

## Minutes

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<b>Company</b>	Moree Solar Farm
<b>Meeting</b>	Community Reference Group
<b>Date</b>	Wednesday, 2 April 2014
<b>Time</b>	7:20pm
<b>Attendees</b>	Noeline Briggs- Smith – OAM Aboriginal Researcher Julie Sweeney – MPSC Mark Connolly – MPSC David Fitzgerald – Pacific Hydro Darren Curtis – Pacific Hydro

### **Welcome and Introduction**

- Welcome and overview of project provided by David.
- Overview of the Community Reference Group and its role.

### **Discussion**

Concerns from the group raised regarding the movement in the soils that are common in the Moree region.

#### **Response:**

- Darren explained that geo-tech testing on the soil on the load bearing of the pylons started today.

Query from the group regarding the cost of power to consumers once the Solar Farm is functional.

#### **Response:**

- Darren explained that the energy generated from the Moree Solar Farm will be sold by the owners of the project (Pacific Hydro & FRV) to retailers such as Country Energy or Origin. The retailers will provide consumers with the option of buying either regular energy (black) or renewable energy (green).

### **LAND**

Query from the group regarding any possible impact on farming in the area caused by the construction or the Farm.

#### **Response:**

- There have been no negative impacts identified.
- Farming such as sheep and cattle can continue in the Solar Farm precinct.

Query from the group regarding flooding.

**Response:**

- Panels are designed to sit well above highest possible flood levels.
- Darren explained that a study is required prior to construction commencing, regarding the impact on the land and access roads etc. The Solar Farm, its access roads etc will be developed according to the plan and to limit any negative impact.

Concern from the group regarding pooling of water.

**Response:**

- Darren explained that there is unlikely to be pooling of any water unless it's naturally caused by rain events. Construction of the farm will ensure natural run-off.
- Darren also explained that two tanks will be installed on the site to provide drinking water and for bushfire mitigation.

***Proposed wording for KPI***

Soil quality will not be adversely affected by the construction or ongoing operation of the Farm.

**ACCOMMODATION**

Concerns from the group raised regarding:

- Moree is sometimes full and there is no accommodation available.
- Workers may have to look at caravans or demountables for accommodation.
- Workers may have to look at outside of town or other towns (such as Narrabri).

**Response:**

- Project Managers are going to be able to be specific with the dates when accommodation will be needed.

***Proposed wording for KPI***

Accommodation providers with a larger capacity not to be solely booked out by the Project.

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Darren explained that there is a 750m upgrade to the access road approved. The upgrade will include spray sealing which will enable all weather access to the site and dust mitigation for the neighbouring properties.
- There will be a Traffic Management Plan developed which has to be approved by Council. The Traffic Management Plan will include a survey of the road network required to access the site and transport all the required materials to the site, and a condition report of the road network pre and post construction.
- The water main will be extended to the site.
- New mains line from the Moree Solar Farm to Bellata.



***Proposed wording to KPI***

- Traffic Management Plan to ensure safe traffic flows in the area.
- Extension of water main – ensure no drop in water pressure for current consumers.

**Meeting closed 8.40pm.**

**Next meeting: Wednesday, 16th April 2014**

**Topic: Water**

**Venue: Moree Services Club**