

WALLAROO SOLAR FARM

FEBRUARY 2021

Dear Resident,

We, at **New Energy Development**, are reaching out to inform and update you of the status of the Wallaroo Solar Farm, a new exciting 100MW development proposed in the locality of Wallaroo adjacent to the New South Wales (NSW) / Australian Capital Territory (ACT) border. Once operational, this project would feed electricity into the transmission network and be capable of producing enough clean renewable energy to supply approximately 48,000 NSW and ACT homes every year for 30 years. This renewable energy produced from the Wallaroo Solar Farm would be available for local residents to purchase at a discounted rate through the Localvolts Electricity Exchange, a peer-to-peer electricity exchange for purchasing and selling energy. More broadly, renewable energy developments have the potential to benefit household electricity bills substantially and reduce power disruptions by providing alternative generation sources for the energy sector.

Proposal overview

The overall size of Wallaroo Solar Farm is approximately 391 hectares with the solar array proposed to occupy approximately 209 hectares. The solar farm will include an onsite substation and battery storage facility that will enable more reliable and on-demand energy production day and night. Construction is anticipated to commence in late 2021, subject to the appropriate approvals. Construction of solar farms is generally quick, with minimal excavation or noisy works involved. Following its minimum 30 years operation, Wallaroo Solar Farm would be decommissioned and the land rehabilitated to its original or better condition.

Proposal status

An environment impact statement (EIS) is currently being prepared for submission to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) and will then be accessible for public comment. To support comprehensive impact assessment, a number of specialist studies have commenced to ensure in-depth consideration of potential impacts, including on:

- Biodiversity – being prepared by NGH;
- Aboriginal heritage – being prepared by NGH;
- Visual amenity and landscape character - being prepared by EnvirolinksDesign;
- Noise - being prepared by Renzo & Tonin and Associates;
- Traffic, transport and safety - being prepared by AMBER Traffic and Transport Direction; and,
- Water and hydrology – being prepared by Footprint.

We are committed to a project that is responsive to the community in which it is located and that supports regular and open two-way communication. It is our priority to consult and keep you informed about the Wallaroo Solar Farm proposal, particularly around areas which may be of concern, such as visual amenity. As part of this commitment, a community open house event has been organised to provide a forum to discuss the proposal directly with you. Details are provided overleaf, please feel free to pass on the details for the open house to any of your friends and neighbours.

Wallaroo Solar Farm

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www.wallaroosolarfarm.com.au

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SCOPING REPORT

A Scoping Report has been completed and submitted to DPIE. This is the first step to more detailed project planning and assessment. An EIS is now being prepared, informed by the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issued by DPIE. The Scoping Report is publicly available and can be viewed at the following website:

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Major Projects Assessments
www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/40066

To receive regular project updates, please register your interest by emailing:

dan@newenergydevelopment.com

The chart below shows the current project status and opportunities for community input.

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Prior to the submission of the EIS to DPIE, New Energy Development will be holding a community open house to provide further information about the proposed Wallaroo Solar Farm.

New Energy Development are inviting all members of the community to 'drop in' at any point during the session, for one on one and small group discussions during the available times below:

Friday, 12th February
12pm – 7pm
Holt Neighbourhood Hall
80 Beaufort Crescent
Holt, ACT, 2615

This session will offer a forum to learn more about the proposal and provide feedback directly to New Energy Development and Environmental Assessment representatives. This will assist a more transparent and thorough assessment process.

We hope to provide an opportunity for those who attend to better understand the benefits of our project. Feedback can also be provided electronically through the project's website at www.wallaroolsolarfarm.com.au.

NSW STATE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL PROCESS



The Open House will be a covid-safe event with ACT regulated venue capacity limits.

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