

Dear Resident,

RE: Proposed Viewbank Solar Farm Development

We hope this letter finds you well and you are staying safe during this unprecedented time.

FRV Services Australia (FRV), an Australian-based developer of large-scale solar farms, are proposing to build a 75 megawatt (MW_{AC}) solar farm and 25MW Battery Energy Storage System at 90 McCague Road, Girgarre East. The project will be called Viewbank Solar Farm and it will utilise the region's abundant sunlight to generate clean, renewable energy for businesses and households in Victoria.

FRV have completed detailed assessments of the proposed site to enable efficient placement of solar panels and protection of ecological values and cultural heritage. The selection of the proposed site was informed by a range of factors including:

- Excellent solar irradiation
- Low level of environmental impact much of the site has been cleared previously
- Level terrain for cost effective construction
- Ideal location on the national electricity grid, for exporting the solar farm's electricity into the existing network.
- Excellent access to local and major roads

We intend to submit our proposal for this project mid-2020 to the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, as required by Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme. If approved, construction will likely begin in 2021 and will take between 12 to 18 months to complete.

As a community member who resides close to the proposed site, we understand you may have questions about the project. We would welcome the opportunity to talk with you and answer any questions you may have regarding the proposed Viewbank Solar Farm by phone on 0415 590 003 or email viewbanksolarfarm@frv.com.

Further information on the Project is available at <u>viewbanksolarfarm.com.au</u> and more information about the Viewbank Solar Farm will be shared with you as the project progresses.

FRV has been active in Australia since 2010 and are a leader in solar development. FRV was the first company to deliver a privately financed solar farm - the Royalla Solar Farm near Canberra - that has been operating since August 2014. Since that time, FRV has grown to become a well-regarded solar developer with a portfolio of successful solar projects across VIC, NSW and QLD including the Winton Solar Farm, near Benalla. This project was one of only six renewable energy projects chosen by the State Government to be awarded a power purchase agreement.

Yours Sincerely,

Edie Mather

Development Manager Viewbank Solar Farm

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Overview

Leading Australian solar developer, FRV Services Australia (FRV), is developing a utility-scale solar farm approximately 5 kilometres east of Stanhope in Victoria.

The proposed solar farm will be built across a 217-hectare site. The solar farm will have a 75-megawatt (MW_{AC}) capacity – enough to power approx. 37,400 average Victorian homes with clean, renewable energy.

The project is in the planning phase. Adjacent residents and stakeholders will be kept up to date on the plans and expected project milestones by FRV and its contractors.

Viewbank Solar Farm will also deliver clean, zero emissions electricity to meet the region's energy needs.

The Site

The project site is well located for exporting the solar farm's electricity into the existing national electricity grid.

The site is currently used for crops and grazing and is within a Farming Zone. Zoning will not change as solar farms are considered compatible for development alongside other forms of agriculture.

The solar farm development will have a low level of environmental impact as the site has been largely cleared and heavily disturbed by previous cultivation and cropping.



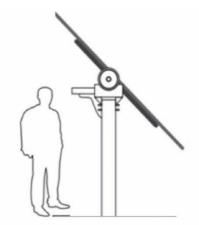
The Solar Farm

If approved, Viewbank Solar Farm will use the latest in solar photovoltaic (PV) panel technology. Ultra-absorbent solar panels with anti-reflective coating will be installed on tracking systems that allow them to follow the sun. This enables them to capture the maximum amount of sunlight possible, increasing the efficiency and output of the solar farm.

Design and layout of the Viewbank Solar Farm will be compliant with local planning laws and will specifically aim to minimise environmental, cultural heritage and neighbour impacts.

Visual appearance

Typically, solar farm developments are relatively unobtrusive as they are low profile. Solar panels will be installed at the same height or lower than other existing features in the landscape and vegetation screens will be planted where needed to protect the amenity of nearby residents.



Artists impression of Solar Farm panel and mount

There are not expected to be any glint or glare hazards created by the solar panels.

To connect to the grid, the solar farm will have a substation on the eastern boundary of the site to connect to Powercor's existing 66kV Stanhope to Shepparton overhead powerline.



Environment and Heritage

FRV is committed to environmentally sensitive development and the protection of local flora and fauna. A detailed ecological assessment will be completed for the site and the solar farm will be designed to minimise environmental impact. The construction and operation of Viewbank Solar Farm will consider and respect existing Aboriginal Cultural Heritage items.

Community Value

Construction of Viewbank Solar Farm is likely to provide a significant boost to the regional economy. During construction, FRV will instruct its contractors to hire local workers wherever possible. Additional, indirect benefits will flow to the local economy over the life of the project, including accommodation, meals, transport, materials, and services.

Consultation with residents and stakeholders will be ongoing as the development progresses.

About FRV

FRV Services Australia Pty Ltd is a subsidiary of Fotowatio Renewable Ventures (FRV).

FRV is a leading global developer of renewable energy solutions for a cleaner and more sustainable future.

Since entering the Australian market in 2010, FRV has initiated multiple large-scale solar farm developments in NSW, Victoria, South Australia, and QLD. This includes the Royalla Solar Farm near Canberra that was the winner of the first ever solar ACT government auction.

FRV's track record includes:

- A trusted reputation as a leader in our field with a proven track record of over 10 years successfully delivering renewable energy solutions.
- A respected international team with more than 130 highly qualified professionals from all over the world.
- Development and construction of 1 GWdc of installed power for the generation of sustainable and clean energy.
- Successful project financing of more than US\$3 billion with more than 20 of the world's leading financial institutions.



Powering a Sustainable Future

If you would like to receive further information about the project or provide feedback to FRV please get in touch with us via email: viewbanksolarfarm@frv.com



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01: Project Background

FRV Services Australia (FRV) is proposing to build a 75 megawatt (MW_{AC}) solar farm and 25MW Battery Energy Storage System near Stanhope in Victoria. Viewbank Solar Farm will utilise the region's abundant sunlight to generate clean, renewable energy for businesses and households in Victoria.

If approved, the Viewbank Solar Farm will be constructed on private land approximately 5 kilometres east of Stanhope in Victoria, within the Greater Shepparton City Council area. FRV have completed numerous detailed assessments of the proposed site, enabling efficient placement of solar panels and protection of the creek lines and cultural heritage.

The selection of the site was informed by a range of factors including;

- Excellent solar irradiation
- Low level of environmental impact much of the site has been cleared and previously disturbed by previous cultivation and cropping
- Level terrain for cost effective construction
- Ideal location on the national electricity grid, for exporting the solar farm's electricity into the existing network.
- Excellent access to local and major roads

The site consists of one parcel of land and is situated within the City of Greater Shepparton local government area. The Viewbank Solar Farm site occupies approximately 217 hectares and is located within an agricultural area.

FRV have examined data from their operational Royalla, Moree and Lilyvale Solar Farms, and have found that the grass growth is maintained underneath the panels thus allowing the continued grazing of the land within a solar farm. Allowing sheep grazing within the solar farm can provide a dual use of the land and further the agricultural use of the land.

Viewbank Solar Farm will consist of approximately 172,000 solar panels installed across the site. The solar farm will connect to the existing 66 kV Powercor transmission line which runs along the southern boundary of the site along the Midland Highway. Viewbank Solar Farm is expected to include a 25MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) to support the efficiency of the local electricity network. The solar farm layout protects the environmental aspects of the site and has been designed to minimise the removal of native vegetation and avoid areas of Cultural Sensitivity.

FRV will appoint principal contractors to develop the solar farm, who will intend to use local and state-based resources wherever possible. It is anticipated that up to 150 positions (including supervisor and management roles) will be created during the construction of the Viewbank Solar Farm. The workforce on site at any one time will vary as the project cycles through various construction phases (civil works, foundations, assembly, electrical assembly, cabling, commissioning). Once operational, the solar farm will require 4 to 5 full time workers to maintain the installation. The employment benefits of the proposed solar farm extend through the local supply chains to supply other services including labour, equipment, contractors and accommodation.

The completed facility has a projected life of 30 years. After this time, the site will either be rehabilitated and returned to its original purpose as freehold land or, depending on future energy requirements, the project may be reutilised. End land use options will be subject to landowner agreements and planning approvals.

As required by the Solar Energy Facilities - Design and Development Guidelines, August 2019, the plans for the Viewbank Solar Farm will be lodged for approval by the Minister for Planning, as the

responsible authority, in 2020. Construction commencement is subject to planning approvals and grid connection application.

FRV will work closely with the Victorian Government to secure the approvals for the Viewbank Solar Farm project. The development approvals will establish conditions on the solar farm's construction. The Project will liaise with the Department of Land, Environment, Water and Planning (DELWP), Greater Shepparton City Council and other relevant Government agencies to ensure these requirements are satisfied.

The Viewbank Solar Farm will contribute to the green footprint of the state in support of the Victorian Government's Renewable Energy Target (VRET) of 50 per cent by 2030.

FRV is committed to environmentally sensitive development and the protection of local flora and fauna and consideration of flood risk. A detailed ecological assessment and surface water assessment will be completed for the site and the solar farm will be designed to minimise environmental impact. The project will also be assessed in accordance with the CFA's Guidelines for Renewable Energy Installations.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

The construction and operation of Viewbank Solar Farm will consider and respect existing Aboriginal Cultural Heritage items.

FRV will work with the Yorta Yorta Nation Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP), to investigate the Aboriginal cultural heritage on the site and develop a Cultural Heritage Management Plan.



FRV

FRV is a global leader in renewable energy solutions, founded in 2006. FRV have an established presence in the Australian market with four operational solar farms and several other sites currently under development. FRV's vision is to break through the global dependence on carbon-based fuels and enable the transition to clean, sustainable and reliable methods of delivery of energy to the client.

FRV work to meet the world's growing energy needs with clean electricity and improve the lives of local people and communities. As a business, FRV are working towards becoming the world's main platform to build a more sustainable future through renewable energy solutions that improve the lives of people, bringing new opportunities through universal access to clean, efficient and cost-competitive energy.

FRV have been trailblazers in the Australian renewables industry with their first project in Royalla, ACT developed in 2012. Royalla Solar Farm began construction in 2013, with grid connection occurring in 2015. At the time of financial close, Royalla Solar farm was the biggest photovoltaic (PV) project in Australia. FRV achieved further recognition in 2019 with the Winton Solar Farm being chosen as part of the Victorian Government's Renewable Energy Target (VRET).

As owners of the Viewbank Solar Farm project, FRV will progress the projects from detailed engineering design, through construction, commissioning and ultimately the operation of the solar farm. FRV will provide their global engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) experience to support the Viewbank Solar Farm project and will source the latest PV panel technology to enable it to supply power to the grid.

FRV has a strong commitment to work in partnership with the local community in Stanhope and surrounds. FRV intends to be part of the local community for up to thirty years and is working to develop long-term relationships within the local stakeholders including the Greater Shepparton City Council and the Stanhope and surrounding communities.

02: Community Profile

FRV has completed an analysis of the proposed site and local communities. The following information guides the plans for community and stakeholder engagement.

Girgarre East, Victoria

Girgarre East is a rural township and district in the west Goulburn Valley irrigation area in northern Victoria. It is 18 km south-west of Kyabram and 42 kilometres west from Shepparton. The farm is situated in Girgarre East.

Local services and commercial providers within the area is limited, however is serviced by the local town of Stanhope.

Girgarre East has a population of 121 people residing in 57 dwellings, according to the 2016 Census.

The area is home to 35 families, averaging three children each with 2.5 people per household.

The median age of the population is 43 years old, slightly above the Victorian average.

Overall, 17.09% of the population was aged between 0 and 17, and 26.01% were aged 60 years and over.

The majority of Girgarre East's residents were born in Australia (87%) while there was only 8 people who were born overseas. No households reported speaking a language other than English at home.

GIRGARRE	EAST COMMUNITY PROFI	LE
People	Total population	121
• •	Males	62
	Females	62
TT T	Median age	43 years
Private	Dwellings	47
dwellings	Average occupants per	2.5
	dwelling	
	Median weekly income	~\$1292
Employment	Employed (Full time or Part	93.2%
	time)	6.8%
70m	Unemployed	
Education	Bachelor's degree of higher	3%
	Advanced Diploma and Diploma	11%
	Vocational	21%
	Year 12	31%
_	Year 11	42%
	Year 10 or below	30%
Main employment	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	24%
industries	Manufacturing	10%
.0	Health Care and Social Assistance	8%

Cooma, Victoria

Cooma is a rural township and district in the west Goulburn Valley irrigation area in northern Victoria. It is 13 km south of Kyabram and 42 kilometres west from Shepparton. The township of Cooma is located 5 kms from the site. Part of the site falls within Cooma's geographical boundary.

Cooma has limited local services and commercial providers within the area however is serviced by the local town of Stanhope.

Cooma has a population of 104 people residing in 44 dwellings, according to the 2016 Census.

The area is home to 19 families, averaging two children each.

The median age of the population is 52 years old, sixteen years above the Victorian average.

Overall, 22.12% of the population was aged between 0 and 17, and 23.08% were aged 60 years and over.

The majority of Cooma residents were born in Australia (87.5%) while there was only 4 people who were born overseas. No households reported speaking a language other than English at home.

People	Total population Males Females Median age	104 51.9% 48.1% 52 years
Private dwellings	Dwellings Median weekly income	44 \$650 - \$1,449
Employment	Employed (Full time or Part time) Unemployed	100%

Stanhope, Victoria

Stanhope is a rural township and district in the west Goulburn Valley irrigation area in northern Victoria. It is 16 km south-west of Kyabram and 42 kilometres west from Shepparton. Stanhope is geographically the closest service centre for the proposed solar farm and is located in the Shire of Campaspe.

Local services and commercial providers within the commercial centre of the town include Fonterra Dairy Factory, Stanhope Lions Club, Stanhope Football Club, Stanhope Lawn Tennis Club, Stanhope Bowling Club, Stanhope Primary School, Stanhope Kindergarten, Stanhope General Store, Stanhope Supermarket, Stanhope Hotel, Australia Post, and Stanhope Community Hall.

Stanhope has an estimated resident population of 2,410 people residing in 1,093 dwellings, according to population forecasts by Profile ID based on the 2016 Census.

The area is home to 336 families, averaging two children each with 2.42 people per household.

The median age of the population is 52 years old, sixteen years above the Victorian average.

Overall, 22.2% of the population was aged between 0 and 17, and 29.0% were aged 60 years and over.

The majority of Stanhope's residents were born in Australia (83.6%) while the most common ancestries listed are Australian 44.8%, English 42.3%, Irish 12.1%, Scottish 9.6% and German 3.9%. Only 50 households reported speaking a language other than English at home.

Many adults within Stanhope work in the dairy industry. The most common occupations in Stanhope include Agriculture 37.2%, Manufacturing 12.0% and Health Care and Social Assistance 8.9%.

STANHOPE	COMMUNITY PROFILE	
People	Total population	2,410
	Males	52.2%
	Females	47.6%
	Median age	52 years
Private	Dwellings	1,093
dwellings	Average occupants per dwelling	2.42
	Average weekly income	\$903
Employment	Full time work	60.4%
	Part time work	30.9%
	Unemployed	5.5%
Education	Bachelor's degree of higher	7.5%
	Advanced Diploma and	6.8%
	Diploma	22.5%
	Vocational	27.6%
	Year 12	17.3%
	Year 11	23.4%
	Year 10	
Main employment	Agriculture, Forestry and	37.2%
industries	Fishing	
	Manufacturing	12.0%
D	Health Care and Social	8.9%
O	Assistance	
_		

City of Greater Shepparton

The proposed Viewbank Solar Farm is located with City of Greater Shepparton's boundaries, although the closest service centre is Stanhope, located within the shire of Campaspe.

The City of Greater Shepparton is located in north-central Victoria, about 180 kilometres north of the Melbourne CBD. It includes the communities of Shepparton, Mooroopna, Ardmona, Stanhope South, Tallygaroopna, Kialla, Girgarre East and Cooma. The City of Greater Shepparton is bounded by Moira Shire in the north, Benalla Rural City in the east, Strathbogie Shire in the south, and the Shire of Campaspe in the west.

Land is used mainly for agriculture, particularly dairy farming, cereal and grain growing and sheep grazing.¹. The farm is proposed location is in the city's Rural North West District. This land is mainly used for dairy farming and agriculture, including wineries and orchards, with the region being a major fruit and vegetable processing hub.

The population for the City of Greater Shepparton is forecast to grow from 66,007 in 2018 to 83,234 residents by 2036.

European settlement in the City of Greater Shepparton dates from 1836, with land used mainly for farming and sheep grazing purposes. Growth was minimal in the 19th century and with the addition of irrigation in the district, dairy farms and fruit orchards were established with consistent growth in the area since the 1950's.

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¹ https://economy.id.com.au/shepparton/about

03: Engagement and Communications Strategy

This Engagement and Communications Strategy (ECS) aims to deliver a comprehensive program of communication and engagement activities for the pre-planning and planning phase of the proposed Viewbank Solar Farm (the Project). The ECS also takes into consideration the future phases of the development to support the needs of the critical stakeholders and the communities adjacent to the Project site.

The ECS provides an outline of the objectives, tools, timing and the desired outcomes for the community consultation to be undertaken during the pre-planning and planning phase while also highlighting project facts and risks that may be of concern to stakeholders. This will form part of communications during early engagement activities.

The activities in this plan include stakeholder research, public meetings, decision making and feedback loops, working with local groups and representatives, and community outreach. The process is designed to provide ongoing opportunities for the Project to engage directly with the community and stakeholders. FRV's goal is to develop and build a solar farm that becomes part of the social fabric of the area through employment, business support and community investment. Investigation and feasibility work was undertaken as part of the pre-planning and due diligence on the project in late 2019. Following agreement to proceed with the Project and securing the site, community information will commence. The Project will be introduced to the surrounding community and stakeholders via Individual and small group briefings that will begin early conversations about the project, share early Project information and gauge community sentiment and concerns.

Community input will be considered in the development of a Planning Application. Once the Planning Application is lodged, a detailed consultation program will be implemented including further community information sessions, attendance at community events, and the distribution of community updates. FRV will observe government guidelines regarding social distancing other measures in place in respect to the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. Engagement activities will be delivered via digital methods when necessary and the digital platforms used will be the most relevant to the needs of the community.

Early communication and engagement activities have already commenced in 2019 holding one-on-one meetings with the host landowner, DELWP and Council representatives. Stakeholder engagement will continue through 2020. Letters and fact sheets relating to the solar farm were distributed to neighbouring properties in June 2020. Stakeholders will be encouraged to get in contact with FRV to ask any questions or gain project information through a dedicated Project information line as well as a Project email address which will be running through the life of the Project.

Related Project Plans

As part of FRV's holistic approach to the planning and delivery of the proposed Viewbank Solar Farm, a range of project plans and strategies have been developed which drive requirements for community and stakeholder engagement. These plans have been considered in this ECS. Other plans which may be required following the Planning Application will be considered in future updates.

Traffic Management Plan

A Traffic Management Plan will be developed to manage construction impacts on local traffic.

Complaints Investigation and Response Plan

A Complaints Investigation and Response Plan will be made available to stakeholders, along with details for the Project phone line (0415 590 003) and the project email address – infoaustralia@frv.com A copy of this plan is available in Appendix A.

04: Engagement objectives

FRV has taken a best practice approach to community and stakeholder engagement for the proposed Viewbank Solar Farm. The engagement approach has been informed by DELWP's *Solar Energy Facilities; Design and Development Guidelines*, the Clean Energy Council's *Best Practice Charter*² and ARENA Report: *Establishing the social license to operate large-scale solar facilities in Australia*³.

This strategy has been developed to enable the community and stakeholders to be appropriately informed and consulted in a coordinated and consistent way throughout the life of the project.

Objective



FRV will deliver a program of community and stakeholder communication and engagement that meets the needs of the local community and project stakeholders including statutory authorities.

Engagement approach



Proactive and effective communication and engagement:

FRV will provide timely, consistent information to the community and stakeholders throughout the detailed design, construction and operational phases of the Project. Project information will be made available via the engagement events and the website at www.yiewbanksolarfarm.com.au

Community and stakeholder involvement:

Stakeholders and interested parties will be consulted and involved in the development of the Project and their values, priorities and issues will be captured and considered.

FRV will work with community members to guide any Community Benefit initiatives in the area.

Honouring commitments:

FRV will deliver on commitments made to stakeholders and the community. Requests will be actioned and closed, and concerns raised will be considered and responded to.

FRV will seek to build trust in the process among the community and key stakeholders so they are confident they will be informed and listened to.

Respectful and meaningful engagement:

FRV will deliver meaningful engagement with the host land owner, the community and stakeholders in a respectful manner.

² https://www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/advocacy-initiatives/community-engagement

³ https://arena.gov.au/projects/utility-scale-solar-installations-social-license-to-operate-in-australia/

Delivery



FRV will engage regularly with the host land owner, community members and stakeholders throughout the life of the project.

Methods of communication and engagement will be designed to adhere to the evolving social distancing measures set in place by the Victorian Government during the COVID-19 pandemic. Digital engagement platforms will be used where relevant.

Digital and traditional engagement methods will be tailored to the needs to the needs of the stakeholders. Digital platforms may include virtual open houses, video conferences (Microsoft Teams, Webex, GoTo Meeting), and downloadable content on the project website.

If social distancing restrictions are eased during the construction and commissioning phases of the solar farm, face-to-face methods of engagement may be used. These activities may include drop-in information sessions, one-on-one meetings, popup information activities at local events, site tours and open days.

Where possible, materials and labour will be sourced locally.

Outcomes of Engagement



The Viewbank Solar Farm is a source of pride for the project's host land owner and the local residents.

The host land owner and residents feel a sense of ownership over the Project.

Project stakeholders feel appropriately engaged and informed throughout the stages of the Project.

The host land owner and residents feel that FRV and the Viewbank Solar Farm management have their best interests at heart.

Local employment and investment outcomes have been optimised for the benefit of local communities.

05: Project timeline and engagement program

The following timeline reflects the optimal duration for the delivery of the proposed Viewbank Solar Farm. The timeline is subject to change.

The proposed Viewbank Solar Farm has five key phases as outlined below.

FRV hopes to commence construction in 2021and commence operation in 2022.



1. Site selection – 2019

FRV has completed a comprehensive assessment of the site including technical studies to assess the feasibility of the project.



2. Planning and approvals (In progress) - 2020

The plans for the proposed Viewbank Solar Farm will be lodged with DELWP for Planning Approval.

FRV will lodge the Planning Application in 2020.



3. Construction (Planned) 2021 to 2022

This phase is estimated to take 14 months to complete.



4. Commissioning and operations (Planned) – 2022- 2052 (guide only)
Once complete, the Viewbank Solar Farm will be connected to

Powercor's existing 66kV Stanhope to Shepparton overhead powerline via a substation.



5. Site decommissioning – Timing TBC

The operational life of the project is expected to be 30 years. After this time, the site will be either rehabilitated and returned to its original purpose or may be reutilised, subject to landowner agreements and planning approvals. Components of the decommissioned plant will be recycled where possible.

Engagement Program

A program of engagement activities has been developed to support the remaining four key stages of the project as outlined below:

Phase of Project	Planning Application phase	Construction phase	Commissioning and operations phase	Decommissioning phase
Communication and engagement activities	Stakeholder Engagement Strategy development Individual and small group briefings (online) Website live Fact sheet developed Stakeholder briefings (online) FAQ document for Planning Application Site inspection / site familiarisation as required (online) Community Update for Planning Application outcome	Annoucement of start of construction Start of Milestone newsletter updates Information session on construction process Notification of construction activities Local employment opportunities Individual and small group briefings High resolution images on website Time lapse video	Celebration at project commissioning Announcement of ongoing Project Team Regular project updates The state of the state	Engagement with host land owners Information session Stakeholder briefing

Project milestones

The following outlines the major anticipated milestone events for the proposed Viewbank Solar Farm. These will be supported by media release, project update / newsletter and engagement activities as required.

Milestone	Timing
 Opening of consultation period for the proposed Viewbank Solar Farm Planning Application Letter and fact sheet to neighbouring properties 	May 2020 sent 10 June 2020
Planning Application outcome	TBC
Community Benefit Initiatives	TBC
 Start of construction (estimated 14 months) Completion of earth works Local employment / procurement First panels installed Completion of construction 	TBC
Connection to power grid and commissioning of project	TBC



06: Key messages

Activity	Key Messages
Project wide	FRV Services Australia is a leading Australian solar developer who is seeking approval to develop a utility scale solar farm approximately 5 kilometres east of Stanhope in Victoria.
	Viewbank Solar Farm is currently in the planning stages, with detailed assessments and design underway. FRV intends to lodge a Planning Permit Application to the Victorian Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning in mid-2020.
	If approved, the construction of the Viewbank Solar farm will take approximately 14 months to complete from the date the construction contractor is appointed.
	To connect to the grid, the solar farm will have a substation on the eastern boundary of the site to connect to Powercor's existing 66kV Stanhope to Shepparton overhead power line.
	FRV is committed to using local labour and will instruct its contractors to hire local workers where possible. We strongly encourage local individuals to put forward their interest in employment either for labouring or as a supplier via our website.
	During operation 4 to 5 permanent roles are likely to be required. Maintenance contracts for panel cleaning, fence repair, road grading, etc. would also be required and would likely be met by local contractors.
	The plant is fully maintained throughout the life of the solar farm. There will be a 24/7 contact. An Operations Manager and other staff members will be based in close proximity to the solar farm. The Solar Farm will also be monitored 24/7 by remote CCTV.
	The operational life of the project is expected to be 30 years. After this time, the site will be either rehabilitated and returned to its original purpose or may be reutilised, subject to landowner agreements and planning approvals.
	FRV are committed to keeping adjacent residents and stakeholder up to date on the project while adhering to Government social distancing regulations.
Design/location	The 75-megawatt solar farm will be built across 217-hectares and will include a 25MW Battery Energy Storage System, providing enough to power 37,400 average Victorian homes with clean, renewable energy.
	The proposed site at Stanhope was chosen due to its proximity to the national electricity grid, excellent solar irradiation and low level environmental impact.
	The site's current zoning approval as a Farming Zone will not change as solar farms are considered compatible for development alongside other forms of agriculture.

The latest technology solar photovoltaic (PV) panels will be used on this project. These will be mounted on single axis trackers that change their orientation throughout the day to follow the sun from sunrise to sunset to maximise the energy captured and reduce glare.

The Viewbank Solar Farm has been designed to mitigate the risk of 'heat island' effects. Likewise, animals and crops on neighbouring properties will not be affected.

Environmental/Cultural

The design and layout of the Viewbank Solar Farm will be compliant with local planning objectives and will specifically aim to minimise environmental, cultural heritage and neighbour impacts.

A detailed ecological assessment will be completed for the site and the Solar Farm will be designed to minimise environmental impact. A surface water assessment will be undertaken to respond to local flooding risk.

The construction and operation of Viewbank Solar Farm will consider and respect existing Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, noting a Cultural Heritage Management Plan will be prepared for prior to the commencement of construction of the project.

There are no known health risks associated with living near solar technology. The operation of a solar panel generates no emissions such as CO_2 or any other harmful gases. A noise assessment will be undertaken to confirm the BESS and other components of infrastructure will be located in a matter consistent with the relevant EPA noise expectation.

07: Stakeholder mapping and risk identification

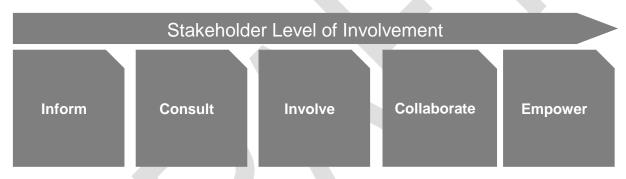
FRV will deliver an open and transparent communication and engagement process for the Viewbank Solar Farm. Communities of interest and key stakeholders with statutory responsibility or other interest have been identified to enable a tailored approach to the development and delivery of communication and engagement activities.

In accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988*, stakeholders will be advised how their personal contact information and feedback will be used and how FRV will respect their privacy and the confidential nature of any issues raised.

The Project will undertake regular analysis of the communities of interest and stakeholders to the Project to ensure the ongoing effectiveness of the program of communications and engagement for the proposed Viewbank Solar Farm.

Levels of engagement

FRV consults in a manner consistent with the International Association of Public Participation's (IAP2) engagement spectrum, shown below, to guide level of engagement and which is considered the gold standard for community engagement frameworks.



The following table outlines the identified project stakeholders, the proposed level of engagement and activities. This will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Stakeholder	IAP2 Level of Consultation	Engagement Activities
Landowner of the Developme Site	nt Collaborate	 Individual briefings – ahead of lodgement of Planning Application Phone conversations Regular project updates
		FactsheetsInvitation to community information sessions
		 Project phone line, email address, website with high-resolution images of similar projects Site inspection / site familiarisation as required
		Site inspection / site familiarisation as require

Stak	ceholder		Level of sultation	Eng	agement Activities
Fed	Federal Government Level				
	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources		Inform		As required
	Department of Energy and the Environment (only if approval under EPBC Act required)		Potentially Inform / Consult – T.B.C.		Potentially seek Project Approval – T.B.C.
	The Hon Sussan Ley - Federal MP, Minister for the Environment (only engage if EPBC approval is required)		Inform		Opportunity for an introduction to Project through briefing to local MP Project briefing and regular updates if requested by MP/Minister Personalised e-newsletter
	The Hon. Damian Drum – Federal MP, Member for Nicholls (The Nationals)		Inform, Consult		Opportunity for an introduction to Project through briefing Project briefing and regular updates if requested by Member
	Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)		Inform		As required
Stat	e Government Level				
	Dept. of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) - Planning Dept. of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) - Environment Dept. of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) - Waters	J	Collaborate		Seek Project Planning Approval Project briefing and regular updates Factsheets Project phone line, email address, e-newsletter and website with high-resolution images

Stakeholder	IAP2 Level of Consultation	Engagement Activities
Richard Wynne - Minister	 Collaborate 	· Seek Planning Approval
for Planning		· Opportunity for an introduction to Project
		 Project briefing (FRV with ERM) and regular updates (as required)
		 Factsheets
		· Invitation to community information sessions
		 Project phone line, email address, , e- newsletter and website with high-resolution images
The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio		Opportunity for an introduction to Project
Victorian MP, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Minister		 Project briefing (FRV with ERM) and regular updates (as required)
for Solar Homes		· Factsheets
 Steph Ryan MP - Membe for Euroa (Vic. Leg. Assembly), Deputy Leade of the Nationals 		Invitation to community information sessions
Local Government – Greater S	Shepparton City Council	
CouncillorsOfficers	· Consult	 Preliminary introduction to Project – online meeting
		 Project briefing to full Council and regular updates
		· Factsheets
		 Project phone line, email address, and website with high-resolution images
		· Personalised e-newsletter
		· Invitation to community information sessions
		Site familiarisation / inspection
Transport Agencies		
 Regional Roads Victoria (VicRoads) 	· Consult	 Seek advice regarding traffic requirements and proactive input to Planning Application documentation
		•

Stakeholder	IAP2 Level of Consultation	Engagement Activities
Emergency Services		
Country Fire Authority (CFA) – District 20, 22	· Consult	 Seek advice regarding bushfire risk and proactive input to Planning Application documentation
State Emergency Service (SES)	e · Inform	Provide copy of Emergency Management Plan during construction and operations phase
Utility suppliers & Contractor	S	
· Powercor	Consult / Collaborate	 Seek Project Approval from Powercor Interact on connection arrangements Invitation to suppliers/contractor and
		 employment sessions Project phone line, email address, e-newsletter and website with high-resolution images
Principal Project Contractor	· Consult/Collaborat	e · Project briefing and regular updates · Project meetings · Construction updates
FRV contractors and representatives on site	· Consult	 Factsheets Project briefing and regular updates Invitation to suppliers/contractor and employment sessions Project phone line, email address, e-newsletter and website with high-resolution images
Neighbours and local resider	nts	
 Immediate neighbours 2634 McEwen Rd 2538 McEwen Rd 	· Consult	 Letters to announce the Project. Offer of one-on-one meetings following announcement (meetings can be held online or via telephone due to pandemic) Invitation to community information sessions
- 2516 McEwen Rd		 Factsheets

Stak	eholder	IAP2 Level of Consultation	Engagement Activities
	 Cnr Poole Rd & Midland Highway (address needed) 		 Project phone line, email address, and website with high-resolution images of example projects.
	- 4180 Midland Highway		Individual and small group briefings as required (meetings can be held online or via telephone due to pandomia)
	- 640 Poole Rd		due to pandemic)
	- 220 McCague Rd		 Regular project updates, we required
	- 4068 Midland Highway		
	- 49 Morrissey Rd		
	- 225McCague Rd		
	- 4340 Midland Highway		
	- 229 McCague Rd		
	- 4060 Midland Highway		
	- 4365 Midland Highway		
	- 3983 Midland Highway		
	- 4018 Midland Highway		
	Residents, landowners within 5km of the project	· Inform	Invitation to community information sessions
	within 5km of the project		 Factsheets
			 Project phone line, email address, e-newsletter and website with high-resolution images
			 Regular project updates
			 Individual and small group briefings as required
			 Invitation to participate in Community Benefit Initiatives
	Residents and businesse within the greater City of	es - Inform	 Invitation to suppliers/contractor and employment registration
	Greater Shepparton		 Factsheets
			 Project phone line, email address, e-newsletter and website with high-resolution images

Commercial Businesses, Community Groups and Organisations

Stakeholder	IAP2 Level of Consultation	Engagement Activities
Stanhope and District Development Committee Inc. (Local Business	· Consult	 Small group meetings – during preparation of, and ahead of lodgement of Planning Application
Network)		Regular project updates
		 Project phone line, email address, e-newsletter and website with high-resolution images
		· Factsheets
		· Invitation to community information sessions
		Presence at community events
Friends of the Garden –	· Consult	Small group meetings
Gargarro Botanic Garden Girgarre	1,	 Invitation to community information sessions
•		 Factsheets
		 Project phone line, email address, e-newsletter and website with high-resolution images
		Regular project updates
		Presence at community events
		· Community Benefit Sharing Initiatives
Key Stanhope business:	· Consult	Invitation to community information sessions
· Fonterra, Stanhope		 Factsheets
		 Project phone line, email address, e-newsletter and website with high-resolution images
		Regular project updates
		Presence at community events
		· Community Benefit Initiatives
Stanhope community groups,	. Inform	Invitation to community information sessions
organisations, facilities and businesses including:		 Factsheets
· Lions Club		Project phone line, email address, e-newsletter and website with high resolution images.
Stanhope Lawn Tennis		and website with high-resolution images
Club		Presence at community events
Stanhope Bowling Club		Regular project updates
 Country Women's Association 		Community Benefit Sharing Initiatives

Stal	keholder	IAP2 Level of Consultation	Engagement Activities	
	Stanhope Football Club			

- Stanhope Netball Club
- Stanhope Primary School
- Stanhope Kindergarten
- General Store, Stanhope
- Australia Post, Stanhope
- Stanhope Supermarket
- Bulk Frozen Foods
- Stanhope Café
- Hair Zone
- Stanhope Fuels and Convenience Store
- Stanhope Fuels P/L
- BTF Motors
- Stanhope Motors
- Kerr's Stanhope Pharmacy Depot
- Stanhope Newsagency
- Stanhope Hotel
- St Laurence's Church
- Stanhope Presbyterian Church
- Kyabram and District Football League
- Girgarre Football Club
- Merrigum Football Club
- Cooma Evangelical Memorial Uniting Church
- Cooma Cricket Club
- Girgarre Cricket Club
- Stanhope Cricket Club

Media

Stakeholder	IAP2 Level of Consultation	Engagement Activities	
· Echuca Riverine Herald	· Inform	Project briefing and regular updates	
· Kyabram Free Press		· Invitation to community information sessions	
· Shepparton Adviser		Communicate milestone developments and	
· Farm weekly – Fairfax		opportunities	
 ABC Shepparton radio and ABC Rural radio 		 Invitation to suppliers/contractor and employment sessions 	
· City of Greater		 Provide media content for media releases 	
Shepparton online news		 Factsheets 	
and social media		Site familiarisation / inspection	
		 Project phone line, email address, e-newsletter and website with high-resolution images 	
		· E-newsletter	



Key project risks

The following table outlines the potential project risks and proposed mitigation actions. The project risks will be reviewed and revised throughout the life of the project to ensure community and stakeholder concerns are considered and mitigated where possible.

Risk	Mitigation
 Roads and Traffic Management Access points to the solar farm Increase in traffic on local roads Damage to roads from increased vehicle movements Notification of delays due to deliveries or construction 	 A Traffic Management Plan will be developed to manage traffic to and from the site. Residents will be provided with advance notice of any works that may cause traffic delays or road closures.
Visual amenity	 The layout for the solar farm reflects the planning controls recommended in DELWP's Solar Energy Facilities; Design and Development Guidelines The design and layout of the Viewbank Solar Farm will be compliant with local planning policy and will specifically aim to minimise environmental, cultural heritage and neighbour impacts. Solar Panels are designed to reduce reflectivity and glare. A Glint and Glare assessment will be undertaken.
Construction Impacts / Noise	 Construction hours will be between 7am and 5pm on Monday to Friday. If weekend work is required, construction hours are from 9am to 5pm on Saturday with advance notice provided to the community. A community information line will be established by the construction contractor to enable complaints to be managed. A complaints register will be established to record community issues including noise, dust and other complaints. A Construction Management Plan will be prepared to manage construction impacts.
Protection of flora and fauna	Prepared to manage construction impacts A detailed ecological assessment will be completed for the site and the solar farm will be designed to minimise environmental impact.
Flooding Risk	A Surface Water Assessment will be undertaken, and this will inform the site layout plan to enable consideration and response to local flood risk.
Bushfire	The project will be assessed against the CFA's Guidelines for Renewable Energy Installations will be developed to manage and identify fire risk
Use of local infrastructure	State Government and local roads will be used to transport construction materials and infrastructure to the site, as approved under the Planning Application

	Approval for use of existing electricity infrastructure will be required through Powercor
 Decommissioning Rehabilitation of site after solar panels are decommissioned Recycling of panels 	 FRV will comply with rehabilitation requirements at the end of the project's life. The panels and infrastructure will be recycled at the end of the project, where possible. The site infrastructure may be reutilised, subject to planning approvals.
Use of agricultural land	 FRV is considering sheep grazing as part of the project to retain agricultural use of the site. The site will be rehabilitated to its original purpose and or to use for another purpose.

08: Communications tools

Tool	Description
Advertising	Advertising will be used to promote major milestones and disruptions and critical engagement activities. The Project will consider advertising in local newspapers,. If approved, local media stories can be pitched alongside the advertisements to promote major project milestones.
Briefing notes and meetings	Briefing notes will be developed to provide detailed project information to key stakeholders. They will be used in conjunction with stakeholder meetings or as stand-alone update on the Project.
Community Benefit Sharing Initiatives	Viewbank Solar Farm will work with the local community to assist the Project to understand the priorities and issues of the community and to ensure that the Community Benefit Initiatives into appropriate projects. FRV will collaborate with community members to;
	Act as a conduit to provide feedback from the wider community;
	· Represent community views regarding local impacts and benefits;
	 Provide publicly available information about the project to other community members;
	Provide recommendations regarding the allocation of the community development fund.
Construction updates - digital and paper based for letterbox drops	During the construction phase, regular and as required construction updates and notifications will be provided via the website and to directly connected stakeholders, businesses and stakeholders on a distribution database. Updates will be provided to direct neighbours via letterbox drop
Face-to-Face meetings	Face-to-face meetings can take a variety of forms including public meetings, door knocks, stakeholder briefings, open days, and listening posts, and these can be undertaken in person, or online through video conference or phone call. The use of face-to-face activities is critical to building trust and rapport with the community and landowners
Information Sheet / Fact Sheet	Information or Fact Sheets will be prepared to provide tailored information for the community and stakeholders on project elements.
	Information sheets will be made available at public meetings, engagement activities, letterbox drops and the website – http://www.viewbanksolarfarm.com.au/
Issue and stakeholder database	A stakeholder and issue database will be maintained for the life of the project to ensure that stakeholder feedback, issues and enquiries are recorded and managed. The database will be managed in accordance with the Privacy Act 1988.
Letters	Letters will be used to engage with directly connected stakeholders and will generally be used in addition to a door knock.
	The use of letters ensures that key details including dates, times and contact details are provided for later reference by the stakeholder.

Media release	Media releases may be used to communicate key milestones and announcements about the Project.		
	Copies of media releases will be provided to media outlets and to internal stakeholders, directly connected stakeholders and interested authorities.		
Newsletter	Viewbank Solar Farm will produce a regular newsletter to provide an update on the project, local investment into community initiatives and sponsorships and FRV engagement activities.		
	Interested stakeholders can subscribe to the newsletter distribution list via emailing infoaustralia@frv.com		
Project email address – viewbanksolarfarm@frv.com	The community is encouraged to engage with the Project via the Project email address. Enquiries will be responded to within five business days.		
Project information phone line –	The Project information phone line is available during business hours.		
0415 590 003			
Project signage and hording	Information panels will be developed that meet the of Greater Shepparton City Council's signage guidelines. The Project signs will provide key project information and images.		
	Site signage will be installed and displayed at prominent locations near the entry points to the works site to provide information including: contractor details, hours of work, project contact details including the 24-hour emergency contact number.		
Q and A / Frequently Asked Questions	The Q and A or Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document aims to provide answers to stakeholder questions on a project.		
	The FAQ will be available on the Project website or by request		
Stakeholder engagement activities	ent Stakeholder engagement activities for the proposed Viewbank Solar Farm may include:		
	Face-to-face:		
	Briefings		
	Drop-in sessions / information sessions		
	Milestone event celebrations		
	· Open house		
	Morning tea / community BBQ		
	Pop-ups at community events		
	Site familiarisations		
	Walk-shops – generally held on-site and used to walk through the project or an issue and identify potential solutions		
	Workshops		
	Digital methods		

	Online polling / survey
	· Online Q&A forum
	· Online workshops
	· Tele Town Hall
	· Virtual Open House
	· Video conferencing – Microsoft Teams, Webex
Surveys, polls, and questionnaires	Viewbank Solar Farm may utilise online and hard copy surveys to gauge stakeholder views and levels of support for project initiatives.
	Online polling may be used in engagement activities, to capture feedback and ensure all the voices in the room are heard.
Website -	The Project website is a key interface with the community and stakeholders. It will
http://www.viewbanksolar	be updated regularly and will contain the latest information on the Viewbank Solar
farm.com.au/	Farm.



09: Information management processes

FRV will apply the following processes and protocols to the proactive management of information sharing throughout the life of the project.

Project Requirement	Protocol	
Written communications protocol – Fact sheets, Q & A	All material for public distribution will be approved by the Project Team prior to distribution.	
Emails, community enquires and complaint letters.	 Written responses will be approved by the Project Team prior to distribution 	
	 Calls and inquiries, along with responses, will be recorded in the Viewbank Solar Farm Stakeholder Contact Register 	
	 Stakeholder details will be managed according to the requirements of the <i>Privacy Act</i> 1988. Privacy policy document (1 page) to be prepared. 	
	 All inquiries received in writing will be responded to within five working days. 	
Media Inquiries and Spokesperson	 Media inquiries will be referred to FRV's appointed spokesperson and the Project Team. 	
	 FRV will endeavour to meet media enquiry deadlines and to respond in the requested format. 	
	All responses will be approved by the Project Team.	
Phone or in person inquiries	The details of calls or inquiry will be recorded in the Viewbank Solar Farm Stakeholder Contact Register	
	 Follow ups on phone calls will be completed within three working days and recorded in the Viewbank Solar Farm Stakeholder Contact Register 	
Complaint Investigation and Management Process	A Complaint Investigation and Management Process will be developed to help manage and record enquiries, feedback and/or complaints.	

10. Engagement team

Name	Title	Phone number	
FRV			
Edie Mather	Development Manager, Australia, FRV	0415 590 003	
ERM and KJA			
Jon Brock	Partner, Impact Assessment and Planning	0411 237 789	
Alicia Burnett	Principal Planner, Project Manager	0416 860 008	
Paula Lawrence	Program Director, Stakeholder Engagement	0412 370 651	
Alice O'Mara	Project Consultant, Stakeholder Engagement	0404 530 627	
Ellen O'Donohue	Project Coordinator, Stakeholder Engagement	0447 888 299	



Appendices

Appendix A: Enquiries and Complaints Process

