

APPENDIX C CONSULTATION

Community Consultation Plan

NEVERTIRE SOLAR FARM

OCTOBER 2016



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PRINCIPLES

Best practice community consultation involves the community in all decision making stages of a project. There is a role for the community from project conception, through the assessment process and on to project development. Effective community consultation has three important functions:

1. It facilitates deeper understanding of issues and decisions required for the project;
2. It improves the quality of decisions made for the project;
3. It allows people to be involved in decisions that affect their lives.

Important community engagement principles for a project include:

- Openness – combats assumptions and misinformation.
- Inclusiveness - consultation should be diverse and representative, not responding only to the most vocal stakeholders.
- Effective communication – requiring trust between parties and tools appropriate to the task.
- A communication strategy – clarity about what is being undertaken:
 - Inform - one-way communication to deliver information about the project.
 - Consult - two-way communication to seek input into the project.
 - Collaborate and involve – seek participation in elements of the project design and implementation.
- Early rather than late – to maximise engagement opportunities.
- Accountability – the process should be monitored and evaluated to ensure its aims are being achieved.

1.2 AIM OF THIS PLAN

This Community Consultation Plan (CCP) has been developed for the Nevertire Solar Farm.

The aim of the plan is to:

1. **Identify effective methods to inform the community about the Nevertire Solar Farm**
2. **Facilitate engagement with the community, including input into the environmental assessment and project development**

The plan identifies:

- Community stakeholders for the project;
- Issues / risks related to the engagement of each stakeholder group;
- A consultation strategy for each stakeholder group;
- A set of activities against the project development time line to facilitate consultation.

Effective engagement will require an understanding of community stakeholders and prioritisation of potential impacts. It also relies on the community understanding the project and specific issues of interest to them, in order to contribute effectively. The focus of the consultation plan will be on providing this understanding and engagement.

1.3 STRUCTURE

The structure of this plan is:

1. Proposal overview
2. Identification of community stakeholders for the project
3. Issue management – what specific issues need consideration
4. Project based activities – what vehicles will be utilised in the consultation process

1.4 IMPLEMENTATION AND REVISION OF THIS DOCUMENT

The plan has been developed to coincide with the early planning and assessment stages of the project.

If the project is approved, consultation will also be required to continue into the construction and operational phases of the project. These phases will require a new or updated plan, to reflect any changes to consultation objectives but also the increasing knowledge gained about the community.

1.5 RELEVANT GUIDELINES

This CCP has been prepared with reference to the following guidelines / references:

- *Establishing the social licence to operate large scale solar facilities in Australia: Insights from social research for industry*, Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA).
- *Beyond Public Meetings: Connecting community engagement with decision making*, Twyford Consulting 2007.

2 PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

The proposed solar farm would be located on Lot 26 DP 755292, Nevertire.

The construction phase would include the installation of Photovoltaic solar panels, mounted on steel frames over most of the site, as well as electrical conduits, transformers, a site office and perimeter fencing.

An access road off the Mitchell Highway would be required.

Additional electrical transmission infrastructure would be required to connect the solar panel infrastructure to an existing substation 1.5 km east.

To avoid duplication of information and errors as the proposal is developed, all detailed proposal information is contained within the Environmental Impact Statement (currently being developed) and is not repeated here.

3 COMMUNITY PROFILE

Understanding the makeup and values of the community is essential to finding effective ways to reach the community as well as beginning to identify ways that the project may impact the community. This section provides a broad overview of the local government area and the local township of Nevertire.

3.1 WARREN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

The Warren Local Government Area (LGA) has a population of approximately 2,901 people in 2015 (REMPAN 2016a). The population in the area has increased from 2,758 in 2011 (143 people only in 4 years); the median age is 42. The 2011 census records indicate that 13.3% of the population is of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin and 9.4% of the population was born overseas. The median working age for full time employment 46 compared with the Australian average of 40 (ABS 2011b). The median weekly personal income for people aged 15 years and over in the Warren LGA was \$498 in 2011 which is comparative to the Australian average in 2011 of \$577 (ABS 2011). The estimated working population (15-64) is 47.6% of the LGA (ABS 2011b).

The main local industries for employment within the Warren LGA is agriculture, forestry and fishing, providing approximately 43.73% of employment (REMPAN 2016b). The economy is reliant predominantly on sheep and cattle grazing, wheat, oat and cotton growing (Warren Council 2016). This reliance on the agricultural industry creates a significant economic benefits and flow on effects to other industries (Warren Council 2016). Public Administration and Safety was the second largest industry (8%) after agriculture, forestry and fishing. This was followed by retail trade (7.82%), health care and social assistance (7.43%) education and training (7.14%; REMPLAN 2016b). The unemployment rate for Warren LGA in 2011 was 5.6%; which was the same as the Australian unemployment rate (ABS 2011b).

The ABS socio-economic indexes for Areas (SEIFA) is a summary of social and economic data that provides a measure of relative disadvantage in relation to social conditions of people and households within a particular area. The SEIFA score ranges from 121 (most disadvantaged) to 1193 (least disadvantaged). The SEIFA score for the Warren LGA in 2011 was 941, which ranks it 137 out of 564 SEIFA scores in Australia (REMPAN 2016a). These indices of wellbeing indicate that the Warren LGA have a relatively high standard of living without many social or economic disadvantages.

The Warren LGA is 540km north-west of Sydney and 120km from the regional hub of Dubbo. It includes the localities of Warren, Collie and Nevertire. Some main community and economic features for the Warren shire include:

- Education facilities including one high school, two primary schools, seven pre-schools and playgroups and TAFE Western Warren College (Warren Shire Council n.d.).
- Health facilities – Warren Multi-Purpose Health Service and Hospital, family health centre, dentist, baby health nurse, palliative care support group, aged care Facility, home care service and meals on wheels service (Warren Shire Council n.d).
- Services – two banks, Australia Post, Roads and Maritime Services, Local Warren Newspaper, tradespeople, accountants, secretarial services, employment services and solicitor (Warren Shire Council n.d).
- Tourism attractions include environmental attractions, gold, wine tasting, fishing, country pubs, heritage walking tours and walking and cycleway (Warren Shire Council 2016).

- Events in Golden Ibis Shoot, Warren Community Triathlon, Sheep Breeders Race Meeting, Warren Show, Polocrosse Carnival, Campdraft Weekend, Nevertire Family Muster, Cotton Cup Race meeting, Macquarie River Fishing Classic and Twilight Race Meeting (Warren Shire Council n.d).
- Environmental attractions such as the Macquarie Marshes (Ramsar listed wetlands), Macquarie River and Tiger Bay Wetlands (Warren Shire Council 2016).
- Transport – rail and coach services between Dubbo.
- Recreational and sporting facilities including an indoor sporting and cultural centre complex, 18-hole golf course, bowling club, tennis courts, Olympic swimming pool, pony club, gun club, polocrosse club and racecourse complex (Warren shire council 2016).
- Community facilities including library, showground and racecourse complex, parks and halls (Warren Shire Council n.d).
- Clubs – 24 sport and recreational clubs, 4 art and cultural clubs and 14 community clubs (Warren Shire Council n.d).
- Churches – Anglican, Catholic, Community and Presbyterian (Warren Shire Council n.d).

3.1.1 Nevertire

Nevertire is a small village located 26.2km south-west of Warren on the junction of the Mitchell Highway and Oxley Highway. Surrounding towns along the Mitchell Highway include Trangie (33km), Narromine (68km), Dubbo (90km) and Nyngan (56km). The visual character of the village is dominated by tree lined streets and residences with surrounding cropped paddocks and silos in the mid distance.

The population in (ABS) 2011 was approximately 225 people; this is approximately 7.75% of the population of the Warren LGA. Nevertire SEIFA score was 1,049 in 2011, indicating that it has a relatively high standard of living without many social or economic disadvantages (REPLAN 2016a).

The Nevertire population has declined by 104 people (-31%) since the 2006 Census (ABS 2006). The Nevertire labour force in 2011 consisted of 63.5% full time employment, 21.9% part-time employment and unemployment was currently 2.9%. The leading employment for the village was agriculture, forestry and fishing industries (50.38%) (REPLAN 2016b). The median weekly income for people aged 15 and over was \$622, this was \$45 above the Australian average. Regarding the education of Nevertire, 9.5% of the population had a bachelor degree or higher (ABS 2011a).

Services in the village include a café, pub that provides accommodation, mechanic and rural supplies store. The village also includes a GrainCorp station, a Rural Fire Service station, substation and a railway. The Nevertire public School closed in 2002 due to the number of student enrolments.

The village features a recreational community park. The Nevertire Family Muster is an annual event held the first Saturday of the September school holidays. Community activities including a highly competitive lawnmower race (NSW Government 2016).

4 STAKEHOLDER GROUPS AND CONSULTATION STRATEGIES

It is important to identify all key stakeholder groups and relevant characteristics and tailor engagement strategies to suit each group. Different levels of engagement suit varying degrees of potential impacts in the community. Where impacts are less significant, for example, the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) consultation spectrum suggests approaches such as 'Inform' and 'Consult'. Greater impacts on communities require approaches such as 'Involve', 'Collaborate' and 'Empower'. Appropriate strategies are set out below for each stakeholder group.

Stakeholder group	Defining characteristics	Consultation strategies
1. Adjacent neighbours	<p>Neighbours adjacent to the project and those who may be directly affected, for example: those with a view of infrastructure, noise or vibration from haulage route or construction activities.</p> <p>Two residences are located within 1km of the site and may experience direct impacts.</p>	<p>Meet first – Inform and consult</p> <p>Understanding the values and potential impacts to this group is highly important.</p> <p>Face to face consultation and direct feedback is required.</p> <p>Mitigation strategies may require changes to the project or the development of specific plans of management i.e. screening visual impact.</p> <p>All consultation should be documented.</p>
2. Near Neighbours (local residents of Nevertire community)	<p>Neighbours to the project and those who may be directly affected, for example: those with a view of infrastructure, noise or vibration from haulage route or construction activities.</p> <p>Being a major development close to a small settlement, direct impacts may be of great interest to residents and businesses. This is a large development with potential to define the locality in many ways.</p> <p>Approximately 43 residences are located within 2km of the site and may experience direct impacts.</p>	<p>Inform and Consult</p> <p>Understanding the values and potential impacts to this group is highly important. It will assist the assessment process and development of appropriate mitigation strategies.</p> <p>The opportunity for face to face consultation and direct feedback is required.</p> <p>All consultation should be documented.</p>

Stakeholder group	Defining characteristics	Consultation strategies
3. Local Businesses	Approximately 5 businesses are located within 2km of the site and may experience direct impacts.	<p>Inform and Consult</p> <p>Understanding the values of this group will assist the assessment process and development of appropriate mitigation strategies.</p> <p>Direct contact and direct feedback is required. Potential opportunity to distribute project information and understand community sentiment.</p> <p>All consultation should be documented.</p>
4. Special interest groups	<p>Special interest groups, for example, recreational groups, sporting groups.</p> <p>A number were identified specific to this proposal. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nevertire Social Club • Nevertire Pony Club • Nevertire Pistol Club • Nevertire Hall Trust • Nevertire Gardening Club • Country Women's Association • Warren Historical and Family History Society • Landcare in the Central West 	<p>Inform and Consult</p> <p>These should be directly contacted.</p> <p>Specific information or assessment may be required to understand and mitigate impacts for these groups.</p> <p>An avenue to provide feedback or ask questions should be provided.</p>
5. Representative bodies	<p>Representatives of groups such as:</p> <p>Warren Shire Council</p> <p>Warren Chamber of Commerce</p>	<p>Inform and Consult</p> <p>Specific information may be required for this group.</p> <p>An avenue to receive information and provide specific feedback or ask questions should be provided.</p>

Stakeholder group	Defining characteristics	Consultation strategies
6. Media	Outlets to ensure a clear message is delivered: Local radio, television, newspapers.	Inform A contact should be provided to this group, for further information if required.
7. Broader community	Approximately 53 residents and 5 businesses were identified in the range of 2-10km of the proposed solar farm. While direct impacts are unlikely, the project would be a large new development for the broader community.	Inform Newsletters, advertisements, website information used to relay information about the project. A contact should be provided to this group, for further information if required.
8. Warren Shire	While direct impacts are unlikely, the project would be a large new development for the broader community.	Inform Advertisements and website information used to relay information about the project. A contact should be provided to this group, for further information if required. Direct contact with specific representative groups (Chamber of Commerce).

5 ISSUE MANAGEMENT

A set of project-specific issues and risks to maximising community engagement in the project have been identified below. These issues pose potential risks to the effective identification and mitigation of impacts important to the community. Mitigation strategies have been developed below, specific to the identified issues. These have been incorporated into the Project-based Activities, in Section 6.

Issue	Risks	Mitigation strategies
The project may define / overwhelm the locality	This may polarise the community. They may not feel that the project reflects their values. The scale of the project may overwhelm the existing local character.	Education material about the role of solar energy in the country's energy mix, the technology and its impacts. Early dissemination of information about the project and its specific justification and benefits, particularly with reference to developing new income streams on agricultural land and the ability to restore the land capability after decommissioning. Seek direct input into how the project may reflect the communities 'personality' and values. How the benefits of the project may be spread to the local community. Clear communication of key environmental impacts and mitigation strategies of the project. Offer direct contact to project manager.
Misinformation: Word of mouth / rumours first source of information	Feel left out, disengaged, misinformed	Direct communication early to local community – adjacent landowners first, near neighbours second, then the wider community.
Lack of support for project	Lack of interest, leading to low levels of public support. Unaddressed concerns may generate opponents of this project.	Early dissemination of information about the project and its justification and benefits. Clear communication of key environmental impacts and mitigation strategies. Make participation easy – to ensure all concerns are addressed. Be creative – seek support for renewable project that demonstrates how benefits are felt at the local level.

Issue	Risks	Mitigation strategies
The approvals process can be complex.	Perception that the process is too difficult to become involved in. Suspicion that input will not be valued.	Clearly illustrate approvals process. Clearly define opportunities for community input including what is required and when it is required. Communicate back, identifying where input has been used. Reinforce this at each relevant stage for community input – pre lodgement, during public exhibition etc.
Distrust in environmental assessment process.	Distrust of impact identification and mitigation strategies.	Establish credentials of assessment team and Epuron. Present these in the EIS and in newsletters etc. Make participation easy – create opportunities to discuss issues with the team.
Fear of unknown / complex information	Exaggerated fears / misunderstanding of information.	Layman explanations of issues. Offer to follow up – one on one, or special interest meetings.
Relationship with community	Risk that during the long approval and assessment process, the community will lose enthusiasm, become disengaged or negative.	Milestone events should be identified early and celebrated.
Representative	Risk of biased consultation, serving only the 'squeaky wheel'. Sections of the community may be "overpowered" and may be marginalised.	Ensure community is engaged in a forum that minimises risk of debate being side tracked. Follow up with smaller groups where required. Use established social (and media) channels in dissemination of materials, i.e. sport clubs.

Issue	Risks	Mitigation strategies
Unified message	Differing messages may create confusion and mistrust.	Limit points of contact. Have message clearly set out for use, rather than reinventing it for each consultation activity.
Unequal distribution of benefits	Residents close to the development are likely to feel more strongly.	Identification of stakeholder groups should reflect differences in impacts.

6 PROJECT BASED ACTIVITIES

The following table outlines the different project stages and associated community consultation objectives and activities, in chronological order. The stages include:

- Decision to proceed with early investigations, proposal development
- Receipt of SEARs
- Detailed assessment and proposal development
- EIS on public exhibition, submissions reporting
- Approval determination
- Construction contract award
- Construction commences
- Operation commences
- Decommissioning commences

6.1 MILESTONES

Mile stone events should be celebrated, and used as an opportunity to keep the community on board. Milestones can include:

1. Announce project – notify near residents first, follow up with consistent information
2. Receipt of SEARs
3. Early studies update – meet the community face to face
4. EIS submitted – explain avenues for input
5. Submissions Report submitted – explain avenues for input
6. Approval – celebrate in a way that involves the community
7. Construction contractors awarded - opportunity for local employment
8. Construction commences - sod turning ceremony
9. Operation commences – public open day

6.2 THROUGHOUT PROCESS

Relevant to all activities:

- One person would remain key spokesperson, this would be Jessica Picton, Epuron Project Manager, to:
 - Limit points of contact, ensuring a clear message, there is no contradictions in terminology or project information.
 - Retain personal direct relationship with the community, identifiable face for the project
- Feedback would be sought using a standard form where possible, allowing this information to inform the assessment (example provided in Appendix A). This form would be made available during meetings and on the project website.

Stakeholder group	Issue	Consultation objective	Community engagement activities	Format
Decision to proceed with early investigations, proposal development, and receipt of SEARs				
Adjacent landowners	May define locality Lack of support Other concerns	Inform and engage	Early dissemination of information about solar development generally. Early dissemination of information about the project and its justification and benefits. Seek direct input to include in assessment approach and development of proposal.	Face to face meeting Include feedback form and encourage direct contact with Project Manager.
Council	Misinformation Lack of support	Inform and engage	Ensure that the information is available Build relationship to understand their key issues	Face to face meeting
Near neighbours (Nevertire local community)	May define locality Lack of support Unequal distribution of benefits Other concerns	Inform and engage	Early dissemination of information about solar development generally. Early dissemination of information about the project and its justification and benefits. Seek direct input to include in assessment approach and development of proposal, regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General feeling toward solar development • Specific feeling toward the Nevertire solar proposal • Specific concerns • Ways the project may reflect the communities 'personality' and values. • How the benefits of the project may be spread to the local community? Offer to meet Face to Face with Project Manager.	Newsletter 1 / factsheet drop Include feedback form and opportunity for follow up call by Project Manager.

Local business owners	Misinformation	Inform and engage	Ensure that the information is available to the local community first. As well as letter drop, meet local business owners and offer to leave information with them to distribute. Build relationship with these owners and staff as they may assist to 'get the word out'.	Face to face meeting with local business owners
Near neighbours (Nevertire local community)	Distrust in environmental assessment process	Inform	Ensure the timelines and the stages for community input are clearly documented - use graphics and indicate where we are now at for the assessment. Make information on the project team and assessment team available	Factsheet to include graphic showing stage of the process and opportunities for input Website, links to other projects and accreditations
Broader community	Distrust in environmental assessment process. The approvals process can be complex.	Inform	Preliminary project announcement, including stage of assessment, likely timelines, ways in which the community can be involved.	Media release, link to website
Detailed assessment and proposal development				
Adjacent landowners	May define locality Lack of support	Inform and engage	Feed information into the final assessment to ensure all their issues have been identified and addressed by the project.	Face to face meeting / Phone call

Near neighbours	May define locality Lack of support	Inform and engage	Identify ways the community can participate in the project and seek input on these: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetation screen planting, adopt a tree (one for project, one for landowner?) Signage / logo for solar farm (will be prominent part of the town?) Other renewable or energy saving programs that the proponent could support? 	Competitions, Adopt a tree, other programs
Near neighbours	Fear of unknown, complex information	Inform and engage	Identify ways simplify and present the key information, seek feedback.	Open house – specialist and project information
Broader community	Unequal distribution of benefits Risk of biased consultation, serving only the ‘squeaky wheel’.	Consult and inform	Feed information into the final assessment to ensure all community issues have been identified and addressed by the project, differentiating between stakeholder groups	Newsletter 2, Website
EIS on public exhibition, submissions reporting				
Adjacent landowners	Relationship with landowners and community	Inform and engage	Reinforce stage in the project and ways to have input	Face to face meeting / Phone call
Near neighbours	Relationship with community	Inform and engage	Celebrate milestone, reinforce stage in the project and ways to have input	Newsletter 3
Near neighbours	Fear of unknown, complex information	Inform and engage	Special interest groups – address specifically in meeting.	Meeting with group, if required.
Approval determination				

Near neighbours	Relationship with community	Inform and engage	Celebrate milestone, reinforce stage in the project and ways to have input. Thank the community for their support Results of competition: signage / logo?	Newsletter 4
Broader community	Differing messages may create confusion and mistrust. The approvals process can be complex.	Inform	Keep project information up to date. Provide link to relevant information including feedback form. Provide a contact for further information.	Media release Website
Construction contract award				
Near neighbours	Relationship with community	Inform and engage	Celebrate milestone, reinforce stage in the project and ways to have input. What opportunities for local employment?	Newsletter
Construction commences				
Near neighbours	Relationship with community	Inform and engage	Celebrate milestone, reinforce stage in the project and ways to have input. Notify about impacts that can be expected, avenues to complain, for more information.	Newsletter Event: sod turning
Broader community	Differing messages may create confusion and mistrust.	Inform	Keep project information up to date Provide link to relevant information including feedback form Provide a contact for further information	Website
Operation commences				

Near neighbours	Relationship with community	Inform and engage	Celebrate milestone, reinforce stage in the project and ways to have input Notify about impacts that can be expected, avenues to complain, for more information.	Newsletter Event: public open day
Broader community	Differing messages may create confusion and mistrust.	Inform	Keep project information up to date Provide link to relevant information including feedback form Provide a contact for further information	Website
Decommissioning commences				
Near neighbours	Relationship with community	Inform and engage	Reinforce stage in the project and ways to have input Notify about impacts that can be expected, avenues to complain, for more information.	Newsletter
Broader community	Differing messages may create confusion and mistrust.	Inform	Keep project information up to date Provide link to relevant information including feedback form Provide a contact for further information	Website

7 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

To ensure this plan is effective during the implementation of activities, and adapts as required to new information, the following review actions will be undertaken alongside implementation activities:

- Appoint and maintain a consultation manager for the project to implement activities and review this plan regularly.
- Keep an accurate record of all feedback from consultation activities and all correspondence with the community.
- Monitor regularly and respond promptly to email and phone queries.
- Are the activities reaching a diverse and representative section of the community; do new activities need to be implemented?
- Has relevant information been passed back to:
 - Project developers
 - Assessment staff.

8 REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

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APPENDIX A COMMUNITY FEEDBACK FORM

Nevertire Solar Farm



EPURON

Community feedback form (Page 1 of 2)

Your feedback is important to develop a solar farm project that best suits the local area and community. Your feedback will ensure local concerns are understood by the developers and the environmental assessment team.

Your name: (this will not be printed or recorded anywhere but is to ensure that we don't double count forms)

.....

Select which answer best describes where you live:

- a) Less than 1 kilometre from the proposed solar plant
- b) Less than 1-2 kilometres from the proposed solar plant
- c) 2-5 kilometres from the proposed solar plant
- d) More than 5 kilometres from the proposed solar plant
- e) Not a member of the local community

Tell us what you value about the local area:

What do you value most about the local area? Circle one or more.

- a) Views
- b) Community / family ties
- c) Historic values
- d) Work opportunities
- e) Recreation opportunities, including sporting, nature based etc.
- f) Natural values
- g) Other

Provide more detail about your answer:

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Which views or landscape characteristics in the region and local area are important to you?

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Provide more detail about your answer:

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Nevertire Solar Farm



EPURON

Community feedback form (Page 2 of 2)

Your feedback is important to develop a solar farm project that best suits the local area and community.

What do you like most about solar farms, generally?

- a) Renewable energy generation
- b) Local economic opportunities – jobs, tourism, economic stimulus
- c) Diversification of land use / income streams
- d) Other

Discuss:

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What concerns do you have about solar farms, generally? Circle one or more.

- a) Community impacts
- b) Visual impact
- c) Noise, during construction or operation
- d) Traffic, during construction or operation
- e) Effects on land use or land values
- f) Effects on recreation opportunities
- g) Effects on natural areas and habitats
- h) Other

What specific concerns do you have about the solar farm proposed at Nevertire?

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Reflecting local values and character

We would like the project to fit in with the local values and character of Nevertire. Can you suggest ways that we might achieve this? Ie – a competition to design the signage? Adopt a panel? Local viewing area?

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APPENDIX B NEWSLETTER 1

Nevertire Solar Farm



Project Update No.1 October 2016

Project Details

Epuron Island GP Management Pty Ltd is proposing to construct a 120MW solar farm at Nevertire, NSW. The solar farm would be located approximately 1km west from Nevertire and would be accessed from the Mitchell Highway. Refer to map, overleaf. The project would generate renewable electricity which will feed into the national electricity grid.

The project would use standard, flat solar photovoltaic ("PV") modules. These are the same type of modules commonly used on residential rooftops. The modules would either be 'fixed' mounted or 'tracking'. Tracking frames move every minute or so in order to ensure that the modules are always facing the sun. The panels would be mounted on steel frames and these pile driven into the ground, requiring minimal ground disturbance. A transmission line (co-located where possible) would connect the solar farm to the existing substation within Nevertire.

The Nevertire solar project would provide nation-wide benefits, such as CO₂ reduction, as well as local benefits such as job creation during construction and operation

Epuron Island GP

Epuron is an Australian-owned renewable energy development company, established in 2003. Epuron has developed and now owns and operates a portfolio of solar projects of approximately 7MW; one of the largest in the country. In 2012 Epuron completed construction of three solar power plants in remote communities in the Northern Territory. In 2013, Epuron acquired the 'Uterne 1' solar power station near Alice Springs and in July 2015 commissioned an extension to it, 'Uterne 2'. Earlier this year Epuron commissioned 1.8MW of solar capacity at the iconic Ayers Rock Resort at Yulara. Epuron is currently working with Island Green Power on a pipeline of large scale solar projects. Island Green Power has developed a portfolio of solar plants in the United Kingdom with a total capacity of over 100MW. You can find more information about Island Green Power at www.islandgp.com. Epuron and Island Green Power have formed a joint company called Epuron Island GP Management Pty Ltd.

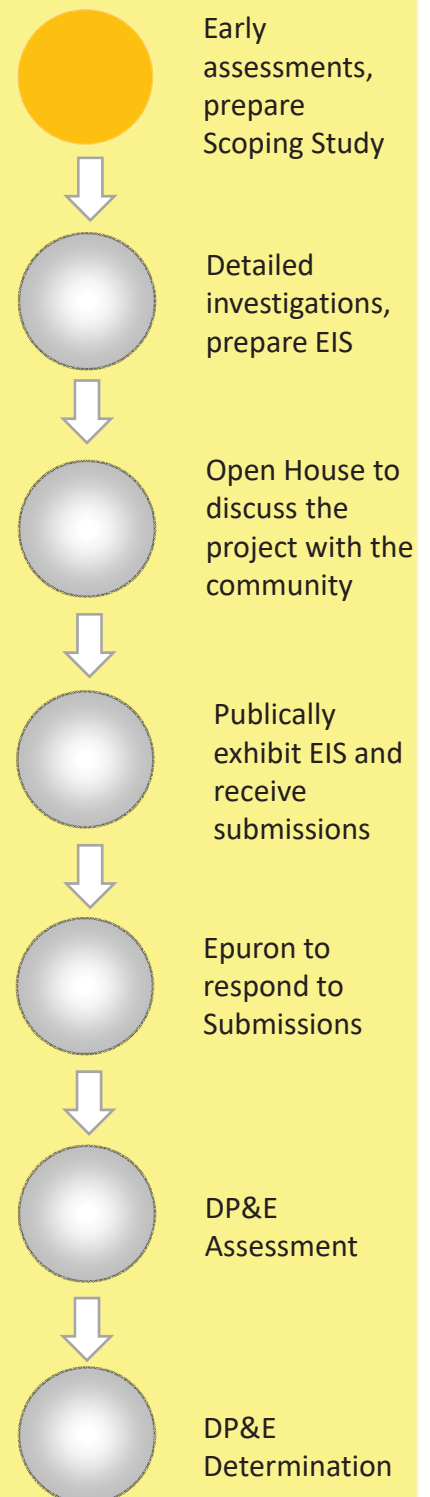
What is next?

Environmental assessments are currently being undertaken to assist in developing a project that responds to the site location appropriately. A Scoping Assessment and then an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared. These will be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) and will be available to the public from the Department's website. During the EIS exhibition, public submissions will be sought.

Epuron will host an 'Open House' in Nevertire in November or December. This will provide a chance to find out more about the project. We would like your input to assist the development of the project. Please consider sending us a feedback form, provided with this newsletter.

EPURON

NSW Planning Stages



Contact us: Jessica Picton Epuron Project Manager 0423 669 422



By letter:

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Nevertire Solar Farm



EPURON

Community feed back form (Page 2 of 2)

Your feedback is important to develop a solar farm project that best suits the local area and community.

What do you like most about solar farms, generally?

- a) Renewable energy generation
- b) Local economic opportunities – jobs, tourism, economic stimulus
- c) Diversification of land use / income streams
- d) Other

Discuss:

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What concerns do you have about solar farms, generally? Circle one or more.

- a) Community impacts
- b) Visual impact
- c) Noise, during construction or operation
- d) Traffic, during construction or operation
- e) Effects on land use or land values
- f) Effects on recreation opportunities
- g) Effects on natural areas and habitats
- h) Other

What specific concerns do you have about the solar farm proposed at Nevertire?

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Reflecting local values and character

We would like the project to fit in with the local values and character of Nevertire. Can you suggest ways that we might achieve this? Ie – a competition to design the signage? Adopt a panel? Local viewing area?

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APPENDIX C MEDIA RELEASE

Radio – **Nevertire solar farm Open house**

Epuron, an Australian-owned renewable energy development company, is proposing to construct a 120MW solar farm at Nevertire, NSW. The solar farm would be located approximately 1km from Nevertire and would be accessed from the Mitchell Highway. The project would generate renewable electricity which will feed into the national electricity grid.

Come and chat, face to face, with Jess Picton the Nevertire solar farm project manager. We would like to hear from members of the local community - including you.

Do you have questions or ideas about this project and how it will affect you as an individual or community?

Where: Nevertire Hotel

When: Friday 18th November 2016

Time: 2 pm to 6pm

Newspaper /council– **Nevertire solar farm Open house**

Epuron, an Australian-owned renewable energy development company, is proposing to construct a 120MW solar farm at Nevertire, NSW. The solar farm would be located approximately 1km from Nevertire. The project would generate renewable electricity which will feed into the national electricity grid.

You are invited to an open house for the proposed solar farm. It is an opportunity to find out more about the project, meet the project team and ask any questions.

The environmental assessments for the project are being undertaken now; part of this assessment is the social and economic impacts on your community. Therefore, we need community input now so we can identify and address any ideas and issues early in the development process.

Where: Nevertire Hotel

When: Friday 18th November 2016

Time: 2 pm to 6pm

Nevertire Solar Farm

OPEN HOUSE

SPEAK FACE TO FACE WITH OUR TEAM



Epuron Island GP Management Pty Ltd are proposing to construct a 120MW solar farm at Nevertire, NSW. The solar farm would be located approximately 1km west from Nevertire. The project would generate renewable electricity which will feed into the national electricity grid.

Please join us at our Open House, details below. This is an opportunity for you to find out more about the project and ask the project team any questions. We would also like your input to assist planning for the development of the project.

FRIDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2016 @ 2 -6 PM

NEVERTIRE HOTEL
MITCHELL HIGHWAY NEVERTIRE NSW 2826

EPURON



Contact us: Jessica Picton Epuron Project Manager 0423 669 422