

# Glanmire Solar Farm

## Independent Planning Commission Briefing

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Nicole Brewer  
Director, Energy Assessments

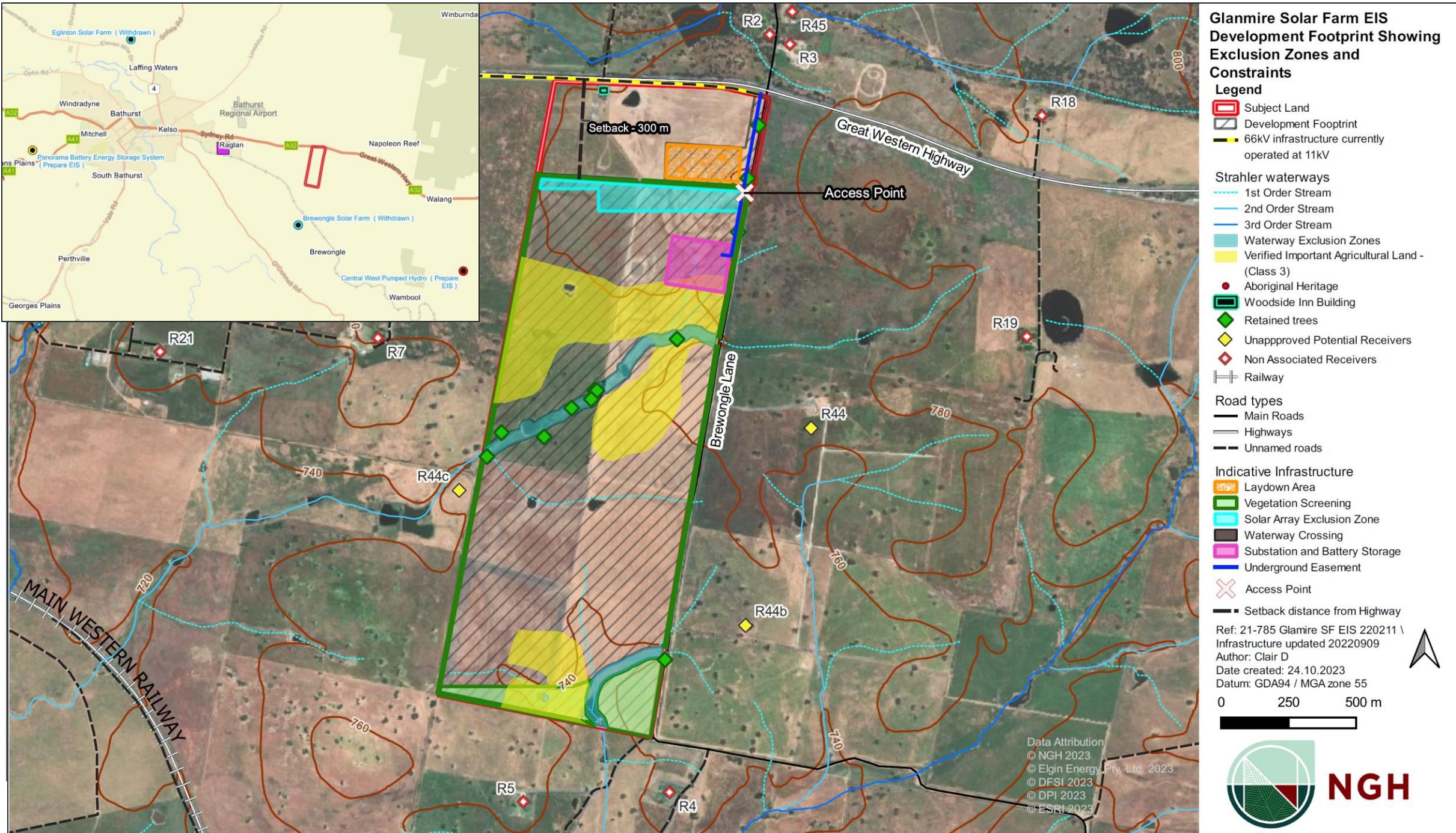
22 November 2023



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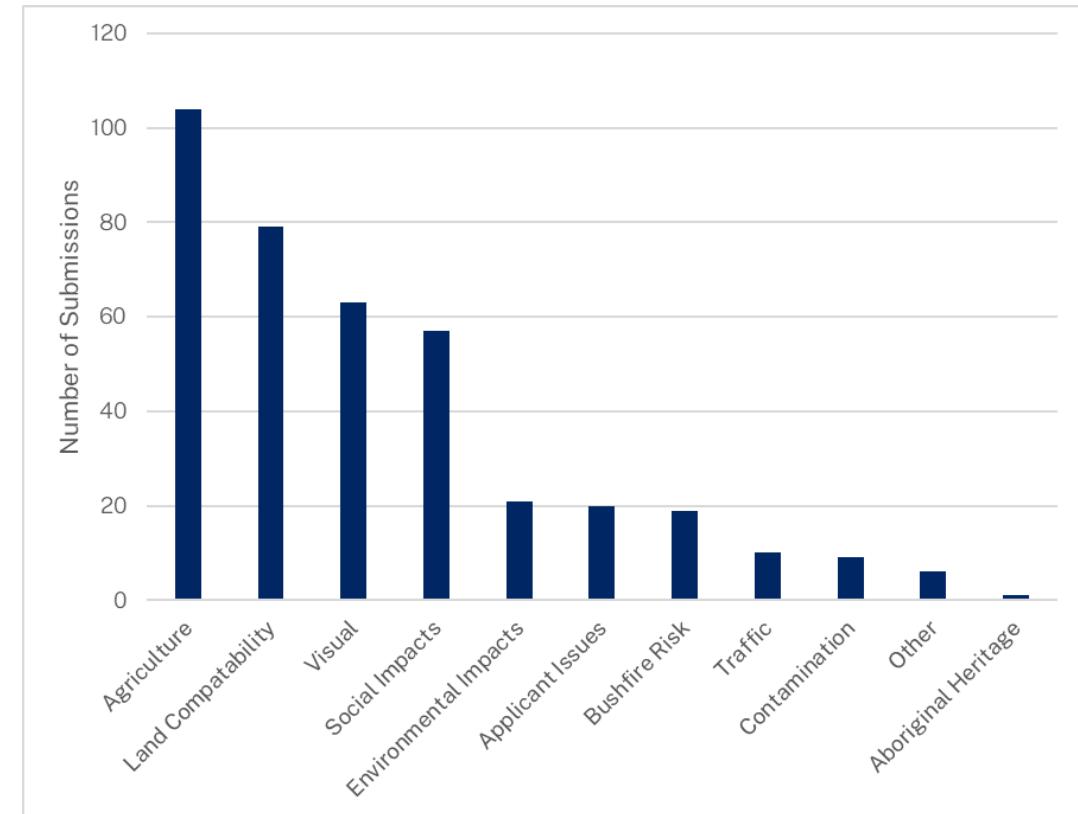
# Community Engagement



- Public Exhibition – 18 November to 15 December 2022
  - 143 public submissions:
    - 133 objections from individuals
    - 9 supporting submissions
    - 1 comment from an individual
  - Advice from 14 government agencies
  - Bathurst Regional Council – consultation
- Site visit on 3 August 2022
- Community Consultative Committee set up in accordance with the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements with an independent chair appointed by the Department, representatives of the community and the applicant that met during the preparation of the EIS

# Public Submissions

- Public objections cited:
  - land use compatibility;
  - visual amenity;
  - social impacts;
  - environmental impacts;
  - applicant issues; and
  - bushfire risks
- Supporting submissions cited transition to renewable energy sources and sustainable use of agricultural land and economic benefits.



# Key Issues

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- Energy transition
  - Land use compatibility (including impacts on agricultural land)
  - Visual amenity

# Energy Transition



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- 60 MW generating capacity that would power about 23,000 homes
  - Consistent with the NSW Climate Change Policy Framework of net zero emissions by 2050
  - Project is within an area with direct access to the transmission network and with available capacity and solar resources.
  - Project would play an important role in:
    - Increasing renewable energy generation and capacity; and
    - Contributing to the transition to a cleaner energy system as coal fired generators retire.
  - Department has recommended a deferred commencement condition to ensure transmission line refurbishment works are complete prior to consent commencing.

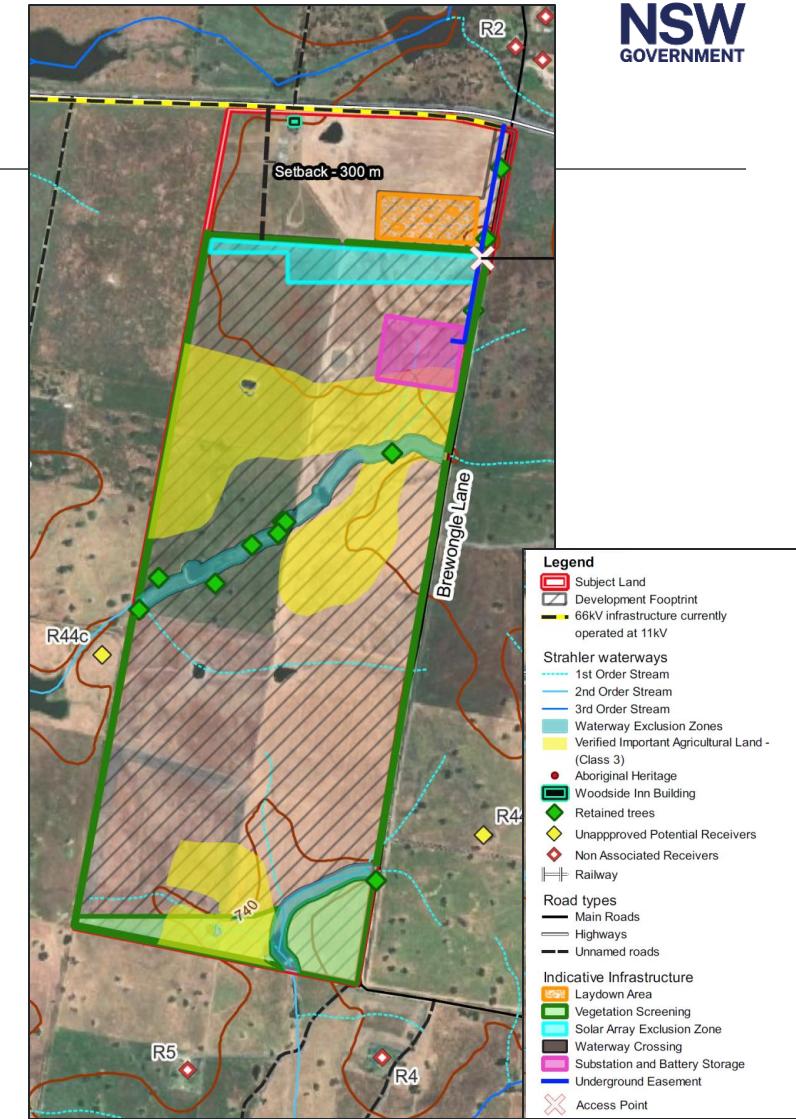
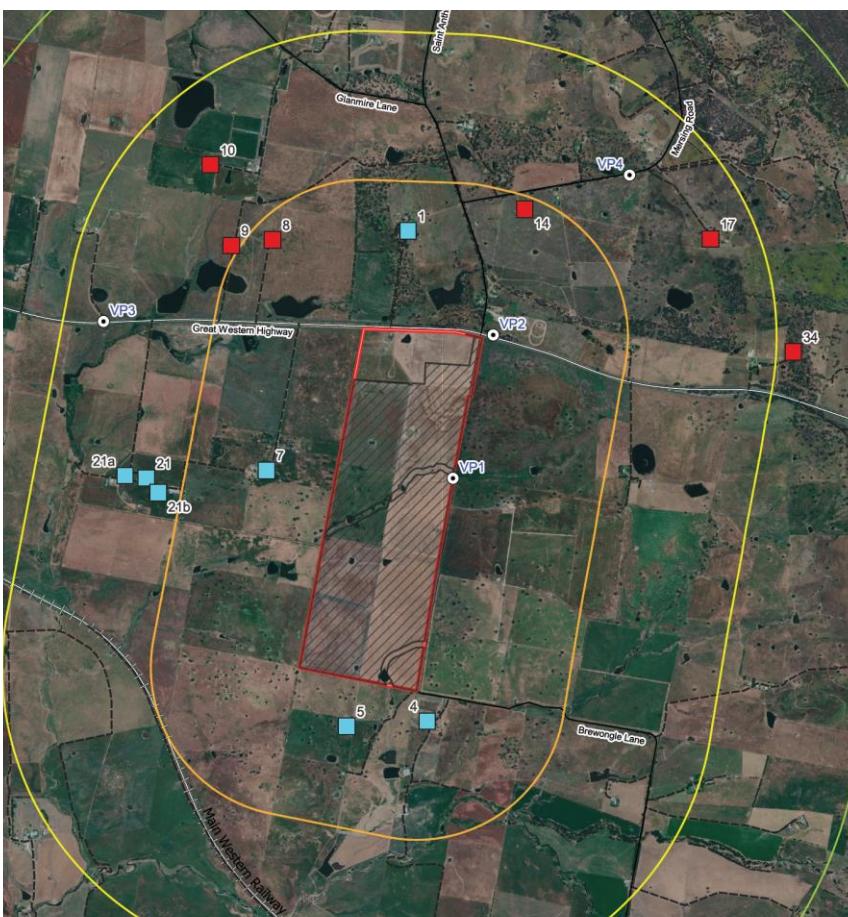
# Land Use Compatibility



- Permissible land use under the Bathurst LEP.
- Consistent with the *Bathurst Region Economic Development Strategy 2018-2022*, *Bathurst Regional Council Renewable Energy Action Plan 2020*, and *Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2041*.
- Assessment against provisions of the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP concluded:
  - no conflict with existing or approved residential or commercial uses of land;
  - no significant impact on the regional city's capacity for growth; and
  - no significant impact on scenic quality and landscape character of the region.
- Independent review confirmed soils assessment was adequate.
- Development footprint includes 39.5 ha of Class 3 land.
- Requirements to maintain the site's current land capability.
- Agricultural capability of the land would be returned following decommissioning.

# Visual Impacts

- All residences would experience very low to low impacts.
- This would be further reduced by on-site vegetation screening.
- Impacts along Brewongle Lane, would be low following the implementation of proposed vegetation screening.
- Resting angle of solar panels limited to a minimum of 4 degrees.



# Cumulative Impacts

- Two renewable SSD projects approved approximately 40 km from the project
- Wallerawang BESS
  - Battery storage capacity: 500 MW
- Great Western BESS
  - Battery storage capacity: 500 MW
- Key cumulative impacts considered:
  - loss of agricultural land; and
  - visual impacts

Legend

Solar Farm



Standalone BESS



Proposed

Hydro Projects



Proposed

# Decommissioning and Rehabilitation



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- Operational life is likely to be up to 40 years.
  - The *Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline* identifies four key decommissioning and rehabilitation principles:
    1. Return land to pre-existing use
    2. Remove project infrastructure
    3. Rehabilitate and return land to its pre-existing use (including LSC Class)
    4. The owner/operator should be responsible for the decommissioning and rehabilitation
  - Solar farm would be suitably decommissioned and rehabilitated at the end of the project life, or within 18 months if operations cease unexpectedly.

# Other Issues

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- Department also conducted detailed assessment of the following:
    - Biodiversity
    - Heritage
    - Traffic
    - Hazards and bushfire risk
    - Socio-economic impacts
    - Accommodation and workforce
    - Amenity (noise, dust, heat island effect)
    - Water and erosion

# Evaluation



- The Department has assessed the application, documents, submissions and advice, as per the requirements of the EP&A Act.
- The Department acknowledges that some members of the community remain strongly opposed to the project, and that the project would result in residual environmental and amenity impacts.
- With the implementation of the recommended conditions, the Department considers that the environmental and amenity impacts of the project can be managed to achieve acceptable outcomes.
- The project would:
  - provide significant economic and social benefits to the region
  - contribute to the transition of the NSW economy away from a reliance on fossil fuels
  - maximise the efficiency of the solar resource while minimising the potential impacts on surrounding land uses, local residents, and the environment.