

WALLAROO SOLAR FARM



Welcome to the Wallaroo Solar Farm information session

Thank you for joining us today.

- Information posters (as per opposite list) are spread around the room.
- WSF representatives are here to answer any questions.

We want your feedback!

- Please provide feedback via the online survey or to WSF representatives

Overview

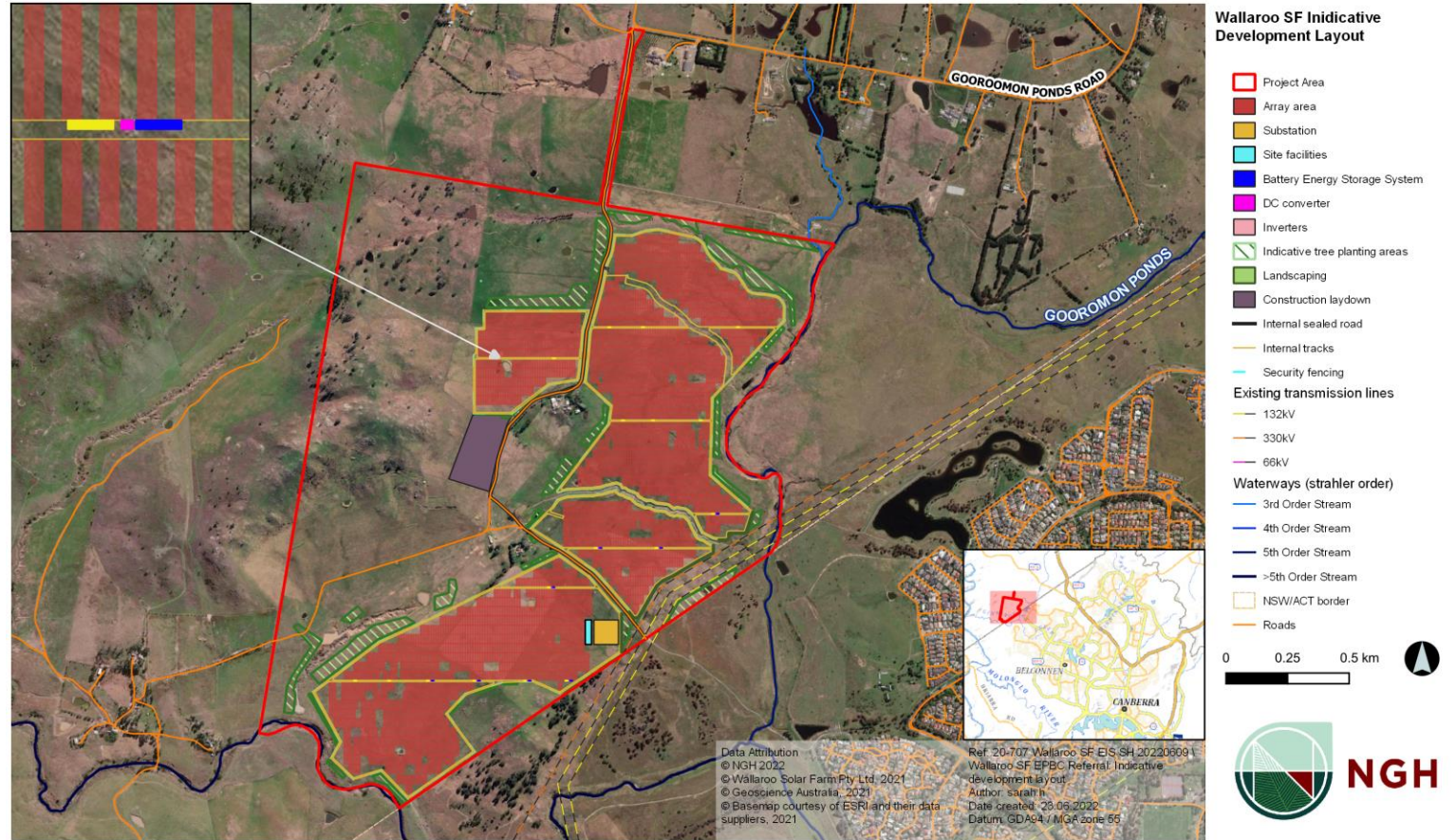
- New Energy Development in conjunction with Univergy Solar are in the process of completing the Environmental Impact statement (EIS) for the project
- The project is being assessed by the Department of Planning Environment (DPE) as a state significant development
- The project is located at 246-248 Southwell Road Wallaroo NSW, 2618

Information Posters:

1. Project Overview
2. Technology
3. Project Benefits
4. Site Selection / Access
5. Timeline and consultation
6. Planning Process & Assessment
7. Visual impact assessment
8. Social impact assessment
9. Biodiversity assessment
10. Heritage
11. Traffic & noise
12. Feedback

Project overview

- The proposed solar farm will have a 100MW generation capacity and a 10MWH battery (with ability to scale up to 90MW)
- The site is located on the NSW/ACT border approximately 40km south of Yass
- The solar farm will consist of approximately 182,000 solar panels on single axis trackers. Meaning they will follow the sun throughout the day to increase production
- The solar farm will generate enough power to supply approximately 48,000 NSW & ACT homes
- Approximately 260,000 Megawatt hours of clean energy produced per annum
- Approximately 215,000 Tonnes of greenhouse gasses displaced per annum



Technology

Solar tracking equipment

The solar panels will be installed on single axis tracking equipment. This allows the panels to track the sun throughout the day, meaning a higher energy yield per hectare than conventional fixed mounting systems

Single axis tracking example



Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

- A BESS has been selected as part of the project to help stabilise the grid and provide energy from the solar farm. This is done by storing the energy in lithium-ion batteries that are housed in shipping containers for export at peak consumption times.

BESS (Sungrow) example



Benefits

Local community benefits:

Employment & business

- The solar farm will employ 150-200 employees at peak construction
- The ongoing operations will employ 4-5 full time employees
- The wider business community will benefit from funds being injected to the local economy

Community benefit fund

- The Wallaroo Solar Farm has committed to funding community and environmental groups local to the project.
- The community benefit fund is proposed to be run by members of the local community, representatives from Yass Valley Council & the Wallaroo Solar Farm
- If the project is approved the Wallaroo Solar Farm is committing \$150,000 in the first year and \$50,000 every operational year to help local community and environmental groups fund projects to enhance the local community

Local Volts

- Wallaroo Solar Farm is also committed to supplying the local community with cheaper energy via Local Volts
- Local Volts is an energy retailer that enables peer to peer sales of energy
- At current price predictions, we estimate that we will be able to offer a discount of 20-25% on energy produced at the solar farm to the local community
- Please see Local Volts information page for more details

Wider Community benefits

- If the proposed project gets approval, it will displace approximately 215,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases per annum
- Help NSW achieve net zero emissions by 2050
- Produce approximately 260,000 MWH per annum of clean electricity

Site Selection

Site selection criteria

- The selected Site benefits from:
 - Good solar irradiation for the area
 - Close proximity to the electricity network
 - Connection capacity available at the electrical connection point
 - Adequate local electricity load
 - Minimal environmental constraints/impacts
 - Agri solar compatibility
 - Land relatively close to population base for employment, construction and maintenance

Haulage Route and Access

Haulage

- Via Barton Highway, Wallaroo Road, Gooromon Ponds Road and Southwell Road

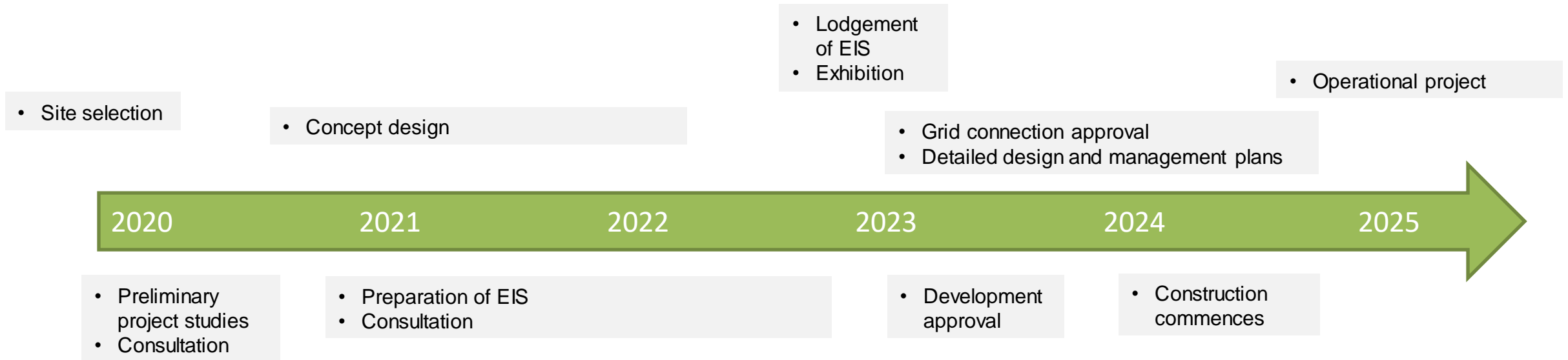
Access

- Southwell Road will be sealed from the current intersection with Gooromon Ponds Rd south to the development site



Project Timeline

- Below is the estimated timeline of the project
- If development consent is attained, construction would take approximately 18 months
- The operational period would be approximately 30 years
- Decommissioning and site rehabilitation would take approximately 1 year



Planning process

The project has received SEARs and is at the stage of EIS preparation



EIS Preparation – Next steps

Next steps for the project are to prepare an EIS and submit it to DPE. The EIS will include all the assessments outlined in the SEARs response:

- Biodiversity Assessment (refer poster)
- Visual Assessment (refer poster)
- Heritage Assessment (including Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Historic Heritage)
- Land, including consideration of:
 - agricultural land and agricultural resources; Crown lands; mining and minerals; erosion potential; compatibility with existing land uses; and land use conflict assessment.
- Noise (potential construction and operational impacts);
- Transport, including local transport routes, access arrangements and potential cumulative impacts;
- Water, including flooding, water resources, and erosion control methods;
- Hazards, including consideration of bushfires and electromagnetic fields;
- Social impact assessment
- Waste impact assessment.

Consultation opportunities – have your say

Throughout the preparation of the EIS there will be opportunities for the local community and interested stakeholders to provide feedback on the design of the proposal.

Following the submission of the EIS, there will be a further opportunity for the community and interested stakeholders to provide formal submissions on the proposal to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

Wallaroo Solar Farm

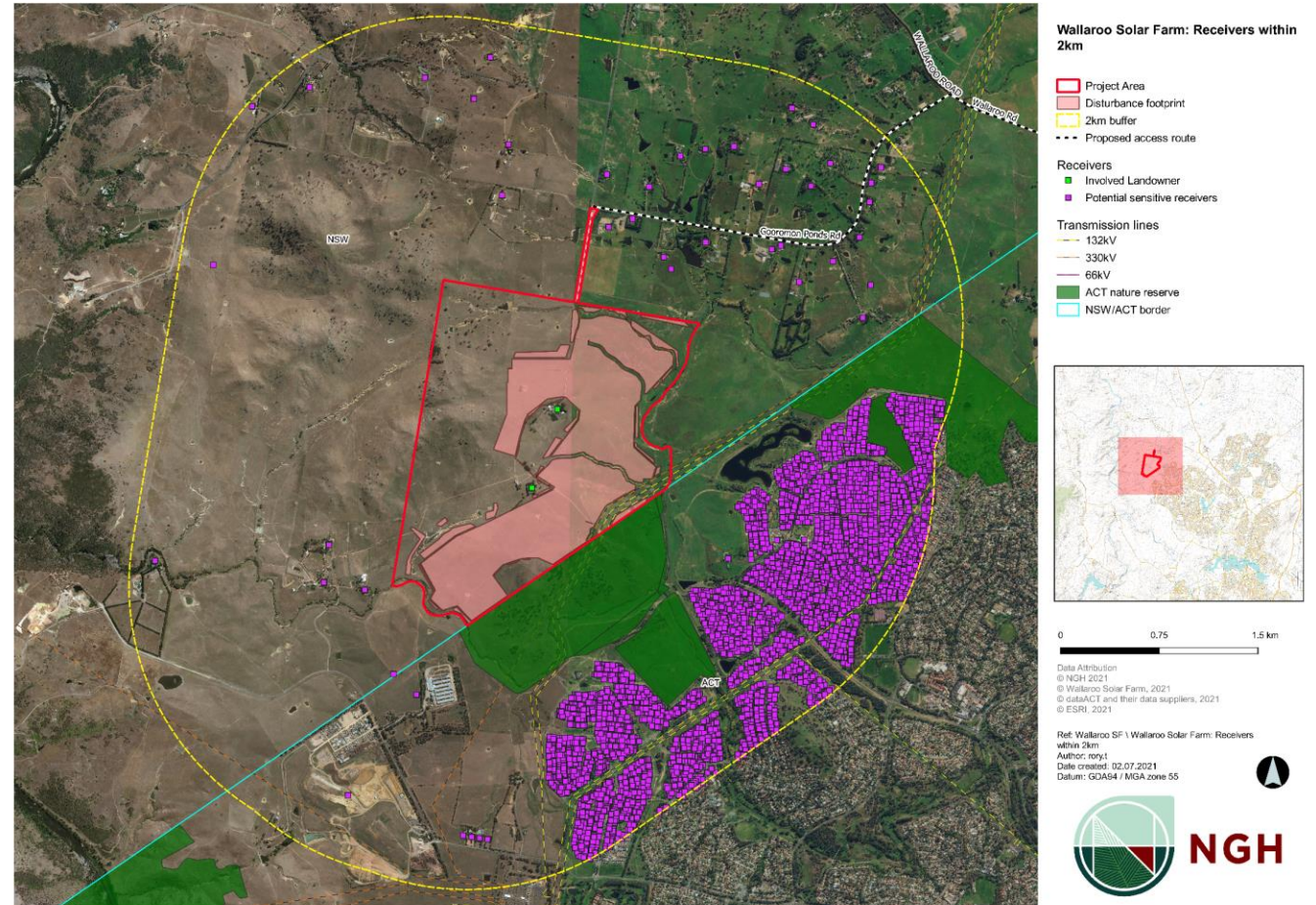
Visual Impact Assessment

- Undertaken in accordance with guidelines
- 31 representative viewpoints established
- Mitigation:
 - Strategic screen planting
 - Peripheral landscaping on eastern boundary

	High Sensitivity	Moderate Sensitivity	Low Sensitivity	Very Low Sensitivity
High Visual Magnitude	High	High	Moderate	Low
Moderate Visual Magnitude	High	Moderate	Low	Very Low
Low Visual Magnitude	Moderate	Low	Very Low	Very Low
Very Low Visual Magnitude	Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low

Magnitude and Sensitivity ratings visual impact matrix (Source: Draft Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline (NSW DPE December 2021))

- Unmitigated = 2 Moderate; 22 Low/Very Low and 7 Negligible impacts
- Mitigation implemented = 20 Low/Very Low and 11 Negligible impacts

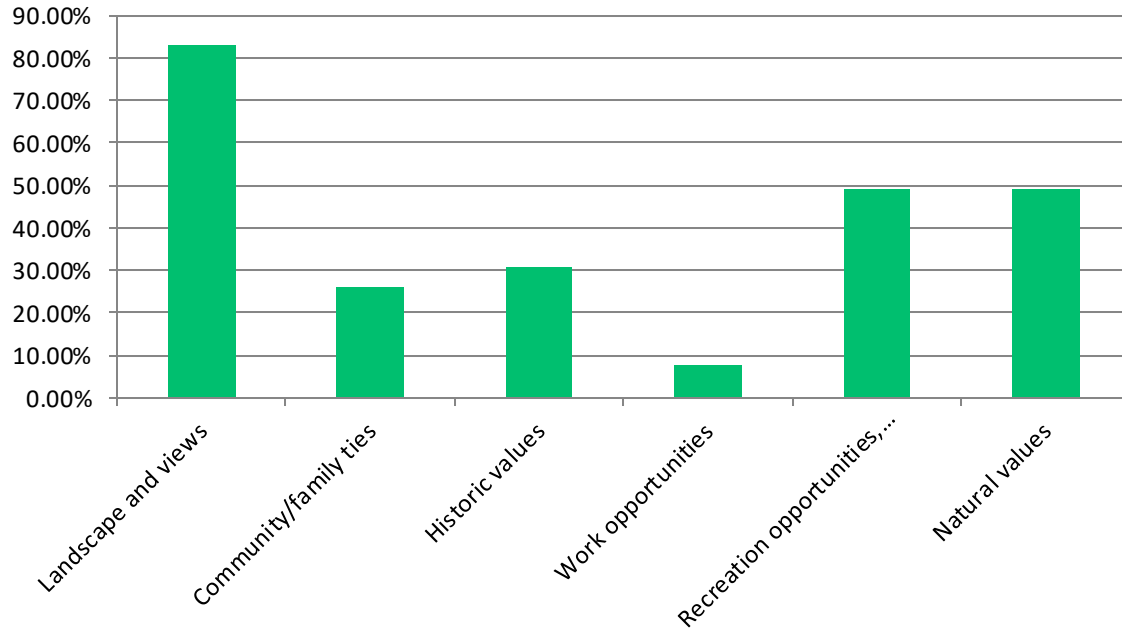


Social

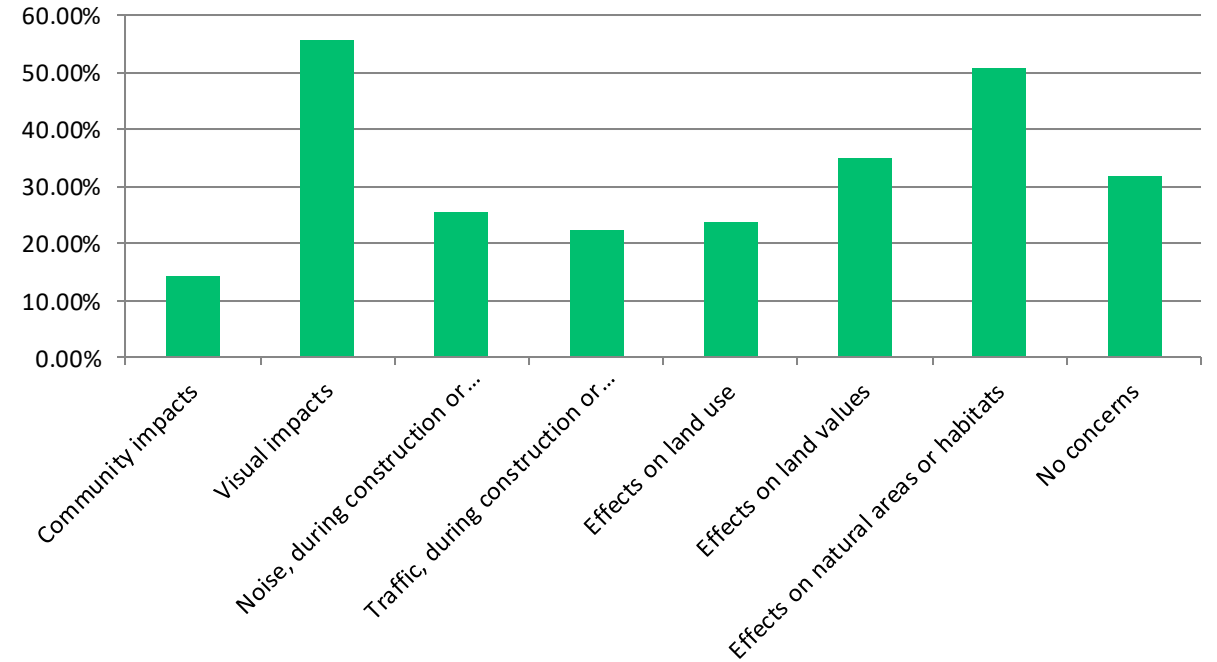
- Social Impact Assessment in accordance with guidelines
- Research interviews conducted Wallaroo residents with:
 - Community and environment groups
 - interest groups (tourism, development and services)
 - agencies
- Survey (78 responses 28/7/22)
- Established social baseline
- Next steps
 - Evaluate the potential impacts and benefits of the project, and
 - Assess possible mitigations to avoid or minimise the negative impacts and enhance the positive benefits
- Key benefits = local employment and procurement and community benefit scheme
- Key concerns = visual impacts, effects on natural areas or habitats and land values

Survey

What do you value most about the local area?



What concerns do you have about potential impacts of solar farms, generally?

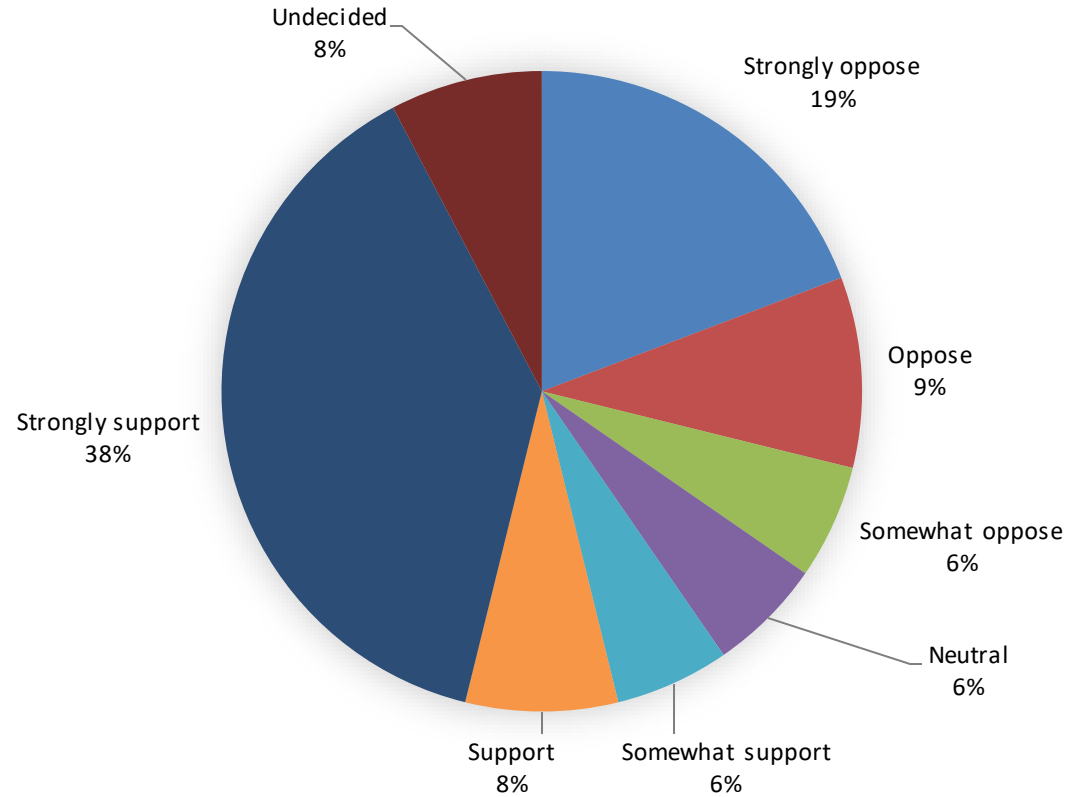


Survey

Current attitudes from 68 respondents (26/7/22):

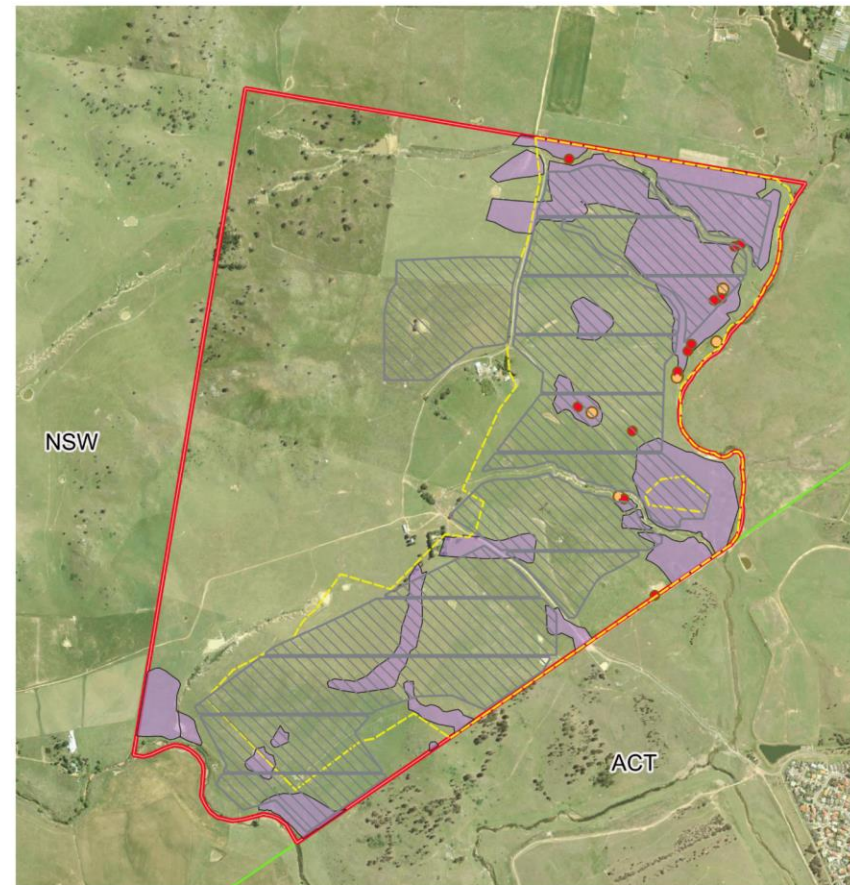
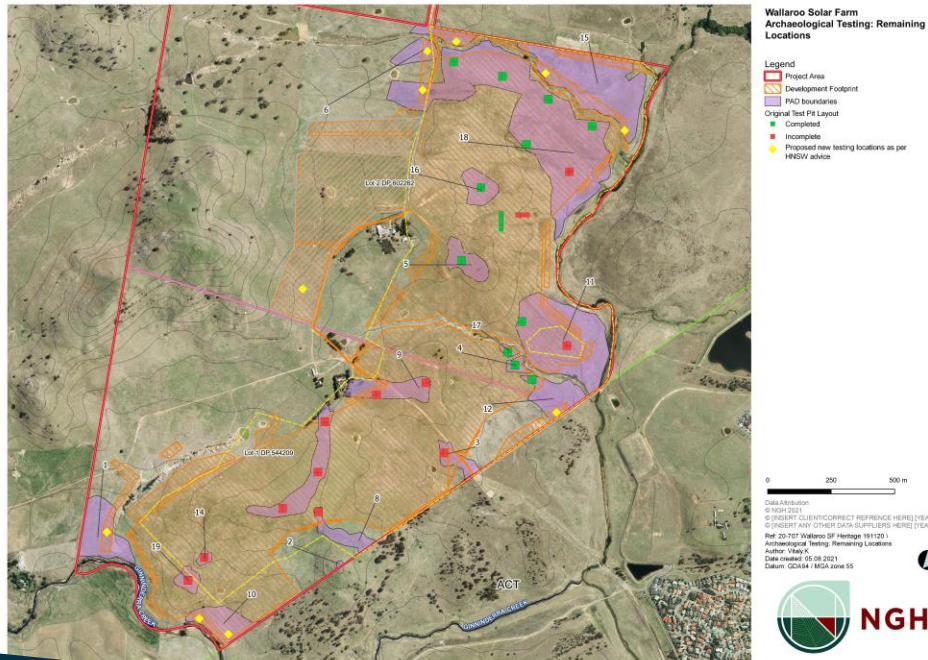
- Support 54%
- Undecided/neutral 11%
- Oppose 34%

How would you rate your attitude towards Wallaroo Solar Farm?

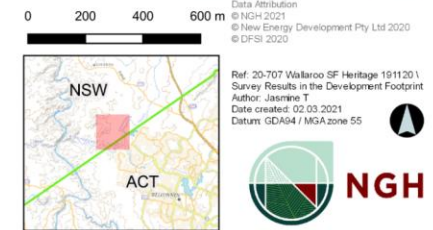
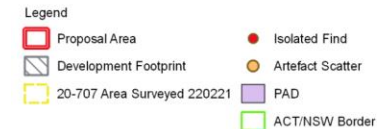


Heritage Assessment

- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and Technical Archaeological Report undertaken in accordance with guidelines
- Potential archaeological deposits, sites and artefacts identified during surveys and investigated via test excavations
- Site located outside of high sensitivity areas
- Salvage and relocation proposed
- Ongoing Aboriginal community consultation



**Wallaroo Solar Farm
Survey Results in the Development Footprint**



Traffic and Noise

Traffic Impact Assessment

Vehicle Type	Average Vehicle Movements per Day		Peak Vehicle Movements per Day	
	Daily (vpd)	Peak Hour (vph)	Daily (vpd)	Peak Hour (vph)
Light Vehicle (car / 4WD)	10	4	20	8
Shuttle Bus	24	12	30	15
MRV/HRV	10	2	16	3
AV/B-Double	14	3	24	4
Total	58	21	90	30

Noise Impact Assessment

Construction

- In-principle feasible and reasonable noise mitigation measures will limit the potential impact of noise generated by construction activities.
- One exceedance of construction noise criteria possible during Southwell Road (access)

Operation

- Noise emissions from the operational phase of the project were predicted to comply at all non involved receivers
- Road traffic noise impacts due to additional traffic generated during the construction phase of the development on residential properties along the access routes were found to comply with the relevant criteria.

Contact details

Get in touch

We would like to hear your views about the proposal. You can get in touch with the project team in a range of different ways:

- Email: ben@newenergydevelopment.com;
- Project website: Walloosolarfarm.com.au

Mailing list

If you would like to join our mailing list please leave your details today, or email us at ben@newenergydevelopment.com for updates and information regarding the project

Links to information

The following list provides links to some of the key documents directly relating to the proposal, as well as more general guidance on solar development in New South Wales.



www.walloosolarfarm.com.au/survey



Project Planning Portal Location
<https://pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/wallaroo-solar-farm>



NSW Large-scale solar energy guideline
<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Renewable-Energy/Large-scale-Solar-Energy-Guideline>