



**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

**LATE ITEMS**

**3 NOVEMBER 2020**

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## LATE ITEMS

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## 1 MAYORAL MINUTES

### 1.1 SOLAR FARM POLICY

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RECORD NUMBER: 2020/2197

#### MAYORAL MINUTE

#### RECOMMENDATION

**That Orange City Council develop a Commercial Solar Farm Policy.**

Reg Kidd

**MAYOR**

#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

There is increasing pressure on Councils from Commercial Solar Farm businesses to approve Solar farms. It is critical that Council consider a number of planning policies, but it must also consider:

- Landuse conflicts
- Protecting high value Agricultural/horticultural land
- Projected urban development
- Landscape aesthetics
- Waste management of associated infrastructure (particularly the panels that have a limited commercial life)
- Blayney/Cabonne/Orange Landuse Planning document

Obviously State Government has a dominant approval say in many Commercial applications, but it is critical that Council has a say in its short, medium and long term Planning.

#### STAFF COMMENT

Electricity generating developments (including solar) are predominantly managed through the State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) SEPP 2007 which overrides local planning controls. Therefore the value or practical use of such a policy may affectively be somewhat limited. However there is no reason why further investigation into possible policies and control options could not be undertaken to at least provide some guidance for future development. The issues of consideration raised in the motion have certainly been the centre of the assessment process of a current solar farm development proposal.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil at this stage.

#### POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

A Strategic policy would be developed by staff.