

ALL COMMUNICATIONS MUST BE ADDRESSED TO THE GENERAL MANAGER

Contact: RS:NMR:626

23 February 2017

Planning Services Department of Planning & Environment Att: Executive Director – Resource Assessments and Business Systems GPO Box 39 SYDNEY NSW 2001

Department of Planning Received 0 1 MAR 2017

Scanning Room

Dear Sir,

Re: Sunraysia Solar Farm

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the Development Application for the Balranald Sunraysia Solar Farm.

Council supports the project and the opportunities it brings.

However, Council has concerns, the major one relates to the potential interactions with other major projects such as the Iluka Mineral Sands project and the major expansion of intensive horticulture (goFarm – 7000 hectares of almonds). Both these projects demand considerable workers during construction / planning stages.

The EIS does not provide a clear strategy to deal with construction worker accommodation. From a community perspective this should be located in an adjacent area to the Balranald urban area to deliver maximum local benefit.

Council notes that the EIS does not flag any significant contribution to the local area and suggests that a VPA should be considered given the scale of the project. This could focus on the provision of:

- 1. Funding and provision of information display material for the Balranald Discovery Centre to explain and promote the project.
- 2. Scholarships for local student support, training and skill development.

Please contact Councils Acting Director of Infrastructure and Development, Bob Stewart, on 03 5020 1300 or by email on <u>bstewart@balranald.nsw.gov.au</u> if you require further information.

Yours faithfully,

Aaron Drenovski

GENERAL MANAGER

BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL



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