

ACF Community Albury Wodonga Region

Independently organised ACF group

23 November 2023

Dear Commissioners,

RE: Submission to the NSW Independent Planning Commission (IPC) regarding the application for approval to construct a solar farm, project (SSD-9550), at Glenellen NSW

This submission is made on behalf of the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) community Albury Wodonga Region (ACF-AWR). ACF-AWR has approximately 320 members and we write to you on their behalf.

ACF and ACF-AWR [support the transition to renewable energy](#) (ACF, 13 Jan 2023) and have in-principle support for the approval and construction of the Glenellen Solar farm.

ACF-AWR recognises that the proposed solar farm will have some environmental impacts to the local community and local environment, such as visual amenity and a perceived loss of agricultural land. However, there is evidence that ground-mounted solar installations are not only [complimentary to agriculture but are beneficial to agriculture](#) (Clean Energy Council – Australia, 29 March 2023), especially where animal grazing is the primary agricultural practice, but not limited to grazing. Thus, ACF-AWR is of the opinion that the benefits this project will provide outweigh the impacts.

In giving support to this project, ACF-AWR has concerns for the loss of old growth trees and an ephemeral wetland, which we understand will be partly or entirely built-over. All old growth trees are important habitat and refuge corridors for many species, especially in highly disturbed agricultural settings, as are ephemeral wetlands for the same reasons. Old growth trees are also reservoirs for species resilience and genetic diversity. Should this project receive approval, ACF-AWR requests that additional measures are included in the planning and construction conditions to protect these valuable natural assets.

Approval and construction of the Glenellen solar farm will be a significant contribution to Australia's commitment to net zero by 2050, which, at present, appears to be lagging behind promises made to the international community by the Australian Government.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment regarding this important project.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Alison Mitchell

per ACF-AWR

ACF Albury-Wodonga Region (ACF-AWR)

Independently Organised Community Group

Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF)

Email: 

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/512119632769926/>

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