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# Vipac Engineers & Scientists

# **Stawell Solar Farm**

# 105 Dane Road, Stawell VIC 3380

# **Glint & Glare Assessment Report**



20E-20-0090-TRP-6783029-0

23 Jul 2020





Glint & Glare Assessment Report					
Job Title: Stawell Solar Farm 105 Dane Road, Stawell VIC 3380					
DOCUMENT NO: 20E-20-0090	0-TRP-6783029-0	REPORT CODE: TRP			
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2	Client (PDF Format)	Uncontrolled Copy			
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KEYWORDS:					

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### **1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Vipac Engineers & Scientists Ltd (VIPAC) has been commissioned by ACENERGY to carry out a Glint & Glare Assessment report for solar farm at 105 Dane Road, Stawell VIC 3380.

The proposed design is for a Fixed Solar Array of solar panels with an average height of 1m above natural ground, across a flat terrain site with perimeter fence/hedge, and associated power transmission equipment.

This report is considered a preliminary Stage 1 assessment, suitable for design evaluation of potential reflection hazards as defined and evaluated in the scope of this report only.

#### Summary of the findings

A summary of the key findings is shown in the following Table.

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS						
Areas of Interest	Glare Risk	<b>FINDINGS PER TIME PERIOD</b> (AEST – not daylight savings time)				
		MID WINTER	EQUINOX	SUMMER		
A. Residence North of site	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		
B. Donald-Stawell road residence	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		
C. Residence on intersection of Donald-Stawell and Dane road	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		
D. Residence on Dane road.	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		
E. Dane road traveling towards site	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		

#### Conclusion:

In compliance with the Victorian Government's requirements (Solar Energy Facilities – Design and Development Guideline, Department of Environment, Land, Water, Planning, August 2019), The development has been assessed to investigate impacts on:

- Dwellings and roads within 1 km of the proposed facility, taking into consideration their heights within landscape
- Aviation infrastructure including any air traffic control tower or runway approaching path close to the proposed facility
- Any other receptor to which a responsible authority considers solar reflection may be a hazard.

The design as presented represents an acceptable level of reflectivity and the authors suggest that the design will perform without an adverse disposition to its environs in consideration of solar reflection and glare as described in this report.

With respect to the Victorian Government's "Solar Energy Facilities – Design and Development Guideline", Department of Environment, Land, Water, Planning, August 2019, Section "Glint and Glare Management", the proposed design as analysed in this report is considered to be the lowest risk category of "NO IMPACT" of all areas of interest.

For full analysis please refer to Appendices A and B of this report.

23 Jul 2020



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### 2 METHODOLOGY

report examines the reflectivity of sunlight from the proposed design under normal sunlight conditions with consideration of the physical geometry and material selection inherent in the design.

The reflectivity analysis typically can form a number of interrelated protocols (or Stages of Analysis) for reviewing and defining the reflectivity that may be experiences.

Stage 1 Heat Map Analysis looks at the distribution of where reflections will occur and reviews a number of critical factors - duration, saturation or density and the position. In situations in which it may be considered that these factors may not present significant potential adverse impacts a conclusion may be reached at this stage.

Stage 2 Glare Analysis looks at specific locations as determined in stage 1 and evaluates the reflection in respect to veiling luminance and glare hazard. Often the most important factor will be pedestrian and vehicle hazard analysis, to which a number of analysis techniques such as Photomontage, Car Windscreen Protractor and Luminance Calculation will be used to further determine if the reflection presents as a hazard.

3D Computer modelling is used to investigate the proposed design under a sunlight system based on real life data, to which sun position, size and intensity are controlled by an IES (Illuminating Engineering Society) certified daylight system.

The findings of the report are based extensively on the data analysis contained within this report. The review and analysis protocols of this report are based on the work of Mr David Hassall, University of NSW, and the de- facto industry standard book "Dealing with Rogue Solar Reflections", Hassall 1991.

For full analysis please refer to Appendices A and B of this report.



### **3 ASSESSMENT**

### 3.1 LOCATION

The project is located on a clear open site that presents as open grass paddock from aerial images. The terrain has been modelled as a clear field with a flat terrain.

The site is located on Dane road, a single lane unsealed road. Other traffic axis around the site are Donald-Stawell road running north south approximately 1.2Km to the West of the site and Darlington Mine road, another single lane unsealed road intersecting with Donald-Stawell road to the West of the site.

There is no significant residential areas or major traffic highways near the site. There are a few residences located within the environs of the site, these include a residence approximately 900m north of the site, two residences on Dane road located 540m and 1Km to the West of the site and one residence on Donald-Stawell road approximately 1.2km to the north west of the site. There are no other major traffic corridors or residential buildings in proximity to the site.

Trees and other structures have not been modelled in this analysis as these will have a reducing influence over any sources of reflectance. This report is therefore presenting a worst-case scenario.

#### 3.2 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposed design is for a fixed solar panel array on clear field site.

The solar panel array consists of pairs of solar panels tilted at 8° towards East and West to form a ridge. This pair is then arrayed in regular spacing to form a module, which then is arrayed to form the entire site design as per the Concept drawings.

From the drawings a working height of 1m above natural ground has been established for the solar panels.

Ancillary structures have been considered to be of neutral reflectance and modelled according to site plan.



Figure 1: Site Location



#### 3.3 PROPOSED DESIGN

The main components of reflectance from the design comprises the solar panel Photovoltaic cell at a fixed angle of 8 degrees to the East and West. The Solar Panel cell is modelled as a solid high gloss black reflectance, which is then artificially interpreted as a RED colour for visual clarity.

The high gloss surface has been attributed values similar to solid glass type with standard optical glass values (reflection, refraction and transmission). The specific material values of the solar panel surface qualities have not been investigated in this preliminary Stage 1 assessment as the "generic" high gloss glass like surface is considered to produce very similar or worst-case scenario reflectance. It carries the recommendation if areas of concern for reflectance are found then additional investigation and modelling of the glass surface or panel surface will be required to determine the actual energy (glare and veiling intensity) of the reflectance in question.

The design calls for a perimeter fence, to which the concept drawings indicate a wire fence with 1.8m high chain mesh fence with 2m planting. From consultation with the clients it is determined that the nature and detail of this fence and hedge design is suitable for revision if reflectance or other controls deem suitable. For this instance, the fence is modelled as a solid structure (ie taking into consideration the potential for hedge planting) however is only modelled at a height of 1m, which is below the height of the solar panel array. This modelling decision was taken in order to mitigate the influence of the fence design and present a worst-case scenario.

Data	Classification	Source / Details
Design files	Proposed Design and surrounding context	Acenergy, Layout and Concept Drawings (Ref G-2.0_000202, revision A dated 05/03/2020)
Environs	Aerial image	As provided from client
Scientific Methodology	Analysis protocols and methodology	Hassall 1991

#### 3.4 INPUT DATA



#### 3.5 AREAS OF INTEREST

Areas of Interest are areas that are likely recipients of reflectance or require further discussion in respect to the proposed designs implications on the surrounding environment with regard to reflectance.

Several areas of interest exist around the potential area of influence. Appendix B of this report provides view positions of the relevant areas of interest.

Typically, these are either areas of potential exposure to glare based on the activity - such as driving along the Highway, or a road intersection or rail crossing. The Residential areas are all located at least 500m away from the site and appear to have shielding from tress and have been noted as possible areas of concern if impact from reflectance is found.

Refer to the Figure below and a higher resolution version is available in the Appendix B of this report.



Figure 2: Areas of Interest Map.

- Area A Residential area to the north of the site
- Area B Residential area on Donald-Stawell road
- Area C Residential area on Dane and Donald-Stawell road intersection
- Area D Residential area on Dane road
- Area E Dane road traveling towards the site.

Potential glare hazard for drivers.

• Internal Areas:

Considering the relative autonomous nature of the Solar Farm, the incidence of glare hazard within the confines of the site boundary have not been considered as an indicator of area of key interest, although the presence of such reflectance may promote other work safe practices when entering the site (beyond the scope of this report).



### 3.6 OUTCOMES

The solar farm generally has very low incidence of reflectance that intersect with the surrounding environs and has no recorded incidence of reflectance when considering the key areas of interest.



Figure 4: Reflectance 3D View of the design

A summary of the key findings is shown in the following Table.

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS						
Areas of Interest	Glare Risk	<b>FINDINGS PER TIME PERIOD</b> (AEST – not daylight savings time)				
		MID WINTER	EQUINOX	SUMMER		
A. Residence North of site	NONE	NONE NONE NONE				
B. Donald-Stawell road residence	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		
C. Residence on intersection of Donald-Stawell and Dane road	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		
D. Residence on Dane road.	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		
E. Dane road traveling towards site	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		

Areas of interest that show any potential interaction with reflections are limited to those shown in the above table.

In consideration of all items of key findings, this report has not found reason for further Stage 2 analysis to be conducted.



### 4 CONCLUSION

In compliance with the Victorian Government's requirements (*Solar Energy Facilities – Design and Development Guideline, Department of Environment, Land, Water, Planning, August 2019*), the development has been assessed to investigate impacts on:

- Dwellings and roads within 1 km of the proposed facility, taking into consideration their heights within landscape
- Aviation infrastructure including any air traffic control tower or runway approaching path close to the proposed facility
- Any other receptor to which a responsible authority considers solar reflection may be a hazard.

Given the design documentation, the fixed system (with orientation 8 degrees East and West) and assumption of Terrain, and perimeter fence, the solar farm does not present any reflectance and thus no incidence of glare hazard.

It is advised the recommendations pertaining in this report form part of the design procurement process.

With respect to the Victorian Government's "Solar Energy Facilities – Design and Development Guideline", Department of Environment, Land, Water, Planning, August 2019, Section "Glint and Glare Management", the proposed design as analysed in this report is considered to be the lowest risk category of "NO IMPACT" of all areas of interest.

For full analysis please refer to Appendices A and B of this report.



### 5 DISCLAIMER

This report is prepared using the information described above and inputs from other consultants. Whilst Vipac has endeavoured to ensure the information used is accurate, no responsibility or liability to any third party is accepted for any loss or damage arising out of the use of this report by any third party. Any third party wishing to act upon any material contained in this report should first contact Vipac for detailed advice which will take into account that party's particular requirements.

Computer performance assessment provides an estimate of building performance. This estimate is based on a necessarily simplified and idealised version of the building that does not and cannot fully represent all the intricacies of the building once built. As a result, simulation results only represent an interpretation of the potential performance of the building. No guarantee of the performance in practice can be based on simulation results alone. Vipac and its employees and agents shall not be liable for any loss arising because of, any person using or relying on the Report and whether caused by reason or error, negligent act or omission in the report. This report and recommendations are based on the data to hand and form a considered opinion in the context of the entirety of this report as a whole. The authors reserve the right to retract these recommendations if additional information or design changes are fore coming that contravene or supplement the set of information this report is based on.



Stawell Solar Farm 105 Dane Road, Stawell VIC 3380 Glint & Glare Assessment Report

### APPENDIX A – DETAILED REFLECTIVITY ANALYSIS

REPORT : RA172801

## **REFLECTIVITY ANALYISIS - STAGE 1**



PROPOSED SOLAR FARM

STAWELL SOLAR FARM 105 DANE ROAD, STAWELL VIC 3380 FOR ACENERGY P/L

VIPAC ENGINEERS & SCIENTISTS

VERSION 01 Prepared 6/2020

PO Box 539 MonaVale NSW 1660 T 02 9997 7480 info@denebdesign.com.au www.denebdesign.com.au Nominated Architect: Cameron McFadzean #8750NSW page 1/30

#### ABSTRACT

We have been engaged to providing Reflectivity Analysis for the proposed design of the Solar Farm at Stawell in country Victoria, provided by Acenergy.

The proposed design is for a Fixed Solar Array of solar panels with an average height of 1m above natural ground, across a flat terrain site with perimeter fence/hedge, and associated power transmission equipment.

This report is considered a preliminary STAGE 1 assessment, suitable for design evaluation of potential reflection hazards as defined and evaluated in the scope of this report only.

The design as presented represents an acceptable level of reflectivity and the authors suggest that the design will perform without an adverse disposition to its environs in consideration of solar reflection and glare as described in this report.

With respect to the Victorian Government's "Solar Energy Facilities – Design and Development Guideline", Department of Environment, Land, Water, Planning, August 2019, Section "Glint and Glare Management", the proposed design as analysed in this report is considered to be the lowest risk category of "NO IMPACT" of all areas of interest.

ANALYSIS DETAILS FOR REFLECTIVITY ANALYSIS					
Project Details	STAWELL SOLAR ARRAY				
Applicable for ANNEXURE	RA172801				
Issue	Version 01				
Dated	05/06/20				
ACCURACY DETAILS	DATA	TOLERANCE			
Topography and Site					
Proposed Design	Acenergy (Ref G-2.0_000202, rev. A dated 05/03/2020)	+/- 300mm X and Y Flat Terrain assumed			
REFLECTIVITY METHOD – STAGE 1	RAY TRACED – (Mental Ray Caustics Engine)				
Ray Tracing (Caustics)	3D Max – Mental Ray	1m field, 40000 photon,			
Lighting	IES certified Sun only	Latitude and Longitude daylight system, clear sky, clear horizon AEST (Australian Eastern Standard Time) not Daylight savings time adjusted.			
Source	Solar Panel – assumed highest reflectance properties .	Index of Refraction IOR – Fresnel curve – Standard Glass 1.5			



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#### 1.0 Introduction

This report will examine the reflectivity of sunlight from the proposed design under normal sunlight conditions with consideration of the physical geometry and material selection of the Solar Panels in array as outlined in the concept drawings. The reflectivity analysis typically can form a number of interrelated protocols (or Stages of Analysis) for reviewing and defining the reflectivity that may be experiences.

Stage 1 Heat Map Analysis looks at the distribution of where reflections will occur and reviews a number of critical factors duration, saturation or density and the position. In situations in which it may be considered that these factors may not present significant potential adverse impacts a conclusion may be reached at this stage.

Stage 2 Glare Analysis looks at specific locations as determined in stage 1 and evaluates the reflection in respect to veiling luminance and glare hazard. Often the most important factor will be pedestrian and vehicle hazard analysis, to which a number of analysis techniques such as Photomontage,, Car Windscreen Protractor and Luminance Calculation will be used to further determine if the reflection presents as a hazard.

3D Computer modelling is used to investigate the proposed design under a sunlight system based on real life data, to which sun position, size and intensity are controlled by a IES (Illuminating Engineering Society) certified daylight system. The findings of the report are based extensively on the data analysis contained within this report.

The review and analysis protocols of this report are based on the work of Mr David Hassall, University of NSW, and the defacto industry standard book "Dealing with Rogue Solar Reflections", Hassall 1991.



### 1.1 Project

#### 1.1.1 Overview and Design

The proposed design is for a fixed solar panel array on clear field site.

The solar panel array consists of pairs of solar panels tilted at 8° towards East and West to form a ridge. This pair is then arrayed in regular spacing to form a module, which then is arrayed to form the entire site design as per the Concept drawings. From the drawings a working height of 1m above natural ground has been established for the solar panels. Ancillary structures have been considered to be of neutral reflectance and modelled according to site plan.

#### Fig 1.1.2 3D rendered image of the proposed solar panel array



The main components of reflectance from the design comprises the solar panel Photovoltaic cell at a fixed angle of 8 degrees to the East and West. The Solar Panel cell is modelled as a solid high gloss black reflectance, which is then artificially interpreted as a RED colour for visual clarity.

The high gloss surface has been attributed values similar to solid glass type with standard optical glass values (reflection, refraction and transmission). The specific material values of the solar panel surface qualities have not been investigated in this preliminary Stage 1 assessment as the "generic" high gloss glass like surface is considered to produce very similar or worst-case scenario reflectance. It carries the recommendation if areas of concern for reflectance are found then additional investigation and modelling of the glass surface or panel surface will be required to determine the actual energy (glare and veiling intensity) of the reflectance in question.

The design calls for a perimeter fence, to which the concept drawings indicate a wire fence with 1.8m high chain mesh fence with 2m planting. From consultation with the clients it is determined that the nature and detail of this fence and hedge design is suitable for revision if reflectance or other controls deem suitable. For this instance, the fence is modelled as a solid structure (ie taking into consideration the potential for hedge planting) however is only modelled at a height of 1m, which is below the height of the solar panel array. This modelling decision was taken in order to mitigate the influence of the fence design and present a worst-case scenario.



### 1.2 Site Location

#### 1.2.1 Location and Environs

The project is located on a clear open site that presents as open grass paddock from aerial images. The terrain has been modelled as a clear field with a flat terrain.

The site is located on Dane road, a single lane unsealed road. Other traffic axis around the site are Donald-Stawell road running north south approximately 1.2Km to the West of the site and Darlington Mine road, another single lane unsealed road intersecting with Donald-Stawell road to the West of the site.

There is no significant residential areas or major traffic highways near the site. There are a few residences located within the environs of the site, these include a residence approximately 900m north of the site, two residences on Dane road located 540m and 1Km to the West of the site and one residence on Donald-Stawell road approximately 1.2km to the north west of the site. There are no other major traffic corridors or residential buildings in proximity to the site.

Trees and other structures have not been modelled in this analysis as these will have a reducing influence over any sources of reflectance. This report is therefore presenting a worst-case scenario.

Fig 1.2.1 Site Location





1.2.2 Areas of Interest

Several areas of interest exist around the potential area of influence.

Reference to the Annexure RA172801 will provide view positions of the relevant areas of interest.

Typically, these are either areas of potential exposure to glare based on the activity - such as driving along the Highway, or a road intersection or rail crossing. The Residential areas are all located at least 500m away from the site and appear to have shielding from tress and have been noted as possible areas of concern if impact from reflectance is found.

Refer to the Figure below and a higher resolution version is available in the Annexure 7.0 1 RA172801 File.



#### AREAS OF INTEREST

- A. Residential area to the north of the site
- B. Residential area on Donald-Stawell road
- C. Residential area on Dane and Donald-Stawell road intersection
- D. Residential area on Dane road
- E. Dane road traveling towards the site. Potential glare hazard for drivers.

#### **INTERNAL AREAS -**

Considering the relative autonomous nature of the Solar Farm, the incidence of glare hazard within the confines of the site boundary have not been considered as an indicator of area of key interest, although the presence of such reflectance may promote other work safe practices when entering the site (beyond the scope of this report).





We have been engaged to provide preliminary assessment using Stage 1 methodology to provide a reflectivity report with indicative recommendations as required. Information used in the analysis of the reflectivity is listed in the following table and the capacity of this report and any recommendations is limited to the scope of service, and does not constitute a interdisciplinary design or planning service. For instance, the recommendation of street planting to assist with reflectivity mitigation is solely a recommendation based on the reflectivity scope and not a landscaping, planning or design decision.

Data	Classification	Source / Details
Commission of Report	Defining of scope of service – Horizontal Reflectivity assessment	Vipac Engineers – 06/2020
Design files	Proposed Design and surrounding context	Acenergy, Layout and Concept Drawings (Ref G-2.0_000202, revision A dated 05/03/2020)
Environs	Aerial image,	As provided from client
Scientific Methodology	Analysis protocols and methodology	Hassall 1991



#### 2.1 Reflectivity

### 2.1 Glare and Reflection

2.1.1 Overview

#### Importance of Reflection Analysis

Human vision is highly subjective and understandably highly valued and critical to the conduct of our lives. Situations may arise in which vision is adversely impacted. The strobing of a artificial light, or spotlight, or more naturally the sunrise all are situations in which human vision is impaired at that particular time. Mitigation of the impact often involves looking away or shielding. Glare and Reflection in the context of this report are situations in which there is a presence of potentially vision impairment circumstances. The likelihood of these situations causing a hazardous situation is dependent on factors such as the person's ability to look away, shield, or the intensity or duration of the light source.

This report will briefly outline some of the considerations and conduct a review of reflection generated light from the sun.

#### Glare

Glare is the presence of strong and disconcerting light, often dazzling or disorientating. It is often perceived differently due to individual's preference, lighting conditions, activity being undertaken, intensity and colour, movement of light (ie strobing), angle of incidence (direction and height), exposure (ie sunglasses, windscreen). As levels of luminance increase to an amount that the eye can no longer discern differences in contrast between objects, adequate lighting becomes too bright and glare phenomena now exists.

Three classifications of glare can be considered:

- 1. Sensory Overload luminance values are greater than the eye's ability to process
- 2. Optical Degradation Veiling glare, in which the contrast of the view is reduced to degrade the quality of the image
- 3. Psychological Discomfort Glare can be a combination or part therefore of the above two conditions The first two classes of glare can be considered as disability glare.

Refer to the Human Vision section for Glare in the human eye.

#### **Reflection**

Reflection is the reflected light from a surface, having a direct relationship to the angle of incidence, and the physical properties of the material, including the reflective and specular properties – such that diffuse surfaces, like a rendered matt painted white wall can have a reflectance of 80% but scatters the light in all directions leading to a reflection luminance of less than 2 Cd/cm2, and is considered to be highly diffuse. Glass on the other hand, being glossy and reflective, does not scatter light but rather reflects a high percentage and is considered specular.

A building is often made up of various materials of different reflective characteristics. It is the interaction of the diffuse nature at the surface which has the most significant impact on the reflective energy or luminous intensity (Cd/m2) which is of concern for this report. Parts of a building, typically Glass, can create a "virtual second sun" such that the reflected sun can present significant intensity to present eyesight impairment.

The human eye operates between 1 and 2 Cd/cm2, whilst the sun's luminance ranges from 600 Cd/cm2 near horizon (sunrise / sunset) to over 150,000 Cd/cm2 at noon.

Clear glass has a reflectance of around 8% measured at normal (90°), thus can reflect from 46 Cd/cm2 to over 12,000 Cd/cm2 depending on time of day. Thus at any given time of day, sun reflected from glass has the potential to exceed the capabilities of the human eye and thus cause vision impairment.



#### 2.1.2 Sun

The sun follows a known solar trajectory and can be plotted in a number of ways. In building design resources such as "Sunlight and Shade" by CSIRO's Ralph Phillips provide solar protractors to determine sun position – Altitude and Azimuth.

This report uses the extensive computer algorithm known as the IES Daylight system embedded into the Autodesk software 3D Max, using the Ray tracing of the "Mental Ray" processing. This is a certified Internationale Engineering Society algorithm that determines the position of the sun, intensity of the sun, sky vault luminance and atmospheric conditions (Cloudy, Clear Sky) and provides a computer simulation of the sun and sky as an interrelated daylight system. The location of the proposed design is determined by Latitude and Longitude and a daylight system is created in which any time of day, time of year is available.

The scope of this report is to examine direct beam solar radiation, and as such only the Sun's direct rays are used in analysis, discounting the diffuse and reflected radiation from other sources (including geography, built environment, atmosphere). The sky itself contributes from 1000 Cd/m2 (away from the sun in a dark patch of blue sky), up to around 30, 000 Cd/m2 nearer the sun circle. The effects of the sky-vault have been removed from the calculation of solar reflectance, as the impacts of sky-vault generally reduce the potential glare and veiling effects that we are investigating – ie we are looking at worse case scenario with high contrast conditions.

Precise values of the sun's illumination can be provided however as a guide, from Hopkinson et al 1966: Sun Altitude Illumination (Lux)

Sun Altitude	Illumination
5°	12,900
15°	56,800
30°	86,800
50° +	100,000 +

Azimuth and Altitude angles of the sun path can be provided as required or can often be found in the Annexure report.



#### 2.1.3 Human Vision

The human eye's normal conditions operate in a luminance of 1 to 2 cd/cm2. (Hassall 1991)

Any light source that exceeds this luminance will cause vision impairment, with the intensity (luminance) of the source and duration being factors. A concept known as Veiling Glare can also impinge human vision, in which a bright light source is not directly shining into the retina of the eye but surrounding areas of the eye, which then scatter the bright light causing vision impairment. This is often the case when reflective glass is used. The eye can be actively shielded from bright light by way of normal activity – for instance not looking up at the bright sun, casting vision aside or down during sunrise, or protective measures such as sunglasses, windscreen shades, hand shielding and so on. Of importance are situations in which it is likely the human eye's vision will be impaired due to a set of conditions that render these normal activity's impractical. For instance when stopped at traffic lights, the driver is obligated to look towards the traffic signal, and cannot selectively lower their vision.

#### Glare

A value of 500 Cd/m2 as calculated by the Holladay formula (Hassall 1991) (refer to methodology section) is considered as a practical limit to the amount of reflected solar glare a driver should be exposed to.

As discussed the activity required also becomes a factor in consideration of thresholds for the determination of reflective interference. The surrounding environs, and time of day and weather all have an influence on this threshold value – ie the point at which a reflection becomes a problem.

Visual Acuity is the eye's ability to distinguish four key factors

- 1. Size
- 2. Luminance Brightness is a subjective evaluation of luminance
- 3. Contrast the difference in luminance of an object against a background
- 4. Time

Items 2 and 3 contribute to form the classifications of Glare as discussed in previous section, whilst "time" considers the physiological response and recovery of the eye as it adapts to different luminance levels.

The Traffic Authority of NSW (Hassall 1991) quotes

"It is important to note that the effects of glare on visual efficiency do not cease at the instant that glare ceases to enter the eyes - there is a recovery period which may be several seconds in the case of sun glare (Dobrash and Saur 1952). Sensitivity to glare and the amount of time it takes the visual system to recover after glare ceases to enter the eyes are both affected by a number of factors such as age of the individual, their health, and whether certain drugs have been taken (Moser and lind 1980) - including alcohol (Banchevska 1981)" (Hassall 1991)

#### Field of View

#### PEDESTRIAN:

The field of view can be influenced by the activity such as pedestrians using the range of binocular vision as determined by Helms.

Showing the "Stationary" Human eyes field of view and the areas of key importance.

Area A is the most sensitive part of the vision, the foveal vision in which light focuses on the fovea aspect of the retina. Area B is the area of sensitive vision, beyond this field movement but not colour can be distinguished.

Fig 2.1.3.1 HUMAN FIELD OF VIEW by HELMS





#### VEHICLE FIELD OF VIEW:

The measurements as described by Schreuder, using 95% of vehicles measured produces a field of vision template that can be used to provide CUT OFF values to the pedestrian field of view, to account for windscreen design and even sun visor design.





#### 2.1.4 Glass

Highly reflective materials used in buildings present the most interest when analysing reflectivity concerns. Whilst polished metal and highly polished materials like stone, ceramic etc, may present glossy surfaces that contribute to reflectivity, by and large the most important consideration is the location and areas of glazing, type of glazing and the sun's path to the glazed areas (ie shade systems).

Glass properties consists of Absorptance (a), Transmittance (t) and Reflectance (r) given as

#### a + r + t = 1

The value of Reflectance is greatly influenced by the angle the light beam strikes the surface, ranging from 8 % at 0° incidence angle, to over 50% at 80°.

Fig 2.1.4.1 Angle of Incidence of Standard Clear Glass



Glass systems use the above formulae to balance the Absorptance and Transmittance and Reflectance to modify the visual and thermal properties. As the graph below suggests, most glass treatments have greatest impact when the angle of incidence is low (ie at 90° to the surface) and as the angle increases the reflective properties of most glass tends to become highly reflective.

Fig 2.1.4.2 Reflectance for different types of Glass - Hassall





2.1.5 Solar Panels



The level of reflectivity (amount of light reflected) of a solar panel surface depends on:

- i. the amount of sunlight hitting the surface which is influenced by geographical , seasonal , time of day , weather
- ii. its surface reflectivity surface properties and light transmission properties
- iii. solar panel orientation / tracking
- iv. Angle of incidence the angle a sun ray strikes the surface with high angles of incidence (obligue angles) reflecting greater amounts refer to the GLASS SECTION 2.1.4

The typical standard of solar energy in the absence of actual site data is generally considered as 1000 W/m2. Smooth polished (glass like) surfaces reflect a more concentrated amount of sunlight back to the receiver, which is referred to as specular reflection.

Rough or uneven surfaces reflect light in a diffused or scattered manner and, therefore, the light will not be received as bright.



Solar PV panels are constructed of dark, light-absorbing materials and covered with an anti-reflective coating designed to maximize absorption and minimize reflection. Despite their anti-reflective coating, high angles of incidence are still capable of producing near 100% reflectance.

Solar Panels that are mounted on TRACKING systems will be configured to keep the angle of incidence (AOI) close to the optimum 0° (otherwise known as a ray subtending the surface at 90°), as this is the solar panels greatest efficiency of power production. At these direct angles of incidence the anti-reflective coatings perform very efficiently and generally perform "as advertised" – which can be approximately 4% of the amount of light striking the panel is re-reflected away from the surface.







### 2.2 Reflectivity Analysis

The Methodology used to assess a building design is provided in the following section. It should be noted that not all stages of assessment may be required to form recommendations, and that it is common for Stage 1 assessments to be conducted only.

The assessment protocol requires a sequential process from Stage 1 to 2 and 3.

#### 2.2.1 STAGE 1 Reflectivity Heat Map

STAGE 1 assessment uses the ray tracing capability of 3D MAX (Autodesk) to trace back reflected light rays (known as photons in the software) to determine the location and intensity of reflected light from a light source. The material characteristics of the surface are physically accurate, such that Glass and rendered painted surfaces each take on the correct physical attributes in respect to reflectance, diffuse scattering, IOR (Index of Refraction – for transparent materials) and colour.

For a given time, the IES Sunlight shoots photons towards the target surface and ray tracing algorithm traces these reflections and captures them on the return – typically on the surrounding terrain plane or neighbouring buildings. Colour coding may be employed to provide visual ability to assess various components of the design – ie a typical situation is a high rise tower may be colour coded per level, in order to determine the impact of various heights, OR colour coding of various orientations or types of windows in order to better understand the propagation of reflections according to the design.

Some post processing for the addition of graphics, overlay of aerial images, points of interest or amalgamation of time sequences may be present in a Stage 1 Heat Map.

The process of computer rendering requires some settings in order to produce suitable images - such as:

- 1. Resolution of Image (pixel count)
- 2. Rays traced (photons) typically 10 50 000 rays are produced for the sun light source
- 3. Filter size of Rays this is essentially the allocation of ray to a surface area ie rather than showing as a small pin prick the size of the ray is magnified, typically to be 1 5 m diameter.
- 4. Exposure similar to photographic exposure the image produced requires a dynamic range that crops the light values. Exposure generally adjusts to provide neutral results across the day suitable that bright reflected light rays remain visible. As such it is typical for the exposure of white surfaces to be rendered grey.
- 5. Colour rendition as mentioned colour coding is used to indicate areas of interest, and the influence of the colour temperature and its ability to influence light quality is not in consideration for this section of the analysis.
- 6. 3D Modelling the 3D data ie the physical geometry of the design and the environs influences the analysis in particular it is often that landscaping and trees are not included in the analysis due to the variation in representation of this information. For instance a generic tree may have significantly different foliage and height to what actually is specified , and the industry may not necessary appreciate the relationship between landscape plan, reflectance analysis and on site planting.
- 7. IES Daylight system requires suitable Latitude and Longitude and True North.

Stage 1 Heat Maps show areas in which reflected light will be located. They therefore represent the first stage in determining the impact of reflections and glare hazard by locating specific areas of concern or interest that may require further investigation.

They enable a relatively comprehensive review of the entire 3D design in numerous time periods throughout the year. Typically Mid Winter and Equinox daylight hours are the most common analysis periods.

Stage 1 Heat Maps cannot determine the existence of GLARE HAZARDS, but merely suggest the location and time in which to conduct further reviews of reflectivity.

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#### Fig 2.2.1 Sample of Heat Map





#### 2.2.2 STAGE 2 Detail Review – Calculation of Glare Hazard

Upon review of Stage 1 analysis, specific locations around the site may require more detailed investigation. Likely situations occur in which one or more of the following situations occur:

- 1. Location of reflection is on a significant position such as a traffic intersection
- 2. Duration of reflection is such that a Glare Hazard may be of significance
- 3. Intensity of reflection is such that a Glare Hazard may occur

Depending on the design and scope of service, as well as the specific locations required for further review several methods may be used to answer the question:

#### "How much Reflection constitutes a glare, and how much Glare is too much"?

#### 2.2.2.1 GLARE PHOTOMONTAGE

To determine the presence of GLARE, the intensity and position relative to the field of view of the activity and the contrast are required to be calculated. The following workflow determines the analysis of the glare:

Deneb Design almost exclusively use the Photomontage Method. A digital image (computer render of the proposed view – proposed design and environs) and OR a photomontage (refer to Deneb Design Photomontage certification – if applicable) is aligned with the HASSALL GLARE PROTRACTOR and the reflected virtual sun is plotted. Reading of the values from the protractor will determine the existence of potential glare and if required a glare intensity (Veiling Glare) table calculation is run to determine if the intensity threshold constitutes a Glare Hazard.

#### Fig 2.2.2.1 Sample of Glare Photomontage (Digital Image)





#### 2.2.2.2 VEILING GLARE

Upon review of the location of the reflection using the above method of Glare Photomontage the next step is to determine the intensity of the Glare to determine if it is to be considered a disability glare. The following workflow can be used but more often the Veiling Luminance can be calculated from spreadsheet which is an electronic version of Hassall Veiling Glare Calculations.

- 1. Holladay Formula for Calculating Glare. Provides a numerical table for interpreting flat plane surfaces and applying first principles to determine glare intensity. using Hassall section 5.1.
- 2. Illumination value from the sun, using Hassall section 5.2 considering the luminance efficiency of the sun for a given altitude, and the angle of incidence to the reflecting surface. Angle relative to the human viewing position is referred to in Section 5.3 Hassall.
- 3. Veiling Luminance to determine if the value of glare luminance is above the threshold of 500 Cd/m2 (the definition adopted to refer to the existence of GLARE).

If this method is applicable a reference to the formulae and worksheets will be made in the Appendix.



#### Fig 2.2.2.2 Sample of Veiling Glare Worksheet

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#### 2.2.3 STAGE 3 Design Iteration

Upon review of Stage 2 Calculations of Glare Hazards, design recommendations and various techniques such as but not limited to the following may be explored and therefore tested:

- 1. Reduction in glazing
- 2. Introduction of shading devices or other mechanisms to physically block the suns path into or from the point of reflectance
- 3. Reflectance of material adjustments ie glass type.

The Stage 3 workflow generally forms a feedback loop in which recommendations are tested and reviewed in Stage 2 tests.



### 2.3 Generic Analysis

The following brief descriptions is based on the research by Hassall , and serves as a generic overview of conditions for designs based on their orientation.

#### NORTHERN ELEVATION

Drivers (whose line of vision is usually approximately horizontal) will not see solar reflections in the north facade unless the sun is very low in the sky in the east or the west in the winter half of the year. At the low sun angles it is likely that the driver will already be aware of the sun itself and that the real sun and the virtual reflected sun will not be too far apart in the drivers vision – thus mitigating surprise and this should be considered as having a low impact. However it should be noted that at low angles a high angle of incidence occurs and that different glass types all approximately perform the same, exhibiting a high percentage reflectance.

The reflection in the northern elevation façade will show as a second virtual sun in the southern direction, opposite the actual sun. In summer the solar altitude is such that this will only be visible when looking upwards at the elevation in question. In Winter the lower sun altitude may make this more noticeable however it will be relatively weak. At low sun angles the same effects as experienced by the drivers will be applicable to the pedestrians.

Conclusion - Low hazard .

#### SOUTHERN ELEVATION

The reflected sun will only be visible in the low sun angles and as such the viewer will be already aware of the sun itself and the impact will be low and minor.

Conclusion – Low hazard .

#### EASTERN and WESTERN ELEVATIONS

Observers will experience the reflected sun approximately when travelling towards the target building at an angle of 30° to the East or West Elevation. Therefore any direction of travel North East away from the West elevation or South West away from the East Elevation will have no impact. Of consideration needs to be for the neighbouring environs which are likely to shield parts of the proposed design elevations from overshadowing.

Conclusion - Limited hazard opportunity specific to direction and alignment .

#### NORTH WEST and NORTH EAST ELEVATION

High likelihood of further analysis when travelling within 30° of **south** near **sunset** only. Otherwise no consideration.

#### SOUTH WEST and SOUTH EAST ELEVATION

High likelihood of further analysis when travelling within 30° of north near sunrise only. Otherwise no consideration.

#### 2.3.2 Solar Panels – Tracking System

Solar Panel arrays that track the sun using automated tracking systems enable the surface of the panel (the surface Normal) to point directly at the sun at all times of the day. These can be single Axis (typically Altitude Tracking) or dual axis - Altitude and Azimuth. As the reflective surface faces directly at the sun, it is highly probable that all reflected light rays are taken back directly towards the sun - which inherently precludes areas of Interest being subject to glare - as they in turn would cast shadow across the solar panel if so located. There are exceptions, but typically the tracking system arrays are very LOW RISK glare systems.

What needs to be considered however is if a panel fails in operation, and thus becomes a fixed angle. At most sun angles, such a failure could result in a glare situation - depending upon the angle to which the array fails. As such a fail safe mechanism is often employed to bring the array back to a secure angle. This can often be stated as the default horizontal location. As such this horizontal fail safe should be considered, upon which if glare exists, a low probability of occurrence should also be discussed.



#### 3.0 ANALYSIS

#### 3.1 STAGE 1 – ANNEXURE RA172801

Analysis is determined from the review of document RA172801 "Reflectivity Study" – which is a ray traced reflectivity study for specific time periods and date periods. A guide to understanding the graphical information presented as well as pertinent technical information is included in the annexed document. It is not this reports intention to replicate or substitute the information contained in the annexed document, but rather provide an analytical interpretation of the data and present findings.

Colour coding of specific areas of reflective materials has been undertaken in order to quantify the areas that cast the reflections for critique.

Several areas of interest have been selected in the environs to assist with classification and analysis of the reflection in respect to the suitability (if any) of glare / reflections, such as Traffic intersections, access corridors etc.

Daylight hours have been assessed from early sunrise (typically around 10° altitude) to sunrise for three significant periods – being Mid Winter, Mid Summer and Equinox. This spread of time periods and hours will enable a sufficient sample size of integration to provide preliminary findings and determine if additional scope of service is advisable.

Key comments are provided in each time frame as required which will be further discussed in the following section.



### 3.2 STAGE 1 – FINDINGS

The solar farm generally has very low incidence of reflectance that intersect with the surrounding environs and has no recorded incidence of reflectance when considering the key areas of interest. A summary of the key findings is shown in the following Table.

Table 3.2 Summary of Key Findings

	SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS					
Areas of Interest	Glare Risk	FINDINGS PER TIME PERIOD (AEST – not daylight savings time)				
		MID WINTER	EQUINOX	SUMMER		
A. Residence North of site	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		
B. Donald-Stawell road residence	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		
C. Residence on intersection of Donald-Stawell and Dane road	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		
D. Residence on Dane road.	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		
E. Dane road traveling towards site	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		

Areas of interest that show any potential interaction with reflections are limited to those shown in the above table.

#### none

<u>General comments across all time periods.</u>
None

<u>Recommendations</u>

None



### 3.3 STAGE 1 – CONCLUSION

No evidence of reflectance and thus potential glare has been determined for this fixed solar panel array.

In consideration of all items of key findings, this report has not found reason for further Stage 2 analysis to be conducted.



### 4.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

None Required.



### 5.0 CONCLUSION

Given the design documentation, the fixed system (with orientation 8 degrees East and West) and assumption of Terrain, and perimeter fence, the solar farm does not present any reflectance and thus no incidence of glare hazard.

It is advised the recommendations pertaining in this report form part of the design procurement process.

With respect to the Victorian Government's "Solar Energy Facilities – Design and Development Guideline", Department of Environment, Land, Water, Planning, August 2019, Section "Glint and Glare Management", the proposed design as analysed in this report is considered to be the lowest risk category of "NO IMPACT" of all areas of interest.



### 6.0 REFERENCE

HASSALL 1991	REFLECTIVITY – Dealing with Rogue Solar Reflections David N H Hassall Faculty of Architecture, University of New South Wales 1991
IES	Illuminating Engineers Society IESANZ Chapter Practice Notes 2001 – 2015 Membership – Associate "Deneb Design"
CIE 215	"Standard general Sky Guide" International Commission on Illumination 2014
CIE 139	"The Influence of Daylight and artificial light variations in humans." International Commission on Illumination 2001
CIE 112	"Glare evaluation system for use within outdoor sport and area lighting" International Commission on Illumination 1994
CIE 110	"Spatial distribution of daylight - Luminance distributions of various reference skies" International Commission on Illumination 1994
CIE 095	"Contrast and Visibility" International Commission on Illumination 1992
CIE 203	"A Computerized Approach to Transmission and Absorption Characteristics of the Human Eye" International Commission on Illumination 2012
SCHREUDER 1985	"The Visual Cut-Off Angle of Vehicle Windscreens" Lighting Research and Technology Vol 17 1985
HELMS 1980	"Illumination Engineering for Energy Efficient Luminou Environments" USA 1980 – from Hassall 1991
HOLLADAY 1927	"Action of Light Source in the Field of View in Lowering Visibility" USA 1927 – from Hassall 1991



### 7.0 ANNEXURE

### RA172801\_STAGE 1 ANALYSIS

REFER TO ANNEXURE 7.1 – STAGE 1 HEAT MAP – SEPARATE FILE (A3 Format) Known as RA172801\_STAGE 1 ANALYSIS



#### 8.0 **GLOSSARY** ABSORPTANCE The ratio of the amount of energy that is absorbed at a surface compared to the the total striking the surface. ANGLE OF INCIDENCE The angle of a ray striking the surface measured from a line perpendicular (90°) to the surface (ie the surface normal). AZIMUTH Direction of the sun in plan relative to True North BRIGHTNESS Subjective evaluation of surface luminosity or luminance DIFFUSE REFLECTANCE A form of reflection in which rays are scattered in all directions, such as a Matt Surface LUMINANCE The luminous flux or brightness of a surface, measured in candelas per square meter (Cd/m2) NUISANCE GLARE defined as glare that may be of distraction or cause mild discomfort and not present a significant disability or rendering a reduced capacity of normal vision . REFLECTANCE The ratio of the amount of energy striking a surface to the amount reflected SPECULAR REFLECTANCE A form of reflection in which the ray reflected is equal and opposite to the angle of incidence. Such as Glass or mirror.



### APPENDIX B- RAY TRACED REFLECTIVITY MAPS & IMAGERY

## REFLECTIVITY STUDY RAY TRACED REFLECTIVITY

### ANNEXURE TO RA1728 REFLECTIVITY REPORT



#### CONTENTS

Guide	02
Areas of Interest	03 - 06
RAY TRACED REFLECTION	ANALYSIS

MID WINTER	07 - 09
EQUINOX	10 - 12
MID SUMMER	13 - 15

16

DATA



REFLECTIVITY STUDY No : RA172801- Refer to attached Report.

Architect: C McFadzean B Arch BA (Arch) IES ABSA AAAI Society Member of IES (The Illuminating Engineers Society of Australia)





#### HOW TO READ GUIDE

IMAGE - The image is a ray traced plot of light reflected from the surfaces selected (typically glass). The Colour coding correlates to areas of glass that have been designated colour differentiation to assist in evaluation of reflection source

AREAS - Area Keys may be shown on the image to assist with classification of area use and sensitivity to glare.

SCALE - Each image is the same scale as noted otherwise.

TIME - Time and Date of the processed image. This represents the sun angle and intensity as per IES Daylight system. Solar Data is often provided as a table elsewhere in the report

#### COMMENTS -

These are point form comments specific to the time frame. Comments to which Low Risk or Reflection mitigation has already been determined are not classified. Comments can be classified as MEDIUM OR HIGH RISK.

#### GENERALLY:

Each time frame image and comment provides information to be read in conjunction with the main report findings.

1.

Reflection zone over AREA C - Residential Hou<del>sing - c</del>ast predominately from PODIUM Glass Low duration scattered reflection to AREAA - Low time duration and alignment similar to actual Sun -pre adaptation to luminance. 2 HIGH RISK 🖌



#### RAY TRACED REFLECTED LIGHT

In this example Black Arrows indicate the reflected light from the various colour coded surfaces.

These reflected rays terminate in a paint spot.

Refer to DATA page for settings used..

Further details are outlined in the accompanying report.



: 05.06.20 VERSION : 01 : 1728

C

denebdesign

DATE

REF

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### AREAS OF INTEREST

Α	NORTHERN RESIDENCE
В	DONALD-STAWELL ROAD RESIDENCE
С	DANE ROAD EAST RESIDENCE
D	DANE ROAD SOUTH RESIDENCE

Е

DANE ROAD VEHICLES APPROACHING SITE





DONALD-STAWELL ROAD























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#### RAY TRACING SETTINGS

Software: 3D MAX (Autodesk) 2013 build : mental ray are registered trademarks of NVIDIA ARC GmbH, licensed for use by Autodesk, Inc

Ray Tracing Engine: Mental Ray, Caustics Ray Tracing, Final Gather on (Low), GI off.

Resolution per image frame: 1100 x 734 Light Source: 1 (Sun) Light System: IES certified Daylight System

Ray Accuracy: 20,000 Photons per Light Sample size of Rays: 2m Radius per 500 photons

Exposure: Winter: 13 EV ( 1/128, f8.0, ISO 100) Equinox: 14EV (1/256, f8.0, ISO 100) Summer: 15EV (1/512, f8.0, ISO 100)

Materials:

Glass typical: IOR 1.5, certified realistic Glass (Mental Ray photorealism) Transparency 50% to enable reflectivity strength in graphics. Reflectance intensity 1000 X to enable visualisation. Note these adjustments enhance the intensity and not the ray trajectory. IOR: 1.5 IOR (fresnel reflections)



Other Solid: Diffuse Matt neutral grey (no reflectivity generation)

Target Planes: Bitmap painted and darkened for contrast

#### o Azimuth o Altitude Time DATE MID WINTER Λ JUNE 21 EQUINOX March / Sept

MID

SUMMER

DEC 21

SUN POSITION DATA

name



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