

Submission in Support of the proposed Jindera Solar Farm SSD 9549

3rd December 2020

Submitted by the Applicant, Jindera Solar Farm Pty Ltd

Jindera Solar Farm Pty Limited is the applicant of the proposed Jindera Solar Farm project.

We thank the Independent Planning Commission of NSW and their panel members and staff for their time and efforts throughout the referral process. Our input to this process included;

- A visit and site tour of the proposed land of Jindera Solar Farm
- A proponent meeting focusing on the important issues arising through community consultation and clarification of IPC questions from the site visit
- A presentation at the public meeting focusing on community consultation and the amendments arising from the consultation of the EIS

We note that during our meeting “Meeting with Applicant” on 23rd November 2020 the Commissioners asked about our approach to Decommissioning of the proposed project at the end of its useful life.

We can confirm that in our document “Jindera SF Amendment Report Final V1.0” provided to DPIE on 17th March 2020 we have provided the following Safeguard and Mitigation Measure

*“**LU3** A Rehabilitation and Decommissioning Management Plan is to be prepared in consultation with NSW Department of Primary Industries and the landowner prior to decommissioning.”*

Having provided this undertaking previously, we would support the IPC’s suggestion that it may be appropriate that this obligation be covered by a suitable Planning Condition. There is obvious benefit to all parties, including members of the community, to see our plan and commitment to rehabilitation of the proposed project land and decommissioning of the solar farm.

We consider the Jindera Solar Farm to be good proposal and we note and draw your attention to the State Significant Development Assessment “Jindera Solar Farm, State Significant Development Assessment SSD 9549”, dated October 2020, prepared by Department Planning, Industry and Environment of NSW Government.

We consider this assessment to be a full and fair review of the project and we support the conclusion of the report as follows;

“The Department considers that the project achieves an appropriate balance between maximizing the efficiency of the solar resource development and minimising the potential impacts on surrounding land uses and the environment. The project would also stimulate economic investment

in renewable energy and provide flow-on benefits to the local community, through job creation, capital investment and substantial contributions to Council for community enhancement projects. On balance, the Department considers that the project is in the public interest and is approvable, subject to the recommended conditions of consent”.

In summary we believe that consent for the proposed Jindera Solar Farm should be granted for the following reasons;

- Renewable Energy can make a big contribution to reducing global emissions. The NSW Government is now clearly committed to transitioning from fossil fuel sources to renewable, green power sources.
- Jindera solar farm is ideally placed, with good solar resource and access to the grid and can play a role in contributing to the targets now set by NSW Government to increase energy generation from renewable sources.
- Community consultation and involvement has created a project layout and design that is sympathetic to its setting and a project that can be delivered and operated without disruption to the community
- The project will support and enhance the local economy. We have made clear commitments (backed by Planning Conditions) to ensure our construction and operational spend has a focus on local options.
- The two-part VPA we have agreed with Greater Hume Shire Council will bring benefits to the wider, local community.
- Our commitment to community consultation will not end with a successful planning outcome. Our consultation will enter a new phase, as we intend to work with the community to deliver our construction and operational activity in a responsible manner and as a good neighbour.
- Finally, independent assessment by DPIE has concluded that the project benefits outweigh potential impacts and they have recommended to the Independent Planning Commission that the project should be approved subject to the recommended conditions of consent.