

MEETING DETAILS

MEETING DATE / TIME	Thursday, 1 December, 2016 – 2:30 PM to 3:00 PM
LOCATION	Dubbo Regional Council, Corner Church & Darling streets, Dubbo

BRIEFING MATTER(S)

2016WES014 – Western Plains Regional Council – 65L Moriguy Road, Brocklehurst.

Solar Energy System (Photovoltaic), Proposed 29 megawatt solar farm, consisting of multiple photovoltaic (PV) arrays (and associated infrastructure), a substation and an electricity transmission line (ETL).

ATTENDEES

PANEL MEMBERS	Gordon Kirkby (Chair), John Griffin, Peter Brennan, Lindsay Dunstan, Lindsay Mathieson
COUNCIL ASSESSMENT STAFF	Shaun Reynolds, Darryll Quigley
OTHER	Nil.

KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED

Shaun gave an overview of the Application including the nature and background to the Application, and key matters raised within the assessment and how these concerns were addressed. Matters discussed included:

- The location of the access road was chosen so as to minimise vegetation removal. The Applicant had considered upgrading the Medway Crown Road to utilise as access however this would have required significant tree removal within an area identified as having high biodiversity.
- It was noted that construction of the access road will be required to be completed prior to construction of the solar farm commencing as per the requirements of condition 27. Further, the access gates are to be setback a minimum distance of 26 metres, being the length of a B-Double vehicle, to ensure vehicles which may have to stop and open or close gates can do so without overhanging onto the roadway/road reserve. It was also considered that the access point will also be able to achieve the 250 metre sight lines in either direction of Moriguy Road as per condition 27.
- One (1) submission requested the landscaping be provided on the outside of the fence rather than the inside. Consequently, it has been conditioned (condition 36) that this occur. Plans will be marked in red to reiterate this to the Applicant.
- It was noted that landscaping will be provided along the eastern boundary of the development only, as opposed to the entire perimeter as is often the case with other developments of this nature. No

objections were raised to the landscaping along the eastern side only. It was also noted a natural vegetation buffer exists along the northern property boundary.

- Impacts on the Medway Crown Road were discussed, largely as a consequence of a submission. It is noted from plans that the development will not encroach on the Crown Road. Further, it is determined that the development will not cause an increased amount of stormwater runoff onto Medway Road.
- A submission identified previous development, namely the construction of contour banks across Medway Crown Road, which had impacted on the usability of the road, including increased stormwater runoff onto this road. While the concerns and frustrations of the submissions were noted, it was identified that the subject development application will not impact on Medway Road nor will direct additional stormwater flows onto the roadway.
- It was identified that the glare impacts of the panels will be minimal. The SEE quotes glare will be approximately 2%, similar to water. Any potential glare impacts to Mogriguy Road, or the nearest dwelling on adjoining Lot 24, will be offset by the inclusion of appropriate landscape screening.

PANEL MEETING DATE: Thursday 1 December 2016 at 3:00 pm (at the conclusion of the briefing meeting).