouring farming operations.
- » We are offering payments totalling \$200-\$300,000 to near neighbours in acknowledgement of the likely construction impacts of a large site. As far as we're aware, this is the first time this has happened in the solar industry.
- » Including neighbour payments, an annual \$150k Community Benefit Fund and a voluntary contribution to Greater Hume Shire, the total direct community benefit-sharing sum totals \$10 million over the lifetime of the project.

\$10 MILLION

community benefits over the
lifetime of the project



Rural Landscape

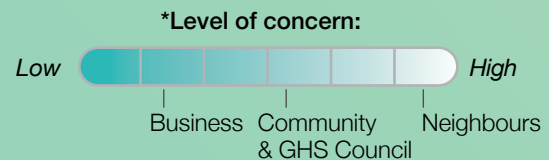
For many, the change of the local rural and agricultural landscape to what many express as 'industrial scale' solar farming challenges their notion of traditional farming practice and their connection to the generations before them.

Response

- » A solar farm has relatively low visual profile in the landscape compared with a wind farm and with adequate vegetation screening can be effectively shielded from view.
- » The design team has optimised the location of the more visual infrastructure (substation, battery enclosures) to be situated in the centre of the site.
- » There will be a 30m buffer zone between the edge of the panels and the site boundary. Neoen will plant a multi-layered vegetation buffer ahead of construction commencing at external boundaries of the solar farm to provide visual screening and habitat. See more detail on pages 12 and 13.

THEME 2: BIODIVERSITY LANDSCAPE

This was a common concern raised across all groups. It was referenced by most neighbours, particularly those that have spent time revegetating their properties. More specific issues, such as impacts of construction on particular species, were raised by neighbours, and community members involved in Landcare or environmental-based community groups.



Wildlife connectivity

Questions were raised about the likely impacts of the construction phase and the design of the solar farm on wildlife movement and how existing wildlife corridors can be retained.

Response

- » Discussions have been held with local arborists, agronomists and Landcare to ensure local input to managing biodiversity impacts.
- » Wildlife connectivity is very limited throughout the existing site, which consists of highly cleared landscape.
- » The main connection corridors for threatened species would occur along Back Creek and Billabong Creek. These vegetated creek lines have been avoided by the development footprint.
- » There will be funding opportunities for biodiversity initiatives through the Community Benefit Fund. Bulgana Wind Farm in Victoria provided a grant for a 40 acre protection area for southern brown bandicoots.



The opportunities the Neoen grants have provided have just been wonderful. We haven't had a single rabbit, feral fox, or cat – now we've got an area for bandicoots which is just spectacular, the environment has benefited massively.

Neil Marriott
White Gums Australia

Habitat trees

The removal of habitat trees from the proposed site was a commonly referenced concern. Many people requested that habitat trees be protected for their value in the ecosystem.

Response

- » Our design team work on the site layout to minimise the disturbances to trees, species and biodiversity found on site.
- » An ecologist worked with Neoen to determine the impact on biodiversity due to the development. Since some vegetation clearance must occur, we will offset this impact through preserving similar species elsewhere so that they can be maintained and protected into the future.
- » Where hollow bearing trees must be removed from the site (old trees that are dead but provide hollows and important habitat for wildlife) we will re-locate them to nearby areas where they can be retained as habitat for wildlife. This was done recently at Numurkah Solar Farm in partnership with the local catchment authority.



Vegetation buffers

Neighbours were concerned about the size of the vegetation buffers around the site and felt that the length of time needed for the screening to grow to maturity was unacceptable.

Response

- » There will be a 30m buffer zone between the edge of the panels and the site boundary.
- » Vegetation screening is proposed to screen views of the project from nearby dwellings with a sufficiently wide buffer using a mixture of native vegetation and other measures to effectively screen the project.
- » We are looking at the suggestion of a minimum number of tree rows, the timing of the planting and the inclusion of mature or fast-growing trees.
- » We have developed a more detailed vegetation buffer plan and will seek further input and comment on this from neighbours.

PROPOSED VEGE

KEY

1

Site access

2

South east vegetation buffer 40m width + 15m fire break

3

Southern vegetation buffer 20m width + 10m fire break

4

Easement

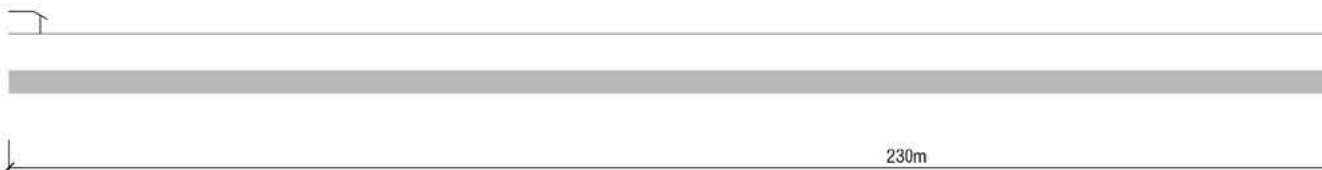
Existing scattered vegetation to be retained

Proposed vegetation buffer

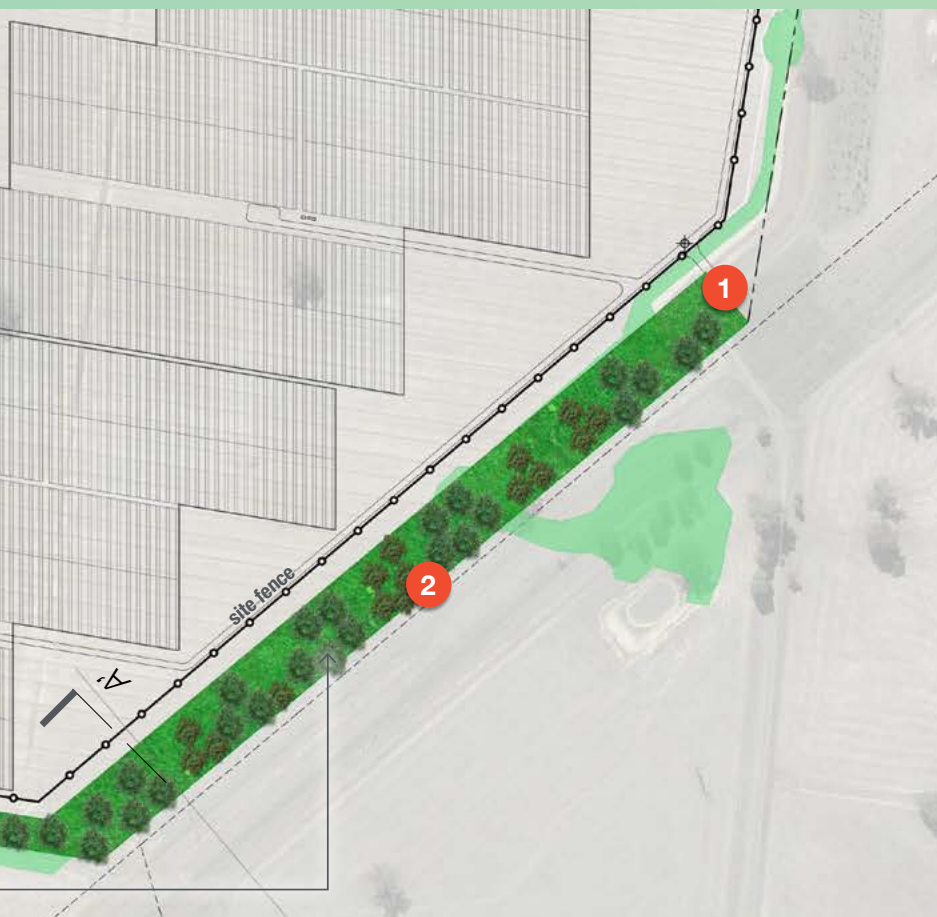
11kV distribution lines



Vegetation on existing property not shown



TATION BUFFERS



PLANT SPECIES

Revegetation species to include the following species (refer Indicative Plant Schedule LC307)

Large evergreen trees e.g.

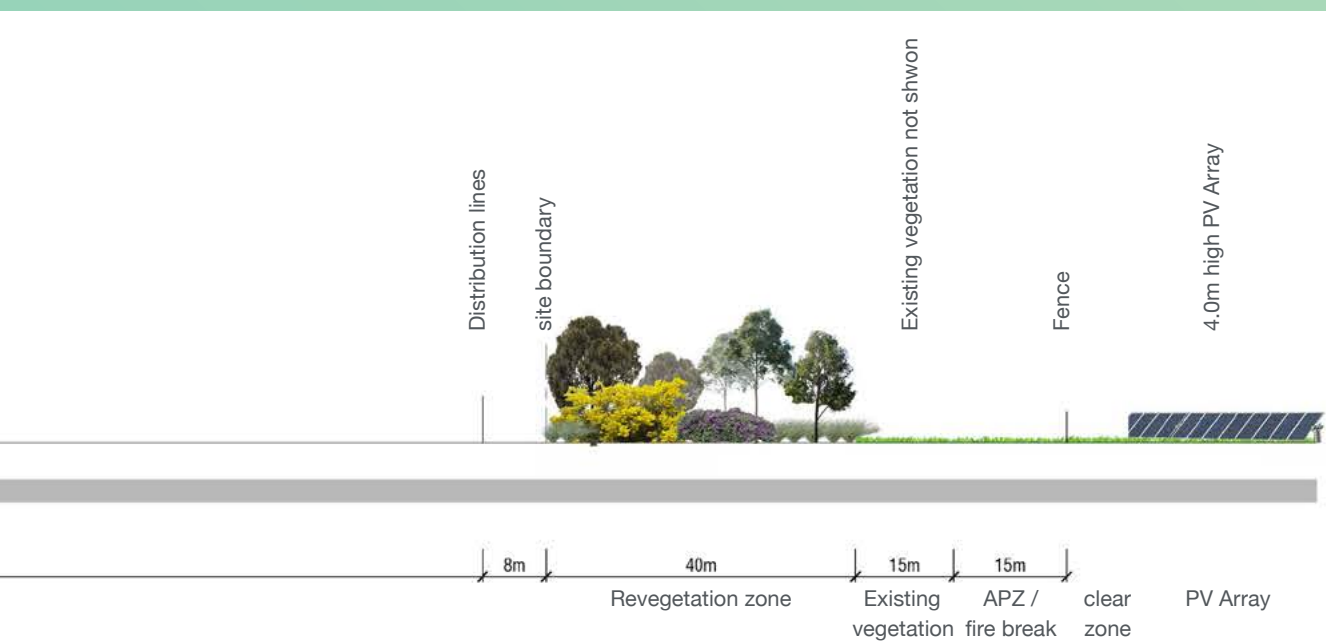
Eucalyptus blakelyi (Blakely's Red Gum)
Eucalyptus melliodora (Yellow Box)
Eucalyptus polyanthemus (Red Box)

Medium evergreen trees e.g.

Acacia dealbata (Silver Wattle)
Acacia implexa (Lightwood)
Allocasuarina luehmannii (Bulloak)
Allocasuarina verticillata (Drooping Sheoak)

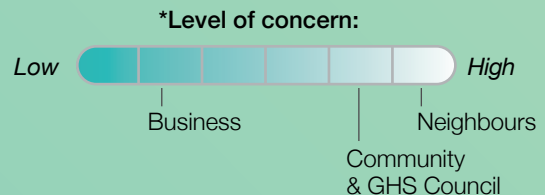
Shrubs and groundcovers e.g.

Acacia acinacea (Gold-dust Wattle)
Acacia rubida (Red-stemmed Wattle)
Bursaria spinosa (Sweet Bursaria)
Dodonea viscosa subsp angustissima (Narrow-leaf Hop-bush)



THEME 3: COMMUNITY RISKS

Anxiety about the unknown risks was common across all groups interviewed. Neighbours and farmers were more likely to raise concerns about potential risks to their farms, such as fire risk, livestock impacts and weed management. Community members were more likely to focus on longer-term risks.



Fire and public liability

Farmers fear that a fire starting accidentally on their property may engulf the solar farm and expressed the fear that their public liability insurance would not cover damage to the solar farm.

Response

- » Neoen will have its own insurance policy in place to provide coverage in the event that solar farm equipment is damaged by fire.
- » A comprehensive Bush Fire Management Plan will include procedures to deal with a fire on site, including requirements for 10 metre firebreaks surrounding the site, plus multiple water tanks to be spread across the site for fire-fighting.
- » An accidental fire would not render the neighbouring farmer liable. For an adjoining landowner to have any liability for fires that have spread from their property to the solar farm, it has to be demonstrated that the landowner was negligent in causing damage.



Fear of decline in property values

Most direct and near neighbours to the proposed site are concerned that the presence of a solar farm will devalue their properties.

Response

- » Property values have not been found to decline around our existing wind and solar farms. Anecdotal evidence from Coleambally Solar Farm suggests prices have risen.
- » Independent studies into the potential impact of renewable energy projects on property prices have been conducted by the NSW Valuer-General (2009) and Urbis (2016) which both concluded that there was insufficient evidence to suggest that renewable energy projects can be linked to negative impacts on property prices.
- » Anecdotally we hear that neighbours are sometimes offered more for adjoining properties in the hope or expectation that there may be future expansion to the site.



We applied for a grant to install a wind turbine & solar panel array at the school. The purpose was for the students to understand the different streams of energy production. It was a very simple application process.

Kristie Miller, Principal
Congongella Primary School

Community division and repair

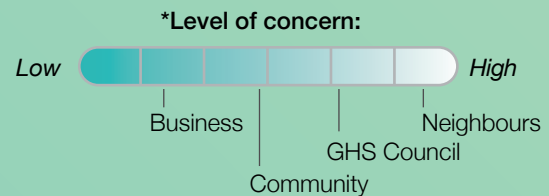
All groups expressed concern about how the community division created by the four proposed solar projects in the areas can be repaired in the longer term. There was acknowledgment that the division had become nasty. All groups said the divisions had made it very difficult to ask questions or seek accurate information on the proposed solar farms.

Response

- » We have been concerned about and attentive to the division that has emerged in response to the four solar projects. Our response has been to move away from 'consultation-as-usual' towards a more respectful, intensive and appropriate method of consultation. The appointment of a highly skilled local engagement consultant with experience in working with divided regional communities was intended to ensure division was not further inflamed, as was the choice to hold 'kitchen table' discussions.
- » There is a commitment and long-term focus on ensuring benefits are shared with the broader community. Our industry leading approach has three levels – neighbour payments, a Community Benefit Fund and a voluntary contribution to Greater Hume Shire. Over the lifetime of the project this will amount to an estimated \$10 million.
- » We will continue our respectful approach during the development application period, with focus on co-designing the Community Benefit Fund and ensuring local employment and business opportunities are maximised through the development of a Local Participation Plan. It has been our experience on other projects that the most divisive period is in the early development period, and that often things settle down once a project is operational.

THEME 4: ECONOMIC IMPACT & OPPORTUNITIES

Neighbours and community members that object to the project expressed cynicism and concern about local economic opportunities that will flow from the solar farm, perceiving that benefits would occur solely during the construction period. Council members and staff were also concerned that the overall economic impact on the Greater Hume Shire would be negative. The business community was more aware of the opportunities afforded by a major infrastructure project, including the potential for developing new skills and expertise.



Local opportunities for sheep grazing

The majority of neighbours, regardless of their objection to the solar farm, were keen to take advantage of the potential for sheep grazing on the solar farm.

Response

- » We are committed to combining and co-locating agriculture under the solar panels (sheep grazing and other potential options) as per industry best practice and to exploring and communicating other opportunities for combined land use (as per advice from local agronomists, farmers, researchers and Landcare).





Numurkah Solar Farm has been a terrific opportunity for the local community. It also prepares people & business for future projects that come along in the region – they know what to expect.

Graeme Richardson
Manager Construction & Assets,
Moira Shire Council

Local impacts on businesses

Many local businesses expressed a keen interest in opportunities associated with the solar farm but also expressed a fear that the size or scale of their operations would be a barrier to their participation.

Many business respondents, while enthused about the opportunities that the solar project could offer, struggled with how their business might need to expand for the construction period and then need to shrink.

The greatest concern expressed in the business consultations was that local businesses would miss out because larger projects might rely on a fly in fly out (FIFO) workforce.

Response

- » We commissioned an expert Economic Impact Assessment for the project which highlighted that significant opportunities for businesses and workers located within the region will be available in a direct and indirect (accommodation, retail) perspective.
- » No net job losses are expected, with the project replacing existing agricultural employment in terms of both direct and indirect jobs.
- » We developed a community information video in September 2019 about the local economic and community benefits that Numurkah Solar Farm brought to the surrounding Shepparton area. The video can be viewed at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Odxl0ZLvavE.
- » The ABC's 7.30 report on Numurkah in October 2019 demonstrated how Neoen's approach is designed to maximise the opportunities, benefits and outcomes for local businesses. The video can be viewed at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=zrKZK5j5b2k.

- » We are now working on a Local Participation Plan to maximise the local business opportunities and prepare the workforce for the employment opportunities.



THEME 5: POTENTIAL BENEFITS

While many of the conversations were focused on concerns about the solar farm, there was also considerable positivity within the range of views expressed.



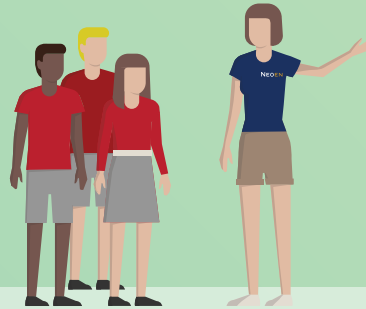
Neighbours

- » Farming opportunities (e.g. sheep grazing)
- » Potential for access to solar farm infrastructure (e.g. WIFI)
- » Improvements to local roads
- » Opportunity for community benefit fund to support agricultural enterprise
- » Positive impacts on the local economy



Business

- » Positive impacts on the local economy during the construction period
- » Employment opportunities for local businesses and contractors
- » Potential for development of skills and expertise in the renewables sector (and future application to other projects)
- » Potential for local businesses to take on apprentices during the construction period
- » Permanent employment for a number of local people



Community

- » Represents a practical response to climate change and supports the transition to renewables
- » Potential for new ideas to help re-energise the local economy and community
- » Long term impacts of the Community Benefit Fund over the life of the project
- » Contribution to native vegetation recovery through offsets and revegetation work
- » Potential for community to invest in the solar farm
- » Solar farm installation gives the land a rest from intensive agriculture regime
- » Opportunity for local agronomists and farmers to have input to land management practices on the solar farm
- » Opportunities for local schools to support student learning about renewables



Many country towns are struggling to stay afloat. But the growing number of renewable energy projects now being built is providing a shot in the arm to some regional communities...boosting the local economy.

Laura Tingle
ABC 7.30 Report on
Numurkah Solar Farm, Nov 2019

CULCAIRN

SOLAR FARM



www.culcairnsolarfarm.com.au/overview



Patrick Dale, Project Manager



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NEOEN



CULCAIRN SOLAR FARM LOCAL PARTICIPATION PLAN

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1.	Community Relations Plan
2.	
3.	
4.	

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PURPOSE

The Local Participation Plan (LPP) for Culcairn Solar Farm was developed during the development application (DA) stage by Michelle Croker, Community Engagement Consultant and Lisa Stiebel, Senior Manager Community Relations with input from Patrick Dale and Anne Frederic, Project Managers.

This document identifies the local content procurement approach and objectives for the Culcairn Solar Farm. It was developed in accordance with the principles and best practice engagement with special interest groups (local jobseekers and businesses) outlined in the New South Wales Large-Scale Solar Energy Guidelines¹ and with reference to NSW Government Action Plan 'Ten Point Commitment to the Construction Sector'² in terms of fostering partnerships, increasing local supply side capacity, and ensuring greater inclusion and diversity.

The LPP forms part of the Community Relations Toolkit depicted in Table 1. It is linked to the project's Community Relations Plan (CRP), which outlines and details Neoen's comprehensive and multi-layered approach to stakeholder and community engagement.

The LPP elaborates on Section 3.4 of the CRP in greater detail and is a subset of the project's commitment and activities aimed at facilitating opportunities for local involvement.

Distribution

It is intended that the LPP is part of the hand over from project manager to project manager as the project progresses from development to construction to operations.

It will also be embedded into our contracts with nominated EPC and O&M contractors to ensure our approach is consistent, coordinated and flows down through the tiers of subcontractors.

Review

Once developed, the LPP is a live document which will be updated progressively during the project's development phase and then reviewed and handed over at the following project milestones:

- Financial close (handover to Construction Manager)
- Completion of construction (handover to Asset Manager)

It will also be informed by changing circumstances, industry and government feedback and ongoing improvements in Neoen's local participation approach, so that it remains:

- Relevant to the project's evolving needs, issues and outcomes
- Responsive and tailored to the needs of key stakeholders, including government, jobseekers and local business
- At the leading edge of industry and global best practice to ensure that the project delivers long-term economic and employment benefits for the local community

¹ <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Guidelines/large-scale-solar-energy-guideline-2018-12-11.pdf>

² <http://www.infrastructure.nsw.gov.au/media/1649/10-point-commitment-to-the-construction-industry-final-002.pdf>

Community Relations Toolkit by Project Stage



Responsibility

Throughout the development and lifecycle phases of the Culcairn Solar Farm, the people responsible for and engaged in the implementation of the LPP will change.

Table 1 outlines the movement in responsibility across the project lifecycle.

Table 1: Responsibility for LPP

Stage	Project Stages	Proposed Timing	Responsibility for LPP
1	Site selection	2018	Antoine Lajouanie Development Manager
2	Feasibility	2018	Antoine Lajouanie Development Manager
3	Planning and approvals	2018-2019 DA - Q4 2019	Antoine Lajouanie & Patrick Dale Development Manager
4	Post DA lodgement	Q1-Q3 2020	Anne Frederic Project Manager
5	Pre-construction	Q4 2020	Anne Frederic Project Manager
6	Construction	2021	Construction Manager EPC Manager
7	Operation	2022	Asset Manager O&M Manager
8	Decommissioning	In 25+ years	Asset Manager

1. LOCAL PARTICIPATION APPROACH

1.1 Our approach

As the long-term owner and operator of all our renewable energy assets Neoen is committed to maximising the long term economic and employment opportunities and benefits for the local community that Culcairn Solar Farm affords.

Our 'develop to own' business model is rare in the renewables industry, affording us a clear advantage over our competitors with respect to local communities and businesses – our starting point is the clear understanding that we will be neighbours and participants in the community for the lifetime of the project.

As such we seek to develop and nurture local procurement initiatives, partnerships and innovation, confident that we will be there to see projects through to fruition.

1.2 Defining local

The meaning of 'local' as it applies to this project is threefold, and use of the term within this document and relating to our commitments and associated KPI's incorporates all three:

1. Immediate locale – Culcairn & surrounding area
2. Region – South East Riverina
3. State – New South Wales

We aim to ensure maximum benefits to these widening geographic areas with a focus on proximity to the project.

1.2 Defining participation

The meaning of participation is also threefold, and use of the term within this document and relating to any overarching participation commitments and associated KPI's incorporates all three:

1. Employment – direct employment by Neoen, our contractors or subcontractors
2. Suppliers – contract or subcontract to deliver specified works package
3. Apprenticeships & Training – delivered by Neoen, our contractors or subcontractors

1.3 Principles & Practice

There are a number of principles underpinning our approach to local participation.

1. Full, fair and reasonable opportunity

We seek to maximise local industry participation by providing local jobseekers and industry with full, fair and reasonable opportunity to participate.

This principle of full, fair and reasonable opportunity is achieved by:

- considering the project's whole-of-life from development through construction into operations & maintenance and eventually to decommissioning
- ensuring at the tender preparation stage that tenders are packaged in a manner that optimises local industry opportunities while enhancing project competitiveness and value for money

- undertaking a local economic and supply market analysis and maintaining a register to identify potential local suppliers
- providing early notice to the market of a planned upcoming major procurement
- encouraging sub-contractors to support and report against the LPP principles
- using the services of local content specialists and supporting their use by contractors and sub-contractors.

2. Value for money

Value for money is defined as giving consideration to more than price alone. We consider value for money on a whole-of-life basis including:

- technical quality and relevant expertise
- proximity to project site
- ease of communication
- access to a skilled workforce

3. Regional and industry development

We work in partnership with regional communities to strengthen renewable industry capability and capacity.

- we hold public briefings which will provide timely information to regional business and industry on the jobs, services, supplies and support requirements of the project
- we cooperate and collaborate with regional economic development bodies
- we hold a Local Employment & Networking session in pre-construction period (and advertise this in local media) to provide timely and equitable access to supply opportunities
- we encourage sub-contractors to maximise the use of local business when contracts are awarded outside the region
- we identify opportunities for local industry support and innovation
- we identify opportunities to support training, upskilling & apprenticeships

4. Transparency

We provide early visibility of project's employment and supplier opportunities, including on our project website and through public briefings covering the following topics:

- the different packages of goods and services that will be needed
- the requirements local suppliers must demonstrate when bidding for work
- training opportunities and support for subcontractors on the preparation of bids

2. LOCAL ECONOMIC CONTEXT

2.1 Community Overview

The community around the Culcairn Solar Farm is centred in municipality of the Greater Hume shire. Table 4 provides a profile of the area according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics¹ 2016 Census

Table 2: Culcairn Snapshot

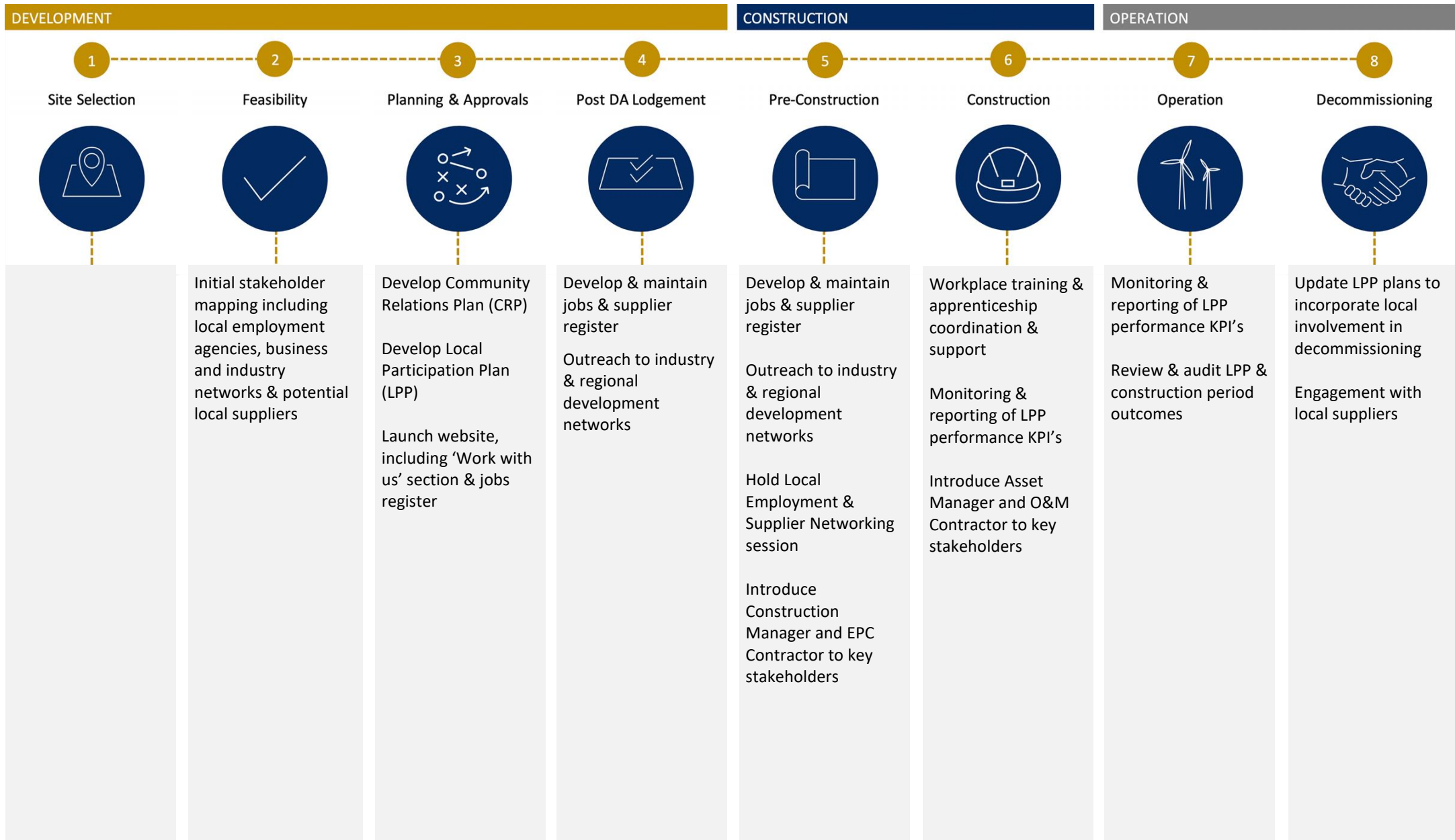
Demographics	
Estimated Population	1,473
Town Population	1,133
Median Age	42
Median Weekly household Income	\$1,053
Total Dwellings	641
Education	
Bachelor Degree level and above	99
Advanced Diploma and Diploma level	97
Certificate level III or IV	234
Year 12	107
Occupation	
Managers	120
Professionals	66
Labourers	83
Technicians and Trades Workers	91
Industry	
Local Government Administration	28
Other Grain Growing	24
Grain-Sheep or Grain-Beef Cattle Farming	22
Hospitals (except Psychiatric Hospitals)	22
Primary Education	21
Home Ownership	
Owned outright	214
Owned with a mortgage	179
Rented	121

¹ https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC11147?opendocument

Table 3 (Continued): Total Population Study Map – Walla Walla

Demographics	
Estimated Population	836
Town Population	567
Median Age	42
Median Weekly household Income	\$1,096
Total Dwellings	344
Education	
Bachelor Degree level and above	61
Advanced Diploma and Diploma level	36
Certificate level III or IV	166
Year 12	61
Occupation	
Managers	98
Professionals	35
Labourers	50
Technicians and Trades Workers	44
Industry	
Combined Primary and Secondary Education	21
Other Grain Growing	20
Grain-Sheep or Grain-Beef Cattle Farming	19
Sheep Farming (Specialised)	18
Hospitals (except Psychiatric Hospitals)	12
Home Ownership	
Owned outright	141
Owned with a mortgage	103
Rented	45

Local Participation Activities by Project Stage



3. LOCAL PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES

3.1 Supplier Mapping & Registration

3.1.1 Register of Interest

During the feasibility & planning/approvals phases expressions of interest from local jobseekers and suppliers were invited and received through adverts, information days and the project website.

A register of interest was created, maintained and updated to enable timely communication with interested suppliers during the pre-construction and construction phases.

3.1.2 Research & Networking

During the post DA period leading into pre-construction the supplier mapping extends to more in-depth research through local, regional and state-wide networking to ensure we have a comprehensive up-to-date listing of relevant suppliers who may not yet have heard about the project.

The current Supplier Register is provided as Appendix 1.

3.2 Outreach to Local Business, Training & Development Networks

3.2.1 Local – Culcairn area

Greater Hume Shire Council

Council is a key stakeholder in the project, and one of the priorities for local government engagement is in ensuring local employment and supplier opportunities are maximised through early consultation and seeking advice on relevant networks across the region.

New South Wales TAFE (Albury campus)

We have identified a TAFE course UEE30811 Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician and BSB51415 Diploma of Project Management. We have contacted TAFE who have also forwarded our information out to regional VET coordinators for this and other relevant courses. The aim is to provide advance notice of the project so that we can link in with course needs for workplace training placements and graduating positions as trades assistants and apprentices.

<https://www.tafensw.edu.au/course/-/c/c/UEE30811-01/Certificate-III-in-Electrotechnology-Electrician?latlong=-36.069005,146.910158&radius=1&locationName=2640>

<https://www.tafensw.edu.au/course/-/c/c/BSB51415-01/Diploma-of-Project-Management?latlong=-36.069005,146.910158&radius=1&locationName=2640>

3.2.2 Local – Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC)

REROC

The Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC) is a voluntary association of seven General Purpose Councils and two water county councils located in the eastern Riverina region of NSW. REROC covers an area in excess of 42,200 sq. kms and a population of approximately 125,500.

Regional Development New South Wales

RDA New South Wales (NSW) encompasses 14 Committees in NSW, with the project site held within the Murray RDA zone. They operate within a regional economic development framework to promote long-term regional economic and social growth through the lens of liveability and sustainability. The Murray RDA has seen unprecedented investment in energy supplies, currently hosting two of the largest solar farm projects in the southern hemisphere. The Murray RDA anticipates further investment following the construction of the high capacity interconnector between South Australia and Wagga Wagga and is eager to facilitate the attraction of new investment into the region.

3.3 Local Information Sessions

3.3.1 Community Information Session

Our initial Community Information Session was held in May 2019 during the planning/approvals stage to provide an outline of the project in the lead up to the development application (DA) submission. Initial discussions were held with a number of interested parties, with suppliers and jobseekers listed on the register.

3.3.2 Local Employment & Supplier Networking Session

In the pre-construction stage anticipated for H2 2020 or H1 2021, a Local Employment & Supplier Networking Sessions will be held in Culcairn and possibly also in Albury or Wagga Wagga. It will be advertised in local media and invitations will be sent out to all those on the supplier and job interest register as well as local employment agencies, ensuring they have an opportunity to meet with Neoen's construction team and appointed EPC contractor ahead of construction.

4. LOCAL PARTICIPATION AREAS

4.1 Local Employment

The areas where we expect there to be local employment are shown below:

Role	Key Supplier
Administration	EPC Contractor
Health & Safety	EPC Contractor
Electrical Technicians	Electrical
Mechanical Trades	Mechanical
Electricians	Electrical
Drivers	Various, including Transport
Forklift & Telehandler	Civil & Mechanical
Civil Operators	Civil
Concreters	Civil
Excavators	Civil
Loader	Civil
Pipelayer	Civil
Pile Driver	Mechanical
Cable Layer	Electrical
Mech Trade Apprentice	Mechanical
Civil Trade Apprentice	Civil
Electrical Trade Apprentice	Electrical
Operation & Maintenance Crew (ongoing)	O&M Contractor

4.2 Local Supplier Contracts

The following list provides an indication, based on previous Neoen solar farm projects of the supplier contracts/works packages that can be tendered to local businesses:

Supplier Contracts / Works Packages
Accommodation
Computer network support
Concreters & concrete supply

Civil
Cleaning
Crane (minor lifts)
Earthworks plant hire (wet & dry)
Electrical & cabling
Fencing & Gates
Food & Catering
Freight
Fuel
Material testing
Mechanical fitter / maintenance
Operation & maintenance
O&M facility construction
Quarry products
Safety products
Small equipment hire
Security
Transport (minor)
Waste Management
Water (construction & potable)
Welding

4.3 Apprentices & Training

4.3.1 Apprentices, trainees & engineering cadets (ATECs)

The apprentice, cadetship and/or trainee may come from the following:

- employing our own trainees, including school-based, college internships and part-time
- using Group Training Scheme apprentices, cadets and/or trainees
- using contractor and sub-contractor apprentices, cadets and/or trainees.

4.3.2 Training

Workforce training may include the following:

- upskilling existing workers in training that is delivered by registered training organisations and which leads to nationally recognised building or civil construction qualifications
- upskilling existing workers in industry recognised training
- upskilling existing workers through apprenticeships or traineeships
- employing students in undergraduate programs or cadetships that apply to formal tertiary, professional or technical education in the building and civil construction industry (including structured workplace learning aligned to an accredited pre-vocational training program)

5. REPORTING & MONITORING

5.1 Monitoring & Reporting Regime

Neoen will pass on our Local Participation Plan (LPP) commitments to the head EPC Contractor to ensure all procurement and subcontracting activities are carried out in accordance with the LPP.

Under the terms of the EPC contract the minimum contents of monthly reports are defined to ensure strict reporting rules and enable Neoen to track, monitor and address the contractor's compliance. Neoen and the head EPC contractor must meet at least once every week in accordance with the EPC contract, ensuring close communication between the management teams.

The EPC Contractor will be required to report on the LPP focus areas monthly, while Neoen's reporting to external bodies such as New South Wales Government may be quarterly or annual.

Local Participation Focus Area	Metric	Internal Reporting	External Reporting
Local Employment	% of work hours	Monthly EPC Report	Quarterly or Annual
Training & Apprenticeships	% of work hours	Monthly EPC Report	Quarterly or Annual
Local Business Supply Contracts	% of supply contracts	Monthly EPC Report	Quarterly or Annual
Local Business Supply Contracts	\$ value of supply contracts	Monthly EPC Report	Quarterly or Annual

APPENDIX 1. SUPPLIER REGISTER

Company Name	Location	Work Area	Date registered
Ray White Real Estate	Lavington	Accommodation	4/09/2019
Farmer	Culcairn	Accommodation	2/10/2019
Culcairn Motor Inn	Culcairn	Accommodation	12/09/2019
Culcairn Hotel	Culcairn	Accommodation	22/04/2020
Culcairn Caravan Park	Culcairn	Accommodation	22/04/2020
Walla Walla Motel	Walla Walla	Accommodation	22/04/2020
Jindera Hotel	Jindera	Accommodation	22/04/2020
Green Door Motel	Lavington	Accommodation	22/04/2020
Albury All Seasons Tourist Park	Lavington	Accommodation	22/04/2020
Albury Classic Motor Inn	Lavington	Accommodation	22/04/2020
BIG4 Albury Tourist Park	Lavington	Accommodation	22/04/2020
Albury Astor Hotel Motel	Albury	Accommodation	22/04/2020
Albury Manor House	Albury	Accommodation	22/04/2020
Albury Paddlesteamer Motel	Albury	Accommodation	22/04/2020
Mercure Albury	Albury	Accommodation	22/04/2020
The Hume Inn Motel	Albury	Accommodation	22/04/2020
The Cottage Motor Inn	Albury	Accommodation	22/04/2020
Winsor Park Motor Inn	Albury	Accommodation	22/04/2020
Byer Fountain Motor Inn	Holbrook	Accommodation	22/04/2020
Holbrook Town Centre Motor Inn	Holbrook	Accommodation	22/04/2020
Holbrook Skye Motel	Holbrook	Accommodation	22/04/2020
Holbrook Motel Group Jolly Swagman	Holbrook	Accommodation	22/04/2020
Holbrook Motor Village	Holbrook	Accommodation	22/04/2020
Holbrook Settlers Motel	Holbrook	Accommodation	22/04/2020
Doodle Cooma Arms Hotel	Henty	Accommodation	22/04/2020
Townhouse Hotel	Wagga Wagga	Accommodation	22/04/2020
Garden City Motor Inn	Wagga Wagga	Accommodation	22/04/2020
Woomargama Village Hotel Motel	Woomargama	Accommodation	22/04/2020
BIG4 Wagga Wagga Holiday Park	Wagga Wagga	Accommodation	22/04/2020
Agronomist	Walla Walla	Agronomy	27/08/2020
Rodwells	Culcairn	Agronomy	17/09/2019
Blair's Agri Produce	Lavington	Agronomy	3/03/2020
Arborist	Culcairn	Arborist	3/03/2020
PJN Sheds	Walla Walla	Civil works	27/08/2019
Kotzurs	Walla Walla	Civil works	27/08/2019
MBI Engineering	Walla Walla	Civil works	2/03/2020
Hodibarc Civil Constructions	Townsville	Civil works	2/03/2020
Davis Contracting	Perth	Electrical Works	2/03/2020
RW Schroeter	Walla Walla	Fencing	20/09/2019
Heartstarters cafe in Culcairn	Culcairn	Food Services	20/09/2019
Culcairn Bakery	Culcairn	Food services	1/04/2020
Culcairn Bowling Club	Culcairn	Food services	1/04/2020
DJ's Fine Fast Food	Walla Walla	Food services	1/04/2020
Walla Walla Bowling & Recreation Club	Walla Walla	Food services	1/04/2020

Fuelco	Carrum Downs	Fuel Supply	2/03/2020
John Veneziano	Walla Walla	Labour hire	2/03/2020
Holbrook Landcare Network	Holbrook	NRM Services	26/08/2019
Bluey's Plumbing	Culcairn	Plumbing Services	24/09/2020
Lidiar Group	Brisbane	Project Management Services	2/03/2020
Projectory	NA	Public Relations	2/03/2020
Spinifex Recruiting	Parkes, Dubbo	Recruitment	2/03/2020
Programmed Skilled Workforce	Various	Recruitment	2/03/2020
Workfast	NA	Recruitment	2/03/2020
Farmers - neighbour	Walla Walla	Sheep grazing	4/10/2019
Farmer/ direct neighbour to site	Culcairn	Sheep grazing	4/10/2019
Butcher/ direct neighbour to site	Culcairn	Sheep grazing	4/10/2019
Farmer/ direct neighbour to site	Culcairn	Sheep grazing	4/10/2019
Farmer/ direct neighbour to site	Culcairn	Sheep grazing	4/10/2019
Farmer/ direct neighbour to site	Culcairn	Sheep grazing	4/10/2019
Farmer/ direct neighbour to site	Culcairn	Sheep grazing	4/10/2019
Farmer/ direct neighbour to site	Culcairn	Sheep grazing	4/10/2019
Farmer/ direct neighbour to site	Culcairn	Sheep grazing	4/10/2019
Farmer	Walla Walla	Sheep grazing	4/10/2019
Farmer/ Chair Henty Field Days	Culcairn	Sheep grazing	2/10/2019
Solar Integrity	Wodonga	Solar installations	4/11/2019
Car dealership DE Lieschke & Son	Walla Walla	Vehicle Supply & Service	4/09/2019
Wiesners	Walla Walla	Vehicle Supply & Service	4/09/2019
Biti Motors Culcairn	Culcairn	Vehicle Supply & Service	4/09/2019
Orix Australia	Ingleburn	Vehicle Supply & Service	7/04/2020
Caltex Petrol Station	Culcairn	Vehicle Supply & Service	7/04/2020
Boral Quarries	Culcairn	Civil Works	1/04/2020
Locky's Countryside Meats	Albury	Food Services	1/04/2020
Ettamogah Rail Hub	Ettamogah	Civil Works	13/05/2020
Burru Bus Service	Walla Walla	Vehicle Supply & Service	22/09/2019

From: [Patrick Dale](#)
To: [Sarah Hillis](#)
Cc: [Michelle Croker](#); [Anne Frederic](#)
Subject: FW: Culcairn SF - Weeamera Road Access Design
Date: Wednesday, 15 April 2020 3:47:07 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)

Good afternoon Sarah,

Please see the positive advice received from Council below.
Many thanks to you and Amber for proposing a suitable concession.

As I understand, this concession from Council meets our goal of avoiding further vegetation clearing along Weeamera Road (site access route).

Thanks,

Patrick Dale

Project Manager

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Level 10, 227 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000

M. +61 487 177 136

patrick.dale@neoen.com

From: Steven Pinnuck <SPinnuck@greaterhume.nsw.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 15 April 2020 3:39 PM

To: Patrick Dale <patrick.dale@neoen.com>

Cc: Colin Kane <CKane@greaterhume.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Culcairn SF - Weeamera Road Access Design

Hello Patrick

Please see the response in relation to the road construction of Weeamera Road.

Regards

Steven Pinnuck

General Manager

Greater Hume Council

39 Young St

PO Box 99

Holbrook NSW 2644

T 02 6036 0115 M 0429 310 205



www.greaterhume.nsw.gov.au

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From: Greg Blackie
Sent: Wednesday, 15 April 2020 3:33 PM
To: Steven Pinnuck
Subject: RE: Culcairn SF - Weeamera Road Access Design

Steve

In response to the email from Neoen (Patrick Dale) relating to the required standard of Weeamera Road construction I advise the following:

For the section of Weeamera Rd from the Boral Quarry Entrance to the proposed construction access to the Solar Farm (Approximately 1.4km)

1. Council will accept a 7m seal over a gravel pavement, with minimal shoulders appropriately designed to sustain the construction traffic.
2. The bitumen seal to be placed is required to be a minimum of a 14/7mm seal to ensure the construction traffic (Mostly heavy vehicles), does not unravel the stone from the bitumen and create undue wear, and additional maintenance during the construction of the solar farm.
3. All drainage for the road to be suitably formed as part of the road construction to ensure the road pavement integrity is not compromised
4. The construction access onto Weeamera Road be suitably signed to ensure that construction traffic gives way to through traffic occurs (due to its proposed location with the old rail crossing) and appropriate warning signage be installed on Weeamera Road to alert road users to the access.

If you have any questions on the above please don't hesitate to ring

Regards

Greg

From: Steven Pinnuck
Sent: Tuesday, 14 April 2020 1:20 PM
To: Greg Blackie <GBlackie@greaterhume.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Colin Kane <CKane@greaterhume.nsw.gov.au>; Patrick Dale (patrick.dale@neoen.com) <patrick.dale@neoen.com>
Subject: FW: Culcairn SF - Weeamera Road Access Design

Hello Greg

Can you please comment on the email below.

Thanks

Steven Pinnuck
General Manager
Greater Hume Council
39 Young St
PO Box 99
Holbrook NSW 2644
T 02 6036 0115 M 0429 310 205



www.greaterhume.nsw.gov.au

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From: Patrick Dale [<mailto:patrick.dale@neoen.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, 14 April 2020 1:12 PM
To: Colin Kane; Steven Pinnuck
Subject: Culcairn SF - Weeamera Road Access Design

Good afternoon Colin, Steven.

I hope you both enjoyed the Easter Holiday.

I would like to discuss with Council the proposed access works associated with the Culcairn Solar Farm and Weeamera Road.

In Council's submission to DPIE, Council's Traffic Engineering Department have recommended that Weeamera Road (north of Boral Quarry to Culcairn Solar Farm's access point) be upgraded to Council's '*Standard Road Design Typical Cross Section*' specifications, which requires a 7.0m wide sealed road and 1.0m wide shoulders (total road width of 9.0m).

The Traffic Assessment prepared by Amber Organisation recommended a 6.0 metre wide road width with a light spray seal. Following Council's comments it is now proposed to widen the road width to 7.0m and provide a light spray seal. It is considered that this is suitable for the following reasons:

- A 7.0 metre wide road width will allow two larger vehicles to comfortably pass each other. This is wider than the required accessway width for two AVs to pass as specified within AS

2890.2:2002.

- The light spray seal will reduce dust emissions and will provide a safe trafficable surface for all vehicles.
- As outlined within the Traffic Assessment, a Traffic Management Plan will be prepared prior to construction. A recommended inclusion within the TMP is that during construction the sections of the road network utilised by the proposal are to be monitored and maintained to ensure continued safe use by all road users, and any faults attributed to construction of the solar farm would be rectified. This will ensure Weeamera Road is maintained to an acceptable level and all costs associated with maintaining the roadway will be absorbed by the proponent.
- Following construction, Weeamera Road is estimated to have a traffic volume of 25-30 vehicle movements per day north of the Boral Quarry. A 9.0m wide road formation is considered to be an overdesign for this level of traffic.
- Providing a 7.0m wide formation will reduce the ecological impact with less vegetation being removed.

Regarding the potential ecological impact associated with Council's proposed 9.0m carriageway, it is also noted that:

- PCT 277 *Blakely's Red Gum - Yellow Box grassy tall woodland* occurs along Weeamera Rd. This woodland is 'Box Gum Woodland' listed as endangered under the BC Act. It does not conform to the federally listed community under the EPBC Act. It is recommended that impacts to the vegetation along Weeamera Rd be reduced where practicable for the following key reasons:
 - Box Gum Woodland is of high conservation value.
 - The quality of vegetation along Weeamera Rd is high as the groundcover has retained a diversity of native grass and forb species.
 - A number of large mature trees would require removal some of which are hollow bearing which provide important nesting and roosting habitat for fauna.
 - The vegetation provides important connectivity values for wildlife movement corridors within a heavily cleared and fragmented landscape.

Based on the above, it is concluded that the provision of a 7.0m carriageway width and a light spray seal on Weeamera Road will provide safe and efficient vehicle movement during and after the construction of the solar farm.

With the intension of submitting the project's *Response to Submissions* report in early May, we would greatly appreciate Council's view on the above proposal by **Wednesday 29th April**.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, should you wish to discuss this further.

Kind regards,

Patrick Dale

Project Manager

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MEETING MINUTES

Neoen and Fire Services Workshop – Numurkah Solar Farm

Meeting Title:	Site Inspection – Interstate fire agency workshop	Date:	17 March 2020
Location:	Numurkah Solar Farm	Time:	10:00am AEST
Facilitator:	Patrick Dale – Neoen (PD)		
Attendees:	Paul O'Brien (POB): Site Manager - Downer Frank Finlay (FF): Duty Commander RS3 – Fire and Rescue NSW Barry Fisher (BF): Captain Culcairn Fire Station – Fire and Rescue NSW Paul Horton (PH): Commander - Country Fire Authority Bill Pawels (BP): Captain, Goorambat – Country Fire Authority Matt Hicks (MH): Councillor, Greater Hume Council; Rural Fire Service Volunteer and Culcairn SF host landowner	Apologies:	Andrew Gray (AG) – District Coordinator – Rural Fire Service (RFS)

Minutes


<u>Agenda Items</u>	<u>Meeting Notes</u>	<u>Time</u>
1. Introduction (POB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> POB Inducted visitors to the Numurkah Solar Farm and discussed general 'Kickstart protocols' and drug/alcohol testing requirements on site, in accordance with project's Zero Tolerance policy. 	09:50
2. Outline Management Plans and Protocols (POB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hierarchy of Management Plans that are developed prior to construction commencing and maintained during operation of Numurkah Solar Farm, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operations Management Plan (MP) Safety MP, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire Management Plan Environment MP Operations AMP Change MP Monitoring systems for solar yield and equipment failure, with attendees shown SCADA monitoring data Automatic control systems, indicating ability to open/close circuits with remote ability to isolate and de-energise systems. 	10:00
3. Site specifics (POB, PD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss aerial map of Numurkah SF, detailing the site layout, critical infrastructure, neighbours, entry/exit points, fire breaks etc. 	10:20

<u>Agenda Items</u>	<u>Meeting Notes</u>	<u>Time</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff trained in emergency procedures, initial attack and site monitoring of relevant emergency app's from the respective fire service agency (i.e. Numurkah follows the Victoria CFA application, Culcairn SF will monitor the NSW RFS and F&R applications) 	
4. Agrivoltaic practice (PV + sheep grazing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlined strategy and management practices associated with sheep grazing (approx. 2000 merino / first-cross breed) throughout the project site. Discussion included benefits of sheep grazing to assist in management of 'fuel load' (i.e. vegetation growth) throughout site. POB noted that sheep grazing does not create uniformity of vegetation heights across the site, requiring additional measures to be undertaken by O&M. Particular species identified as appropriate due to docile nature of merino and first-cross breeds, in accordance with Risk Assessment undertaken by Downer in relation to Numurkah Solar Farm Sheep Trial (2019) 	10:30
5. Site inspection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External tour of the Numurkah SF connection asset (substation) to discuss connection voltages, underground cabling arrangements, isolation systems, harmonic filters and general commissioning and connection process [X]. 	10:45
6. Internal roads, fire breaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendees entered two vehicles for tour throughout solar infrastructure. POB discussed access roads around the site, including passing and park-up areas that assist internal traffic control within solar farm – particularly the risk of multiple entry points creating confusion/congestion of respondents during a fire hazard event. POB highlighted all gates on the farm are fitted with the appropriate fire authority districts padlocks enabling access for fire fighters Tracking systems, motors, modules, cable trays, inverters inspected. POB highlighted the arc flash potential while inside an array as an important risk to consider for fire respondents, reinforcing why firefighting (water) needs to be kept clear of the arrays/inverters. 	10:55
7. Protocol upon brigade entrance during fire event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendees discussed need for brigade to meet with site manager when responding to a fire event and to develop containment strategy of fire, rather than aims of responding to the fire directly within the arrays. Per the Fire management plan, Site Manager will meet brigade at entrance gate of project to develop containment strategy and collaborate with brigade, sharing on-site expertise. POB discussed with Attendees that in the event of fire on site, site operations would disable the underground AC and inverters; however the solar modules will remain active until irradiance subsides (i.e. night time) and may pose an electrical hazard to fire crews. 	11:10

Agenda Items	Meeting Notes	Time
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples were provided where testing indicated DC PV Panels can have residual charge even 45/60 minutes after sunset from onsite testing results prior to conducting night work maintenance. The group discussed containment strategy for a fire within a solar farm, whereby CFA/RFS/F&R crews to only fight fires in open areas, and only if there is no potential for contact with ANY infrastructure installed. 	
8. On-site water tanks distributed throughout project site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the 20,000 L water tanks on site were inspected of the x4 20,000 L tanks (80,000 L capacity). FF highlighted that nozzle-fitting point on 20,000L water tank was situated in proximity to the ground, presenting potential access issues should gravel accumulate underneath. FF suggestion that new water tank installations consider raising nozzle-fitting height an additional 60-100mm. Neoen to consider this in relation to Australian Standards and current design for water tanks. 	11:15
9. Vegetation growth in proximity to solar infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendees inspected vegetation growth under panels, discussing 100mm vegetation height requirements of Numurkah SF's Development Approval conditions and practicalities of meeting condition. Group shared general agreement that heights were well maintained. Attendees discussed the vegetation's relative health and the dispersion of vegetation under the solar tracking infrastructure that is evidentially benefitting from shading and moisture collection from dew residue, in comparison with vegetation health on neighbouring rural properties. 	11:25
10. Site perimeter inspection (vegetation buffer zone and fire breaks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendee vehicles travelled to perimeter of solar infrastructure to discuss external vegetation buffer zone POB noted significant resources required to maintain the external vegetation screen that is an additional requirement of Numurkah SF's Development Approval conditions. POB and Attendees discussed the potential fire risk posed by excessive commitments for vegetation screening and the need for CFA/RFS to communicate their requirements from an emergency management view point with planning authority/shire/council so that above is taken into consideration before other planning authorities confirm DA conditions that do not meet risk management requirements of the fire services. Attendees reviewed perimeter fire breaks maintained throughout the project site, noting fence lines and access roads are maintained. 	11:30
11. Primary fire defence equipment (on site)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In proximity to the connection asset and site office, Attendees were shown firefighting equipment is maintained and operationally available during the FDP. (tractor, ploughs, grader blades and water trailers) Attendees reviewed portable water supply tanks fitted with appropriate valves/fittings for tanker suction. Review confirmed: Tanks clearly marked for water level and easily accessible. Areas around tanks remain clear, with recommended gravel hard stand around the tanks to reduce weeds and ensure stable ground for Firefighting appliances. Suitable number of tanks for size of facility located near access gates, with recommended signage on roadsides identifying water source available for CFA/RFS 	11:50




Agenda Items	Meeting Notes	Time
12. Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event concluded, discussing how varying agencies respond during events, with particular focus on projects such as Neoen's Numurkah, Goorambat and Culcairn Solar Farm's that are in proximity to the VIC-NSW border and the need for collaboration to be coordinated across CFA, RFS and F&R NSW. PH reinforced importance that brigades understand what the project's O&M team undertake during the first ten minutes of a fire event occurring. Attendees discussed the need to periodically refresh the local brigades via site visits as to protocols for fires on site. 	12:00
13. Post meeting remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsibilities of solar farm staff within the first ten minutes of a fire incident are of importance. Implementing controls in the development stage is the most effective way to introduce measures that will be in place ahead construction and operation phases. Consideration of vegetation barriers to being restrained to "reasonably practical" (in terms of Heights, widths and amount of trees) as they are intended for visual amenity, however it has been noted in discussion with the attendees that vegetation barriers can exponentially increase the risk of fire FF and BF (Fire and Rescue NSW) to liaise with AG (Rural Fire Service NSW) with assessment of Numurkah Solar Farm. As Neoen develops the Culcairn Solar Farm Fire Management Plan (prior to construction commencement), with the input from NSW Rural Fire Service and NSW Fire and Rescue. 	

End of meeting.

[1]		<p>External inspection of Connection Asset (substation), discussing underground cabling, harmonic filters, remote monitoring and controls and ability to isolate power from the project and grid.</p>
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CULCAIRN

SOLAR FARM

[2]		Viewing tracking systems, motors, solar modules.
[3]		Viewing tracking motor, cable trays, general access around infrastructure.
[4]		Views of internal fire breaks and setbacks from existing vegetation.

CULCAIRN

SOLAR FARM

[5]	 A group of four people are gathered around a bright yellow portable water truck. One person in a blue shirt is pointing at the truck's engine area. The truck has a large yellow tank and a silver engine. The background shows a dry, open landscape under a blue sky with some clouds.	<p>Inspecting on-site fire fighting equipment and valve compatibility with fire service equipment. This portable water truck is situated next to the main entrance point, site office and warehouse. Inspection tags are current and equipment well maintained.</p>
[6]	 A wide-angle shot of a solar farm. Rows of solar panels are visible in the distance, stretching across a flat, dry landscape. The sky is clear and blue with a few wispy clouds. A fence line is visible in the foreground.	<p>Views of Fire Breaks and distance from infrastructure to fence line.</p>

CULCAIRN

SOLAR FARM



Picture illustrating distance between tracker systems, noting the vegetation health and height.

Sheep grazing is assisting greatly in managing the 'fuel load' and height of grasses in proximity to solar infrastructure. Spot check mowing and slashing is required by O&M provider (Downer) to supplement unevenness that can remain from sheep grazing in preferred areas etc.

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BALFOUR STREET, CULCAIRN
ON WEDNESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2020**

The meeting opened at 6.55pm.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors Wilton (Chairperson), Meyer, Hicks, Knight, Parker, O'Neill, Quinn, Schilg and Weston.

PRESENT: General Manager, Director Environment and Planning, Director Engineering, Director Corporate and Community Services and Executive Assistant.

Pastor Graeme Shepherd read the prayer to commence the meeting.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor (Chairperson) offered an Acknowledgement of Country at the commencement of the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST OR NON PECUNIARY INTEREST (CONFLICT OF INTEREST)

Cr Matt Hicks gave notice of his intention to declare a pecuniary interest in PART A FOR DETERMINATION - ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING - ITEM 1 GREATER HUME COUNCIL – SUBMISSION TO THE EXHIBITION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT – CULCAIRN SOLAR FARM

Cr Matt Hicks gave notice of his intention to declare a non-pecuniary interest in CONFIDENTIAL – CLOSED COUNCIL PART A – ITEM 1 PART A FOR DETERMINATION - ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING - ITEM 1 PROPOSED VOLUNTARY PLANNING AGREEMENT – JINDERA SOLAR FARM PTY LTD

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 18 DECEMBER 2019

5504 RESOLVED [Meyer/Quinn]

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Greater Hume Council held at Holbrook on Wednesday, 18 December 2019 as printed and circulated be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of such meeting, subject to a correction to the voting on Minute No. 5502 Ordinary Meeting Reconvened as follows:

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Hicks Knight Meyer Quinn Schilg Weston Wilton		O'Neill Parker	

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BALFOUR STREET, CULCAIRN
ON WEDNESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2020**

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 18 DECEMBER 2019
[CONT'D]

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Hicks Knight Meyer O'Neill Parker Quinn Schilg Weston Wilton			

ACTION REPORT FROM THE MINUTES

1. 5263 – JELBART ROAD – REQUEST TO UNDERTAKE SEALING

Cr O'Neill queried whether the onsite meeting was held in January. Director Engineering advised that the meeting was postponed due to the Green Valley/Avoca bushfire, adding that the onsite meeting will be held shortly.

2. 5294 – CLASSIFICATION OF COMMUNITY LAND TO OPERATIONAL LAND

Cr Knight queried if Council has recently received an update on the status of the planning proposal. Director Environment and Planning advised that the said all land parcels were reclassified as Operational Land on 14 February 2020.

OFFICERS' REPORTS – PART A - FOR DETERMINATION

ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

1. **GREATER HUME COUNCIL – SUBMISSION TO THE EXHIBITION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT – CULCAIRN SOLAR FARM**

AT THIS JUNCTURE, COUNCILLOR MATT HICKS MADE A DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST IN THE MATTER NOW BEFORE THE COUNCIL AND LEFT THE MEETING ROOM AT 7.00PM PURSUANT TO SECTION 45(1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993 AND TOOK NO PART IN THE VOTING ON THE MATTER. THE REASON BEING IS THAT COUNCILLOR HICKS HAS AN INTEREST IN THE CULCAIRN SOLAR FARM DEVELOPMENT.

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BALFOUR STREET, CULCAIRN
ON WEDNESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2020**

**GREATER HUME COUNCIL – SUBMISSION TO THE EXHIBITION OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT – CULCAIRN SOLAR FARM**

5505 MOTION [Meyer/O'Neill]

That Council resolve to lodge a submission as outlined in ANNEXURE 1 that objects to the development of the Culcairn Solar Farm as described in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Culcairn Solar Farm, and include the following additional points

1. Advanced screening species be two to three year old trees
2. For the period of 1 December to 31 March – a fire unit fully manned onsite with three people to operate a fire tanker
3. A 12 month weed control plan signed off by two agronomists.

AMENDMENT [Cr Quinn/

With regard to the development of the Culcairn Solar Farm, Council resolves to lodge a submission that raises the additional issues as outlined below

1. Advanced screening species be two to three year old trees
2. For the period of 1 December to 31 March – a fire unit fully manned onsite with three people to operate a fire tanker
3. A 12 month weed control plan signed off by two agronomists.

CR WILTON, CHAIRPERSON, CALLED FOR A SECONDER TO THE AMENDMENT, THE AMENDMENT LAPSED FOR WANT OF A SECONDER.

5506 MOTION [Schilg/

That the motion be put.

ON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE, THE MOTION WAS TIED. THE MAYOR SPOKE TO THE MEETING. ON USING HER CASTING VOTE, THE MAYOR VOTED IN FAVOUR OF THE MOTION.

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Meyer O'Neill Parker Schilg	Knight Quinn Weston (abstained) Wilton		Hicks

Cr Parker left the chamber at 7.50 pm.

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BALFOUR STREET, CULCAIRN
ON WEDNESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2020**

2. DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION 10.2019.148.1 – 2 LOT SUBDIVISION - LOT 832 DP1050916 FOUR MILE LANE LITTLE BILLABONG

5507 RESOLVED [Quinn/Schilg]

Pursuant to Clauses 4.16 and 4.17 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 a 2 lot subdivision and building envelope be approved at Lots 832 DP 1050916, 1596 Four Mile Lane Little Billabong subject to the following conditions of approval:

- 1 The development is to be carried out generally in accordance with the approved plan and accompanying report endorsed DA10.2019.148.1 except where amended by any conditions of this consent.
- 2 Prior to the issue of a subdivision certificate for any lot the applicant shall provide to Council for approval -
 - (a) Written advice from Essential Energy and Telstra indicating availability of electricity and telecommunications for Lot 1.
- 3 Prior to the issue of a Subdivision Certificate for any lot the applicant shall undertake the following works in accordance with Council's specifications and at the applicant's expense:
 - a. Construction of a new "typical rural driveway crossovers" for Lots 1 and 2 onto Four Mile Lane as from Council's specification.
- 4 All easements necessary to ensure the supply of services and access shall be provided.
- 5 The building envelope shown on the approved plan is only an indicative building envelope created to establish that a dwelling can be developed following a full assessment of the suitability of the land for the erection of a dwelling when a subsequent development application and construction certificate or complying development certificate application for a dwelling is considered.
- 6 **Aboriginal Heritage**
In the event an item of archaeological significance is revealed during any works, then work is to cease and the existence of the artefact and its location is to be reported to the Office of Environment & Heritage
- 7 No trees shall be removed from this land as a result of the subdivision without the written permission of Council.
- 8 Any works associated with this development shall be undertaken in accordance with Council's Soil and Water Management Guidelines for Subdivisions.
- 9 All Stormwater drainage shall be to natural drainage lines.
- 10 Written notice shall be given to Council seven (7) days prior to the commencement of any works associated with the subdivision.
- 11 This consent shall lapse if the development hereby permitted is not physically commenced within five (5) years of the date of consent.

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BALFOUR STREET, CULCAIRN
ON WEDNESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2020**

**DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION 10.2019.148.1 – 2 LOT SUBDIVISION - LOT 832 DP1050916
FOUR MILE LANE LITTLE BILLABONG [CONT'D]**

- 12 It will be necessary to ensure that all dams comply with the appropriate 'harvestable rights' or are appropriately licensed as a result of the subdivision. [NOTE: In respect of this condition please refer to the 'Farm Dams Policy' administered by the Department of Primary Industries Office of Water.]
- 13 During construction, work must be conducted in a manner so as not to be injurious to health and amenity by reason of noise, vibrations, smells, dust, stormwater runoff, sediment loss, placement of building materials and wastes, rubbish, footway interference, traffic generated, hours of operation and the like.
- 14 Prior to the issue of a Subdivision Certificate, payment of \$110 per lot (except for lots that only provide access to other lots) for the provision of Rural Addressing Number plates for each lot in the development is to be made to Council (i.e. 20 lots x \$110 = \$2200). In addition payment of \$250 per sign for the installation of road signs (including posts) for all road intersections created in the development (i.e. 4 intersections x \$250 = \$1000). All proposed roads (including private roads) must be named with all names to be approved by Council.
- 15 Subdivision Certificate will only be issued upon completion of "Application for Subdivision Certificate" (form attached) and payment of the fee applicable when the subdivision certificate is issued.

NSW Rural Fire Service Conditions

16 Asset Protection Zones

At the issue of a subdivision certificate, the site around the existing building on lot 2 must be managed as an inner protection area (IPA) for a distance of 15 metres or to the property boundary whichever is the lesser. The IPA must comprise:

- Minimal fine fuel at ground level;
- Grass mowed or grazed;
- Trees and shrubs retained as clumps or islands and do not take up more than 20% of the area;
- Trees and shrubs located far enough from buildings so that they will not ignite the building;
- Garden beds with flammable shrubs not located under trees or within 10 metres of any windows or doors;
- Minimal plant species that keep dead material or drop large quantities of ground fuel;
- Tree canopy cover not more than 15%;
- Tree canopies not located within 2 metres of the building;
- Trees separated by 2-5 metres and do not provide a continuous canopy from the hazard to the building; and,
- Lower limbs of trees removed up to a height of 2 metres above the ground.

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BALFOUR STREET, CULCAIRN
ON WEDNESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2020**

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION 10.2019.148.1 – 2 LOT SUBDIVISION - LOT 832 DP1050916
FOUR MILE LANE LITTLE BILLABONG [CONT'D]

17 Construction Standards

The existing dwelling must be upgraded to improve ember protection by enclosing all openings (excluding roof tile spaces) or covering openings with a non-corrosive metal screen mesh with a maximum aperture of 2mm. Where applicable, this includes any sub floor areas, openable windows, vents, weepholes and eaves. External doors are to be fitted with draft excluders.

18 Water and Utility Services

Water, electricity and gas are to comply with section 4.1.3 of 'Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006'.

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Knight Meyer O'Neill Quinn Schilg Weston Wilton		Hicks Parker	

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BALFOUR STREET, CULCAIRN
ON WEDNESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2020**

GOVERNANCE

1. MURRAY REGIONAL TOURISM BOARD – ONE YEAR EXTENSION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Cr Hicks returned to the chamber at 7.52pm
Cr Parker returned to the chamber at 7.53pm.

5508 RESOLVED [Meyer/O'Neill]

That:

1. Greater Hume Council accede to the request from the Murray Regional Tourism Board to enter into a one year extension of the Funding Agreement
2. Over the ensuing 12 month period a full analysis be made of the benefits of being part of the organisation.

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Knight Meyer O'Neill Parker Quinn Schilg Weston Wilton			

2. DROUGHT COMMUNITIES PROGRAM (DCP) – ALLOCATION OF REMAINING FUNDS

5509 RESOLVED [Schilg/Parker]

That:

1. Council reallocate \$25,000 for the Adverse Events Plan to other projects.
2. The Adverse Events Plan be completed 'in-house' with the assistance of REROC/RivJO Drought Committee.
3. Council fund the following projects from the Drought Communities Program:

Name of Project	Amount Requested	Recommended Amount
Wirraminna toilet facility	\$25,000	\$25,000
Walbundrie Building Committee	\$25,095	\$25,000
Burrumbuttock Recreation Reserve Management Committee	\$68,000	\$60,000

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
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DROUGHT COMMUNITIES PROGRAM (DCP) – ALLOCATION OF REMAINING FUNDS [CONT'D]

Name of Project	Amount Requested	Recommended Amount
Brocklesby Recreation Reserve Committee – New function room	\$50,000	\$40,000
Walla Walla Sportsground – Function Room	\$25,000	\$25,000
Total		\$175,000

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Hicks Knight Meyer O'Neill Parker Quinn Schilg Weston Wilton			

3. OVERVIEW OF GREEN VALLEY/AVOCA BUSH FIRE AND POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE FROM COUNCIL

5510 RESOLVED [Knight/Meyer]

That Council approve the waiving of the following fees:

1. All Council development application fees, complying development fees including any section 7.12 Developer Contribution Charges (some State Government fees may still apply refer following report on State and Federal Government assistance)
2. Waiving of Waste Disposal fees for materials damaged by the fire or as a result of the fire.
3. Waiving of interest on outstanding rates and charges for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020 for all properties directly impacted by the Green Valley/Avoca fire.

Further, that a letter of thanks be sent to all staff who took part in the administration and other works out of their normal work roles and hours.

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Hicks Knight Meyer O'Neill Parker Quinn Schilg Weston Wilton			

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
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4. OVERVIEW OF BUSHFIRE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE AUSTRALIAN AND NSW STATE GOVERNMENTS

5511 RESOLVED [Knight/Schilg]

That:

1. the report be received and noted and
2. Council consider potential projects for funding under the Bushfire Community Resilience and Economic Recovery Funds at the Workshop to be held on Wednesday 11 March 2020.
3. An approach be made to the Albury Hume Fire Control centre to obtain statistics of the involvement of fire fighters from our shire in respect of the Volunteer Fire Fighter payment

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Hicks Knight Meyer O'Neill Parker Quinn Schilg Weston Wilton			

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. INTERIM 2019/2020 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

5512 RESOLVED [Meyer/Weston]

That Council note and approve the Interim Budget Review Statement as at 31 December 2019.

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Hicks Knight Meyer O'Neill Parker Quinn Schilg Weston Wilton			

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
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ON WEDNESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2020**

2. AMENDMENT TO FEES & CHARGES SCHEDULE 2019/2020

5513 RESOLVED [O'Neill/Knight]

That the revised Fees & Charges Schedule for 2019/2020 incorporate the additional Short-term Licence Application fee for Crown Lands.

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Hicks Knight Meyer O'Neill Parker Quinn Schilg Weston Wilton			

3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM 2019-2020

5514 RESOLVED [Quinn/Parker]

That Greater Hume Council approve funding for the following projects from the Greater Hume Council Community Development Grant Program.

Community Group	Project Name	Amount Requested	Organisation's Cash/ In-kind Contribution	Total Project Value	Amount Recommended
Holbrook Netball Club	New and repairs to Team Shelters Priority 2	\$4,000	\$7,981.22	\$10,022.22	\$3,241
The Anglican Church Holbrook	Op Shop Air Conditioning	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$10,000	\$4,000
Holbrook Lions Club	Flags for Holbrook	\$1,225	\$1,225	\$2,850	\$1,225
Henty Park Tennis Club	Building of Trophy Cabinet	\$2,000	\$2,530	\$4,530	\$2,000
Total		\$11,225	\$17,736.22	\$27,402.22	\$10,466

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM 2019-2020 [CONT'D]

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Hicks Knight Meyer O'Neill Parker Quinn Schilg Weston Wilton			

ENGINEERING

1. ALLOCATION OF ADDITIONAL ROADS TO RECOVERY FUNDING

5515 RESOLVED [Hicks/Quinn]

That Council allocate the following projects to the Roads to Recovery Program, following additional funding allocations:

1. \$250,000 - Alma Park Road Reconstruct remaining 1.1km (reallocate funding from direct Council funded project this year to RTR program funding)
2. That \$250,000 be reallocated to the survey, design and environmental components undertaken to support the funding applications.
3. \$213,995 – MR 370 Kywong – Howlong Rd Reconstruction (Additional funding to allow a further 0.5km to be constructed under Tender TL 06 – 2019/20)
4. \$200,000 – MR 370 Kywong Howlong Road – to undertake 2.5km of shoulder widening to allow this section of road to be completed next financial year using the Regional Roads Repair Program)
5. \$227,290 – MR 331 Jingellic Road (Replacement of existing old chain mesh fencing with guardrail) in section between Coppabella Road and Council boundary).

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Hicks Knight Meyer O'Neill Parker Quinn Schilg Weston Wilton			

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
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2. TL 06 – 2019/20 RECONSTRUCTION – KYWONG HOWLONG ROAD

5516 RESOLVED [O'Neill/Schilg]

That:

1. the tender submitted by Longford Civil of \$558,995.00 (excl. GST) be accepted
2. the unsuccessful tenderers be notified
3. the General Manager and the Mayor be authorised to sign the Contract with Longford Civil.

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Hicks Knight Meyer O'Neill Parker Quinn Schilg Weston Wilton			

ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO CLOSED COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

1. PROPOSED VOLUNTARY PLANNING AGREEMENT – JINDERA SOLAR FARM PTY LTD

5517 RESOLVED [Meyer/Knight]

That the proposed Jindera Solar Farm Voluntary Planning Agreement be referred to Closed Council in accordance with section 10A(2)(d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

REASON

On balance preserving the confidential commercial information of the proponent outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in Council decision making.

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Knight Meyer O'Neill Parker Quinn Schilg Weston Wilton			Hicks

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BALFOUR STREET, CULCAIRN
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GOVERNANCE

1. OFFER TO PURCHASE LOT 80 JACOB WENKE DRIVE RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION, WALLA WALLA

5518 RESOLVED [Meyer/Knight]

That consideration of the offer to purchase Lot 80 comprising 943.11 sqm at the Jacob Wenke Drive subdivision at Walla Walla be referred to Closed Council in accordance with section 10 A (2) (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer an advantage on a person whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

REASON

On balance the confidentiality of the offer to purchase Lot 80 comprising 943.11sqm. at the Jacob Wenke Drive subdivision outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in Council decision making because the disclosure of this information could compromise the commercial position of Council in any future sales.

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Hicks Knight Meyer O'Neill Parker Quinn Schilg Weston Wilton			

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. OFFER OF GIFTING OF PROPERTY TO COUNCIL

5519 RESOLVED [Meyer/Knight]

It is recommended that the consideration of the offer of gifting property to Council be referred to Closed Council for discussion, in accordance with the relevant section of the Local Government Act, 1993 section 10A (2)(d) (i) commercial information of a confidential nature that would if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

REASON FOR REFERRAL

The matters to be discussed by Councillors and staff relate to the personal financial dealings of individual ratepayers and as such as confidential in nature and not suitable for disclosure in Open Council.

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
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OFFER OF GIFTING OF PROPERTY TO COUNCIL [CONT'D]

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Hicks Knight Meyer O'Neill Parker Quinn Schilg Weston Wilton			

2. OFFER TO PURCHASE 11 WATTLE STREET, CULCAIRN

5520 RESOLVED [Meyer/Knight]

That consideration of the offer to purchase 11 Wattle Street, Culcairn be referred to Closed Council in accordance with section 10 A (2) (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer an advantage on a person whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

REASON

On balance the confidentiality of the offer to purchase 11 Wattle Street, Culcairn outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in Council decision making because the disclosure of this information could compromise the commercial position of Council in any future sales.

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Hicks Knight Meyer O'Neill Parker Quinn Schilg Weston Wilton			

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
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**OFFICERS' REPORTS – PART B – TO BE RECEIVED AND NOTED
GOVERNANCE**

1. 2017/2021 DELIVERY PLAN AND 2019-2020 OPERATIONAL PLAN – REPORT AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

5521 RESOLVED [Hicks/Parker]

That Council receive and note the 2017/2021 Delivery Plan and 2019/2020 Operational Plan review report to 31 December 2019.

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Hicks Knight Meyer O'Neill Parker Quinn Schilg Weston Wilton			

2. SOUTHERN LIGHTS PROJECT – FUNDING OPTIONS

5522 RESOLVED [Hicks/Parker]

That the report be received and noted.

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Hicks Knight Meyer O'Neill Parker Quinn Schilg Weston Wilton			

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
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CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. LAND VALUATIONS

5523 RESOLVED [Hicks/Parker]

That the report be received and noted.

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Hicks Knight Meyer O'Neill Parker Quinn Schilg Weston Wilton			

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW SOFTWARE PACKAGE – LIVEPRO

Cr Schilg briefly left and then returned to the chamber at 8.17pm.

5524 RESOLVED [Hicks/Parker]

The report be received and noted.

PART C - ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

GOVERNANCE

- 1. WORKSHOP/BRIEFING SESSION SCHEDULE 2020/2021**
- 2. OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CIRCULARS**
- 3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW SOUTH WALES (LGNSW) – WEEKLY CIRCULARS**
- 4. TOURISM AND PROMOTIONS OFFICER'S REPORT**
- 5. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

- 1. GREATER HUME CUSTOMER REQUEST MODULE – SUMMARY OF MONTHLY REQUESTS**

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
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2. **STATEMENTS OF BANK BALANCES AND INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019 AND 31 JANUARY 2020**
3. **PEOPLE & CULTURE (HR) REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2019 AND JANUARY 2020**
4. **GREATER HUME CHILDREN SERVICES – REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2020**
5. **GREATER HUME COMMUNITY SERVICES – REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2020**
6. **GREATER HUME LIBRARY SERVICES – REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2020**
7. **GREATER HUME YOUTH PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**

ENGINEERING

1. **DECEMBER 2019 AND JANUARY 2020 REPORT OF WORKS**
2. **WATER & SEWER REPORT – DECEMBER 2019 AND JANUARY 2020**

ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

1. **DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS PROCESSED FOR THE MONTHS OF DECEMBER 2019 AND JANUARY 2020**
2. **RANGER'S REPORTS – DECEMBER 2019 AND JANUARY 2020**
3. **SENIOR WEEDS OFFICER'S REPORT- DECEMBER 2019 AND JANUARY 2020**

5525 RESOLVED [Hicks/Parker]

That Part C of the Agenda be received and noted.

PART D – COMMITTEE AND DELEGATE REPORTS

5526 RESOLVED [Hicks/Parker]

That Part D of the Agenda be received and noted.

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
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MATTER OF URGENCY

Nil.

CLOSING THE MEETING

At this juncture the member of the press vacated the chamber at 8.30pm.

5527 RESOLVED [Hicks/Quinn]

That the meeting be closed during the discussion of the item of business referred to the confidential section of the meeting.

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Hicks Knight Meyer O'Neill Parker Quinn Schilg Weston Wilton			

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SECTION

5528 RESOLVED [8.30pm] [Parker/Knight]

That, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, Council enter into 'Committee of the Whole' for the discussion of the following items of business:

1. **PROPOSED VOLUNTARY PLANNING AGREEMENT – JINDERA SOLAR FARM PTY LTD**
2. **OFFER TO PURCHASE LOT 80 JACOB WENKE DRIVE RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION, WALLA WALLA**
3. **OFFER OF GIFTING OF PROPERTY TO COUNCIL**
4. **OFFER TO PURCHASE 11 WATTLE STREET, CULCAIRN**

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BALFOUR STREET, CULCAIRN
ON WEDNESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2020**

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Hicks Knight Meyer O'Neill Parker Quinn Schilg Weston Wilton			

**CONFIDENTIAL - CLOSED COUNCIL (COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)
ITEMS FOR DETERMINATION**

**1. PROPOSED VOLUNTARY PLANNING AGREEMENT – JINDERA SOLAR FARM
PTY LTD**

AT THIS JUNCTURE, COUNCILLOR MATT HICKS MADE A DECLARATION OF NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST IN THE MATTER NOW BEFORE THE COUNCIL AND LEFT THE MEETING ROOM AT 8.31PM PURSUANT TO SECTION 45(1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993 AND TOOK NO PART IN THE VOTING ON THE MATTER. THE REASON BEING IS THAT COUNCILLOR HICKS HAS AN INTEREST IN AN ANOTHER SOLAR FARM DEVELOPMENT.

RECOMMENDATION [Knight/Quinn]

Council advise Jindera Solar Farm Pty Ltd that "without prejudice" the Heads of Terms could form the basis of a draft Voluntary Planning Agreement which would ultimately be signed subject to public exhibition and consent to the development being granted by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

VOTING ON THE RECOMMENDATION

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Knight Meyer O'Neill Parker Quinn Schilg Weston Wilton			Hicks

Cr Hicks returned to the chamber at 8.32pm.

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BALFOUR STREET, CULCAIRN
ON WEDNESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2020**

2. OFFER TO PURCHASE LOT 80 JACOB WENKE DRIVE RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION, WALLA WALLA

RECOMMENDATION [O'Neill/Parker]

That:

1. Council accept the offer of \$55,000 (including GST) from Shanon Klein and Jessica Kotzur to purchase Lot 80 in the Jacob Wenke Drive Subdivision at Walla Walla.
2. the Mayor and General Manager be authorised to signed related documentation for the sale under the Common Seal of Council.

VOTING ON THE RECOMMENDATION

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Hicks Knight Meyer O'Neill Parker Quinn Schilg Weston Wilton			

3. OFFER OF GIFTING OF PROPERTY TO COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATION [Knight/Hicks]

That Council not accept the offer to gift the property at 71-73 Swift Street, Holbrook to Council.

VOTING ON THE RECOMMENDATION

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Hicks Knight Meyer O'Neill Parker Quinn Schilg Weston Wilton			

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BALFOUR STREET, CULCAIRN
ON WEDNESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2020**

4. DANIEL THOMAS HOBAN - OFFER TO PURCHASE 11 WATTLE STREET, CULCAIRN

RECOMMENDATION [Hicks/Quinn]

That:

1. Council accept the offer of \$20,000 (GST incl) from Daniel Thomas Hoban to purchase 11 Wattle Street, Culcairn
2. the Mayor and General Manager be authorised to signed related documentation for the sale under the Common Seal of Council.

VOTING ON THE RECOMMENDATION

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Hicks Knight Meyer O'Neill Parker Quinn Schilg Weston Wilton			

ORDINARY MEETING RECONVENED

5529 RESOLVED [8.36pm] [Hicks/Parker]

That the Ordinary Meeting be reconvened for the purpose of determining the report of the matter dealt with in Committee.

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Hicks Knight Meyer Parker O'Neill Quinn Schilg Weston Wilton			

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BALFOUR STREET, CULCAIRN
ON WEDNESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2020**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF CLOSED COUNCIL (COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

5530 RESOLVED [Weston/Hicks]

That the foregoing report and recommendations from Closed Council (Committee of the Whole) be adopted.

COUNCILLORS FOR	COUNCILLORS AGAINST	COUNCILLORS ABSENT	COUNCILLORS DECLARING INTEREST
Hicks Knight Meyer Quinn O'Neill Parker Schilg Weston Wilton			

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.36pm.

THESE MINUTES WERE CONFIRMED at the Council meeting held on 18 March 2020 at which time the signature hereon was subscribed.

Cr Heather Wilton
Mayor, Greater Hume Council



Thursday, May 07, 2020

Jayfields Nursery have been liaising Neoen regarding Native vegetation planting & species suitable for planting at the Culcairn Solar Farm site.

Jayfields Nursery are a leading supplier of Native vegetation plants including Trees, shrubs and grasses and we supply to a wide variety of both Govt and private organisations including supplying plants for Commercial Forestry, Farm Forestry, Farm revegetation including shelter belts and erosion control, road projects, housing, commercial and renewable energy projects.

To provide an indication of the scale of our operations across NSW and Victoria during 2019/2020 we are supplying in excess of 4.5m trees to various projects and advised on several major projects in respect of the correct planting regime to ensure that plants we supply mature sufficiently and establish a good root ball system which leads to effective screening where required. I have attached our full profile document for your overview.

Jayfields Nursery have been helping customers successfully establish plants in varying landscapes for the past 30 years. It is our professional opinion that I am adamant that attempting to plant mature species would be futile and would not be the most effective and efficient use of native plants. Mature planting in our experience leads to a very high plant loss and results in much weaker growth pattern which is often not noticeable till 3-8 years down the track and particularly evident in high wind/storm events. We do not recommend this for any of our projects across NSW or Victoria.

I am aware of the location of the Culcairn Solar Farm and the characteristics of the native vegetation that will thrive if correctly planted across the area. Our professional recommendation is that by correctly preparing the ground coupled with excellent weed control & localised spraying, followed by planting during the winter months (ideally mid July) will give our plants the best possible chance of success which will lead to an effective and healthy screen whilst also providing habitat and foraging areas for native birds and wildlife.





I can confirm that we have provided Neoen with our detailed guidance sheets on best practice for ground preparation which I understand Neoen will furnish to the Landowners and any involved contractors.

Please let me know if you require any further information regarding this process. We would be pleased to help you ensure a successful planting outcome.

Kind regards

Kelly Glass
Jayfields Nursery



Tree Planting Calendar

“Successful preparation is the key to successful planting”

SUMMER

ORDER TREES AND SHRUBS

- Order plants early to guarantee supply, December/January is best.
- Select species local to you area or ask **Jayfields Nursery** for advice on suitable species.

AUTUMN

RIP TREE LINES

- Rip before the Autumn break, while the ground is dry, and before ground becomes too wet preferably, to get deep shattering of the soil.
- Rip 4 metres apart at a minimum depth of 45cm.
- Don't rip under the drip-line of existing trees.
- Mound in wet areas.
- Break up large clods as they can cover phalaris plants thus reducing winter spray effectiveness.

SPRAYING

Before frost and 10 days after rain

- Spray any **couch grass** areas with *Glyphosate*.

One month after Autumn break when plants are actively growing

- **Spray phalaris and/or cocksfoot, if present.** These plants are very hard to kill so seek appropriate advice on sprays and rates.

WINTER

3-4 WEEKS MINIMUM - PRIOR TO PLANTING. Knock down weeds & apply residual herbicide to control competition throughout Spring.

- For normal annual weed and pasture species, spray with *Glyphosate*, plus a suitable residual herbicide. Adequate weed control is best achieved with the application of *Glyphosate* and a residual herbicide. *Glyphosate* alone will not achieve adequate weed control.
- *Simazine*, a residual herbicide, has been used extensively with great success in weed control in the past.
- **NB.** Plant back period on *Simazine* is minimum of 3 weeks.
- Please refer to product labels or a reputable chemical advisor for rate and use details.

BEFORE PLANTING

Control rabbits and hares

- Coordinate with neighbours if necessary.
- Avoid the need for labour-intensive and expensive tree guards.

One week prior to planting.

- Inspect rip lines for regrowth and respray if needed with *Glyphosate* only.

WINTER/SPRING

PLANT SEEDLINGS

- Plant mid July to mid September (depending on rainfall and soil type), but one month after spraying.
- Plant at least 4 x 4 metres apart, up to a maximum of 625 seedlings/ha

AFTER PLANTING

First week after planting

- Inspect for vermin or stock damage, or stock entry to plantation.

Regularly post-planting

- Check plants – make sure there are no weeds within half a metre of plants through Spring and early Summer.
- Watch regularly for grasshoppers, particularly in dry years – spray if causing damage. Use suitable methods to control, seek advice.

Weed control throughout the first Spring and into Summer is the single most important element affecting tree survival and growth.



Profile:

Jayfields Nursery commenced operations in 1987 on the property 'Jayfields' 30 km north of Holbrook. Since then, Jayfields Nursery has established a reputation for:

- Providing high quality seedlings using state of the art propagation techniques.
- Meeting production schedules
- Delivering on time with efficient transport carrying loads of up to 161,300 seedlings, (Hiko V93).
- Site Preparation
- Contract planting
- Friendly efficient service

Annual production/capacity up to 4.5 million seedlings grown for a variety of revegetation projects, large and smaller scale forestry throughout QLD, NSW, Victoria.

- Services have in the past been provided in NSW, Victoria, QLD, and can include SA and NT.

Jayfields Nursery is an accredited nursery of the NSW Nursery Industry Association, and complies with the Nursery Industry Accreditation Scheme of Australia, (NIASA).

Jayfields Nursery has previously won the Award of excellence for Outstanding Achievement in NSW and ACT as well having won a **State and National - Australian Garden Industry Award for Best Medium Production Nursery.**

Jayfields Nursery currently produce a large variety of approximately 170 different species of Australian natives & Pinus Radiata seedlings in the **Hiko 40 cell tray, 93 cc volume**. Seedlings are grown from a variety of provenances and sourced from authorised seed collectors such as Greening Australia, our own collectors in specific locations, other private collectors such as Natural Capital Seeds, private forestry seed orchards, and CSIRO. Collections are Florabank compliant.

- Nursery propagation techniques involve precision vacuum seeding where a single seed is sown in the centre of the cell. Most plant species are initially sown into small cells where pre germination imbibition is carried out to improve germination % and uniformity of germination. Cells are then transplanted into Hiko cell when plants are large enough. All propagation takes place at Jayfields Nursery.
- Seed lots, provenances and batches are strictly and accurately tracked throughout the entire propagation process with use of specialised Nursery software and appropriate recording. All trays are tagged with species information and seed lot code.
- All seedlings are grown off the ground on rolling benches and racks to meet accreditation requirements and allow for air pruning of roots during growing out in the nursery.
- Regular reporting is provided to the client if requested by measuring seedling/plant development, assessing numbers etc and reporting with excel spreadsheets. Inspection from clients is welcome at all times with prior appointment.

- Seedlings meet our nurseries strict quality specifications, and QA process.
- Seedlings are grown in the open nursery with excellent airflow and under no shade, and be fully exposed to frost for hardening off. The nursery growing area provides a hygienic nursery environment.
- Watering is controlled by computerised travelling irrigation units with the supply coming from an on farm bore with proven and more than ample supply, and purified through a reverse osmosis unit. The nursery also has back up extensive storage of 85 ML of earth storage dams that if used is sterilised through UV units in compliance with NISIA accreditation
- Seedlings undergo rigorous analysis throughout the growing period to ensure growth factors are on target, and they are free of disease. Plant tissue analysis is conducted to ensure plant health and growth targets are achieved.
- Fertiliser is added to potting medium and also applied through the boom spray irrigation delivering very accurate and even nutrient application. A nursery software program is used and has been developed and refined to accurately determine specific nutrient applications for plants.

Qualifications:

Staff at Jayfields are highly experienced with combined 50 years working with Jayfields Nursery over the last 24 years

Qualifications include:

Bachelor Commerce – Melbourne University
 Bachelor of Commerce – CPA – Deakin University
 Diploma in Horticulture - Charles Sturt University
 Certificate 3 Horticulture

Dispatch of seedlings:

Jayfields Nursery can deliver practically any where with a variety of methods, racks, shelves, trailers, trucks.

Loads of up to 161,300 plants (Hiko V93) more with smaller cells, in one load can be delivered.

Smaller loads can be delivered using our fully covered Ute(s) and trailer(s) combinations from 6k up to 25k plants in one load.

Dispatch dockets will be sent with every delivery.

Current and past clients:

This list does not include many of the 1500 odd clients we have serviced on our data base.
Greenfleet

Murrumbidgee LLS
Murray LLS
Parks Conservation and Lands
DSE Mansfield Vic
CO2 Australia
VIC Forests
Carbon Conscious
Noske Skog
Citola
Albury City Council
Parklands Albury Wodonga
Wagga City Council
Holbrook Landcare
Upper Murray Landcare
Murrumbidgee Landcare
Central West Landcare
RMS
ABI Group

Frewin Trees
GMC Environmental Services
Wodonga City Council
Forest Enterprises Australia
Great Southern Plantations
Integrated Tree Cropping
Midway Wood Products
Plantations International
East Coast Tree Farms
Hume Forests
Agriwealth / ForAust
PF Olsen
Indufor
Abbeygate
R.Steiner

Other wholesale nurseries

References available upon request.

Please visit our website, www.jayfieldsnursery.com.au

For any further information including our species list and brochure, please phone, fax or email us.

Yours sincerely,

Tim and Kelly Glass
Owners / Managers
JAYFIELDS NURSERY
02 60367235
sales@jayfieldsnursery.com.au



