

Draft Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan Maryvale Solar Farm

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Prepared for:

Photon Energy

Client representative:

Robert Ibrahim

Date:

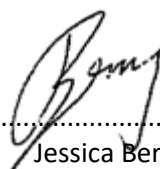
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Prepared by:  Date: 29 October 2018
Jessica Berry

Reviewed by:  Date: 29 October 2018
David Carberry

Authorised by:  Date: 29 October 2018
Malinda Facey

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of this Maryvale Solar Farm Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan (DRP) is to develop a framework for the decommissioning and rehabilitation phase of the Project and describe the following components to ensure this phase is undertaken in the most appropriate manner:

- Identify and document the existing environment and conditions of the Site
- Identify critical stakeholders
- Outline the applicable approvals and licencing conditions
- Implement appropriate management measures to ensure the decommissioning does not cause irreversible environmental impacts
- Implement appropriate management measures to ensure that the site is rehabilitated to previous conditions.

This plan would be implemented at the end of the operational life of the solar farm, likely to be 25 years after construction of the solar farm.

1.2 Objectives

The objective of this DRP is to provide a framework that will help ensure appropriate decommissioning and rehabilitation is undertaken at the end of the Project's operational life in accordance with legislative requirements, conditions of approval, stakeholder interests and industry best practice.

1.3 Finalising the Plan

It is anticipated that following approval being given to the Proposal by the Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E), conditions of approval would likely relate to the requirement of this DRP to be updated, reviewed, approved and implemented under the Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP). As a result, this document would be amended post-approval to reflect the specific conditions or management measures outlined within any approval documents and requirements.

Additionally, due to the timeframe between preparation and implementation of this plan it is and will remain in Draft status until 2 years prior to decommissioning at which point it will be reviewed, updated and amended as required. This would include consideration of the following circumstances which may have changed during the operational life of the Solar Farm:

- Potential future uses of the site and/or landowner preferences
- Developments in decommissioning and rehabilitation methodologies and management measures
- Relevant policy, legislation and guidelines relevant to the Project.

1.4 Interactions with other documents

This DRP is a supporting document to the Maryvale Solar Farm Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) 2018 and should be read in conjunction with the EIS and specialist reports provided as part of the EIS.

2. Project Summary

2.1 The Proponent

The Proponent is Maryvale Solar Farm which is owned by three companies being Photon Energy, Canadian Solar and Polpo Investments. Should the asset be divested at any phase in the construction or operational phase of the Project, the implementation of this DRP would also be divested to the new owners.

2.2 Project Site

The Maryvale Solar Farm is to be located on land parcels located at 121 Maryvale Road and 801 Cobbora Road, Maryvale, NSW, 2820 located approximately 15km north-west of Wellington within the Dubbo Regional Council Local Government Area (LGA).

The layout of the Solar Farm at the Site is illustrated in Figure 2-1.

2.3 Land Ownership

The Solar Farm and ancillary features would occupy approximately 375ha and be located and contained within:

- Part Lot 2 DP 573426
- Lot 1 DP 1095725
- Lot 2 DP 1095725
- Lot 1 DP 1006557
- Part Lot 182 DP 754318
- Part Lot 122 DP 754318.

This land is privately owned and leased by MSF from the landowners for a 25 year duration.

2.4 Project Description

The solar farm includes the following components:

- Solar Components including
 - Up to 450,000 PV panels on mounting structures that enable the panels to track the sun (known as “single axis trackers”)
 - Electrical connections and inverter stations (where the inverters are within containers within the solar PV arrays)
 - Underground cabling / collection circuits
- Electrical infrastructure including
 - Transmission kiosk
 - A 132kV Substation
 - 33kV switchgear
- A main access road
- Upgrade of intersections and roads to facilitate safe access as described below
- Ancillary facilities and construction compounds
- Perimeter security fencing and

- Two maintenance storage containers.

At the end of the operational phase (likely 25 years) the infrastructure would be reviewed and either:

- Updated - the plant would be updated for continued use (subject to relevant approvals) or
- Decommissioned - the plant will be permanently removed.

Should the decision be made to remove the plant, then the Site would be returned as close as possible to its existing condition and will be decommissioned as per standard solar plant isolation and disconnection procedures.



Figure 2-1: Maryvale Solar Farm Site Layout

3. Decommissioning

Decommissioning will be undertaken in accordance with relevant Conditions of Approval and would likely include the following key elements:

- Removal of all components including:
 - Up to 400,000 PV panels, mounting structures, foundation posts and cabling
 - Electrical connections and inverter stations
 - Transmission kiosk
 - A 132kV Substation
 - 33kV switchgear
- Removal of perimeter security fencing and maintenance storage containers
- All equipment, materials and infrastructure would be removed and then sorted and packaged for removal from the site for recycling or reuse
- All areas of soil disturbed would be rehabilitated with the aim of meeting the existing (pre-construction) land capability.

Certain elements of the Project may be retained in agreement with the landowner including:

- The substation to service the locality subject to review of viability by Essential Energy
- Access Roads
- Site Fencing
- Vegetation Screens/Landscaping
- Established groundcover (not subject to disturbance during decommissioning).

A detailed Decommissioning Plan would be prepared in consultation with stakeholders in accordance with the likely Conditions of Approval prior to the commencement of decommissioning.

The activities undertaken during decommissioning have the potential to impact upon the environment and as such a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) will be prepared prior to decommissioning.

The DEMP would include but not be limited to the following key aspects:

- Decommissioning Work Method Statements (or similar) for key decommissioning activities
- Community & Stakeholder Consultation
- Waste Management
- Stormwater management
- Soil Management
- Noise Management
- Dust management
- Traffic Management
- Vegetation management
- Water and contamination management.

4. Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation will be undertaken in accordance with relevant Conditions of Approval and would likely include the following key elements:

- Consultation with stakeholders including landowners to establish desired outcomes
- Progressive rehabilitation of disturbed areas during decommissioning including:
 - Backfilling of all trenches and excavations
 - Laying of topsoil where required and in accordance with landowners requirements for continued agricultural use
 - Revegetation with native species where suitable to allow continued agricultural use of the site
 - Reseeding of areas of pasture/crop in consultation with the landowner
- Regular monitoring of rehabilitated areas for 2 years after decommissioning.

The activities undertaken during rehabilitation have the potential to impact upon the environment and as such a Rehabilitation Environment Management Plan (REMP) will be prepared prior to decommissioning.

The REMP would include but not be limited to the following key aspects:

- Schedule of Works/Hours of Operation
- Community & Stakeholder Consultation
- Waste Management
- Stormwater management
- Soil Management
- Noise Management
- Dust management
- Traffic Management
- Vegetation management
- Water and contamination management
- Rehabilitation Performance Criteria
- Monitoring and Long Term Site Management
- Contingency Plan.

Contact

Jessica Berry
0401 782 197
jberry@pittsh.com.au

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transport | community | mining | industrial | food & beverage | energy



Brisbane

Level 10
241 Adelaide Street
PO Box 5243
Brisbane City QLD 4000
T: (07) 3058 7499

Launceston

Level 4
113 Cimitiere Street
PO Box 1409
Launceston TAS 7250
T: (03) 6323 1900
F: (03) 6334 4651

Newcastle

Level 1
81 Hunter Street
Newcastle NSW 2300
T: (02) 4910 3600

E: info@pittsh.com.au
W: www.pittsh.com.au

incorporated as
Pitt & Sherry (Operations) Pty Ltd
ABN 67 140 184 309

Devonport

Level 1
35 Oldaker Street
PO Box 836
Devonport TAS 7310
T: (03) 6451 5599

Melbourne

Level 1, HWT Tower
40 City Road
Southbank VIC 3006
PO Box 259
South Melbourne VIC 3205
T: (03) 9682 5290
F: (03) 9682 5292

Sydney

Suite 902, Level 9,
North Tower
1-5 Railway Street
Chatswood NSW 2067
PO Box 5487
West Chatswood NSW 1515
T: (02) 9468 9300



Hobart

Level 1, Surrey House
199 Macquarie Street
GPO Box 94
Hobart TAS 7001
T: (03) 6210 1400
F: (03) 6223 1299

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