

Walcha Energy:

Some facts about solar farms



Why build a solar farm here?

The site meets the key criteria for the location of a solar farm including close proximity to the grid transmission network, excellent transport access, minimal impact to local roads, a strong solar resource and is not within a flood area.



Are the solar farms a waste of good agricultural land?

Currently the land is mostly used for grazing. The solar farm will be designed to allow sheep to graze once it is operational. The solar farm will not affect the farming operations on neighbouring properties and will not have any long term effect on the agricultural potential or land use of the site, beyond the life of the solar farm. We are also exploring how to design the solar farm so it can help reinvigorate pollinator habitats in the region.



How dangerous is the glare produced by solar panels and will it affect planes?

Communities often cite glare from solar facilities as a primary concern. The PV modules that will be used for this solar farm use non-reflective glass and are designed to absorb rather than reflect the light that hits the panels in order to convert solar energy into electricity. PV modules are generally less reflective than windows and in fact there are many examples around the world of solar farms being situated right next to major airports without any glare issues.



Are solar farms noisy?

The noisiest components in a solar farm are the inverters, which generate a low buzzing sound as they convert electricity from the direct current (DC) generated by PV modules to alternating current (AC) used by the electric

grid. Tracking equipment allowing PV modules to track the sun over the course of the day can also generate a low level of noise, but this is generally not audible outside of the perimeter fence of the solar farm.



Will the solar farm affect land values in the area?

A report commissioned by the Office of Environment and Heritage concluded that the available data does not show any significant impact on the value of agricultural properties from the development of wind farms. The value of land in the region will also benefit from the income sharing scheme that we are setting up with the neighbours and community.



What happens to solar farms once they finish operating?

Solar farms have an average life expectancy of 30 years – most will operate longer than this. At the end of its useful life the solar farm will be decommissioned and the site restored to its original condition. This includes the removal of all associated surrounding infrastructure.



How can I express my view about this project?

Walcha Energy is passionate about ensuring that the community is fully involved and completely informed about all aspects of its project that will include wind, solar and pumped hydro. We will make the assessment process as open, honest and transparent as possible. Neighbours of the site and the wider community will be actively and regularly consulted. You can visit our website www.salisburysolar.com.au send an email to info@walchaenergy.com.au or telephone us on 0450554767.