SPRINGDALE SOLAR FARM – IPC OVERVIEW

Steven Reid, Development Manager

8th December 2020

Agenda

- Meet the team
- RES & Vision
- Why & Why here?
- Project Overview
  - Project Evolution
  - Heritage
  - Community Engagement
  - Impact Mitigations
- Conclusion
- Questions

Meet the Team

Steven Reid

Development Project Manager

- Chartered Surveyor
- ~10 years working in renewable energy industry
- Experience in selection, consenting and delivery of large scale operating solar in Australia

Jamie McMahon

Associate Director

- 19 year's experience in environment and planning with specialty in ecology
- Experience in electrical generation and transmission projects, including offshore wind
- Certified Environmental Practitioner – Impact Assessment Specialist

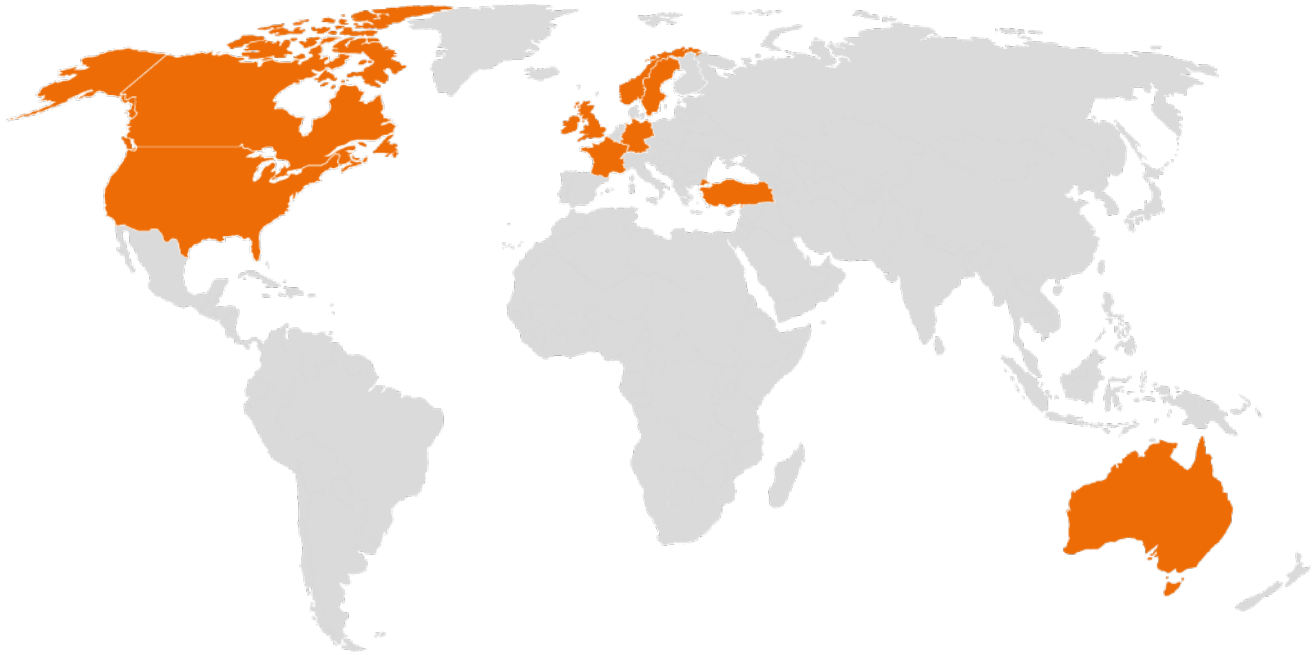
RES Overview

18GW
PROJECT PORTFOLIO

39
YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

6GW
OF OPERATIONAL ASSETS SUPPORTED

3,000
EMPLOYEES



ACTIVITIES

DEVELOP

CONSTRUCT

OPERATE

TECHNOLOGIES

WIND

SOLAR

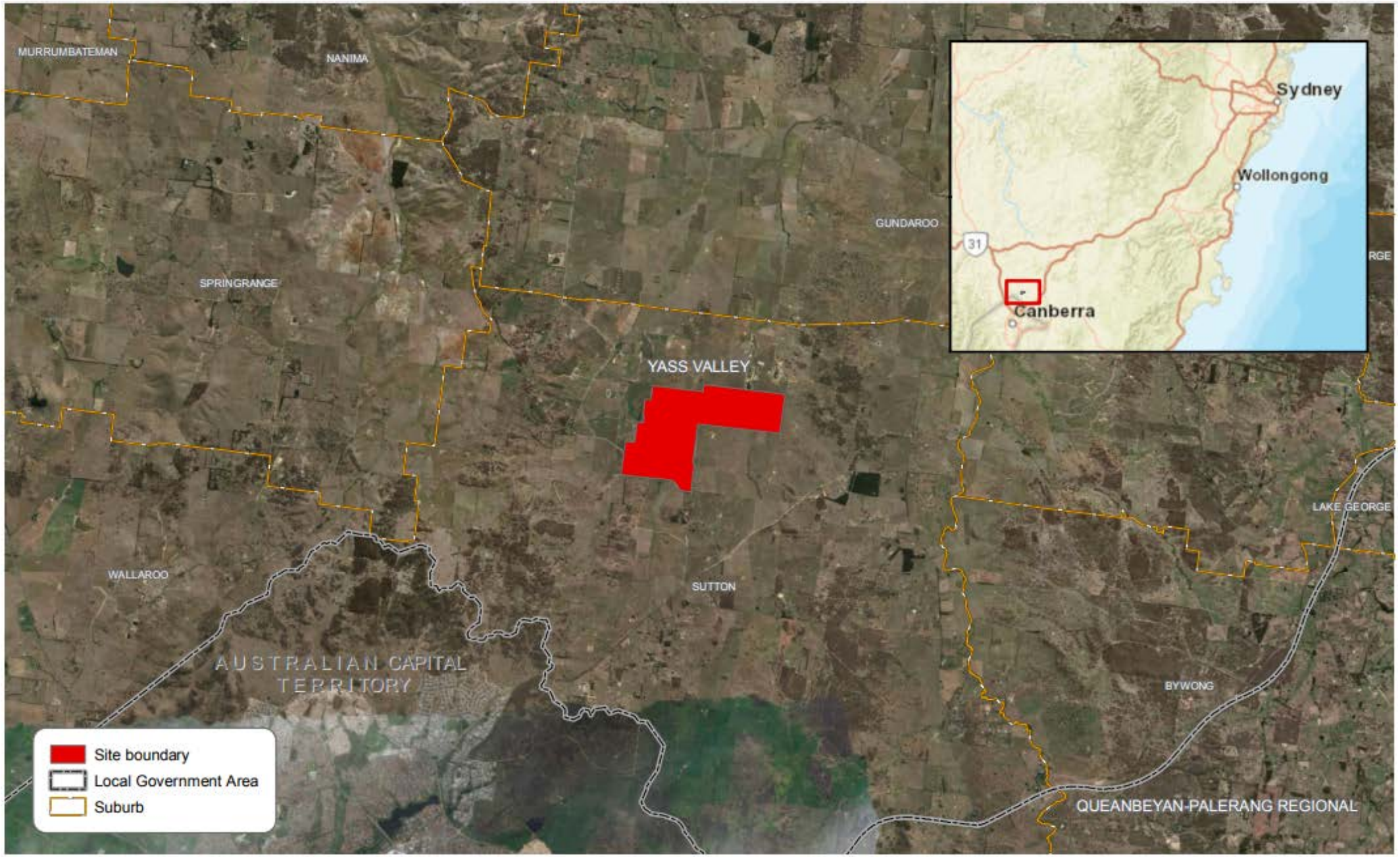
STORAGE

T&D

Our Vision


To create a future where
everyone has access to
affordable zero carbon energy

Overview - Location



Overview - High level Timeline

- Early 2017 - Project identified (Renew Estate)
- August 2017 – Land option executed (Renew Estate)
- September 2017 – SEARs issued (Renew Estate)
- December 2017 & August 2018 - Public consultation sessions (Renew Estate)
- May 2018 – Supplementary SEARs issued for Commonwealth assessment (Renew Estate)
- June 2018 – State Significant Development Application prepared by AECOM and submitted (Renew Estate)
- July & August 2018 – Public exhibition and agency/public submissions (Renew Estate)
- October 2018 – Response to Submissions due date (Renew Estate)
- Summer 2018/19 – Project placed on hold (Renew Estate)
- Summer 2019/20 – Renew Estate and RES discuss the transfer of project to RES (Renew Estate & RES)
- April 2020 – Public confirmation of RES as new project owner. RES and AECOM to complete planning work (RES)
- 31 May 2020 – DPIE confirmed deadline for submission of Response to Submissions (RtS) (RES)
- 31 May 2020 – RtS and Amendment Report submitted to DPIE (RES)
- 1 October 2020 – RFI Report submitted to DPIE (RES)
- 25 November 2020 – DPIE issue Assessment Report with recommendation for approval (RES)

Why & Why here?

Need to decarbonise

Time is of the essence

Existing grid capacity

Robust grid connection

Excellent solar resource

Good Road Access

Willing host landowner

Grazing Land/size/topography

Nearby workforce/load

ISP targeted region

Overview – Project Evolution

- Initial layout sought to maximise land footprint
- Constraints analysis led to a significant footprint reduction
- Community feedback led to further footprint reductions at submission of RtS (next slide)
- DPIE feedback led to further footprint reductions during final assessment (next slide)

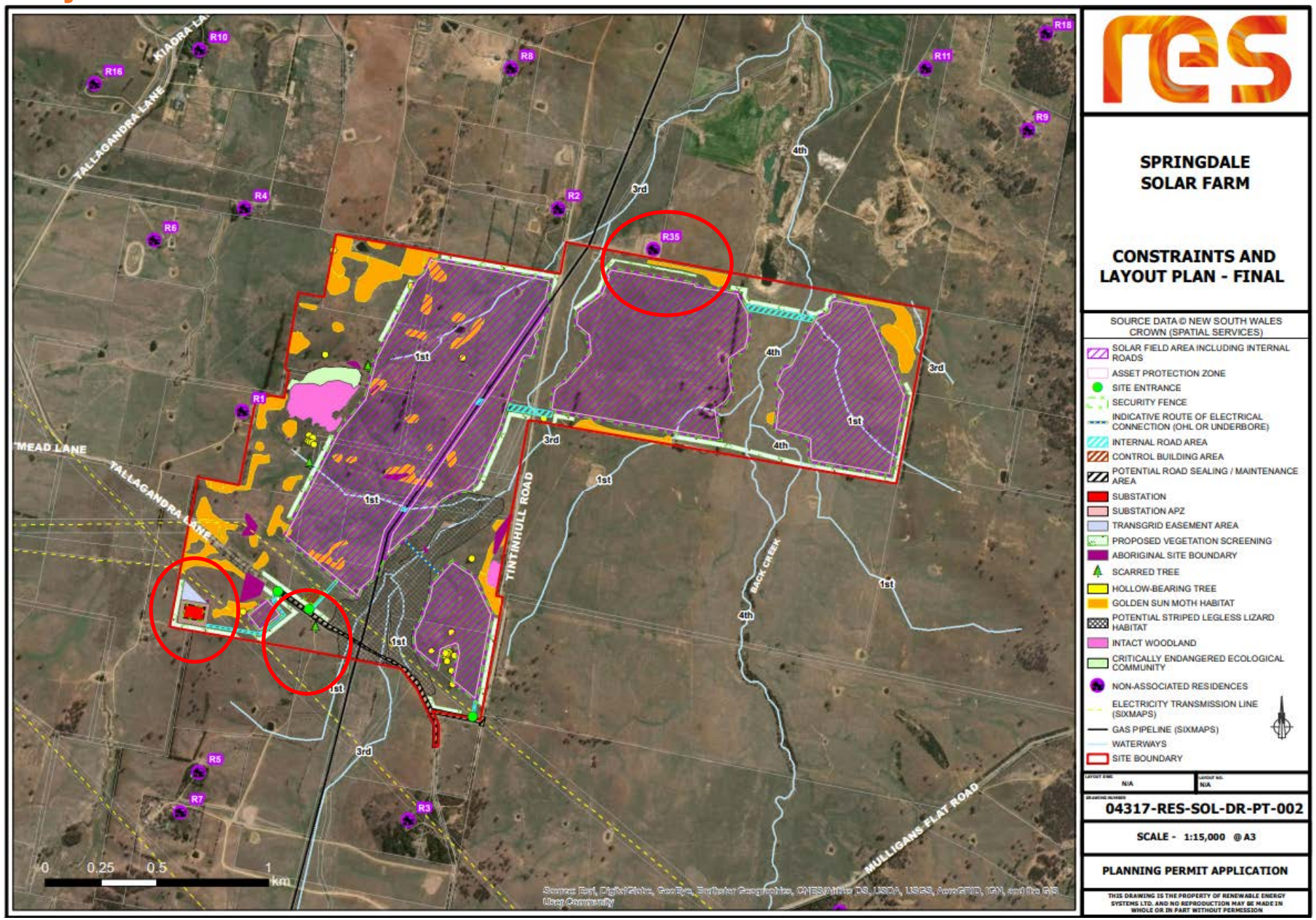
We have listened

- **End Result:**
  - Project has substantially avoided environmental constraints
  - Project has sought to reduce footprint where economically feasible

	**August 2017 (initial layout)**
	- All available land developed except for the preliminary constraints identified including:
	  - woodland patches
	  - creeklines
	  - transmission line easements
	  - gas pipeline easement
	  - roads.

	**November 2017** - development envelope reduced around creeks to avoid unacceptable 1 in 100 year flood levels. - development envelope reduced in the west to mitigate visual impacts to residential receivers and to conserve moderate quality threatened species habitat.
	**January 2017** - development envelope further reduced and refined to avoid as much as practicable Aboriginal heritage sites and threatened species habitat. - Internal roads connecting solar fields and control building sited to avoid constraints. - Areas subject to potential road works identified, including potential Tintinhull Road re-alignment (refer section 3.2.12), and the extent of potential Tallagandra Lane road grading and culvert upgrade works (refer section 3.3.3).

Overview – Project Evolution



Overview – Aboriginal Heritage

- Engagement with Local RAPs and good take up in site walk over
- 145 individual stone artefacts found over 12 sites, with further 3 potential scarred trees
- Subsurface trial pits to be undertaken post-consent, as agreed with Heritage NSW
- To be undertaken according to the methodology approved by OEH in 2018
- Undertake RAP consultation – letters, newspaper advertisement, review of methodology and report
- Phase 1 - 100 x 0.25m² test pits placed on a 75 m grid in areas of identified archaeological sensitivity affected by the project.
- Phase 2 - expansions of test pits where three or more artefacts are identified in Phase 1 test pits or where suspected archaeological features such as heat treatment pits or hearths are identified.
- Test excavation works will be completed in accordance with DPIE's *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW, 2010a).

Overview – Community Engagement

- Multiple Project consultations
  - two drop-in sessions held
  - Regular engagement with local community groups
  - Direct engagement with closest impacted neighbours
  - Covid 19 impact
- Key Concerns
  - Loss of good agricultural land
  - Effect on neighbouring property values
  - Visual impact
- Council discussions and Benefit in Kind offers
  - Community feedback pointed to the upgrade of Tallagandra Lane
  - Most impactful VPA offers turned down by Yass Valley Council
- Community Enhancement Fund
  - $100k paid at construction commencement
  - $40k pa escalated to CPI for 30 years
  - VPA sets out funding criteria and committee structure
- Direct Benefits
  - 15 neighbouring landowners consulted with for a direct benefit – solar/battery <$20k or ongoing annual payment $5k/pa (indexed to CPI)
  - Discussion ongoing with revised offer to be reissued soon
- Early community funding
  - Gundaroo Common Association
  - Sutton RFS

Overview – Impact Mitigations

- Biodiversity
  - Golden Sun Moth
    - 60 ha GSM conservation area on top of offset requirements
  - Superb Parrot
    - Majority of habitat avoided, minor offset requirements
- Heritage
  - 13 of 15 known Aboriginal heritage sites avoided
  - Subsurface testing to be carried out prior to construction
  - RAPs to be invited back to aid salvage works
- Visual
  - 5 residences with moderate visual impacts consulted
    - Increased sets backs adopted
    - Removal of some development areas
    - Relocation of substation
    - Additional 20 m deep screening vegetation included in places
- Construction Traffic
  - TMP will address key traffic concerns for vehicles navigating through Sutton village
  - Tallagandra Lane to be re-sheeted with gravel before construction commencement
  - Shortest local road route selected
- Direct Benefits and Community Enhancement Fund
  - Closest neighbouring landowners offered form of direct benefit from the project
  - Wider financial benefit agreed for local area through annual contributions (VPA)

Conclusion

- Springdale Solar Farm is suitable for approval as:
  - The Site has a high-level of solar resource and ideal climatic conditions
  - The Site is near existing electrical infrastructure with sufficient capacity. Co-location with existing transmission lines offers a rare opportunity for direct grid connection without significant new overhead lines and easements
  - The site is suitable for solar farm construction and operation, including minimal shading, suitable topography, site accessibility, low flood risk, proximity to existing load centres and access to a local labour force.
  - The project is consistent with the Yass Valley Council Economic Development Strategy (YVC, 2014) which notes that due to its location, topography and climate, the Yass Valley could potentially be a significant producer of renewable energy from solar or wind sources
  - Environmental assessment of the project indicated that all impacts could be suitably avoided, mitigated, managed or offset
  - The project has substantial community support, with more submissions supporting the project than objections
  - The project is in the public interest of providing new renewable energy in NSW, as well as the provision of local employment.

Questions?