



Glenellen Solar Farm Nominees Pty Ltd

Sydney, NSW 2000

09 November 2023

To the NSW Independent Planning Commission,

RE: Engagement with community groups in relation to the project, including the nature of its engagement and when the engagement was undertaken.

The Glenellen Solar Farm (the 'Project') has been undergoing assessment since 2018, with the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) exhibited in late 2020, and the Submissions Report and associated Amendment Report submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) in December 2022. The DPE referral was ultimately obtained in October 2023, subsequently referring the project to the NSW Independent Planning Commission.

Following the meeting held with the NSW Independent Planning Commission on November 1, 2023, a Questions on Notice has been received to further elucidate its engagement with community groups to date.

Stakeholder and community consultation commenced at the onset of the development in early 2018. The initial phase concluded with the release of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) at the end of 2020, and the engagement process has persisted since then. To date, an ongoing approach is maintained with all stakeholders. Throughout the entire process, the Project Team has been responsive to community concerns as they arise. A concerted effort has been made to address specific issues raised in response to the initial project concept plans and anticipated impacts.

A summary of the various contacts and engagements with community groups regarding the project is as follows:

## Jindera Forum

The convener of the Jindera Community Forum, a development committee for the township endorsed by the council, convenes periodic meetings. This Forum has expressed a keen interest in project enhancements, including those related to transportation, employment, and accommodation.

Communications and a meeting with various representatives of the Forum have been maintained since late 2021. Discussions have ensued regarding improvements to the access route and communication protocols. Furthermore, there is an intention to incorporate on-site visits in future meetings to apprise other members.

#### Jindera Rural Fire Brigade

Trinasolar's initial engagement occurred in July 2020, where the project was introduced, and discussions ensued to develop a comprehensive Fire Management Plan, ensuring meticulous methods and approach. Subsequently, ongoing communication has been upheld since that time.

## **ICN Gateway Riverina**

The Project Team has also conducted an initial meeting with ICN Gateway Riverina in 2022, as part of the preparations for engaging local suppliers and





social enterprises to contribute to both the construction and operational phases of the project.

#### **Landcare NSW**

Email communications have also been maintained since 2020 to introduce the project to Landcare and discuss landscape details.

Additional community organizations, sports clubs, and local media in the area have been identified. They will be contacted promptly to initiate initial meetings. The purpose of these meetings will be to introduce the Proponent company and the Project, seeking feedback on potential initiatives for inclusion in the Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing Plan associated with the Project. The identified entities encompass Rural Care Link, Jindera Pioneer Museum, Jindera Community Garden, Jindera Golf Club, Jindera Angling Club, Jindera Netball Club, and Jindera News.

Furthermore, contact has been established with the Aboriginal Community, as well as with local and state government entities concerning the Project.

### **Consultation with the Aboriginal Community**

A process of Aboriginal community consultation commenced in 2018 and has been undertaken in accordance with the guidelines as set out in the OEH's Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements.

Two Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) were actively engaged in the formal consultation process, possessing cultural knowledge essential for assessing the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or locations within the project area.

#### **Greater Hume Shire**

Engagement with the Council commenced in July 2018, and since then, consistent dialogues have been upheld to keep the council abreast of the project's progress, enhancements, modifications, and current status. Various aspects related to the project, including roads, waste, water, and a development contribution for the Jindera Town Hall project, have been thoroughly discussed and addressed.

Furthermore, a preliminary agreement has been reached with the Greater Hume Shire Council regarding the terms of the proposed Voluntary Planning Agreement, pending formalization subject to obtaining the Development Approval.

# **Local State and Federal Government**

Additionally, throughout the entire development, communications have been maintained with various representatives of the **Local State and Federal Government** regarding the project. Discussions have covered potential concerns for the local community as well as opportunities. Specific points raised included social investment, neighbor engagement, and the transparency of project visuals.

The Ongoing approach will continue with adjacent neighbours, Council, community groups and key stakeholders. Engagement will also continue to be supported by new initiatives and factual information resources, including:

- New engagements -
- Periodic meetings





- Project website, interactive site map, feedback survey and contact us form
- Project factsheet
- Contractor enquiry log and database
- Email database and dedicated project phone.

A Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing Plan (CEBSP) will be implemented with the aim to continue building an appropriate level of social license with wide-ranging positive impacts across the area.

We will continue to encourage community involvement throughout the construction and operation of the project, promoting new initiatives that bring benefits to all. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with local groups and associations to maintain a harmonious relationship with our community.

Proposed Glenellen Solar Farm

Kind regards,



Jose Flores

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On behalf of Glenellen Solar Farm Nominees Pty Ltd.

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