

# Clarence Valley Solar Farm



## PROJECT INTRODUCTION & UPDATE

### INTRODUCTION

This newsletter provides a project update on the development of the proposed 85 MW Clarence Valley Solar Farm. The map shows the general location of the proposal (approximately 13 km to the northeast of Grafton and 9 km to the southwest of Lawrence). As well as solar arrays, the development also includes a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), substation and other supporting infrastructure. See our project website for detailed information about the proposal and its timelines: [www.clarencevalleysolarfarm.com.au](http://www.clarencevalleysolarfarm.com.au).

### RECENT ACTIVITIES

The project team from Infinergy Australia held two community information sessions at the Grafton library in April 2022. This was an opportunity to meet the local community, share information, and to listen to feedback about the proposal. The information that was presented can be downloaded from the project website.

A revised design, developed by our landscape architect in response to earlier feedback shared by the local community, was presented at the information sessions. The design excludes solar farm infrastructure to the south of the existing transmission lines that cross the site. The revised design significantly reduces the visibility of the solar farm in the local area.

Whilst support was widely shared for renewable energy, key concerns raised at the sessions included:

- Remaining visual impacts to near neighbours and key viewpoints
- Temporary loss of, and the return to, productive agricultural land
- Environmental impacts on Everlasting Swamp
- Suitability of the site for a Solar Farm
- Potential impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Heat island effect

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

The unusually wet summer and autumn months have delayed the start of some of the assessment work required for the project. We are hopeful that we can progress assessments over the coming months to meet planning requirements and address the concerns shared by the community.

An important component of this work will be the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). The next step in the LVIA assessment will be to undertake detailed photographic surveys from key viewpoints and neighboring dwellings in response to concerns about the potential visibility of the proposal. The detailed assessment will assist in determining the level of visual impact from surrounding public and private viewpoints. As the LVIA and other assessments are progressed, the design of the proposal will be refined and mitigation strategies to reduce potential impacts will be identified (for example planted vegetation screens to reduce the visibility of the project).

### GENERAL PROJECT LOCALITY



### ONGOING CONSULTATION

Upcoming consultation events will be advertised in local newspapers, this newsletter, on our website and directly via our email contact list.

In the meantime, if you want to speak to us directly please use the contact details below.

### HOW TO STAY UP-TO-DATE

We will circulate newsletters and detail all significant project news on the project website (see below).

If you are receiving this newsletter in the post, or via our website and would like to be added to our electronic mailing list, please email us your details.

### CONTACT THE PROJECT TEAM

#### EMAIL:

[info@infinerygpacific.com](mailto:info@infinerygpacific.com)

#### WEB:

[www.clarencevalleysolarfarm.com.au](http://www.clarencevalleysolarfarm.com.au)

## CURRENT DESIGN – JULY 2022

The figure below shows the current design for the Proposed Clarence Valley Solar Farm. This is the same design that was presented at the April Community Information Sessions with a minor revision to connection and access options between the northern and southern sites. Please note, the design will be further refined in response to the findings of the environmental assessments that will be conducted to support the development.

