

FULHAM
SOLAR FARM



Spence
Consulting
Group

Community Engagement Plan

Fulham Solar Farm

Prepared for Fulham Farm Pty Ltd on behalf of Fulham Farm Solar Trust

spence-consulting.com

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Report Preparation		
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Project Overview

Project background

The Fulham Solar Farm is a proposed solar farm of 80 megawatts (enough to power around 25,000 homes) with battery storage of approximately 80 megawatts per hour to be located on 400 acres of farmland adjacent to the north west corner of the Hopkins Road and McLarens Road intersection, Fulham (within the Wellington Shire). The total project cost is estimated to be \$120m (excluding batteries).

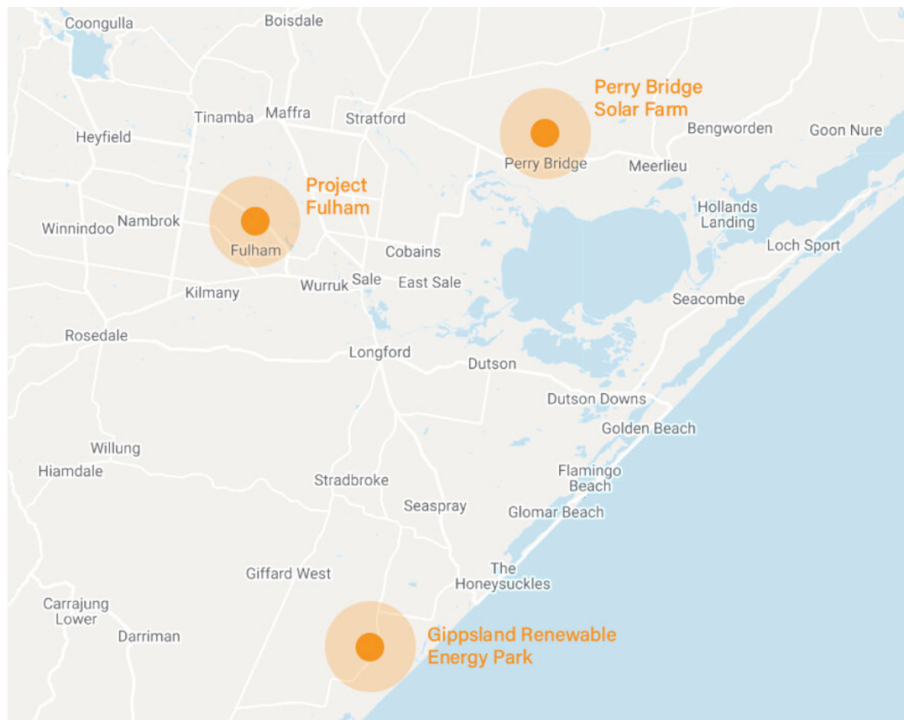
The Fulham Solar Farm (the sister project to the Perry Bridge Solar Farm) (www.perrybridgesolar.com.au) was conceived because of the desperate need for additional electricity supply and increased reliability within the region east of the Latrobe Valley.

The design of the project, subject to sign off by the design engineers, will be a single axis array system of around 160,000 bi-facial solar panels. Bi-facial modules as the name suggests produce solar power from both sides of the solar panel and can improve energy generation by up to 8%.

The battery storage is an essential part of the project as it assists in ensuring consistent energy supply to the electricity grid during times of low solar energy output.

The solar farm is proposed to be connected to the AusNet Services 66kV network with minimal costs required for additional infrastructure.

The Fulham Solar Farm project was originally developed as a joint venture between Solis Renewable Energy Pty Ltd (Solis RE), Marathon Electrical Pty Ltd and WK & MA Ferguson Pty Ltd, along with the Perry Bridge Solar Farm and the Gippsland Renewable Energy Park. Octopus Australia and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) purchased the rights to develop the project during 2021, with all parties working closely together to bring the projects to financial close.



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Purpose of this plan

The purpose of this plan is to provide a framework for how the project partners (supported by Community Engagement Consultants, Spence Consulting Group) intend to consult, engage and communicate with the community and stakeholders about the Fulham Solar Farm during the development, planning, construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Project.

The community engagement plan has been designed to meet the relevant legal, regulatory and stakeholder obligations of the Project.

The Fulham Solar team's responsibility is to manage the community engagement process which will be achieved by developing and implementing this Community Engagement Plan. This includes ensuring all key activities and milestones are effectively communicated and managed to minimise any impacts on the community. We will together with the local community and other identified stakeholders to ensure that the objectives of the Community Engagement Plan are achieved over the life of the project.

Community engagement commitments

Our aspiration for the Fulham Solar Farm Project is to make a net positive social, economic and environmental contribution to the Gippsland region. We aim to be a trusted and respected member of the local community and for our community engagement processes to exceed community expectations.

We will deliver this through the following community engagement commitments, which align with the Clean Energy Council *Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Development*:

- » We will engage respectfully with the local community, including Traditional Owners of the land, to seek their views and input before finalising the design of the project and submitting a development application.
- » We will be transparent and will act honestly and ethically in all our dealings with the local community.
- » We will provide timely information and be accessible and responsive in addressing the local community's feedback and concerns throughout the lifetime of the development.
- » We will support the local economy by providing local employment and procurement opportunities wherever possible.
- » We will offer communities the opportunity to share in the benefits of the development, and consult them on the options available, including the relevant governance arrangements.
- » We commit to using the development to support educational and tourism opportunities where appropriate.
- » At the end of the project's design or permitted life we will engage with the community on plans for the responsible decommissioning, or refurbishment/repowering of the site.

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- » We will evaluate the effectiveness of our engagement and modify it as needed to ensure that our activities address community needs and expectations.

Community profile

The Gippsland region stretches from Melbourne's eastern outskirts all the way to the state border with New South Wales in Victoria's far east. Gippsland comprises the Local Government Areas of Baw Baw, Latrobe, Wellington, East Gippsland, South Gippsland and Bass Coast.

It is a large and diverse region with many assets and industries. Over the past decade it has had periods of economic growth but some areas, particularly the Latrobe Valley (Baw Baw, Latrobe and Wellington Shires) have been left behind.

The whole region has been subject to more structural change than the regional average in Victoria. For example, employment has fluctuated in East Gippsland in agriculture, forestry and fishing with spikes in construction related to large-scale gas projects. South Gippsland and Bass Coast have also experienced significant change with increases in residential construction work due to high levels of population growth.

Gippsland as a whole has a slightly older population than the Victorian State average (median age 45 versus 37). Proportionately the region has almost double the State average Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, with the population significantly younger than the overall Gippsland average. Gippsland has a higher than State average proportion of people working in trades and as labourers and a significantly lower percentage employed in the professional fields. Limited public transport is widely recognised as a barrier for people getting to education and employment.

Gunaikurnai people are the traditional owners of Gippsland. There are approximately 3,000 Gunaikurnai people, and their territory ranges from the coastal and inland areas to the southern slopes of the Victorian Alps. The Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) represents the Traditional Owners in the region.

The Latrobe Valley region, where the Fulham Solar Farm is located, has faced significant adversity over many years. The region has experienced continual job losses since the 1980s, with the gradual decline of both the power and timber industries, significant contributors to employment and the economy. The Latrobe Valley towns of Moe and Morwell are among the most disadvantaged localities in regional Victoria both ranking low on the Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) which measures multiple indicators of disadvantage. Gippsland as a whole has a higher than State average unemployment.

In recent years structural change has commenced in the Gippsland economy, with the region transitioning from legacy industries including coal and timber to emerging opportunities including renewable energy and construction. The State Government in particular has invested heavily in the region, with more than \$1 billion of major construction and infrastructure projects across Gippsland underway or soon to commence, including the Gippsland Rail Upgrade, Wonthaggi Hospital redevelopment and duplication of the Princes Highway.

Renewable Energy Projects planned for construction in the region include the Star of the South Offshore Wind Farm, Delburn Wind Farm, Australian Paper Energy from Waste facility and a range of proposed solar projects.

The Fulham Solar Farm sits within Wellington Shire, approximately 240km East of Melbourne.

Wellington Shire is the third largest municipality in Victoria, covering an area of 10,924 square.



Wellington is home to more than 42,000 people spread across more than 30 different communities ranging in size from a few thousand to more than 13,000 in the regional centre, Sale. Approximately 1.3% of the population identify as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin.

Wellington has a strong and diverse local economy boasting oil and gas production industries, manufacturing, government, defence, primary industries, forestry, construction and retail industries.

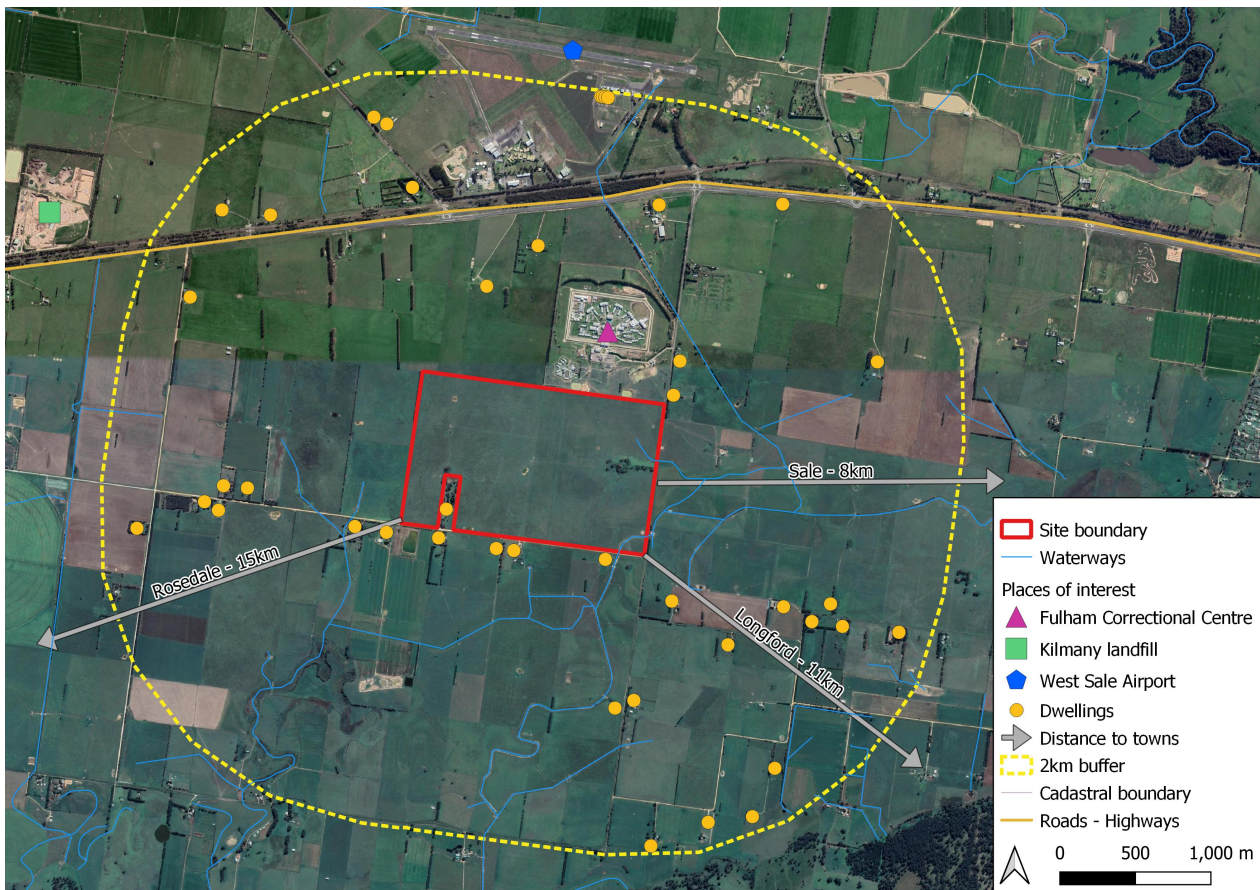
The nearest major towns to the Fulham Solar Farm are:

- » Sale (E) 12km (population ~14,000)
- » Longford (SE) 16km (population ~1,500)
- » Maffra (N) 22km (population ~4,500)
- » Rosedale (W) 20km (population ~1,600)

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Site Map

The map below provides an overview of the local area, including sensitive receptors such as neighbouring properties, the Fulham Correctional Centre and West Sale Airport.



Social Impact Assessment

A Social Impact Assessment has been prepared to identify the key potential social impacts for the project and to evaluate and where necessary implement mitigations. The Social Impact Assessment has helped to inform the key messages and specific details provided to the community to mitigate

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any areas of potential concern. For example, a Frequently Asked Questions section of the website has been developed to specifically address areas identified as potential social risks.

The Social Impact Assessment will be reviewed and where required updated at key milestones during the life of the project.

Refer to separate document, Social Impact Assessment.

Community Benefits Scheme

The Fulham Solar Farm Community Benefits Scheme will be designed to deliver benefits to key stakeholders in the community, with the objective of fulfilling the communities needs and aspirations for renewable energy projects in the Gippsland region.

Specifically, our objectives are to:

1. Ensure the community in the immediate area of the solar farm receive a meaningful and positive impact from the project;
2. Ensure a wide range of different stakeholder groups have the opportunity to benefit from the project;
3. Implement a governance structure that empowers the community to shape the long-term design and implementation of initiatives identified; and
4. Build support for renewable energy projects in the region, including future proposed projects by the Perry Bridge and Fulham Solar Farm developers (e.g the Gippsland Renewable Energy Park).

The Community Benefits Scheme will be implemented within 6 months of the commencement of construction of the project.

Refer to Attachment 2 for details of the Community Benefits Scheme.

Project milestones

Milestone	Timing
Community Engagement	Commencing September 2020
Site and Impact Assessments	December 2020 – August 2021
Community Consultation	September 2021
Planning Application Submitted	September 2021
Planning Approval Received	Q1, 2022
Network Connection Agreement Finalised	Q2, 2022
Construction	Q3, 2022
Project Development Complete	Q2, 2023

Engagement Approach

Communication and engagement objectives

The following objectives have been defined for the development and construction phase of the project:

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- » Ensure alignment in communications and stakeholder engagement between all relevant parties in the internal project team.
- » Inform and involve stakeholders who are directly affected by planning and construction activities and seek to incorporate stakeholder feedback wherever possible into project planning.
- » Ensure timely distribution of information about planning and construction or changes to project activities through a range of public communication channels.
- » Project team members keep up to date with the key messages to ensure consistent information is shared with communities and stakeholders.
- » Continue to ensure early identification of potential stakeholder issues and implement appropriate mitigation strategies to fulfil project commitments and avoid delays to project construction completion.
- » Ensure that actions or promises made to stakeholders are managed, tracked and carried through regardless of the personnel involved.
- » Routinely monitor the effectiveness of our engagement and communication and revise in response to stakeholder feedback to ensure that our activities address community needs, opportunities and relevant stakeholder groups.

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Framework

The community engagement process is informed by the International Association for Public Participation's (IAP2) Public Participation Spectrum.

Throughout the construction phase of the project, we are committed to ensuring the community is always **informed, consulted, involved** and opportunities for community collaboration and empowerment are proactively identified.

We will use a range of [communication tools and consultation](#) activities to continue to connect the community and stakeholders with the project.

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IAP2'S PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SPECTRUM



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Key messages

Key messages will be developed and updated as the project progresses to ensure consistency across all communication and engagement activities. Milestone-specific key messages will be included in communication and engagement activities.

Project

- » The Fulham project worth approximately \$120m (excluding batteries, is a 80MW solar farm complete with battery storage of approximately 80MWh.
- » The battery moderates the flow of electricity to the grid, minimising the impact of mid-day peaks and night-time troughs.
- » The project stakeholders include a number of local community members.
- » The Solar Farm will connect to the local electricity network via a connection agreement with AusNet Services.
- » The project will strengthen the existing electricity network in the region, including East Gippsland where the network is susceptible to failure.

Community

- » The project developers are committed to developing the Fulham Solar Farm in a way that minimises adverse local impacts and maximises the benefits of the project to the local

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community and broader population.

- » We are committed to directly engaging with the local community in an open and transparent manner that encourages dialogue and seeks their feedback.
- » The project will seek to provide local businesses with the opportunity to access competitively priced renewable energy via a Power Purchasing Agreement.
- » The project developers will engage with the Traditional Owners (via the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation) to inform the development of the project and to ensure the aspirations of the local Aboriginal community are fulfilled.

Local Economic Development and Employment

- » During construction the intention is to maximise the utilisation of local businesses and people.
- » More than 100 trades people will be working on the project during the estimated 13-month construction phase. 2-3 local jobs are expected to be created during the operation of the solar farm.
- » Local businesses will be utilised in the construction of the solar farm. While some specialist technology will be sourced from outside of the region, we expect the bulk of the physical work to be completed by local businesses.

Stakeholders

Stakeholders are individuals, groups or other organisations or entities that have a 'stake' in a decision, issue or situation relating to the project. Not all stakeholder groups are homogenous and within each stakeholder group there will be varying levels of interest, impact, needs, concerns, wants, relationships and influence.

Key stakeholders for the project include:

- » The local community - residents, Traditional Owners (GLaWAC), neighbours, businesses, leaseholders, local politicians;
- » Government agencies - Local and State including Wellington Shire Council, DELWP, RDV, Latrobe Valley Authority
- » Other - Media, community-based organisations, road users, tourism and emergency services, RAAF, West Sale Airport, etc.

A full list of stakeholders and analysis of their likely area of interest in the project is included in Attachment 1, Stakeholder Mapping Spreadsheet.

Community engagement tools and activities

The below provides a description of the activities and tools being used to engage with the Fulham Solar Farm project community. It should be noted, that due to COVID-19, the community engagement process may be modified to comply with government restrictions.

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Tool	Detail	Responsibility
Project Website	<p>The dedicated project website provides an overview of the Fulham Solar Farm including information about project milestones and other elements of the project likely to be of interest.</p> <p>Key project documentation, planning submission reports, complaints register, as well as copies of all print communications (including notifications and media releases), is available to view on the website.</p> <p>The website contains details on how to connect with the project directly as well as provide an opportunity to submit an enquiry to the project team.</p>	<p>Spence Consulting Group (SCG) is responsible for the management of the website and content.</p> <p>The project developers are responsible for approving all content and supporting SCG with responses to all enquiries received.</p>
Dedicated community complaints and enquiry line, project email and mailing address, stakeholder database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated community complaints and enquiry line 0429 148 938, project email contact@fulhamsolar.com.au and address c/o Octopus Investments Como Centre, 644 Chapel Street South Yarra, Melbourne VIC 3141 are in place so community members can contact the project team directly. • Project contact information will be included on all project collateral distributed in the community as well as signage and the project website. • All responses to the community are provided in a timely manner consistent with this Plan • Contact with the community is recorded and tracked using the project Stakeholder Management Database (Attachment 1) 	<p>Spence Consulting Group (SCG) is responsible for managing all community engagement.</p> <p>The project developers are responsible for approving all content and supporting SCG with responses to all enquiries received.</p>
Attendance and support for community events	<p>The project team proactively participates in local community events to raise the profile of the project and provide an opportunity for the community to meet the project team and ask questions.</p>	<p>The project developers are responsible for attendance and support of community events.</p>
Community noticeboards	<p>Community noticeboards will be used to ensure the community has access to project information during the formal consultation period and will include relevant plans and images.</p>	<p>Spence Consulting Group (SCG) is responsible for identifying and managing community notices.</p>
Construction notifications	<p>Construction notifications will be posted on the project website and distributed to the community and project neighbours at least seven days prior to work starting, and at key project stages during construction. Details will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope and timing of work • Hours of work • Impacts and potential impacts and mitigation measures in place • Any out of normal work hours required and why (• All contact details and offers to meet to discuss the work / project further. 	<p>The project developers are responsible for the management of construction notifications.</p>



Advertisements	Advertisements are published in local newspapers, and this will continue, keeping the broader community informed about the project's status and milestones achieved.	Spence Consulting Group (SCG) is responsible for identifying and managing community notices.
One-on-one meetings	One-to-one meetings are being offered to stakeholders and community members on a regular basis, providing opportunity for concerns and matters of interest to be addressed and to provide project briefings.	Spence Consulting Group (SCG) is responsible for managing all community engagement. The project developers are responsible for the dissemination of project information at one-on-one meetings.
Briefings	Briefings are being provided to elected representatives, local councils and key stakeholders throughout the project. This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any condition.	Spence Consulting Group (SCG) is responsible for managing all community engagement. The project developers are responsible for the dissemination of project information at stakeholder briefings.
Signage	Joint branded community signage, including all project contact information, will be installed at the site entries prior to work commencing and for the duration of the construction period.	The project developers are responsible for the provision of site signage.
Site tours	Site tours will be offered to community members and key stakeholders during construction. When appropriate, tours may be offered to groups such as schools, universities and other stakeholders interested in renewable energy projects.	The project developers are responsible for the provision of site tours.
Media releases and media event opportunities	A media release will be drafted to coincide with major program milestones to generate interest and to support other communication activities. Community and/or media events to be held at key milestones (such as the 'sod-turn' and 'switching on') to promote the benefits of the project and celebrate achievements.	The project developers are responsible for media releases and media event opportunities. Spence Consulting Group will manage media liaison and engagement.
Social Media	Social media such as Facebook and LinkedIn will be utilised for easy and immediate distribution of information updates.	Spence Consulting Group (SCG) is responsible for managing social media.
Community Benefits Scheme Committee (CBSC)	A Community Benefits Scheme Committee will be established within 1 month of the commencement of construction. The CBSB will oversee the development and governance of the Community Benefits Scheme for the project, and comprise representatives of the community including local council, Traditional Owners, neighbours and the Project proponents.	The project developers are responsible for establishing and managing the CBSB.

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Engagement protocols

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Stakeholder contact management

A stakeholder database has been established to record and track details of all stakeholder and community contact (including enquiries, complaints, meetings, events and questions arising from community consultation). The stakeholder database Manager will continue to be utilised to capture community members contact details, the nature of the contact, how the contact was received, any concerns raised and any actions required, as well as project team responses, follow-up and close out.

The stakeholder database will also facilitate the distribution of project information and notifications and can also be used to provide identification of issues and trends to inform mitigation strategies, as well as providing comprehensive community interaction reporting data.

In addition to the stakeholder database, the Fulham Solar Farm website includes a subscription facility which will also be used to disseminate project information and notifications.

Enquiries and complaints management

The timely and effective management of queries and complaints is a critical component to the successful delivery of the Fulham Solar Farm project.

The project developers will be informed in a timely manner of any site incidents or issues that have the potential to impact the community or be noticed by the community.

A separate Fulham Solar Farm Complaints Investigation and Response Plan has been developed for the project, refer Attachment 3.

Media

All media enquires must be referred to the appointed media representative:

Nam Quach
Octopus Investments
Project Development Manager
Email: nam.quach@octopusinvestments.com
Direct: +61 (0)425 750 106

Only a project spokesperson may address the media and provide statements related to the Fulham Solar Farm.

Reporting

The project developers will maintain a project website (www.fulhamsolar.com.au) to make information publicly available, including the approved strategies, plans or programs required under the project planning approval.

Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and Evaluation

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This Plan will be regularly monitored and reviewed and updated annually or at major project milestones, to ensure a culture of continuous improvement, and any lessons learned are incorporated.

Ongoing evaluation is part of the planning and management of the project's community engagement activities and includes:

- » Feedback forms for participants of stakeholder engagement activities such as community consultation sessions
- » Regular review of complaints and enquires received to identify emerging issues and enquiry trends
- » Compliance conditions actioned in required response time
- » Media monitoring to maintain a current understanding of community concerns.

The objectives of monitoring and evaluating the delivery of the Community Engagement Plan and Benefit Sharing Program are to:

- » Identify opportunities to improve the approach to Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing
- » Ensure key stakeholders including the community, partners, and contractors have a clear understanding of the progress and performance of key initiatives
- » Identify opportunities for the community to shape future plans and initiatives
- » Ensure a current understanding of community concerns and to track any complaints
- » Report back to identified stakeholders about the performance of the solar farm and associated programs

Methods and Timeline for Monitoring and Evaluation

Reporting will show the progress against the plan and timelines that are outlined in the Community Engagement Plan and Benefit Sharing Program.

Our processes will ensure that reporting is transparent with information about what has gone to plan, what hasn't and why, what has gone to schedule, what has been delayed and why.

It is proposed that the Project Manager will be responsible for the monitoring and evaluation.

The Project Manager will be responsible for establishing an Evaluation Committee which would contain a selection of representatives from key stakeholders, and would be expected to include:

- » The Project Manager
- » A Contractor representative during construction
- » A representative of the local neighbours
- » A representative from the Community Benefits Scheme Committee

Reporting that will be provided is outlined as follows:

1. From the commencement of construction and during the operation of the project, bi-annual reporting including:
 - » Stakeholder engagement completed
 - » Media coverage of project
 - » Social media engagement (posts, engagements, followers)



- » Website engagement (visitors, updates, most visited pages)
- » Complaints (including resolution)
- » Community benefits sharing deliverables and outputs
- » Local and inclusive employment outcomes
- » Local and social procurement outcomes
- » Supplier registrations (via ICN Gateway page)
- » Aboriginal engagement and participation outcomes

2. Commissioning phase: external evaluation 360 degrees

- » Community and stakeholder perceptions survey to go out to the public and to key stakeholders: host, neighbour, community organisations

Attachments

- Attachment 1 Stakeholder Database
- Attachment 2 Community Benefits Scheme
- Attachment 3 Complaints Investigation and Response Plan

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