

Community Consultation Plan

SEBASTOPOL SOLAR FARM

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL

This Community Consultation Plan (CCP) has been prepared to guide community consultation activities during the planning, assessment and construction phases of the proposed Sebastopol Solar Farm near Temora NSW.

Location and description of the proposed development is discussed further in Section 2.

1.2 AIM OF THIS PLAN

The CCP has been developed for the Sebastopol Solar Farm on behalf of ib vogt GmbH (ib vogt).

The aims of the plan are to:

1. Identify effective methods to inform the community about the Sebastopol Solar Farm proposal; and
2. Facilitate engagement with the community, including input into the environmental assessment and project development.

The plan identifies:

- Community stakeholders for the project
- Issues and risks related to the engagement of each stakeholder group
- A consultation strategy for each stakeholder group
- A set of activities against the project development time line to facilitate consultation

Effective engagement will require an understanding of community stakeholders and prioritisation of potential impacts. It also relies on the community understanding the project and specific issues of interest to them, to enable effective participation. The focus of the consultation plan will be on providing this understanding and engagement.

While this plan will include the local Aboriginal community, additional consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders will be undertaken in accordance with *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* ((DECCW) 2010). The Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation process is not described in this plan and will be undertaken in addition to the consultation detailed in this document.

1.3 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PRINCIPLES

Best practice community consultation involves the community in all decision-making stages of a project. There is a role for the community from project conception, through the assessment process and on to project development. Effective community consultation has three important functions:

1. It facilitates deeper understanding of issues and decisions required for the project;
2. It improves the quality of decisions made for the project; and
3. It allows people to be involved in decisions that affect their lives.

Important community engagement principles for a project include:

- Openness – combats assumptions and misinformation
- Inclusiveness - consultation should be diverse and representative, not responding only to the most vocal stakeholders
- Effective communication – requiring trust between parties and tools appropriate to the task
- A communication strategy – clarity about what is being undertaken:
 - Inform - one-way communication to deliver information about the project
 - Consult - two-way communication to seek input into the project
 - Collaborate and involve – seek participation in elements of the project design and implementation
- Early rather than late – to maximise engagement opportunities
- Accountability – the process should be monitored and evaluated to ensure its aims are being achieved

1.4 STRUCTURE

The structure of this plan is:

1. Proposal overview
2. Identification of community stakeholders for the project
3. Issue management – what specific issues need consideration
4. Project based activities – what vehicles will be utilised in the consultation process.

1.5 IMPLEMENTATION AND REVISION OF THIS DOCUMENT

The proposed Sebastopol Solar Farm is being assessed as a state significant development under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*. Prior to the environmental assessment of the proposal, Ib vogt will request Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

This plan has been developed to coincide with the planning and assessment stages of the project, for consultation activities to begin prior to lodgement of the Sebastopol Solar Farm development application.

If the project is approved, consultation should continue into the construction and operational phases of the project. These phases will require a new or updated plan to reflect any changes to consultation objectives, but also the increasing knowledge gained about and by the community.

1.6 RELEVANT GUIDELINES

This CCP has been prepared with reference to the following guidelines / references:

- *Establishing the social licence to operate large scale solar facilities in Australia: Insights from social research for industry*, Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)
- *Beyond Public Meetings: Connecting community engagement with decision making*, Twyford Consulting 2007

2 PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

2.1 LOCATION

The Sebastopol Solar Farm proposal site is located in the Temora Local Government Area (LGA) approximately 17 kilometres south of the township of Temora, as shown in Figure 2-1. The Sebastopol property comprises of Lots 4, 18, 62, 88, 90, 912, 92 and 96 of DP751424, with the preferred area for development being Lots 90, 91 and 92 (for solar infrastructure) and part lots 62 and 88 DP751424 (for connection to existing transmission line). Goldfields Way runs to the west of the property, and Sebastopol Road to the north. Transmission lines run on the western side of the proposal area.

Local land use is primarily agricultural, including cropping and grazing. The land is classified as Class 3 under the Land and Soil Capability Assessment Scheme, and is described as sloping land capable of sustaining cultivation on a rotational basis. The land is readily used for a range of crops including cereals, oilseed and pulses. Crops currently cultivated on the Sebastopol property include wheat, canola and lupins.

The proposal area comprises several large paddocks which are generally flat, largely cleared and cultivated for pastures and grazing. The property holds remnant native vegetation in the form of paddock trees, and small to moderate stands of remnant native woodlands along fence lines. Five isolated stands of vegetation exist within the paddocks, and a small unnamed drainage line runs to the north of the property.

There are no residences within the proposal area, and adjoining land includes grazing and cropping.

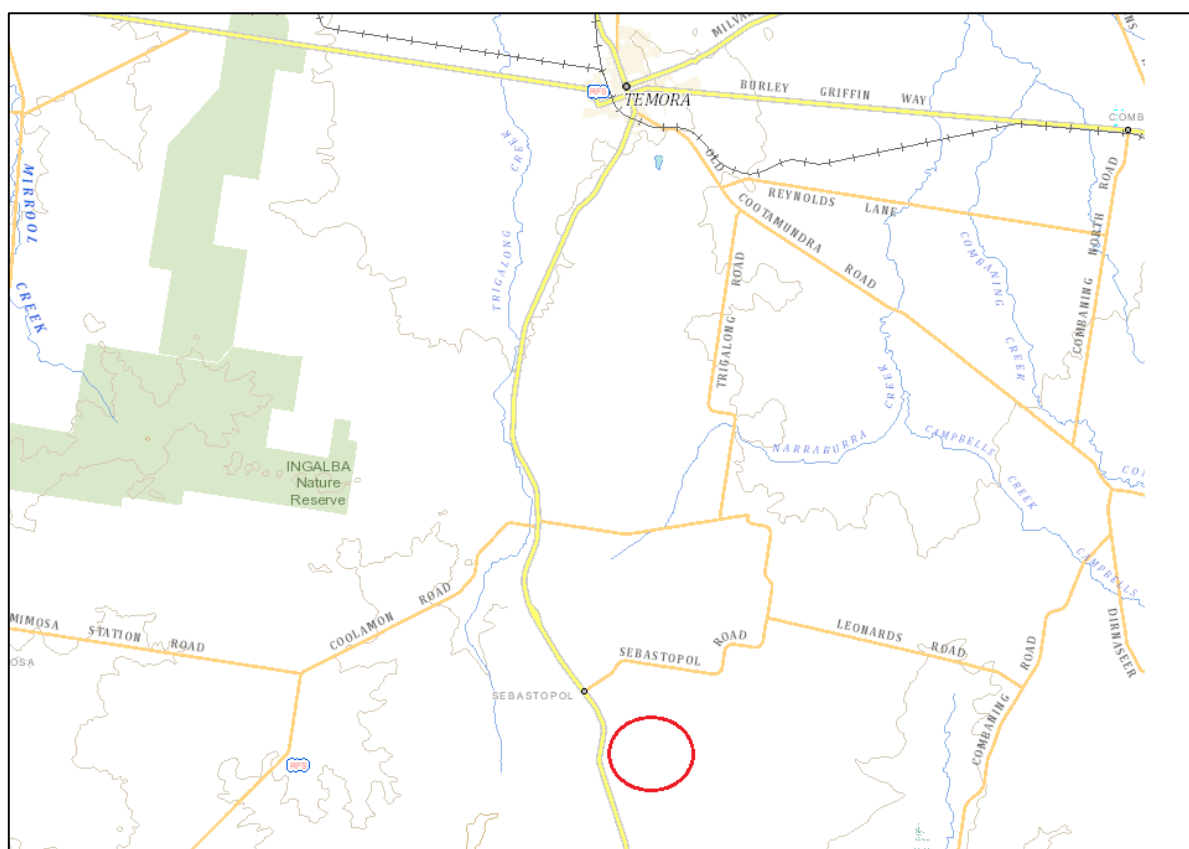


Figure 2-1 Location of the proposed solar farm

2.2 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposal involves the construction of a ground-mounted photovoltaic solar array which will generate approximately 140MW of renewable energy. It has been proposed to connect directly to the overhead transmission lines to the west of the property.

The solar farm arrangement is flexible and adaptable and would be designed to avoid impacts where feasible and minimise and mitigate environmental impacts if avoidance is not possible. The design would consider the results of consultation with all stakeholders and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be prepared. The EIS will detail how the feedback received during consultation has influenced the final proposal design.

The proposal would have an installed capacity of up to 140 MW (DC) and would consist of the following components:

- Single axis tracker photovoltaic solar panels, mounted on steel frames over most of the site (up to approximately 420,000 PV solar panels).
- Battery storage to store energy on-site, allowing energy to be stored on-site during periods of low demand and released to the network during periods of higher demand.
- Electrical conduits and transformers.
- On site substation.
- Site office, parking access tracks and perimeter fencing.
- Electrical transmission infrastructure to connect the proposal to the existing 66 kV transmission line located to the west of the site.

An additional substation would be required at the point where the proposal connects to the existing 66 kv transmission line to the west.

The site would be accessed from either Eurolee Road, which runs along the southern boundary of the site, or an access track connection to Goldfields Way to the west.

The proposal will potentially require the subdivision of several of the lots within the proposal site.

The proposed infrastructure footprint is shown in Figure 2-2. This includes all land likely to be directly impacted by the proposal, including the grid connection options.

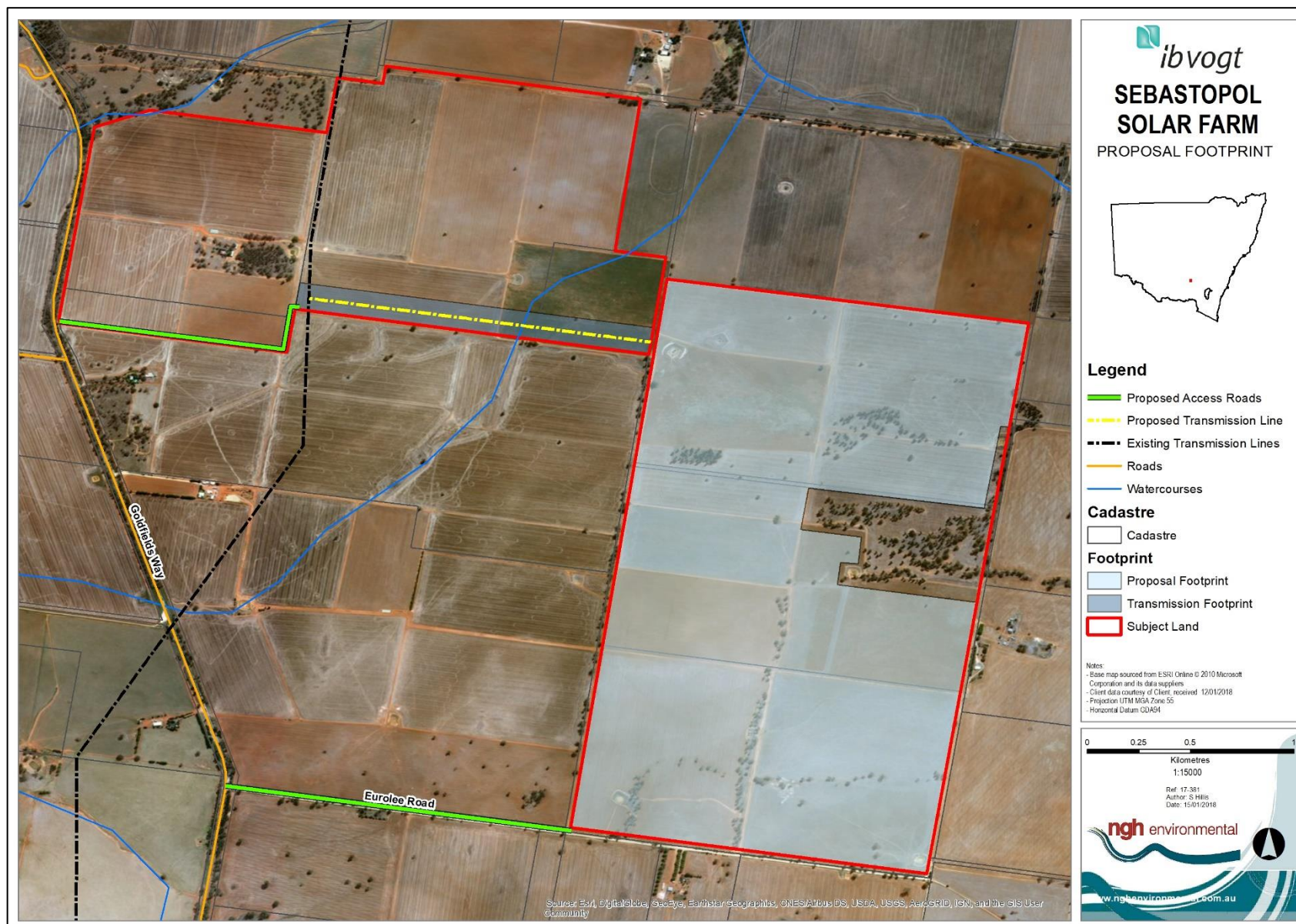


Figure 2-2 Proposed solar farm footprint

3 COMMUNITY PROFILE

Understanding the makeup and values of the community is essential to finding effective ways to reach the community as well as beginning to identify ways that the project may impact the community. This section provides a broad overview of the Temora LGA.

3.1 TEMORA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

Temora is situated within the South West Slopes/Riverina area, approximately 90 km north of Wagga Wagga. The Temora LGA encompasses the township of Temora, and villages of Aria Park and Springdale (Temora 2017).

Temora was originally a major gold field, with the Temora field producing a large percentage of NSW's gold. Once gold returns started to decline, focus shifted to wheat production. Temora is now a key rail hub and centre to a large wheat and sheep area. It has one of NSW's largest inland grain storage terminals, a major agricultural research station outside of town, an extensive feedlot and some manufacturing (Traveller 2008).

Temora is also a centre for harness racing with The Golden Gift Foot Race held on the second weekend in February, the Temora Show on the fourth Saturday in September, and the Antique Engine Field Day in October.

3.2 SEBASTOPOL

Sebastopol is a village community in the north-east part of the Riverina, situated 15 km south of Temora. The village consists of rural dwellings and Saint Stephen's Presbyterian church.

3.3 CLIMATE

Temora is within the South West Slopes Bioregion of NSW, which is dominated by a sub-humid climate characterised by hot summers and no dry season (OEH 2017). Mean maximum and minimum temperatures range from 22.3 °C to 8.8 °C with an average rainfall of 523.5 mm (BOM 2017).

3.4 POPULATION

Data from the 2016 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census details a population of 6,110 people within the LGA covering an area of 2,802 km². Of these, 49.7% were male and 50.3% were female. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people made up 2.3% of the population, with 88% of the population born in Australia. Temora consists of an aging population, with a median age of 46 years (ABS 2018).

3.5 ECONOMY

Temora is a rural service town, with its major economic driver being wheat, canola and wool production. Temora's main employers are Woolworths, Temora Shire Council, Narraburra Lodge (nursing home), BFB (grain merchants) and Graincorp (grain merchants) (Country Change 2017).

According to the 2016 Census, Temora LGA has a relatively low unemployment rate of 4.9%, with 56.4% of the working population employed full time and 31.9% employed part-time. The most common occupations include managers (22.2%) professionals (14.1%), technicians and trades workers (13.9%), labourers

(11.9%), and clerical and administrative workers (10.8%). Of the employed people in Temora LGA, 6.5% worked in sheep, beef cattle and grain farming. Other major industries of employment included other grain growing (5.4%), supermarket and grocery stores (4.2%), Local Government administration (3.3%) and aged care residential services (3.2%) (ABS 2018).

The proposed solar farm would provide opportunity of employment diversification as NSW moves towards a carbon neutral economy by the year 2050.

3.6 COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The Council services the wider Temora community, and offers a wide range of services including:

- The Ariaiah Park and Temora cemeteries
- Lake Centenary – 55-hectare lake catering for water sports and BBQ facilities
- Sporting facilities and recreation centre precinct
- Temora Air Park Estate
- Temora airport and railway station
- Temora Business Enterprise Group
- Temora family day care
- Temora Saleyards (Temora DirectMe 2017)

Some of the community facilities and economic features of the Temora Shire LGA include:

- Health facilities: the Temora Medical Complex, Victoria Street Surgery, Temora Hospital, three pharmacies, mobile bloodbank, a number of allied health providers and aged care facilities. The Temora Hospital also offers a range of mental health care, aged care, physiotherapy, drug and alcohol services and a community health centre (Temora DirectMe 2017)
- Support groups: CanAssist Temora, Open Minds Brighter Futures, St Vincent de Paul Shop, Salvation Army Store, Temora Assisting People in Need and Temora Wellbeing Action Group (Temora DirectMe 2017)
- Education facilities: Ariaiah Park Preschool, A Dragon's Tale Preschool and Childcare Centre, Temora Preschool and Out of School Hours Centre, Temora Family Day Care, Ariaiah Park Central School, St Anne's Central School, Temora High School, Temora Public School, Temora West Public School and a TAFE Institute (Temora DirectMe 2017)
- General services: Five banks, ten churches, the Riverina Regional Library Temora and a mobile library, three pharmacies, two post offices, six service stations, three supermarkets and many eateries, restaurants, bakeries and clubs and pubs (Temora DirectMe 2017)
- Parks and recreation facilities: Multiple parks with toilet, playground, BBQ and picnic facilities, sporting grounds, the Ariaiah Park and Temora swimming pools, On the Move Health and Fitness gym, Temora Squash and Gym Centre and a number of physical activity groups (Temora DirectMe 2017)
- Attractions: The Temora Aviation Museum, Temora Rural Museum, Echoes of Ariaiah Park Museum, Temora Town Hall Theatre, Temora Visual Arts Centre, Temora V8 Jetboats (Lake Centenary) and Les Buckley's Paddleboats (Lake Centenary) (Temora DirectMe 2017)

3.7 NEWSPAPERS

There are two main newspapers and one newsletter distributed in the area:

- The Riverina Leader is a free weekly community newspaper published every Wednesday and distributed to residents within the Riverina (including Wagga Wagga, Uranquinty, San Isadore, Forest Hill, Kapooka, Gumly Gumly, Junee, Coolamon, Ganmain, Lockhart, Tarcutta, Temora, The Rock, Ladysmith, Henty, Adelong, Tumbarumba, Illabo, West Wyalong, Marrar and Collingullie) (Newspapers.com.au 2017)
- The Temora Independent is a family owned local newspaper, and is issued to the Temora community bi-weekly (Temora 2017)
- The Narraburra News is a monthly newsletter about the Shire, delivered free to all homes (Temora DirectMe 2017)

3.8 RADIO

TEM-FM 102.5 is a new community radio station that serves the broader Temora community, providing information and community involvement (Temora 2017).

3.9 COMMUNITY GROUPS

Community Groups include:

- Dirnaseer Country Women's Association
- Rotary Club of Temora
- Temora Girl Guides
- Temora Legacy
- Temora Lions Club
- Temora Masonic Lodge
- Temora Probus Club
- Temora Quota Club
- Temora Red Cross
- Temora Senior Citizens Group
- Temora View Club (Temora DirectMe 2017)

3.10 LANDCARE GROUPS

Temora Shire has five active Landcare groups in operation:

- Morangarell
- Grogan
- Trungley Hall
- Combaning/Dirnaseer
- Gidginbung/Reefton

The groups have a wide variety of activities and functions that include raised bed trial sites, acid soils projects, native vegetation corridors, property planning workshops, field days and cropping seminars, revegetation and creek stabilisation projects, harvest trial sites, noxious weed and pest control, and salinity issues.

4 STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

It is important to identify all key stakeholder groups and relevant characteristics and tailor engagement strategies to suit each group. Different levels of engagement suit varying degrees of potential impacts in the community. Where impacts are less significant, for example, the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) consultation spectrum suggests approaches such as 'Inform' and 'Consult'. Greater impacts on communities require approaches such as 'Involve', 'Collaborate' and 'Empower'. Appropriate strategies are set out in Section 6.3 for each stakeholder group.

Stakeholder group	Defining characteristics
1. Adjacent and near neighbours	<p>Neighbours adjacent to or near the project and those who may be directly affected, for example: those with a view of infrastructure, noise or vibration from haulage route or construction activities.</p> <p>Being a major development close to a small settlement, direct impacts may be of great interest to residents and businesses.</p> <p>Understanding the values and potential impacts to this group is highly important. It will assist the assessment process and development of appropriate mitigation strategies.</p> <p>Face to face consultation and direct feedback is required, and mitigation strategies may require changes to the project or the development of specific plans of management i.e. screening visual impact.</p>
2. Adjacent Businesses	<p>There are no businesses within the immediate vicinity of the site (apart from agricultural businesses), with the closest major township being Temora. Businesses are unlikely to be adversely impacted by construction or operation of the solar farm.</p> <p>Farming could be considered a business, and is addressed through the neighbour's analysis in Section 6.3.</p>
3. Local Businesses	<p>Being close to the township of Temora, a large number of businesses are located within 20km of the site. These are unlikely to experience any negative impact.</p> <p>Positive impacts would be generated during construction through demand for accommodation, catering, supply of tools, plant, fuel, services, labour etc. Local businesses would be given the opportunity to tender for the supply of services for the project both during construction and during operation.</p>
4. Representative bodies	<p>Representatives of groups include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temora Visitors Information Centre • Temora Shire Council • Local state and national Members of Parliament • Chamber of Commerce • Landcare
5. Media	<p>Outlets to ensure a clear message is delivered.</p> <p>Local radio, television, newspapers, newsletters, project website.</p>

Stakeholder group	Defining characteristics
6. Broader community	<p>The project is likely to be of interest to the broader local and regional community.</p> <p>The region's history has been rich in cropping and sheep farming. The proposed solar farm would provide an economic stimulus for the area, during construction, and would be a positive step forward in the renewable energy sector.</p> <p>While direct impacts are unlikely, the project would be a large new development for the broader community.</p>
7. Temora LGA	<p>While direct impacts are unlikely, the project would be a large new development for the broader community.</p>

5 ISSUE MANAGEMENT

A set of project-specific issues and risks to maximising community engagement in the project have been identified below. These issues pose potential risks to the effective identification and mitigation of impacts important to the community. Mitigation strategies have been developed below, specific to the identified issues. These have been incorporated into the Project-based Activities, in Section 6.

Issue	Risks	Mitigation strategies
The project may define / overwhelm the locality	<p>This may polarise the community.</p> <p>They may not feel that the project reflects their values.</p> <p>The scale of the project may overwhelm the existing local character.</p>	<p>Education material about the role of solar energy in the country's energy mix, the technology and its impacts.</p> <p>Early dissemination of information about the project and its specific justification and benefits, particularly with reference to developing new income streams on agricultural land and the ability to restore the land capability after decommissioning.</p> <p>Identify practical mitigation measures to help preserve community character.</p> <p>Seek direct input into how the project may reflect the communities 'personality' and values and how the benefits of the project may be spread to the local community.</p> <p>Clear communication of key environmental impacts and mitigation strategies of the project.</p> <p>Offer direct contact to project manager.</p>
Misinformation: Word of mouth / rumours first source of information	<p>Feel left out, disengaged, misinformed, disempowered.</p>	<p>Direct communication early to local community – adjacent landowners first, near neighbours second, then the wider community.</p>

Issue	Risks	Mitigation strategies
Lack of support for project	<p>Lack of interest, leading to low levels of public support.</p> <p>Unaddressed concerns may generate opponents of this project.</p> <p>Large proportion of jobs in the local area are reliant on the agricultural Industry, diversification may influence support of development of renewable infrastructure.</p>	<p>Early dissemination of information about the project and its justification and project benefits.</p> <p>Clear communication of key environmental impacts and mitigation strategies.</p> <p>Make participation easy – to ensure all concerns are addressed.</p> <p>Be creative – seek support for renewable project that demonstrates how benefits are felt at the local level.</p>
The approvals process can be complex.	<p>Perception that the process is too difficult to become involved in.</p> <p>Suspicion that input will not be valued.</p>	<p>Clearly illustrate approvals process.</p> <p>Clearly define opportunities for community input including what is required and when it is required.</p> <p>Communicate back, identifying where input has been used.</p> <p>Reinforce this at each relevant stage for community input – pre-lodgement, during public exhibition etc.</p>
Distrust in environmental assessment process.	<p>Distrust of impact identification and mitigation strategies.</p> <p>Suspicion that input will not be considered or valued.</p>	<p>Establish credentials of assessment team and ib vgt. Present these in the EIS and in newsletters etc.</p> <p>Make participation easy – create opportunities to discuss issues with the team.</p> <p>Explain how input will be considered at various stages.</p>

Issue	Risks	Mitigation strategies
Fear of unknown / complex information	Exaggerated fears / misunderstanding of information.	Layman explanations of issues. Offer to follow up – one on one, or special interest meetings.
Relationship with community	Risk that during the long approval and assessment process, the community will lose enthusiasm, become disengaged or negative.	Milestone events should be identified early and celebrated. Emphasise community – solar farm partnership.
Representative	Risk of biased consultation, serving only the most vocal community members. Sections of the community may be “overpowered” and may be marginalised.	Ensure community is engaged in a forum that minimises risk of debate being side tracked. Follow up with smaller groups where required. Use established social (and media) channels in dissemination of materials, i.e. sport clubs. Provide a range of ways for community to access information and input views.
Unified message	Differing messages may create confusion and mistrust.	Limit points of contact. Have message clearly set out for use, rather than reinventing it for each consultation activity.
Unequal distribution of benefits	Residents close to the development are likely to feel more strongly.	Identification of stakeholder groups should reflect differences in impacts.

6 PROJECT BASED ACTIVITIES

The following table outlines the different project stages and associated community consultation objectives and activities, in chronological order. The stages include:

- Decision to proceed with early investigations, proposal development
- Receipt of SEARs
- Detailed assessment and proposal development
- EIS on public exhibition, submissions reporting
- Approval determination
- Construction contract award
- Construction commences
- Operation commences
- Decommissioning commences

6.1 MILESTONES

Milestone events should be celebrated, and used as an opportunity to keep the community on board. Milestones can include:

1. Announce project – notify near residents first, follow up with consistent information
2. Receipt of SEARs
3. Early studies and agency consultations update – meet the community face to face
4. Proposal finalised and EIS submitted – explain avenues for input
5. Submissions Report submitted – explain avenues for input
6. Approval – celebrate in a way that involves the community
7. Construction contractors awarded - opportunity for local employment
8. Construction commences - sod turning ceremony
9. Operation commences – public open day for commissioning

6.2 THROUGHOUT PROCESS

Relevant to all activities:

- One person should remain key spokesperson to:
 - Limit points of contact, ensuring a clear message and no contradictions in terminology or project information
 - Retain personal direct relationship with the community, identifiable face for the project
- Feedback should be sought using a standard form where possible, allowing this information to inform the assessment (example provided in Appendix A). This form would be made available during meetings and on the project website

6.3 CONSULTATION STRATEGIES

Stakeholder group	Issue	Consultation objective	Community engagement activities	Consultation Strategies
Decision to proceed with early investigations, proposal development, and receipt of SEARs				
Adjacent landowners	May define locality Lack of understanding of project Lack of support	Inform and engage	Early dissemination of information about solar development generally. Early dissemination of information about the project and its justification and benefits. Seek direct input to include in assessment approach and development of proposal.	Face to face meeting or phone calls. Include feedback form and encourage direct contact with Project Manager. All consultation will be documented.
Council	Lack of understanding of project Lack of support Political pressure from community	Inform and engage	Ensure that the information is available Build relationship to understand their key issues	Face to face meeting. Specific information may be required. An avenue to receive information and provide specific feedback should be provided.
Near neighbours	May define locality Lack of understanding of project Lack of support Unequal distribution of benefits	Inform and engage	Early dissemination of information about solar development generally. Early dissemination of information about the project and its justification and benefits. Seek direct input to include in assessment approach and development of proposal, regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General feeling toward solar development • Specific feeling toward the Sebastopol solar proposal • Specific concerns • Ways the project may reflect the communities 'personality' and values. 	Newsletter/ factsheet drop Include feedback form and opportunity for follow up call by Project Manager. Key milestones communicated through a dedicated website, links to other projects and accreditations

Stakeholder group	Issue	Consultation objective	Community engagement activities	Consultation Strategies
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How the benefits of the project may be spread to the local community. For example, economic stimulus and local employment opportunities, or establishment of a Community Fund. <p>Offer to meet Face to Face with Project Manager.</p>	
Local business owners	Lack of understanding of project	Inform and engage	<p>Ensure that the information is available to the local community first. As well as letter drop, meet local business owners and offer to leave information with them to distribute.</p> <p>Build relationship with these owners and staff as they may assist to 'get the word out'.</p>	Newsletters, offer face to face meetings with local business owners who request this
Broader community	<p>Distrust in environmental assessment process.</p> <p>Lack of understanding of project</p>	Inform	<p>Ensure the timelines and the stages for community input are clearly documented - use graphics and indicate where we are now at for the assessment.</p> <p>Make information on the project team and assessment team available.</p> <p>Preliminary project announcement, including stage of assessment, likely timelines, ways in which the community can be involved.</p>	<p>Factsheet to include graphic showing stage of the process and opportunities for input</p> <p>Key milestones communicated through a dedicated website, links to other projects and accreditations</p>
Detailed assessment and proposal development				
Adjacent landowners	<p>May define locality</p> <p>Lack of support</p>	Inform and engage	Feed information into the final assessment to ensure all their issues have been identified and addressed by the project.	Face to face meeting / Phone call

Stakeholder group	Issue	Consultation objective	Community engagement activities	Consultation Strategies
Near neighbours	May define locality Lack of support Fear of unknown, complex information	Inform and engage	Identify ways the community can participate in the project and seek input on these: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetation screen planting, adopt a tree (one for project, one for landowner?) A competition for the signage / logo for solar farm Other renewable or energy saving programs that the proponent could support? Identify ways simplify and present the key information, seek feedback.	Competitions, Adopt a tree, other programs Open house – specialist and project information
Broader community	Unequal distribution of benefits Risk of biased consultation, serving only the most vocal community members.	Consult and inform	Feed information into the final assessment to ensure all community issues have been identified and addressed by the project, differentiating between stakeholder groups	Newsletter, Website
EIS on public exhibition, submissions reporting				
Adjacent landowners	Relationship with landowners and community	Inform and engage	Reinforce stage in the project and ways to have input	Face to face meeting / Phone call
Near neighbours	Relationship with community	Inform and engage	Celebrate milestone, reinforce stage in the project and ways to have input	Newsletter
Near neighbours	Fear of unknown, complex information	Inform and engage	Special interest groups – address specifically in meeting.	Meeting with group, if required.
Approval determination				

Stakeholder group	Issue	Consultation objective	Community engagement activities	Consultation Strategies
Near neighbours	Relationship with community	Inform and engage	Celebrate milestone, reinforce stage in the project and ways to have input. Thank the community for their support Publicise results of competition signage / logo?	Newsletter
Broader community	Differing messages may create confusion and mistrust. The approvals process can be complex.	Inform	Keep project information up to date. Provide link to relevant information including feedback form. Provide a contact for further information.	Media release Website
Construction contract award				
Near neighbours	Relationship with community	Inform and engage	Celebrate milestone, reinforce stage in the project and ways to have input. What opportunities for local employment?	Newsletter, newspaper, local media Approach local business
Construction commences				
Near neighbours	Relationship with community	Inform and engage	Celebrate milestone, reinforce stage in the project and ways to have input. Notify about impacts that can be expected, avenues to complain, for more information. Develop an agreed notification protocol for potentially disruptive or high impact activities.	Newsletter Event: sod turning Face to face meetings
Broader community	Differing messages may create confusion and mistrust.	Inform	Keep project information up to date Provide link to relevant information including feedback form Provide a contact for further information	Website

Stakeholder group	Issue	Consultation objective	Community engagement activities	Consultation Strategies
Operation commences				
Near neighbours	Relationship with community	Inform and engage	Celebrate milestone, reinforce stage in the project and ways to have input Notify about impacts that can be expected, avenues to complain, for more information.	Newsletter Event: public open day Face to face meetings
Broader community	Differing messages may create confusion and mistrust.	Inform	Keep project information up to date Provide link to relevant information including feedback form Provide a contact for further information	Website
Decommissioning commences				
Near neighbours	Relationship with community	Inform and engage	Reinforce stage in the project and ways to have input Notify about impacts that can be expected, avenues to complain, for more information.	Newsletter Face to face meetings
Broader community	Differing messages may create confusion and mistrust.	Inform	Keep project information up to date Provide link to relevant information including feedback form Provide a contact for further information	Website

7 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

To ensure this plan is effective during the implementation of activities, and adapts as required to new information, the following review actions will be undertaken alongside implementation activities:

- Appoint and maintain a consultation manager for the project to implement activities and review this plan regularly
- Keep an accurate database and record of all feedback from consultation activities and all correspondence with the community
- Monitor regularly and respond promptly to email and phone queries.
- Are the activities reaching a diverse and representative section of the community; do new activities need to be implemented?
- Has relevant information been passed back to:
 - Project developers?
 - Assessment staff?

8 REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

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APPENDIX A COMMUNITY FEEDBACK FORM



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK FORM

SEBASTOPOL SOLAR FARM

Your feedback is important to develop a solar farm project that best suits the local area and community. Your feedback will ensure local concerns are understood by the developers and the environmental assessment team.

For further information about the project, please see the project website at:

www.sebastopolsolarfarm.com.au

Your name: (this will not be printed or recorded anywhere but is to ensure that we don't double count forms)

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Tick which box best describes where you live:

- ☐ Less than 2 kilometres from the proposed solar plant
- ☐ 2-5 kilometres from the proposed solar plant
- ☐ More than 5 kilometres from the proposed solar plant
- ☐ Not a member of the local community

Tell us what you value about the local area:

What do you value most about the local area? Circle one or more.

- a) Landscape and views
- b) Community / family ties
- c) Historic values
- d) Work opportunities
- e) Recreation opportunities, including sporting, nature based etc.
- f) Natural values
- g) Other

Provide more detail about your answer:

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What views or landscape characteristics in the region and local area are important to you?
Provide more detail about your answer:

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What do you like most about solar farms, generally?

- a) Renewable energy generation
- b) Local economic opportunities – jobs, tourism, economic stimulus
- c) Diversification of land use / income streams
- d) Other

Discuss:.....

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What concerns do you have about solar farms, generally? Circle one or more.

- a) Community impacts
- b) Visual impact
- c) Noise, during construction or operation
- d) Traffic, during construction or operation
- e) Effects on land use or land values
- f) Effects on recreation opportunities
- g) Effects on natural areas and habitats
- h) Other

What specific concerns do you have about the solar farm proposed at Sebastopol?

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Reflecting local values and character

We would like the project to fit in with the local values and character of Sebastopol. Can you suggest ways that we might achieve this?

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