

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Will there be battery storage?**

The proposed project is initially for a solar farm, however there are provisions in the planning permit application for an area allocated for a potential battery storage facility to be built within the perimeter of the proposed project. This would enable energy generated during the day to be stored for later use during the evening peak.

### **Are glint and glare a problem for solar farms?**

Solar panels are designed to absorb light rather than reflect it and studies conducted on operating farms have shown there is no significant glare issues.

As part of the Planning Permit application process, GVCE Mooroopna Solar Farm has engaged AECOM to prepare an independent glint and glare assessment, highlighting there is only minimal glint and glare impact for a small number of receptors. This minor impact will be mitigated through landscaping and visual screening with native vegetation, and utilisation of anti-reflective coating on each solar panel.

### **Will there be flood-lighting at night?**

There will only be minimal sensor-activated lighting installed around the perimeter security fence of the solar farm, which will be active throughout construction and operations.

Construction will only occur during daytime hours, removing the need for flood-lights at night.

### **Are solar farms noisy?**

Solar farms are relatively quiet places. The highest noise emitting components are the inverters, tracking systems and switching station, which operate in the 55-65dBA range. In line with DELWP Planning Permit guidelines, GVCE Mooroopna Solar Farm is currently conducting a noise assessment to ensure compliance with regulatory noise limits.

Audible noise and vibration will be present during construction and decommissioning. The Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractor will be required to formulate an Environment Management Plan (EMP) which will include a plan for noise and vibration management during construction, operations and decommissioning in line with the State Planning Guidelines.

### **Do solar farms create heat?**

A number of national and international research studies have been conducted on large-scale solar power plants and the impact on temperature. Overwhelmingly, studies have concluded that heat island effect is not applicable, and that natural convection will take any warm air upward.

Our landscaping plan will include a 10m vegetation buffer around the perimeter of the solar farm. In addition, the western boundary is buffered by the railway line and Toolamba Road, and the southern boundary is buffered by 500m of cropped grazing land.

### **Is there an increased fire risk?**

There is no additional fire risk associated with solar farms, and any fire risk will be mitigated by following the comprehensive Country Fire Authority (CFA) guidelines for renewable energy facilities released in February 2019.

### **What makes this project exciting for the Goulburn Valley community?**

Solar farms create an exciting and pioneering opportunity to generate renewable energy in regional areas close to the point of consumption.

This 'Produce Locally, Consume Locally' philosophy is an exciting way to generate not only local jobs, but also locally sourced clean, green electricity for the Goulburn Valley region.

### **How can I have my voice heard?**

A community information session is taking place on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019 1:00-5:00pm at the Mooroopna Education and Activity Centre (next to Mooroopna Library – 23 Alexandra St, Mooroopna, VIC), to welcome local community feedback and ideas into the project.

Agenda is as below:

- 1:00-3:00pm: Drop-in Session
- 3:00-4:30pm: Presentations & Formal Meeting
- 4:30-5:00pm: Drop-in Session

You are also welcome to contact our project team via the online Contact Us form, email address below, or via phone on (03) 5826 2513.