



| NAME REDACTED | | COMMENT | Submission No: 189659 |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Organisation: | Belconnen Community Council | Key issues: Other issues | |
| Location: | Australian Capital Territory 2617 | | |
| Submitter Type: | a representative of a community group, non-government organisation, business or industry group | | |
| Attachment: | BCC - Wallaroo Solar Farm IPC - Submission.pdf | | |

Submission date: 7/31/2024 4:37:12 PM

Submission attached. Please contact us if there are any issues.



BELCONNEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Building a stronger community

Dear Commissioners,

The proposed Wallaroo solar farm

We thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed Wallaroo solar farm development (the Development).

The Belconnen Community Council (BCC) is a not-for-profit, government-funded community organisation that has represented the interests of the Belconnen community since 1991.

Following feedback from members of the Belconnen community, we respectfully raise concerns about community engagement in relation to the Development. We are told and note that:

1. Only one letterbox drop was undertaken for addresses in Dunlop and Macgregor in 2021;
2. No additional attempts were made to directly reach these residents until required in conjunction with the submission of the development application (DA) in 2023;
3. Many Belconnen residents only learnt of the Development through the media attention of negative sentiment against the Development it garnered in 2024;
4. Despite being listed as a special interest group for consultation, the BCC was contacted only 6 days before closure of the DA consultation (and in that time, expected to consider and make submission on a document package including more than 1,000 pages); and
5. Despite expressing willingness in our submission, the BCC was provided no other meaningful avenue or opportunity to provide input in relation to the Development.

Considering the above, we challenge whether this has been in keeping with the spirit of meaningful engagement per the NSW Government's *Large-Scale Solar Energy Guidelines*.

The BCC therefore advocates for the proponent to demonstrate its commitment to local communities by conducting a supplementary mixed-form consultation process with residents and stakeholders on both sides of the NSW-ACT border. As a demonstration of good faith, it could be accompanied by a hold on further progress until such process may be concluded.

Better practice for such a consultation would include public response to representations and a publicly disclosed summary of any changes the proponent will or will not adopt from the consultation.

We also note that the BCC recognises the commitment of the NSW, ACT, and Commonwealth Governments to the expansion of renewable energy. The BCC continues to hope that the delivery of renewable energy projects (and subsequent realisation of their benefits) is supported by significant and meaningful engagement with communities, allowing individuals and businesses to feel heard, considered and valued.

We wish you the best, and should you wish to discuss our concerns or recommendation further, please contact me via the details below.

Yours sincerely,



Chair, Belconnen Community Council

