



Community Consultation Plan

AVONLIE 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 State Significant solar farm at Avonlie (Sandigo), Narrandera 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 Avonlie Solar Farm on behalf of Renewable Energy Systems (RES) Australia Pty Ltd.

The aims of the plan are to:

1. Identify effective methods to inform the community about the Avonlie 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 Avonlie Solar Farm proposal will be assessed as State significant development under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*. Prior to the environmental assessment of the proposal, RES 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 Avonlie Solar Farm development application.

If the project is approved, consultation will 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 Avonlie Solar Farm proposal area is in Narrandera Shire Local Government Area (LGA) approximately 20 kilometres south east of the township of Narrandera (Figure 2-1). Muntz Road runs along the southern boundary of the site and Quilters Road bounds the site to the north. The Solar Farm would occupy approximately 570ha of land and includes Lots 4 and 5 DP133396, Lot 15 DP 795880, Lot 1 DP 1104557 and Lots 13, 22, 26, 30, 43, 53 DP 754538.

The proposal area is agricultural land comprising several large paddocks which are generally flat, largely cleared and cultivated for pastures and grazing. The land is classified as Class 3 under the Land and Soil Capability Assessment Scheme (OEH 2012), 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. This class of land is not considered Prime Agricultural Land (Emery (undated)).

The property holds several dams, and an unmanned irrigation channel east of Lot 30 DP 754538. Sandy Creek occurs approximately 1.5 kilometres to the north east of the proposal area. The property holds remnant native vegetation in the form of paddock trees. Remnant native woodlands occur along west of the proposal area and along Muntz Road. Planted vegetation is located between paddocks and along the southern boundary on Muntz Road.

There are no residences within the proposal area, and adjoining land uses include grazing and cropping for agriculture. Six properties have been identified as being involved with the project, with an additional 12 neighbours uninvolved within five kilometres of the site (Figure 2-2).

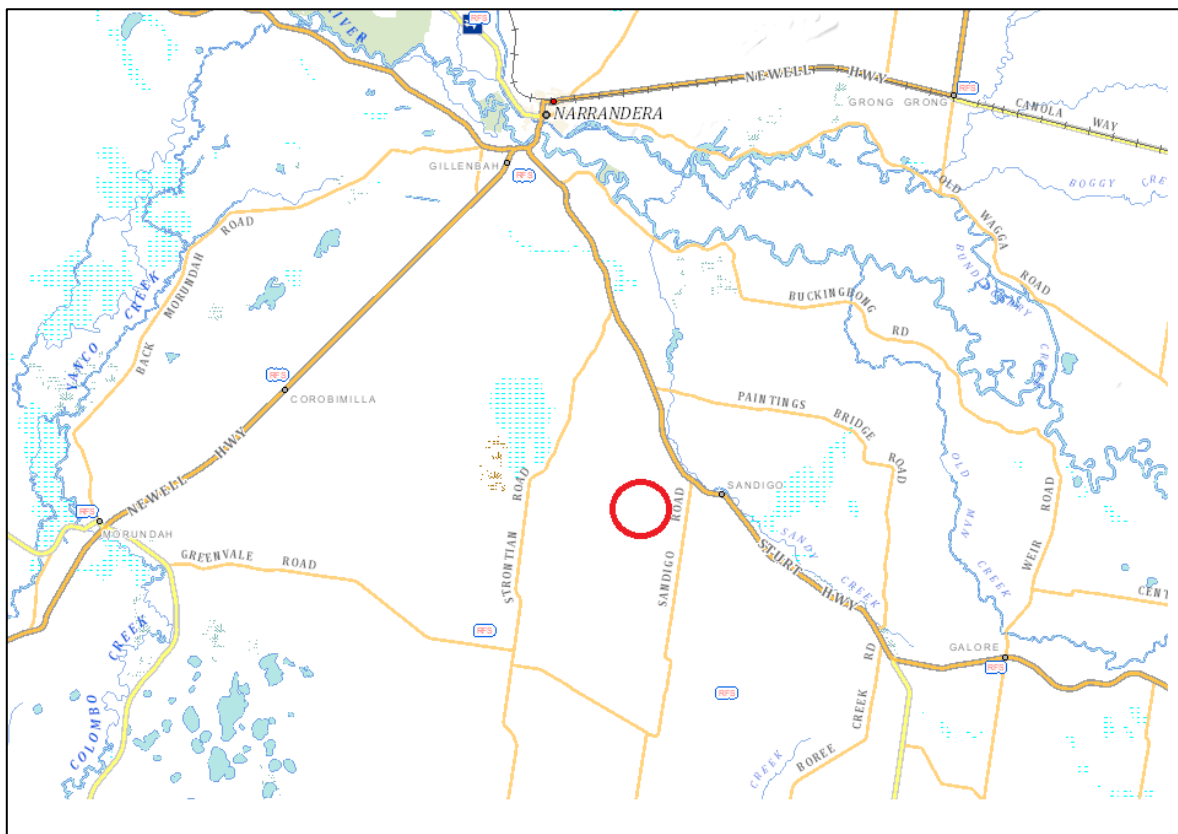


Figure 2-1 Location of the proposed solar farm (SIX Maps 22/11/17)

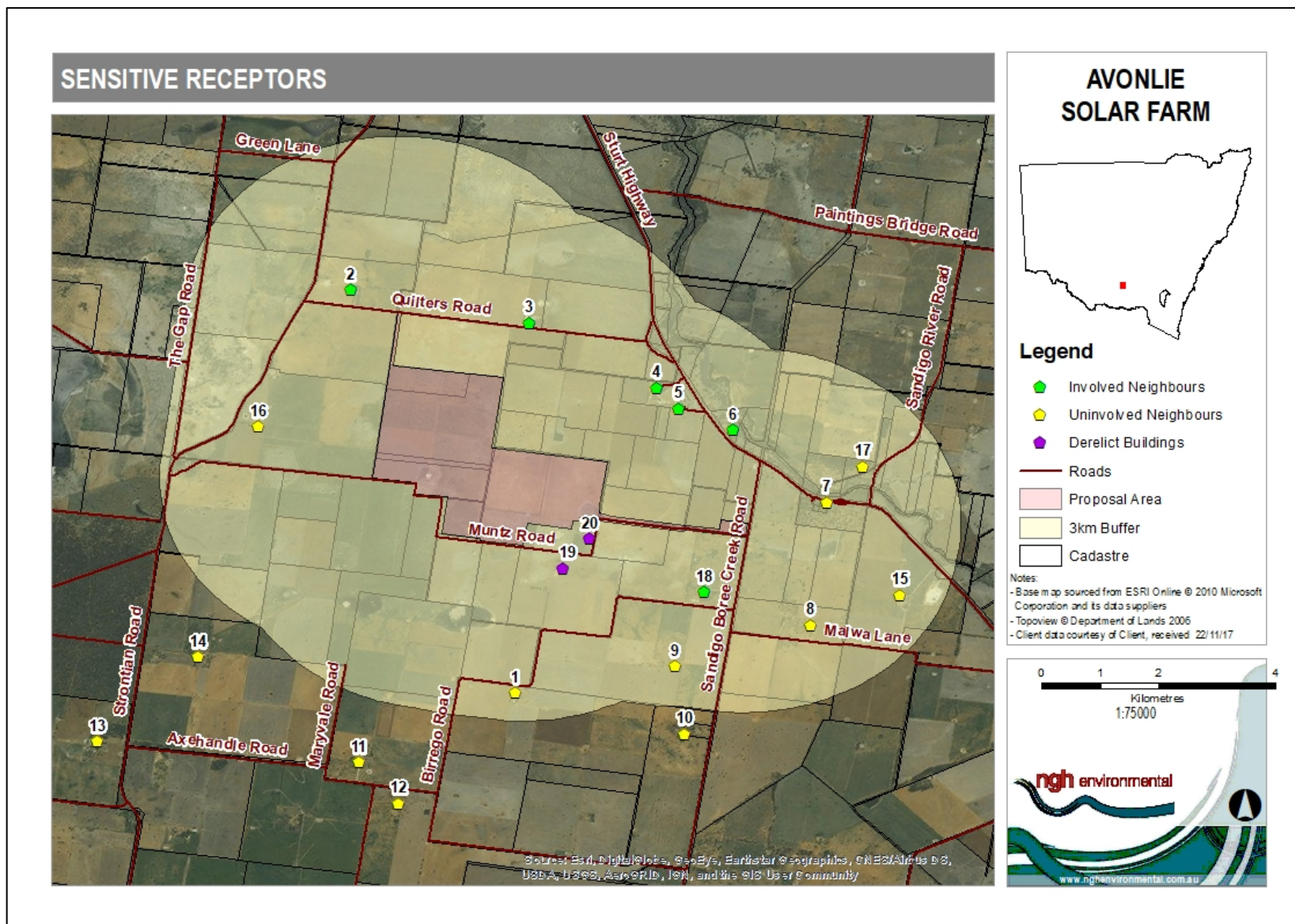


Figure 2-2 Nearest Neighbours and Sensitive Receivers

2.2 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposal involves the construction of a ground-mounted photovoltaic solar array which will generate approximately 200MW of renewable energy.

The solar farm arrangement is flexible and adaptable and would be designed to avoid impacts where feasible, and minimise/mitigate environmental impacts if avoidance is not possible. The design would consider the results of this scoping report, consultation with relevant stakeholders and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be prepared. The EIS will detail how these studies have been used to produce the final proposal design.

The proposal will consist of the following components:

- Solar arrays mounted on either a fixed or single-axis tracking system
- Power conversion units
- A substation including an elevated busbar, switchroom, a lightning protection system, current and voltage transformers and a connection into the existing 132kV TransGrid overhead line
- An energy storage facility
- Operations and maintenance buildings with associated car parking;
- Access points to the site via Muntz Road
- Underground cabling
- Internal access tracks
- Emergency lighting
- CCTV system including infrared (non-visible) lighting
- Security fencing

The proposal will potentially require the subdivision of the property.

The proposed infrastructure footprint is shown in Figure 2-3. This includes all land likely to be directly impacted by the proposal, including the grid connection options. Nearby sensitive receivers are shown in Figure 2-2.

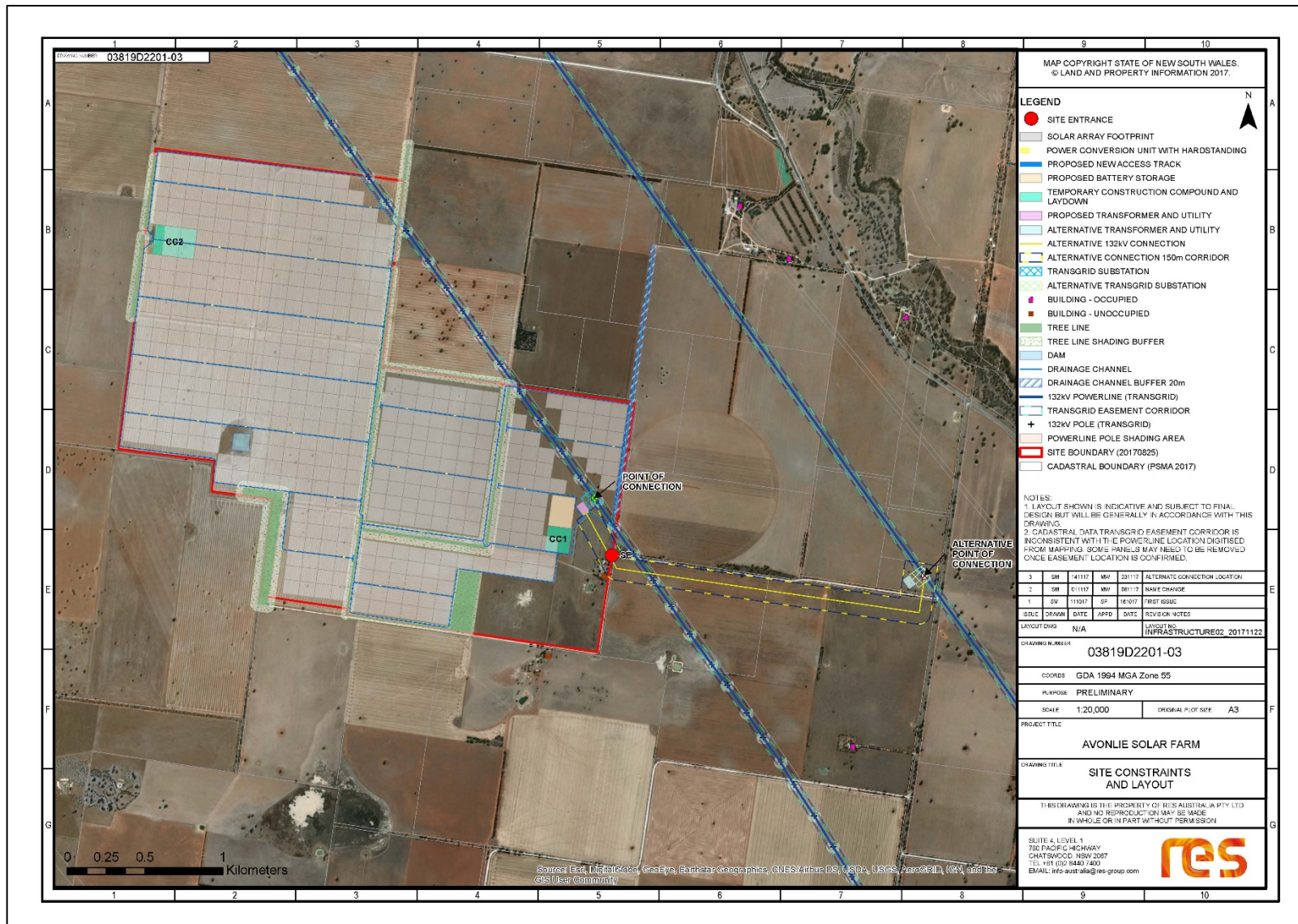


Figure 2-3 Proposed solar farm layout

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 Narrandera Shire LGA.

3.1 NARRANDERA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

Narrandera Shire is in the Riverina/South West Slopes Region of NSW, 554 km south west of Sydney. It sits mid-way between the main regional centres of Wagga Wagga (99 km to the east) and Griffith (98 km to the west), and marks the transition between broadacre agricultural areas of the western slopes and plain to the east and the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (MIA) to the west. The Shire lies within the catchment area of the Murrumbidgee River and is the start of the MIA (Narrandera Shire Council 2017a).

The township of Narrandera is the commercial and administrative centre of the Shire. The Shire has two villages, Borellan and Grong Grong, and 16 rural localities (Narrandera Shire Council 2017a).

Narrandera Shire is highly accessible, and sits on the cross-roads of the Newell and Sturt Highways. It has a weekly train service to Sydney, and daily TrainLink coach service to Wagga Wagga and Griffith. Rail freight is connected via the Main Southern Railway line via the Temora – Roto branch line. Narrandera also has a commercial airport with Regional Express Airlines operating daily services to Sydney (Narrandera Shire Council 2017a).

3.2 CLIMATE

Narrandera 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). The average temperature in Narrandera for Summer is 32.5°C and in winter 14.9°C, with an average rainfall of 437.3 mm (BOM 2017).

3.3 POPULATION

Data from the 2011 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census details a population of 5,853 people within the LGA covering an area of 4,116 km². Of these, 49.6% were male and 50.4% were female. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people made up 9.7% of the population, with 83.1% of the population born in Australia. Temora consists of an aging population, with a median age of 44 years (ABS 2017).

3.4 ECONOMY

Narrandera Shire has a diverse economic base. In 2014/15 the Shire had 540 businesses and 2,709 local jobs with a gross regional product of \$235 million (Narrandera Shire Council 2017a).

Agriculture is the main economic driver, with 19% of the Shire's workforce employed in this sector and 88.9% of the Shire's area in agricultural production. Agriculture is dominated by dryland, broadacre farming with the main activities being cropping, and cattle and sheep production. Other activities include piggeries and aquaculture (Narrandera Shire Council 2017a).

Major employers in the Shire consist of the Shire Council, Grants Sawmilling, Narrandera Fisheries Centre, Manildra Flour Mill, Hutchins Bros Engineering, Bio As, Agri Australis, Proten, Teloca House, Opal, Murrumbidgee Local Health District and the Department of Education (Narrandera Shire Council 2017a).

According to the 2011 Census, Narrandera Shire has a labour force of 2,532 of which 94.7% were employed with 60.4% in full-time employment. The median age of workers in full-time and part-time work were 46 and 43 years (Narrandera Shire Council 2017b).

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

3.5 MAIN ATTRACTIONS

The main attractions of the Narrandera Shire include:

- The Murrumbidgee Rover and Middle Beach
- Lake Talbot and Lake Talbot Lookout
- Mia Forest Drive
- Narrandera's Big Guitar
- Narrandera Rail Bridge
- Narrandera Bike and Hike Track
- Barellan's Big Tennis Racquet
- Charles Sturt Memorial
- Heritage walks including Kieslings Lane Heritage Walk Bundidgerry Walking Track and Two-Foot Heritage Walk
- The Big Fig Tree
- Tiger Moth Memorial
- Narrandera Park and Adventure Playground
- Grong Grong Earth Park
- Barellan Museum
- Koala Spotting Regeneration Reserve (Visit NSW)

3.6 COMMUNITY FACILITIES

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

- Lake Talbot Aquatic Complex
- Barellan Swimming Pool
- Narrandera Library
- Waste Depot
- Sports Stadium
- Teloca House
- Visitor Information Centre

Some of the community facilities and economic features of the Narrandera Shire include:

- Health facilities: two chemists, a dental clinic, Narrandera Medical Centre, Bungoona Clinic, optometrist, and a number of pathologies. Ages and disability services include the Aged Activity Centre, Disability Advocacy Network, come care services, Meals on Wheels, Narrandera Home and Community Care Respite Service, Narrandera Home Modification and Maintenance Service, Opal Narrandera and Teloca House (Narrandera Shire Council 2017c)

- Support groups: CanAssist Narrandera, Cypress Centre and Disability Service, Garden Club, Grong Grong Progress and Hall Committee, Grong Grong Earth Park, Inner Wheel, Landcare, Legacy, Lions Club, Narrandera Arts and Creative Network, Narrandera Men's Shed, Narrandera RSL Sub-branch, Narrandera Lake Talbot and Environs Committee, Narrandera Koala Committee, Barellan Progress Association, Red Cross, Rotary Club, Soroptimists, St Vincent de Paul and Wetlands Committee (Narrandera Shire Council 2017c)
- Aboriginal Services: Narrandera Aboriginal Health Services, Narrandera Local Aboriginal Council and Mothers and Babies (Narrandera Shire Council 2017c)
- Education facilities: Many preschool, play group and out of school hour care facilities, Narrandera East Infants School, Narrandera Public School, St Joseph's Primary School, Barellan Central School, Binya Public School, Narrandera High School, St Francis de Sales Regional College, Barellan Central School, Yanco Agricultural High School, TAFE NSW, and Murrumbidgee Rural Studies Centre (Narrandera Shire Council 2017c)
- Parks and recreation facilities: The Narrandera Sports Stadium, sports ground and Golf Club, The Barellan Swimming Pool and Lake Talbot Aquatic Complex, Marie Bashir Park, Memorial Gardens and Hankinson Park, Jonsen Park, Joe Babbs Park, Shady Street Park and Noel Reid Park (Narrandera Shire Council 2017c)

3.7 NEWSPAPERS

There are two main newspapers distributed in the area:

- The Area News is a Griffith based newspaper, and is circulated to Griffith, Yoogalis, Bilbul, Yenda, Binya, Beelbanger, Lake Wyangan, Nericon, Tharbogang, Tabbita, Hilston, Marriwagga, Golgowi, Darling Point, Hanwood, Coleambally, Narrandera, Whitton and Barellan (Newspapers.com.au 2017)
- The Narrandera Argus is an independent bi-weekly newspaper published and circulated to Narrandera, Leeton, Yanco, Griffith, Coolamon, Ganmain, Matong and Grong Grong (Newspapers.com.au 2017)

3.8 RADIO

91.1FM is Narrandera's Community Radio Station providing 24/7 programming (Narrandera Shire Council 2017c).

3.9 COMMUNITY GROUPS

The main community groups of the Narrandera Shire include:

- Soroptimist – Worldwide organisation for women in management and professions
- Inner Wheel Narrandera Inc. – Connected to Rotary Club, Inner Wheel consists of Rotarian wives and former female Rotaract members
- Country Women's Association – Non-for-profit organisation working for the welfare of all women and their families
- Narrandera Shed for Men
- Narrandera Hospital Advisory Committee – Comprises of health professionals and community members who act as a link between the community and local health services (Narrandera Shire Council 2017c)

Other social and community groups include Scouts Narrandera, Girls Brigade, Air Leagues, Senior Citizens, Country Music Association, Landcare, Lions, Red Cross, Rotary, Rescue Club, View Club and Probus (Narrandera Shire Council 2017c).

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
<p>1. Adjacent and near neighbours</p>	<p>Given that the landscape is generally flat with no elevated views of the proposal site within 3km, adjacent and near neighbours with a potential to be affected are limited to those with a potential view of infrastructure or affected by noise or vibration from haulage route or construction activities. This is considered to be limited to those within 3km of the proposal site or those along potential haulage routes.</p> <p>Being a major development, direct impacts may be of great interest to residents and businesses.</p> <p>There are no sensitive receptors within 500m of the site, with six involved and seven uninvolved dwellings within 3km (Figure 2-2). Due to these proximities, it is unlikely any neighbour will be affected by view, noise or vibrations; however, one resident may be affected by construction traffic.</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>
<p>2. Adjacent Businesses</p>	<p>The nearest business is the CAD Factory, located approximately 5 km west of the proposal area. The business is accessed via Strontian Road and should not be 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>
<p>3. Local Businesses</p>	<p>No local businesses are located within 5 km of the site. However, being close to the township of Narrandera several businesses are located within 20 km of the proposal area. 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>

Stakeholder group	Defining characteristics
4. Representative bodies	<p>Representatives of groups such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrandera Visitors Information Centre • Narrandera Shire Council • Narrandera Landcare • Local state and national Members of Parliament • Chamber of Commerce
5. Media	<p>Outlets to ensure a clear message is delivered:</p> <p>Local radio, television, newspapers, project website.</p>
6. Broader community	<p>The project is likely to be of interest to the broader local and regional community.</p> <p>The regions history has been rich in broadacre farming, and cattle and sheep production. 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. Narrandera Shire	<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	Feel left out, disengaged, misinformed, disempowered.	Direct communication early to local community – adjacent landowners first, near neighbours second, then the wider community.

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.	Perception that the process is too difficult to become involved in.	<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 RES Australia Pty Ltd. 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	Format
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. 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 Avonlie solar proposal • Specific concerns • Ways the project may reflect the communities 'personality' and values. • How the benefits of the project may be spread to the local community. For example, economic stimulus and 	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	Format
			<p>local employment opportunities, or establishment of a Community Fund.</p> <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>	Face to face meeting with local business owners
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>Website, links to other projects and accreditations</p> <p>Media release, link to website</p>
Detailed assessment and proposal development				
Adjacent landowners	<p>May define locality</p> <p>Lack of support</p>	Inform and engage	<p>Feed information into the final assessment to ensure all their issues have been identified and addressed by the project.</p>	Face to face meeting / Phone call
Near neighbours	<p>May define locality</p> <p>Lack of support</p>	Inform and engage	<p>Identify ways the community can participate in the project and seek input on these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetation screen planting. • A competition for the signage / logo for solar farm • Other renewable or energy saving programs that the proponent could support? 	Competitions, other programs

Stakeholder group	Issue	Consultation objective	Community engagement activities	Format
Near neighbours	Fear of unknown, complex information	Inform and engage	Identify ways simplify and present the key information, seek feedback.	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				
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	Inform	Keep project information up to date. Provide link to relevant information including feedback form.	Media release Website

Stakeholder group	Issue	Consultation objective	Community engagement activities	Format
	confusion and mistrust. The approvals process can be complex.		Provide a contact for further information.	
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
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
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

Stakeholder group	Issue	Consultation objective	Community engagement activities	Format
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?

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APPENDIX A COMMUNITY FEEDBACK FORM