ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

AGENDA

16 SEPTEMBER 2025

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 that an **ORDINARY MEETING of ORANGE CITY COUNCIL** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE on Tuesday, 16 September 2025** commencing at **6:30 PM.**

Barry Omundson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
For apologies, please contact Executive Support on 6393 8391.

AGENDA

EVACUATION PROCEDURE

In the event of an emergency, the building may be evacuated. You will be required to vacate the building by the rear entrance and gather at the breezeway between the Library and Art Gallery buildings. This is Council's designated emergency muster point.

Under no circumstances is anyone permitted to re-enter the building until the all clear has been given and the area deemed safe by authorised personnel.

In the event of an evacuation, a member of Council staff will assist any member of the public with a disability to vacate the building.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Apologies and Leave of Absence

1.2 Livestreaming and Recording

This Council Meeting is being livestreamed and recorded. By speaking at the Council Meeting you agree to being livestreamed and recorded. Please ensure that if and when you speak at this Council Meeting that you ensure you are respectful to others and use appropriate language at all times. Orange City Council accepts no liability for any defamatory or offensive remarks or gestures made during the course of this Council Meeting. A recording will be made for administrative purposes and will be available to Councillors.

1.3 Acknowledgement of Country

I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, the people of the Wiradjuri Nation. I pay my respects to Elders past and present, and extend those respects to Aboriginal Peoples of Orange and surrounds, and Aboriginal people here with us today.

1.4 Declaration of pecuniary interests, significant non-pecuniary interests and less than significant non-pecuniary interests

The provisions of Chapter 14 of the Local Government Act, 1993 (the Act) regulate the way in which Councillors and designated staff of Council conduct themselves to ensure that there is no conflict between their private interests and their public role.

The Act prescribes that where a member of Council (or a Committee of Council) has a direct or indirect financial (pecuniary) interest in a matter to be considered at a meeting of the Council (or Committee), that interest must be disclosed as soon as practicable after the start of the meeting and the reasons given for declaring such interest.

As members are aware, the provisions of the Local Government Act restrict any member who has declared a pecuniary interest in any matter from participating in the discussion or voting on that matter, and requires that member to vacate the Chamber.

Council's Code of Conduct provides that if members have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest, the nature of the conflict must be disclosed. The Code of Conduct also provides for a number of ways in which a member may manage non pecuniary conflicts of interest.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Councillors now disclose any conflicts of interest in matters under consideration by the Council at this meeting.

1.5 Opening Prayer

COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURNS FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE OPEN FORUM

COUNCIL MEETING RESUMES

2 MAYORAL MINUTES

2.1 Mayoral Minute - CNSWJO Board Meeting 31 July 2025

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/1907

MAYORAL MINUTE

Please find following, advice from the recent meeting of the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board held in Parkes on 31 July 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the Mayoral Minute on the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) Board meeting on 31 July 2025 held in Parkes.

Tony Mileto
MAYOR

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Delegates were welcomed to Parkes by Parkes Shire Council Mayor, Cr Neil Westcott. Speakers to the Board meeting were Mr Simon Bourke, General Manager – Advocacy and New Zealand Australasian Railway Association, Ms Julia Andrews – Director of Regional Government Relations, Charles Sturt University, and Ms Kate Barker – Interim Executive Officer, CNSWJO who provided a presentation on the draft Strategic Plan and Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities 2025-2029.

More detail on reports to the meeting are below where the agenda can be found on the CNSWJO website.

2.1 Mayoral Minute - CNSWJO Board Meeting 31 July 2025

Image: The CNSWJO Board and regional peak agencies at the meeting in Parkes on 31 July 2025

Advocacy

Updates on advocacy in relation to the regional prosperity, health, transport, water and energy portfolios were provided.

Mayors have advised that they would like the CNSWJO to develop a Regional Community Benefit Sharing Framework to support member councils to have informed and timely discussions with developers on renewable developments. A number of councils in the Central NSW region have been identified for future renewable energy developments including Bathurst, Lithgow, Oberon, Orange and Cabonne which have State forests earmarked for significant wind farm developments. As such, the Board approved CNSWJO to develop a regional framework.

In light of the recent postponement of the Federal Parliament visit, input was sought from the Board on alternate and additional options for engaging with Ministers.

Submissions seeking endorsement were:

- Net Zero Commission – 2025 Consultation,
- NSW Health – Draft MPS Strategy,
- AEMO – Proposed Type 9 Metering Approach Under Flexible Trading Arrangements 2025,
- IPART – Draft WAMC Pricing, and
- Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety - Inquiry into the interventions to reduce road trauma in regional NSW caused by speeding, fatigue, drink and drug driving.

Media releases issued in the past quarter were:

- Media Release – MoU with Skillset
- JONZA Round 3 funding – media release
- CNSWJO urges member councils to encourage community feedback on Transport Plan
- No relief in sight from the Federal Budget for cash strapped councils
- Federal Government's aspirations for regional communities needs to just add water
- Nuclear or not nuclear is the wrong question
- Central NSW Councils take action on disaster preparedness with $743k in funding
- Collaborating for a better workforce
- Central NSW receives Grant to support councils working together towards Net Zero

Strategic Plan and Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRP) 2025-2029 Report

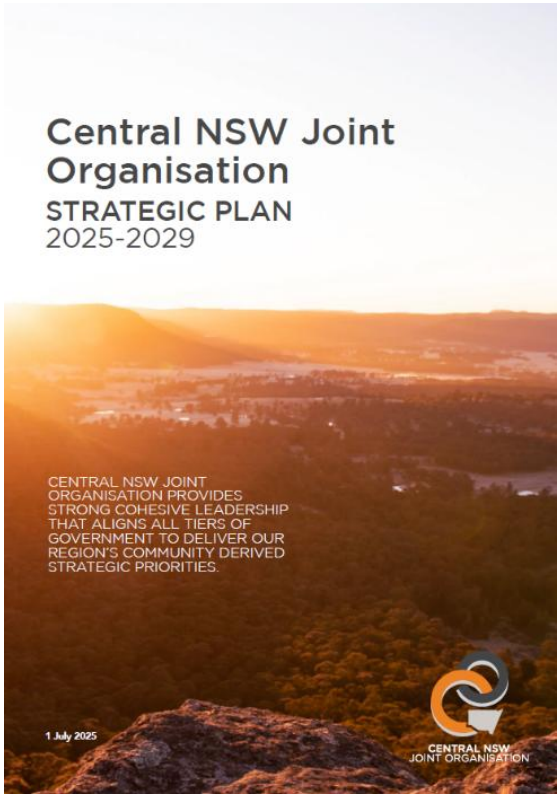
Delegates to the Board meeting were provided an update on the progress of the development of the Strategic Plan and Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRP) 2025-2029. Under the Local Government Act, Joint Organisations are required to renew their SSRP with each new term of the Board.

Over the past 10 months, the review of the Strategic Plan and SSRP has been underway with various opportunities for engagement with members and key stakeholders. This engagement has led to the refinement of the 7 key priorities of the Board, including:

2.1 Mayoral Minute - CNSWJO Board Meeting 31 July 2025

- Priority One: Leveraging our reputation and strength in collaboration
- Priority Two: Regional Prosperity through better connected infrastructure and services
- Priority Three: Improved and fit-for-purpose infrastructure and services in health and ageing
- Priority Four: Telecommunications
- Priority Five: Regional Transport Planning and Infrastructure Prioritisation
- Priority Six: Regional Water Security and Productive Water
- Priority Seven: Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

Under each of these priorities is a series of sub-priorities which then inform the Action Plan.



The Strategic Plan and SSRP are informed by the 11 member councils' Community Strategic Plans (CSPs), the Local Strategic Planning Statements (LSPSs) and the CNSWJO Social and Environmental Scan.

The Board agreed to place the Draft Strategic Plan and SSRP 2025-2029 on exhibition for 30 days. Feedback is sought until **Friday 5 September 2025**, and details can be found on the CNSWJO website.

A further requirement of the SSRP review process is to adopt an organisational structure in line with the SSRP. A report will be provided to the November meeting with organisational structure advice.

CNSWJO staff have also conducted a Community Strategic Plan Environmental Scan which pulls together the priorities from all member councils to identify commonalities and ensure all major aspects are incorporated into the SSRP.

Operational support for Councils - highlights

CNSWJO provides a substantial program of operational support to members through 18 regional operational teams of council staff. The CNSWJO continues to deliver a significant return on investment each year.

Regional Procurement and Contract Management

Delegates to the Board meeting noted the ongoing growth of the Regional Procurement and Contract Management Program with its associated cost savings to member councils. There are currently 20+ regional contracts available for use by members, with a further 10 under development. Details of the available contracts can be found here - www.centraljo.nsw.gov.au/contracts-register.

Regional Resilience Program Report

An update was provided on:

- the commencement of the Regional Resilience Group including governance arrangement,

2.1 Mayoral Minute - CNSWJO Board Meeting 31 July 2025

- an update on the Integrated Preparedness project funded through Disaster Ready Fund Round 2, and
- NSW Reconstruction Authority (NSWRA) Community Consequences of Infrastructure Assessment pilot and Regional Disaster Adaptation Plan update.

The Regional Resilience Group has been established and has met twice. It includes representatives from all 11 member councils and NSWRA and also functions as the Project Control Group for the Integrated Preparedness Project funded through the Disaster Ready Fund Round 2.

NSWRA has also advised that the DAP Guidelines have been approved by the Minister, and have been released since the meeting of the Board. It is expected that the Regional DAP development for Central West will begin later this year.

Regional Prosperity

Delegates to the Board meeting were provided an update on activity in the areas of:

- Skills shortages
- Housing shortages
- Tourism marketing
- Planning
- Collaborations with Skillset, Regional Development Australia – Central West and the Regional Australia Institute
- Future Jobs and Investment Authority.

A review of tourism marketing is underway by the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) Tourism Marketing Sub-committee and a report on this will be provided in due course.

Collaboration with Skillset

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Skillset was signed on 11 June. A follow up meeting was held between CNSWJO staff and the Executive of Skillset on 4 July to discuss opportunities to work together to grow the regions' workforce, address critical skills shortages and to support essential workers who have recently moved to the area with navigating housing, schooling and other services.

Chair of the CNSWJO and Mayor of Cabonne, Cr Kevin Beatty and the Chair of Skillset, Mr David Cooke

Transport

Updates were provided to the Board on the following:

- CNSWJO Transport Technical Committee, including the Regional Freight Strategy project plan,
- IPWEA Local Roads Congress held in early June at NSW Parliament House, and
- Master Access Deed negotiations.

The CNSWJO Transport Technical Committee (TTC) has continued to progress priority projects identified earlier this year, with the Regional Freight Strategy confirmed as the priority.

2.1 Mayoral Minute - CNSWJO Board Meeting 31 July 2025

Water

Delegates to the Board meeting were provided an update on:

- Regional Water Loss Management and Efficiency Hub Project
- University of Sydney Major Industry Project Placement Scheme
- Water Quality- Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)
- Transitioning Local Water Utility Strategic Planning to Integrated Planning and Reporting
- Regional Water Strategies – Macquarie-Castlereagh progress on actions
- 2025-2026 NSW State Budget for secure water.

Of note is the granting by NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) of an additional $400k for the CNSWJO's work in water loss management (WLM) and water efficiency. This is a variation to funding of $500k previously provided to implement the WLM program co-designed in phase 1 within member councils operations and to extend the program into the Western Councils and the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) regions. This variation extends the grant funded program until 30 June 2027. In total the region has been successful in securing $1.8M for this program since 2022.

A Regional Water Loss Management Group meets monthly to support the implementation of the Local Steps to Success and Regional Support Program recommended in the Final Report from phase 1. Supporting the embedment of WLM practices within business-as-usual operations, this group is also working on water efficiency initiatives in partnership with member councils and the DCCEEW Water Efficiency team utilising tools developed for state-wide application. The CNSWJO Water Utilities Alliance is leading the state in this work with growing interest from other Local Water Utilities in the approach being taken.

Good news for the region in the 2025-26 NSW State Budget was commitment of $27M for repair and restoration of water and sewer infrastructure for Parkes, Lachlan, Cabonne and Central Tablelands Water damaged by severe weather and flooding in 2022.

The $7.8M noted in the 2025-2026 Budget for the Belubula Water Security project is the existing funding committed for the business case due to be completed in 2026. Aside from these investments funding for water infrastructure is constrained in the state budget.

Energy

CNSWJO has been successful in receiving $243k in funding under JONZA Round 3 and an additional $200k as a variation to JONZA Round 3, funded by the NSW EPA. Both are 18-month programs until December 2026.

JONZA Round 3 will focus on:

- Distributed Energy Resources (on site solar and battery)
- Energy security, capacity and affordability
- Emissions reduction, particularly around landfill
- Fleet transition
- Data and cost savings
- Collaboration

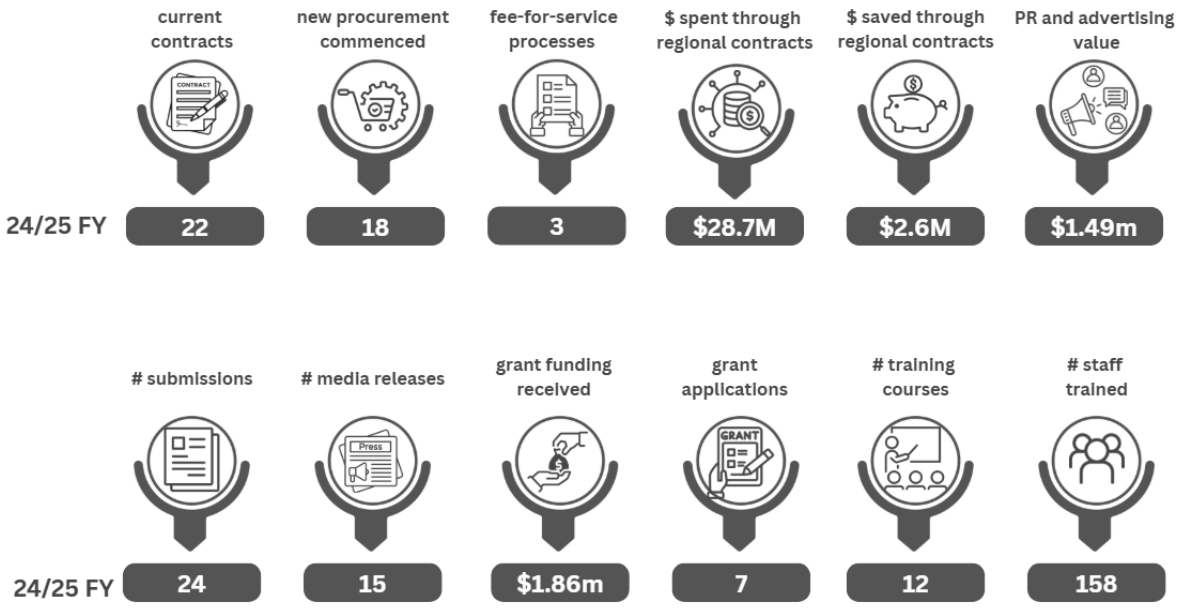
2.1 Mayoral Minute - CNSWJO Board Meeting 31 July 2025

- Advocacy

Member councils participating in the aggregated procurement process for the supply of electricity for small market sites have recently signed a 4.75 year contract with AGL. This contract was procured when there was a dip in the volatile electricity market, and sees Councils save 15.6% when compared to the alternate contract that they would have otherwise been purchasing from. This will save councils an estimated $204k in FY26.

Value to Council

Value is consistently measured and reported to the Board. The following graphic shows the value across 12 quantitative metrics:



80% of CNSWJO resources are dedicated to providing its operational support program. For the 2023/2024 year this program delivered an average return on investments of 9.3:1 for every dollar members spent on JO membership fees. The indicative ROI for 2024/2025 is 6.38:1. This value is made up of grant income, monies saved through the CNSWJO procurement program and public relations value from its tourism marketing. The main reason for the reduction in ROI from 2023/2024 to 2024/2025 is that the comparative large sites electricity contract concluded on 31 December 2024 and therefore savings for the latter 6 months of the financial year could not be calculated.

The work that CNSWJO does in writing submissions, media, supporting projects and project teams, developing collateral and providing opportunities for members in various forums to represent their views, is not included in the above ROI figure. However, this value is reported quarterly to the Board. Please go to the CNSWJO website to review past Board agendas or to review last year's Annual Statement.

ATTACHMENTS

1 Draft Minutes - CNSWJO Board Meeting 31 July 2025, D25/101915⇩

2 Quarterly Newsletter - CNSWJO - Edition 4 - August 2025, D25/96606⇩

Draft Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting on 31 July held in Parkes

Voting delegates

Cr R Taylor	Bathurst Regional Council	**Cr S Ring**	Lithgow City Council
Cr B Reynolds	Blayney Shire Council	**Cr K Graham**	Oberon Council
Cr K Beatty	Cabonne Council	**Cr T Mileto**	Orange City Council
Cr P Smith	Cowra Shire Council	**Cr Neil Westcott**	Parkes Shire Council
Cr P Miller, OAM	Forbes Shire Council	**Cr P Best**	Weddin Shire Council
Cr J Medcalf, OAM	Lachlan Shire Council		

Associate Member delegates and others attending

Mr D Sherley	Bathurst Regional Council	Cr A Rawson	Central Tablelands Water
Mr M Dicker	Blayney Shire Council	Cr B Fry	CTWA
Mr B Byrnes	Cabonne Council	Mr M Jones	CTWA
Mr P Devery	Cowra Shire Council	Ms R Fagan	RDACW
Cr Chris Roylance	Forbes Shire Council	Mr J Gordon	RDACW
Mr G Tory	Lachlan Shire Council	Ms K Annis-Brown	NSW OLG
Mr R Gurney	Lithgow City Council	Ms G Collins	NSW Premier's Dept
Mr G Wallace	Oberon Council	Ms K Barker	CNSWJO
Mr D Waddell	Orange City Council	Ms M Macpherson	CNSWJO
Mr K Boyd PSM	Parkes Shire Council	Ms J Webber	CNSWJO
Mr L Sheehan	Weddin Shire Council	Ms C Griffin	CNSWJO

*Acting General Manager
*Voting members in **bold**

1. Meeting opened at 10.00 am, Chaired by Cr K Beatty

2. **Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome to Parkes from Cr Neil Westcott**

3. **Apologies**
   Cr C Coleman, Cr A McKibbin, Mr S Loane, Mr R Jane, Mr C Harris

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 3
Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller
Seconded: Cr Steve Ring

That the apologies for the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting 31 July 2025 listed above be accepted.

CARRIED

4. **Conflicts of Interest**

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 4
Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds
Seconded: Cr Steve Ring

No conflicts of interest were declared.

CARRIED

5. Speakers
   - **Mr Simon Bourke, General Manager – Advocacy and New Zealand Australasian Railway Association**
     General overview of the ARA and strategic priorities and key activities
   - **Ms Julia Andrews, Director of Regional Government Relations**
     CSU Update and challenging disparities facing regional universities
   - **Ms Kate Barker – Interim Executive Officer, CNSWJO**
     Presentation on the draft Strategic Plan and Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities 2025-2029.
     The Board provided verbal feedback in relation to the draft SSRP.

The Board resolved to move item 8c forward.
Moved: Cr Tony Mileto
Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

8c Strategic Plan and Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRP) 2025-2029 Report

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 8c
Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller
Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Strategic Plan and Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRP) Report and

1. adopt the draft Strategic Plan and Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRP) and place on exhibition for a period of 30 days,
2. provide a copy of the draft Strategic Plan and SSRP to all Councillors and key stakeholders seeking feedback during the exhibition period,
3. note the opportunities for engagement to date and in the future in relation to the development of the SSRP,
4. adopt the CNSWJO Communications and Engagement Plan,
5. adopt the CNSWJO Community Strategic Plan (CSP) Environmental Scan,
6. receive a report to the November meeting regarding the JO organisational structure in line with the SSRP,
7. note the substantive and interim organisational structures,
8. note the review and update of the individual and regional 'Placemats' will take place over the coming months through the IP&R Group and other key stakeholders,
9. include a new action in the Action Plan within the SSRP before it is placed on exhibition for 7.2.1 c) being 'Advocate to recognise snow and drought as a primary hazard in the State Disaster Mitigation Plan (SDMP) and funding frameworks', and
10. GMAC review the risk matrix and provide a report to the next Board meeting.

CARRIED

6. Minutes

6a Confirmation of the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting dated 29 May 2025 held in Orange

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 6a
Moved: Cr John Medcalf
Seconded: Cr Steve Ring

That the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting held 29 May 2025 held in Orange were accepted.

CARRIED

6b Noting the Minutes of the CNSWJO GMAC Meeting held on 24 July 2025 in Orange

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 6b

Moved: Cr John Medcalf
Seconded: Cr Steve Ring

With the July meeting of GMAC being held on the same day that the Board agenda and business papers are due to be provided to the Board, the minutes from the July GMAC meeting will be provided to the Board for noting at the November Board meeting, along with the October GMAC meeting minutes.

CARRIED

7. Business Arising from the Minutes- Matters in Progress

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 7
Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller
Seconded: Cr Paul Best

That the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board note the Matters in Progress, making deletions as suggested.

CARRIED

Cr Miller noted that she is a Board member of LGP.

8a Financial Report

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 8a
Moved: Cr John Medcalf
Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Financial Report and updated budget for 2025/2026.

CARRIED

8b Advocacy Report

RESOLUTION 25/05 – 8b
Moved: Cr John Medcalf
Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Advocacy Report and

1. endorse the future structure of the Opt-In Advocacy Mayors Subcommittee to be:
   a. the Subcommittee remains opt-in,
   b. meetings to be informal with no formal reporting or decision making,
   c. notes will be provided rather than minutes,
   d. Mayors can raise emerging issues and provide input into the reports to the next Board meeting,
   e. the Opt-In Advocacy Mayors Subcommittee should meet once per quarter between meetings of the Board (i.e. 6 weeks either side) rather than monthly, and
   f. Chairs of Central Tablelands Water and Central Tablelands Weeds Authority be invited,
2. confirm the role of the Portfolio Mayor Groups is to support CNSWJO staff to review advocacy plans and provide ad hoc advice and guidance around submissions and other emerging issues as needed, to be reviewed once a new Executive Officer is appointed,
3. endorse Cr Tony Mileto as a Portfolio Mayor for the regional water priority,
4. provide advice on alternate and additional ways to engage with Ministers at both the State and Federal level,
5. write to Mr Phil Donato MP and Mr Roy Butler MP requesting them to host the upcoming State Parliament House visit on 13 November 2025,
6. note the final report from the Select Committee on Remote, Rural and Regional Health – The implementation of recommendations relating to cross-jurisdictional health reform and government consultation with remote, rural and regional communities and that the Portfolio

Mayors work with CNSWJO staff to update the Health Advocacy Plan to incorporate the Select Committee's relevant findings and recommendations,

7. endorse the following modifications to wording in the Water Advocacy Plan in relation to the Belubula Water Security Project:
   a. 3. A multi-source approach that considers Triple Bottom Line (TBL) principles is needed to better manage critical town water for business as usual and in an emergency. This includes: 3.1 Finalisation of the business case for the Belubula Water Security Project, including raising the Lake Rowlands Dam wall and **supported by** a 10-kilometre bi-directional pipeline between Lake Rowlands and Carcoar Dam, and
   b. Leverage the region's water security work to develop regional **town** water supply **infrastructure** in partnership with the NSW and Federal Governments,
8. approve the development of a Regional Community Benefit Sharing Framework for member councils, including leveraging the JO Chairs' Forum where possible for this work,
9. endorse the following submissions:
   a. Net Zero Commission – 2025 Consultation,
   b. NSW Health – Draft MPS Strategy,
   c. AEMO – Proposed Type 9 Metering Approach Under Flexible Trading Arrangements 2025,
   d. IPART – Draft WAMC Pricing, and
   e. Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety - Inquiry into the interventions to reduce road trauma in regional NSW caused by speeding, fatigue, drink and drug driving.

CARRIED

8d Procurement Report

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 8d
Moved: Cr Paul Best
Seconded: Cr Phyllis Miller

That the Board note the Regional Procurement and Contracts Report and
1. approve the updates to the procurement plan, and
2. approve the Modern Slavery Annual Report for the CNSWJO.

CARRIED

8e Regional Resilience Program Report

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 8e
Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds
Seconded: Cr Tony Mileto

That the Board note the Regional Resilience Program Report and
1. endorse the Regional Resilience Group Terms of Reference and Plan on a Page, and
2. include risk #62 into the risk management plan: third-party handling of sensitive infrastructure data in externally led projects.

CARRIED

8f Regional Prosperity Report

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 8f
Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds
Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Regional Prosperity Report and that a report will be provided on tourism marketing to GMAC and the Board in due course.

CARRIED

8g Regional Transport Report

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 8g
Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller
Seconded: Cr Paul Smith

That the Board note the Regional Transport Report and endorse the Regional Freight Strategy Project Plan.

CARRIED

8h Regional Water Report

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 8h
Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller
Seconded: Cr Paul Smith

That the Board note the Regional Water Report and

1. note that NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment-Water has granted $400K (ex GST) for a variation to phase two of the Regional Water Loss Management and Water Efficiency Hub project; and
2. note the agreement executed with the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation for the rollout of the Regional Water Loss Management and Water Efficiency Hub project in their region in line with the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment-Water approved project plan.

CARRIED

8i Regional Energy Report

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 8i
Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds
Seconded: Cr John Medcalf

That the Board note the Regional Energy Report and

1. endorse the JONZA Round 2 End of Term Report,
2. note the successful JONZA Round 3 application, providing $253k over an 18-month program to December 2026 funded through the NSW DCCEEW,
3. note the successful JONZA Round 3 variation application, providing $200k over an 18-month program to December 2026 to provide landfill emissions abatement support to member councils and the JONZA network broadly, funded through the EPA,
4. note the 15.6% savings on energy prices achieved through the aggregated electricity procurement process, equating to approx. $204k for FY26 across member councils,
5. note the average increase of 6.97% on Essential Energy's network charges across member councils based on FY25 consumption, equating to an estimated additional cost of $415k in FY26, and
6. endorse a regional application under the DCCEEW Grid Enhancing Technologies grant.

CARRIED

8k Quarterly Review of the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priority 2022-2025

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 8k
Moved: Cr Robert Taylor
Seconded: Cr Steve Ring

That the Board note the Quarterly Review of the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priority 2022-2025.

CARRIED

9a RDA Central West Update

The Board noted the RDA Central West Update Report.

9b NSW Premier's Department Update

The Board noted the NSW Premier's Department Update Report.

9c OLG Update Report

The Board noted the OLG Update Report.

10 Resolve into Confidential Committee of the Whole

RESOLUTION 25/05 – 10
Moved: Cr John Medcalf
Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board

1. resolve into closed session to consider business identified,
2. pursuant to section 10A (2)(f) of the Local Government Act 1993, the media and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is classified confidential under the provisions of section 10A (2)(f) as outlined above, and
3. correspondence and reports relevant to the subject business be withheld from access.

CARRIED

10a Regional Cyber Security Program Report- Confidential

RESOLUTION 25/05 – 10a
Moved: Cr Steve Ring
Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Regional Cyber Security Program Report and:

1. note that a presentation on the regional cyber security strategy and implementation of the regional cyber security program will be delivered by the regional CISO at the July GMAC, and
2. that the Board will receive a presentation from the Regional CISO on the regional cyber security program, including brief cyber security training, at the November Board meeting.

CARRIED

11. Late Reports

Nil.

12. General Business

- **Lithgow –** sought advice from members as to whether there is interest in lodging a joint motion to the LGNSW annual conference regarding extending the timeframe for consultation on Environmental Impact Statements. Anyone interested is suggested to contact Cr Steve Ring.
- **Weddin –** sought support from the Board in writing to The Hon Dr Jim Chalmers in relation to bank closures, noting that smaller banks are closing in addition to the larger ones.
- Cr Reynolds raised a matter arising from the decision in relation to the ARIC as reported in the Finance Report to the May Board meeting. Ms Kate Barker advised that there is a meeting on 6 August in Sydney with Hunter JO to discuss the next steps in the shared ARIC arrangement and once more details are known, a report would be provided to the Board.
- The Chair thanked Mr David Waddell and Mr Greg Tory for their input and wished them well into the future.

13. Speakers to the next meeting

Future meetings

- Ms Kate Lorimer Ward – Local Land Services
- Mr Ian Smith – NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Mr Ashley Albury- EnergyCo
- Ms Kristanne Anderson – NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water re regional water strategies
- Ms Kate McMullen – Homes NSW
- Western Region Academy of Sport (WRAS)
- Biosecurity Commissioner
- Regional Australia Institute

14. Dates for the next meeting

- GMAC - 30 October 2025 in Orange
- Board – 12 + 13 November in Sydney- visit to State Parliament

Meeting closed at 1.07 pm

Page 7 is the last page of the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting minutes of meeting of 31 July 2025 held in Parkes.

CNSWJO Board - photo taken in Parkes on 31 July 2025

CENTRAL NSW JOINT ORGANISATION

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

EDITION 4, AUGUST 2025

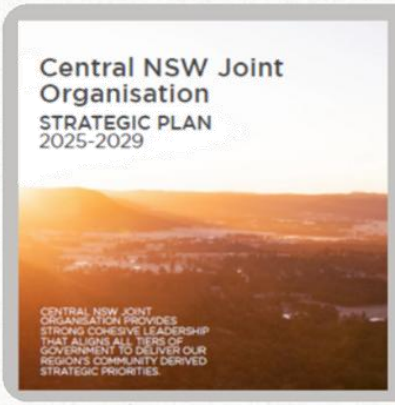
The CNSWJO has been working with the Board, General Managers, state agency partners and other key stakeholders over the past 10 months to refine the JO's Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRP). Much like Councils are required to have a Community Strategic Plan, JOs are required to develop an SSRP to align with each 4 year term of Council.

The 7 key priorities agreed in the draft plan are found on the following page. To view the full version of the Strategic Plan and SSRP, please head to www.centraljo.nsw.gov.au/publications

Welcome Kayla!

Kayla is our Project Officer - Landfill Emissions, a role linked to the EPA-funded Landfill Emissions Abatement Knowledge Sharing (LEAKS) Program. The Program seeks to equip local councils and landfill operators across regional NSW with the knowledge and tools to reduce landfill gas emissions.

Kayla has a varied background in town planning, housing policy, local government, and waste education.



We want to hear from you!

We are currently seeking feedback on our Strategic Plan and Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities for 2025-2029.

To view the Plan, please visit the CNSWJO website www.centraljo.nsw.gov.au and click on 'News and Publications'.

Feedback is to be emailed to kate.barker@centraljo.nsw.gov.au by no later than Friday 5 September 2025.

Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities

Our key strategic initiatives

1 Priority One: Leveraging our reputation and strength in collaboration	1.1 Drive efficiencies and effectiveness saving councils money in the context of enduring council financial sustainability
	1.2 Build capacity and networks across our councils and the Joint Organisation network
	1.3 Work with local government and regional peak agencies
	1.4 Engage with State and Federal Governments to get better advocacy outcomes for the region
2 Priority Two: Regional Prosperity through better connected infrastructure and services	2.1 Progress initiatives for sustainable population growth in the context of locational preference factors
	2.2 Optimise land use and regional development planning and implementation
	2.3 Advocate for and progress initiatives on skills shortages
	2.4 Advocate for and seek housing initiatives that support economic growth, social inclusion, affordability and resilience
	2.5 Prioritise infrastructure through the CNSWJO Matrix
	2.6 Leverage the region's endowments and opportunities
	2.6.1 Activation precincts including Parkes SAP
	2.6.2 Pattern of settlement, liveability, proximity to capital cities and ports – this region is a solution for growth outside Sydney
	2.6.3 Agriculture focussing on value-add
	2.6.4 Renewable energy generation with community benefit-sharing to manage cumulative infrastructure impacts
	2.6.5 Mining
	2.6.6 Visitor economy
	2.7 Advocate on biosecurity issues as requested
3 Priority Three: Improved and fit-for-purpose infrastructure and services in health and ageing	3.1 Address the need for more palliative care in the region
	3.2 Address the mental health challenge
	3.3 Identify pathways through the challenging health frameworks to deliver better outcomes for regional communities
4 Priority Four: Telecommunications	4.1 Work with RDA to improve telecommunications in the region
5 Priority Five: Regional Transport Planning and Infrastructure Prioritisation	5.1 Progress multi-modal transport connectivity planning and implementation including road, rail and air solutions for passengers and freight
	5.2 Seek optimal road funding framework including for natural disasters
	5.3 Support the provision of high quality, efficient and safer road and rail networks
6 Priority Six: Regional Water Security and Productive Water	6.1 Support initiatives in regional water network planning and best practice skills development
	6.2 Progress the work on productive water
	6.3 Leverage the region's leadership in water utilities
	6.4 Advocate for town water for critical human need and productive use in all frameworks
7 Priority Seven: Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation	7.1 Transition to a sustainable, secure, just and affordable energy future
	7.1.1 Energy efficiency and emissions reduction
	7.1.2 Energy security and capacity, including Distributed Energy Resources
	7.1.3 Circular economy and waste
	7.1.4 Environment and biodiversity
	7.2 Adapting to a changing climate
	7.2.1 Disaster risk reduction, response and recovery
	7.2.2 Betterment and prioritisation of infrastructure to improve resilience
	7.2.3 Leading practice in region and across NSW

JOINT ORGANISATION CHAIRS' FORUM

The JO Chairs' Forum is held on a quarterly basis with the most recent meeting on 7 August at NSW Parliament House. This meeting is attended by the JO Chair (Cr Kevin Beatty as the Chair of CNSWJO) and the Executive Officer from each Joint Organisation.

Key items on the Forum's agenda for the recent meeting included:

- Potential for a state-wide coordinated policy development and advocacy around community benefit-sharing for large-scale energy developments
- Progress of the Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration Program
- Regional Disaster Adaptation Planning initiatives being rolled out by JO's through the Australian and NSW Government's Disaster Ready Fund
- Advocacy updates from Local Government NSW, the Australian Local Government Association and Country Mayors Association.

State-wide collaboration with our JO partners strengthens our collective priorities and boosts our ability to engage effectively with the NSW Government.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT - EVACUATION CENTRE ASSESSMENTS

CNSWJO has engaged C2 Operations to assess evacuation centres across the region, undertaking 34 on-site assessments and 17 desktop assessments.

The project aims to identify what is needed to make these centres better prepared for increasingly frequent and intense disasters, including planning for self-sufficiency in energy, water, communications, and other essential amenities.

Each LGA will receive an individual report, along with a regional report to guide future planning and position councils to be grant-ready for funding applications to implement infrastructure recommendations. The project is scheduled for completion by the beginning of October.

This project has received funding from the Australian Government under the Disaster Ready Fund.

Shane Fitzsimmons, former head of Resilience NSW and Commissioner of the NSW Rural Fire Service, is subcontracted to C2 Operations and has visited parts of the region to participate in on-site assessments.

Highlights from the last quarter

As per the Office of the NSW Anti-slavery Commissioners Guidance on Reasonable Steps (GRS), councils have a critical role in reporting on modern slavery due to the unique position they hold within communities and their influence over procurement and service delivery.

Templates are provided to member councils to support their reporting obligations.

Twenty water operators across the region have enrolled into the Cert III Water Industry Operations under Smart & Skilled funding.

Training for this qualification is expected to commence in September/October 2025.

The CNSWJO has recently been awarded another round of funding under the Joint Organisation Net Zero Accelerator (JONZA) Program. This third round will be an 18-month program, which will focus on:

- distributed energy resources
- energy security, capacity and afforability
- progressing the regional emissions reduction plan, particularly around landfill emissions
- progressing the fleet transition strategy
- supporting councils with improving data
- nurturing collaborations
- advocacy
- applying for grants and awards

The 2025 University of Sydney Major Industry Project Placement Scheme (MIPPS) student is currently finalising his thesis which seeks to address concerns identified by the region that the value of town water and its productive use is undervalued in strategic water planning frameworks, including the Murray Darling Basin Plan.

A report detailing the findings from this analysis, including recommendations for next steps, will be provided to the November Board meeting.

Opportunities for a 2026 project to continue the valuable partnership with the University of Sydney, are being canvassed with the Water Utilities Alliance.

CNSWJO has recently been awarded a grant from the EPA to support councils to build their capacity in understanding landfill emissions abatement opportunities.

This is an exciting new partnership and will provide learnings beyond the CNSWJO boundary

The Regional Cyber Security Program is now fully operational and entering its third quarter of delivery. Following the appointment of the regional CISO in February 2025, the Program has delivered structured uplift across member councils through coordinated governance, cyber maturity assessments, incident response, cost savings and shared resource development.

Member councils participating in the aggregated procurement process for the supply of electricity for small market sites have recently signed a 4.75 year contract with AGL. This contract was procured when there was a dip in the volatile electricity market, and sees Councils save 15.6% on energy rates when compared to the alternate contract that they would have otherwise been purchasing from. This will save Councils an estimated $204k in FY26.

The Regional Resilience Group has been established and has met twice. It includes representatives from all eleven member councils and NSWRA and also functions as the Project Control Group for the Integrated Preparedness Project funded through the Disaster Ready Fund Round 2.

The Transport Technical Committee has continued to progress priority projects identified earlier this year, with the Regional Freight Strategy confirmed as the priority. The project plan, now endorsed by the TTC, outlines key focus areas and deliverables and will be provided to the Board in July for endorsement.

The Regional Water Loss Management (WLM) Group meets monthly to support the implementation of the Local Steps to Success and Regional Support Program activities outlined in the WLM final report.

As the group progresses through the Knowledge Hub, finalising installations from phase one and discussing additional work in water efficiency, they are building on the steps initiated during phase one and working towards embedding WLM into business as usual.

Congratulations to the 19 staff from 4 councils who have completed the 'Use Firearms Humanely to Destroy Animals' training course. The training incorporates both theoretical and practical elements which are designed to produce a well-rounded, balanced and safe operator.

Tourism and marketing highlights

Did you know that the CNSWJO supports member councils with destination marketing?

From July 2024 to June 2025 the destination public relations (PR) achieved an advertising value of over **$373k** and a PR editorial value of **$1.12m**.

The return on investment (ROI) for members for the tourism program is outstanding. For every $1 invested in the program through tourism program membership fees in 2023/24, $16 was returned in value, and in 2024/25, $12 was returned in value.

The annual PR report for 2024-2025 is available here.

This campaign saw:

- over 153 articles published in a variety of media including print newspapers, magazines, digital, blogs, TV and radio,
- a media release program featuring 10 stories with pre-prepared content on Central NSW news and travel ideas,
- media visits hosted on 2-4 day familiarisations in Central NSW featuring a variety of accommodation, tours and attractions, and
- organised media partnerships with Caravan World and Explore Travel in Australian Community Media featuring Bathurst, Cowra, Weddin and Forbes.

A few recent examples include:

The "**Hit the road to Amazing Forbes**" a full page combined sponsored content and advertisement on Forbes includes its major attractions Gum Swamp, Sculpture down the Lachlan, the historic town centre and buildings, the food trail, where to stay, and events such as Frost and Fire and Grazing down the Lachlan in September.

The reach for this promotion was 311,398 people duplicated in the Explore lift out inserted into 14+ newspapers in NSW i.e. Illawarra Mercury, Western Advocate, Central Western Daily, Newcastle Herald and more.

The "**Winter Wanders**" feature on 50 enticing winter holiday options in Australia features Bathurst and Wilga Station with a hero image of the accommodation and Bathurst country landscape, and Orange Region for its wineries, retail therapy, boutiques and Sona accommodation in the village of Molong.

MOU WITH SKILLSET

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Skillset was signed on 11 June. Both organisations will collaboratively discuss opportunities to work together to grow the regions' workforce, address critical skills shortages and to support essential workers who have recently moved to the area with navigating housing, schooling and other services.

Chair of the CNSWJO and Mayor of Cabonne, Cr Kevin Beatty and the Chair of Skillset, Mr David Cooke

WATER QUALITY WORKSHOP

Water quality staff and operators from Bathurst, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Lachlan, Orange, Parkes and Weddin Councils met on 31 July 2025 in Orange.

While operators were making the most of a sunny day touring Orange's water and sewer sites, water quality staff attended a workshop aimed at addressing opportunities for improvement from recent Drinking Water Management Systems Readiness Reviews undertaken across the region.

A big thank you to Orange City Council staff who supported the organisation and facilitation of this event and to all attendees for making the time to travel and attend the workshop.

CYBER CENTRAL - BYTE SIZE

A message from the regional Chief Information Security Officer (CISO):

One of the core algorithms powering today's AI was first described in a 1970 master's thesis. Back then, computers lacked the power to make it useful. Today, with modern computing and data, that maths underpins tools that draft reports, analyse plans, and answers complex questions in seconds.

For councils, that opens exciting possibilities. Imagine AI which triages development applications, predicts road maintenance needs, optimises waste collection and traffic signals, or answers ratepayer questions around the clock while staff focus on higher value work. But the same technology can also propagate errors at scale, introduce bias, erode critical thinking, or even propel threat actors with phishing and deepfakes, leak secrets to nation states or sensitive information into training sets.

That's why we've piloted an AI governance framework at Parkes to be rolled out regionally. Defining approved and prohibited uses, setting data protection standards, and training staff to question and own AI outputs. Our goal is to unlock smarter services and stronger trust, leading the next chapter of council innovation rather than following it.

OUR REGION

CENTRAL NSW JOINT ORGANISATION

Central NSW Joint Organisation provides strong cohesive leadership that aligns all tiers of government to deliver our region's community derived strategic priorities.

Read more about Joint Organisations here

YOUR REGIONAL GROUPS AND TEAMS

Ably led by General Managers' Advisory Committee (GMAC), value is delivered primarily by the various operational teams across the region. These include:

- General Managers' Advisory Committee
- Water Utilities' Alliance
- Transport Technical Committee
- Tourism Managers' Group
- Planners' Group
- Human Resources Managers' Group
- WHS/Risk Management Group
- Training, Learning and Development Group
- Net Zero Group
- Regional IT Group
- Building Surveyor/Skills Shortages Group
- Building Surveyors Networking Group
- Fleet Managers Group
- IP&R Group
- Regional Resilience Group
- Regional Procurement Working Group
- Water Loss Management Group
- Information Security Steering Committee

ADVOCACY

Looking for recent submissions from the JO? Please go to www.centraljo.nsw.gov.au/submissions

There has been a significant amount of submission work being undertaken by the CNSWJO team in energy, regional development, transport and water.

Please feel welcome to ask for support for submissions if Council has directed you to respond.

PROCUREMENT

Did you know that CNSWJO facilitates many regional contracts for member councils, such as bulk fuel, bitumen, linemarking, pipe relining, dam surveillance, electricity, Employee Assistance Program, and so many more. Go to the CNSWJO website to find out more.

If you know of a procurement activity that would benefit from a regional approach, please reach out to the team!

In 2024/2025, CNSWJO regional contracts saved member councils over $2.5m!

If you'd like to know more about anything in this newsletter, please reach out to the relevant program manager or email admin@centraljo.nsw.gov.au
www.centraljo.nsw.gov.au

2.2 Mayoral Minute - Country Mayors Association Meeting 8 August 2025

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/1914

MAYORAL MINUTE

The Chief Executive Officer, Barry Omundson and I attended the Country Mayor's Association (CMA) Meeting at Sydney Parliament House on 8 August 2025. I provide the attached Minutes of that meeting for Council's information.

I have also attached correspondence from the Hon Penny Sharp MLC responding to the Chair of the CMA in regard to a recent workshop held by the Association at NSW Parliament on the issues of biodiversity offsets and waste and how the State Government is dealing with these matters in regional areas.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information contained in this Mayoral Minute be acknowledged.

Tony Mileto
MAYOR

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Attached for Council's information are the Minutes of the CMA meeting of 8 August 2025 and correspondence to the CMA from the Hon Penny Sharpe MLC.

ATTACHMENTS

1 CMA Minutes 8 August 2025, D25/103038⇩
2 Correspondence from the Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, D25/105320⇩

The Country Mayors Association of NEW SOUTH WALES Inc

Chairman: Mayor Rick Firman OAM
C/- Temora Shire Council,
PO Box 262, Temora NSW 2666
Contact: 0429 204 060
Email: admin@nswcountrymayors.com.au
ABN: 92 803 490 533

MINUTES

A General Meeting of the Country Mayors Association of NSW Inc, was held on **Friday 8 August 2025,** in the Theatrette, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, SYDNEY commencing from 8:20am.
THEME: Crime, Law and Order

A warm welcome from CMA Chairman and Temora Shire Mayor Rick Firman OAM;

- **Mayor Firman reflected on an exclusive workshop with NSW Environment Minister the Hon Penny Sharpe MP and her advisors, plus over 100 CMA members took place in the Theatrette NSW Parliament House, 2-5pm Thursday 7 August, 2025**. The topics of Biodiversity Conservation Offsets and Waste were broken up by a CMA catered afternoon tea, which was much needed, due to the intensity of the workshop. Biodiversity offsets as barriers to housing developments and FOGO costs were key concerns discussed. Mayor Firman thanked Deputy Chairman (Mayor Russell Fitzpatrick – Bega Valley Shire) for serving as MC for the session.

- **Mayor Firman reflected on the evening of Thursday 7 August 2025, a dinner with Former PM, the Hon Tony Abbott AC which saw 85 Board, Members and MPs enjoy a first-class venue, cuisine, service and camaraderie.** The CMA catered a special dessert and shouted a drink. Mr Abbott donated his time for the CMA and it was a topical, engaging talk, warmly received by those in attendance.

1. Presentation – NSW Police Minister, the Hon. Mrs Yasmin Catley MP

- Reducing Community Crime is about partnership - State and Local Government working together in partnership with First Nations people and the broader community to improve safety in the community and address local challenges.
- The best way to reduce crime is to make sure it is not committed in the first place
- There has been a Youth Command developed - they work with PCYC to support young people.
- The Community Safety Report will be addressed by November 2025.
- 'Operation Soteria' is making significant impacts to date. This strategic initiative by NSW Police focusing on aggravated break, enter and steal offences, stealing motor vehicles and 'post and boast' offences where social media has been used to gain notoriety. It also involves a focus on improving police response to victims of sexual assault.
- Positive results so far - 189 charged and 137 of those charged were juveniles.

- There is an emphasis on diversion to keep young people out of the justice system - Youth Engagement Officers work in this space - hold Youth Action Meetings in key locations.
- The Minister said she is aware that they need more officers on the ground - Recruitment strategy has been successful with 4600 recruit applications over last 18months. Improved workforce benefits include a once in a generation pay rise, and the move to flexible working hours (FTE model) and opportunity to job share.
- New Initiative "Be a cop in your hometown' is seeing positive results
- Members questions, brought up changes in Bail legislation, AV bail hearings seem to be missing the regional context, and additional police needed in holiday hot spots.

A token of appreciation was presented to Minister Catley MP by Mayor Firman.

2. **Presentation – Acting Deputy Commissioner Brett Greentree, acting as Deputy Commissioner - NSWPF Regional NSW Field Operations.**

- The 'perception' of crime, is sometimes as difficult to address as the actual crime.
- Sees Community safety as a joint venture - everyone knows who the criminals are in regional areas.
- Operation Soteria - is working across North and Western NSW.
    - So far they have addressed 340 break and enters
    - 137 juveniles were charged with 34% of them already charged or on bail at the time.
    - 'Boast and Post' - 92 have been charged
- Trends in regional crime - Robbery is down by 8%, Steal from Motor vehicle down 11%, Break and enter is down 4%, Sexual assault and drug related crime is stable, with increase in MV theft up 3.3%, DV related crime up 4%, breach of bail up 12.3% (result of targeted operations).
- Thanked Local Government for the work that they do in the Emergency management space in partnership.
- Re: Crime perception - it is important to communicate with community to instil confidence - there is a big role for the media - everyone needs to spread the good word and highly publicise positive outcomes.
- Members noted concerns about little to no police presence in some regional areas. Advised to report into the district office - more reports highlight the need and allows them to access other resources to ensure that coverage will come from other areas.
- Hoping that the 'Doli Incapax' review will bring about change and some tangible outcomes

A token of appreciation was presented to Acting Deputy Commissioner Brett Greentree by Mayor Firman.

3. **Presentation – Chief Magistrate of NSW, His Honour Judge Michael Allen**

- A compelling presentation allowing a glimpse into the career and work of the Chief magistrate of NSW, who has an extensive background living and working in regional NSW.
- He stated that NSW is unique - we have an independent judiciary which makes us very lucky.
- Expressed the fact that the Courts do not make the Law, that Parliament makes the Law and the Courts enforce the Laws.
- Local Court has 48 magistrates servicing 109 courts across NSW - Country service policy to be implemented - no more FIFO - suggested that magistrates need to have a min. 2 years in the bush to urge that they feel and understand these communities.

- Dealing with 45000 bail applications annually.
- DV is the scourge of the nation that needs to be dealt with - there are 80000 matters annually. The voice that HASNT been heard is that of the complainant/ victim. There is a pilot program
- Bail is a concern for a lot of people - Magistrates don't make decisions up - they rely on information from Police. If there is concern that a mistake has been made - there is an inbuilt appeal system available. Less than 0.5% are appealed by the Police.

A token of appreciation was presented to Chief Magistrate of NSW, His Honour Judge Michael Allen by Mayor Sharon Cadwallader.

4. **Acknowledgements by Mayor Rick Firman OAM, CMA NSW Chairman**

- Acknowledgement and Congratulations to Mayor Abb McAlister and his team for the successful de-merger announcement. Mayor McAlister thanked all Mayors in CMA for their support over this time.
- The CMA Chairman (Mayor Firman) acknowledged Mr. George Cowan, General Manager Leeton Shire Council for 50 years of service to Local Government. Mr. Cowan will retire in September 2025.

5. **Excelling CMA Members Segment – Crime, Law and Order Theme**

Mr Nick Mamouzelos, Warrumbungle Shire Council Investigator
Detailed presentation on the recent investigation into Illegal Tobacco trade in Warrumbungle Shire, something that is affecting most LGAs.

Mr Greg McDonald, General Manager – Upper Hunter Shire Council
Excellent initiative being delivered to new young drivers involving police, emergency services, heavy vehicle providers and numerous support services to provide a practical educational opportunity for new drivers to understand the reality of being on the road and the brutal reality of accidents and why they can occur.

A token of appreciation was presented to Mr Mamouzelos and Mr McDonald by Mayor Josh Black.

Morning Tea was attended by a broad cross-section of Parliamentarians, from Government, Opposition (including Leader, the Hon Mark Speakman MP), Greens and Independents.

6. **Presentation - The Hon. Paul Toole MP - NSW Shadow Police Minister**

- Stated there are less Police 'boots on the ground' from when they were in Government
- 86% of stations are closed at nighttime, and some haven't opened in 12 months.
- Stated that there is a reduction in attested classes - dropped from 5 to 4.
- Re the parliamentary enquiry for youth crime - there has been an interim report provided with 19 recommendations - this has been driven by the CMA.
- Where has the funding gone to support Youth programs? E.g. Regional Youth Funding, SCCF
- Bail Laws are being debated in Parliament this week - Many police are frustrated
- Looking to introduce a Bill for 14-18 year olds
    - They want to introduce a curfew
    - Electronic Monitoring
    - Introduce Victim impact statements

A token of appreciation was presented to Shadow Police Minister the Hon Paul Toole MP by Mayor Sue Moore.

7. **Presentation -The Hon. Daniel Mookhey MLC – NSW Treasurer**

- Re: Disaster Affected Communities - issues with under insurance / no insurance. Natural Disaster funding is driving up premiums.
- Treasurer will seek input / feedback from councils to find a better way to fund emergency services.
- The Treasurer has met with Auditor General about the Red Fleet - he will have a position soon and advised that there will be cause for optimism for the CMA members.
- Workers Compensation - the scheme is NOT sustainable. There will be a minimum 36% increase in premiums in the absence of a reform.
- Members asked questions about:
    - Equitable remuneration for Councillors,
    - The need for NSW Government to support the restoration of FAGS to 1% of GDP from Federal Government,
    - The Southern NSW drought - desperate need for reclassification of drought as disaster - immediate need for freight and fodder assistance - it has been stated by Regional agriculture professionals that this is the worst drought ever experienced.
    - Councils dealing with an extraordinary amount of renewable energy impacts (in a non-REZ zone) What can be done to support councils with dealing with this?
    - What is the appetite of the Government for a combined Emergency Services sector - bringing all under one Department?
- The Treasurer advised that he was the current Chair of the Board of Treasurer's, who are meeting this week.
- GST - needs change, NSW is being short changed, in a significant way

A token of appreciation was presented to Treasurer Mookhey MLC by Mayor Phyllis Miller.

8. **Mr. Barry Irvin AM - Chairman of Bega Cheese**

Presentation about the growth and development of Bega Cheese Company - and their ability to 'buy back' some Aussie brands e.g. Vegemite, Dare Iced Coffee, Farners Union Yoghurt
Their involvement in a significant whole of Community approach to developing a full Circular Economy in Bega Valley.

The Bega Circular Valley video:
Australia's National Centre for Circular Discovery - Bega Circular Valley

And the website: Home - Bega Circular Valley

A token of appreciation was presented to Mr Irvin by Deputy CMA Chairman Mayor Russell Fitzpatrick.

General Business;

9. Attendance

Cr. Claire Pontin	Mayor	MidCoast Council
Cr. R Firman OAM	CMA Chairman / Mayor	Temora Shire Council
Melissa Boxall	CMA Secretary / GM	Temora Shire Council
Cr. Greg Whiteley	Mayor	Warren Shire Council
Gary Woodman	GM	Warren Shire Council
Cr. Kevin Beatty	Mayor	Cabonne Shire Council
Brad Byrnes	GM	Cabonne Shire Council
Cr. Kinne Ring	Mayor	Kempsey Shire Council
Andrew Meddle	CEO	Kempsey Shire Council
John Scarce	GM	Murrumbidgee Council
Cr R McRae OAM	Mayor	Murrumbidgee Council
Cr. Susannah Pearse	Mayor	Moree Plains Shire Council
Natalia Cowley	GM	Moree Plains Shire Council
Cr. Bronwyn Petrie	Mayor	Tenterfield Shire Council
Cr. Sharon Cadwallader	Mayor	Ballina Shire Council
Cr. Margot Davis	Mayor	Glen Innes Severn Council
Bernard Smith	GM	Glen Innes Severn Council
Cr. Colleen Fuller	Mayor	Gunnedah Shire Council
Eric Groth	GM	Gunnedah Shire Council
Cr. Sarah Ndiaye	Mayor	Byron Shire Council
Mark Arnold	GM	Byron Shire Council
Cr. Daniel Linklater	Mayor	Wentworth Shire Council
Ken Ross	GM	Wentworth Shire Council
Cr. John Harvie	Mayor	Murray River Council
Stacy Williams	CEO	Murray River Council
Cr. Kenrick Winchester	Mayor	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
Ruth Ormella	Acting GM	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
Cr. Steve Krieg	Mayor	Lismore City Council
Eber Butron	Acting GM	Lismore City Council
Cr. Bruce Reynolds	Mayor	Blayney Shire Council
Mark Dicker	GM	Blayney Shire Council
Toni Averay	GM	Uralla Shire Council
Kathryn Rindfleish	Mayor	Warrumbungle Shire Council
Lindsay Mason	GM	Warrumbungle Shire Council
Cr. Brian Ingram	Mayor	Hilltops Council
Anthony O'Reilly	GM	Hilltops Council
Cr. Sally Davis	Deputy Mayor	Bourke Shire Council
Leonie Brown	GM	Bourke Shire Council
Cr. Ewen Jones	Mayor	Narromine Shire Council
Jane Redden	GM	Narromine Shire Council
Phil Johnston	Director Community and Economic Development	Narromine Shire Council
Cr. Craig Davies	Councillor	Narromine Shire Council
Cr. Nikki Williams	Mayor	Coffs Harbour City Council

Cr. John Burley	Deputy Mayor	Kyogle Council
Cr. Danielle Mulholland	Mayor	Kyogle Council
Cr. Josh Black	Mayor	Dubbo Regional Council
Laura Black	GM	Clarence Valley Council
Cr. Ray Smith	Mayor	Clarence Valley Council
Cr. Tiffany Galvin	Mayor	Gwydir Shire Council
Leeah Daley	Acting GM	Gwydir Shire Council
Cr. Patricia White	Mayor	Shoalhaven City Council
Cr. Andrew McKibbin	Mayor	Oberon Council
Gary Wallace	GM	Oberon Council
Paul Bennett	GM	Tamworth Regional Council
Cr. Kevin Mack	Mayor	Albury City Council
Cr. Doug Batten	Mayor	Gilgandra Shire Council
David Neeves	GM	Gilgandra Shire Council
Cr. Ash Walker	Deputy Mayor	Gilgandra Shire Council
Adam Shultz	Mayor	Lake Macquarie City Council
Lisa Miscamble	Mayor	Wingecarribee Shire Council
Cr. Jesse Fitzpatrick	Mayor	Wingecarribee Shire Council
Greg Tory	GM	Lachlan Shire Council
Cr. Maurice Collison	Mayor	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Greg McDonald	GM	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Cr. D McCann OAM	Mayor	Coolamon Shire Council
T Donoghue PSM	GM	Coolamon Shire Council
Cr. James Angel	Acting Mayor	Nambucca Valley Council
Bede Spannagle	GM	Nambucca Valley Council
Cr. Nina Dillon	Mayor	Goulburn Mulwaree Council
Marina Hollands	Acting Chief Executive Officer	Goulburn Mulwaree Council
Cr. Michael Kidd	Deputy Mayor	Leeton Shire Council
Megan Mulrooney	CEO	REROC
Shaun Elwood	Director of People and Places	Lithgow City Council
Cr. Cassandra Coleman	Mayor	Lithgow City Council
Paul Smith	Mayor	Cowra Council
Paul Devery	GM	Cowra Council
Cr. Kellie Crossley	Acting Mayor	Edward River Council
Jack Bond	CEO	Edward River Council
Cr. Neil Westcott	Mayor	Parkes Shire Council
Cr. Abb McAlister	Mayor	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council
Roger Bailey	Interim GM	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council
Cr. Sue Moore	Mayor	Singleton Council
Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr	GM	Singleton Council
Cr. Tony Mileto	Mayor	Orange City Council
Barry Omundson	Interim CEO	Orange City Council
Cr. Jasmine Jones	Mayor	Yass Valley Council
Gayleen Burley	CEO	Yass Valley Council
Cr. Glen Neill	Mayor	Bogan Shire Council
Derek Francis	GM	Bogan Shire Council

Cr. Ken Cudmore	Mayor	Liverpool Plains Shire Council
Cian Middleton	GM	Liverpool Plains Shire Council
Cr. Eric Noakes	Mayor	Walcha Council
Cr. Tommy Stanton	Mayor	Brewarrina Shire Council
David Kirby	GM	Brewarrina Shire Council
Jane Stroud	CEO	Kiama Municipal Council
Cr. Melinda Lawton	Councillor	Kiama Municipal Council
Cameron Templeton	Council Engagement Manager | Riverina & Far South West	OLG
Katrina Annis-Brown	Council Engagement Manager | Central West and Far West	OLG
Cr. Jim Hickey	Deputy Mayor	Broken Hill City Council
Jay Nankivell	GM	Broken Hill City Council
Cr. Penny Pedersen	Councillor/LGNSW Board member	City of Ryde Council
Cr. Leah Anderson	Mayor	Port Stephens Council
Cr. Daniel Keady	Mayor	Coonamble Shire Council
Kerrie Murphy	Director Infrastructure Kerrie Murphy	Coonamble Shire Council
Nick Mamouzelos	Investigator	Warrumbungle Shire Council
Cr. Paul Culhane	Mayor	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Ms Alex Waldron	CEO	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Cr. Paul Best	Mayor	Weddin Shire Council
Luke Sheehan	GM	Weddin Shire Council
Cr. Darrell Tiemens	Mayor	Narrabri Shire Council
George Cowan	GM	Narrandera Shire Council
Cr. Sam Coupland	Mayor	Armidale Regional Council
Cr. P Miller OAM	Mayor	Forbes Shire Council
Richard Jane	Acting GM	Forbes Shire Council
Cr. Matt Gould	Mayor	Wollondilly Shire Council
Stephen Gardiner	Manager Shire Planning and Head of Advocacy	Wollondilly Shire Council
Cr. Robert Taylor	Mayor	Bathurst Regional Council
Cr. Russell Fitzpatrick	Mayor	Bega Valley Shire Council
Anthony McMahon	CEO	Bega Valley Shire Council
Cr. Steve Allan	Mayor	Bellingen Shire Council
Mark Griffioen	GM	Bellingen Shire Council
Cr. Cheryl Cook	Mayor	Federation Council
Brett McInnes	GM	Inverell Shire Council
Cr. Peter Sharp	Mayor	Lockhart Shire Council
Gavin Rhodes	GM	Lockhart Shire Council
Cr. Adam Roberts	Mayor	Port Macquarie Hastings Council
Jonathan Malota		NRMA
Ms Linda Scott	Chairman	NSW Grants Commission

12. Apologies

Mr Adrian Butler	GM	Federation Council
Mr Murray Wood	CEO	Dubbo Regional Council

Cr. Doug Curran	Mayor	Griffith City Council
Mr Brett Stonestreet	GM	Griffith City Council
Mr Frank Zaknich	GM	Albury City Council
Cr. George Weston	Mayor	Leeton Shire Council
Ms Jackie Kruger	GM	Leeton Shire Council
Cr. Dallas Tout	Mayor	Wagga Wagga City Council
Cr. Brian Monaghan	Mayor	Bland Shire Council
Mr Grant Baker	GM	Bland Shire Council
Cr. N Kschenka OAM	Mayor	Narrandera Shire Council
Cr. Lea Parker	Mayor	Greater Hume Council
Mr Colin Kane	Acting GM	Greater Hume Council
Cr. Robert Bell	Mayor	Uralla Shire Council
Cr. Kate Dight	Mayor	Inverell Shire Council
Cr. Greg Kachel	Councillor	Inverell Shire Council
Cr. John Medcalf OAM	Mayor	Lachlan Shire Council
Cr. Russell Webb	Mayor	Tamworth Regional Council
Mrs Julie Briggs	Policy Advisor	CMA
Mr. Gary Fry	Secretariat	CMA
Cr. Sam Coupland	Mayor	Armidale Regional Council
The Hon Jenny Aitchison MP	Roads and Transport Minister	NSW Government

Mayor Fitzpatrick (Bega Valley Shire Council) moved that the apologies be accepted. Mayor Cadwallader (Ballina Shire Council) seconded. CARRIED. Unanimous.

13. Adoption of Minutes from 9 May 2025.
Mayor Allen (Bellingen Shire Council) moved. Mayor Ring (Kempsey Shire) seconded. CARRIED. Unanimous.

14. Nil

15. Correspondence
Mayor Ingram (Hilltop Council) moved. Mayor Roberts (Port Macquarie Hastings) seconded. CARRIED. Unanimous.

16. Media releases
Mayor Cadwallader (Ballina Shire) moved. Mayor Winchester (Queanbeyan–Palerang Regional Council) seconded. CARRIED. Unanimous.

17. Reports
ALGA - Mayor Miller (LGNSW President/Forbes Shire) moved. Mayor Allen (Bellingen Shire) seconded. CARRIED. Unanimous.
LGNSW - Mayor Miller (LGNSW President/Forbes Shire) moved. Mayor Ndiaye (Byron Shire) seconded. CARRIED. Unanimous.
CMA Chairman - Mayor Coleman (Lithgow City Council) moved. Mayor Miller (LGNSW President/Forbes Shire) seconded. CARRIED. Unanimous.
Policy Advisor Report - Received & noted and adopt recommendations - Mayor Allen

(Bellingen Shire) moved. Mayor Whitely (Warren Shire) seconded. CARRIED. Unanimous. CMA Financial report - Mayor Jones (Yass Valley) moved. Mayor Cadwallader (Ballina Shire) seconded. CARRIED. Unanimous.

18. Business with Notice - CMA Survey

- Mayor Fitzpatrick (Bega Valley Shire) moved. Mayor Miller (LGNSW President / Forbes Shire) seconded that the CMA consider the survey results at its November meeting. CARRIED. Unanimous.

19. Urgent Business - The CMA Chairman asked Members if the Board should consider having the business meeting of CMA on Thursday afternoon, and the Friday morning for Guest speakers. Members agreed overwhelmingly for the Board to consider this action, to spend more time on policy setting/advocacy and lobbying.

The Chairman thanked all for attending and with no further business, declared the meeting closed at 12:48pm.

The next meeting will be held in the Theatrette, NSW Parliament House on 14 November 2025, followed by the AGM.

OFFICIAL

The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC
Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy,
Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage,
Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

NSW GOVERNMENT

Mayor Rick Firman OAM
President
Country Mayors Association of NSW
By email:

Dear Mayor Firman, Rick,

I write to extend my thanks to the Country Mayors Association, and in particular yourself, Mayor Russell Fitzpatrick, and Mr Gary Fry, for hosting and organising the recent workshop at NSW Parliament on the issues of biodiversity offsets and waste.

I appreciate the considerable effort that went into organising the event. The level of engagement across member councils, and their willingness to share their experiences in a constructive and productive way, was greatly valued.

I apologise for only being able to attend the beginning of the event due to urgent parliamentary business. However, I have since received a full briefing from my staff on the discussions and outcomes of the workshop.

I greatly value the opportunity to engage with regional councils through the Country Mayors Association. The two topics of biodiversity offsets and waste are complex, and it is essential that the Government not only provides updates on policy and reform in these areas but also listens directly to how those policies are applied by regional councils in practice. Feedback from the Country Mayors Association is critical in shaping programs that are both effective and practical for regional communities.

In regard to the discussion around biodiversity offsets, representatives from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) have reached out to specific councils to offer targeted assistance following the workshop. I am advised these initial councils include Albury, Ballina, Narromine and Bega.

The Department will continue to engage with regional councils more broadly over the course of this year to address challenges relating to biodiversity assessment and offsets, especially where they intersect with housing delivery. Should there be further councils that you believe require priority engagement, I encourage you to advise my office.

I also acknowledge the specific issues highlighted in relation to biodiversity offsets in regions with significant surrounding environmental protection, and in areas subject to native title claims or land returned under state legislation. While these matters do not have straightforward solutions, I am committed to working with the Country Mayors Association to consider them carefully as part of our ongoing reform processes.

I further acknowledge the issues raised regarding waste management. Regional, and in particular remote, councils face unique challenges in addressing the waste stream – particularly in relation to recycling capacity, transport costs and landfill pressures. Addressing the immediate waste crisis

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nsw.gov.au/ministers

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will require a coordinated approach, and the Government is committed to working in partnership with regional councils to find practical solutions.

Thank you once again for your ongoing commitment to working collaboratively with me and the Government on these important issues. I look forward to continuing our partnership as we address the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for regional NSW.

Sincerely

Penny Sharpe MLC
Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy,
Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage
27/8/25

Copy to:
Mayor Russell Fitzpatrick by email:
Gary Fry by email:

OFFICIAL

2

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Orange City Council held on 2 September 2025 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate records of the proceedings of the Council meeting held on 2 September 2025.

ATTACHMENTS

1 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Orange City Council held on 2 September 2025

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE

ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2025

COMMENCING AT 6:30 PM

1 INTRODUCTION

ATTENDANCE

Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy *(6:37pm)*, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne *(Audio Visual Link)*, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson *(Audio Visual Link)*, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Chief Executive Officer, Director Corporate and Commercial Services, Acting Director Development Services (Johnston), Director Community, Recreation and Cultural Services, Director Technical Services, Chief Financial Officer, Manager Corporate Governance, Governance Lead, Governance Officer

1.1 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED - 25/427 **Cr M McDonell/Cr G Judge**

That the apologies be accepted from Cr Whitton for the Council Meeting of Orange City Council on 2 September 2025.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton, Cr K Duffy

RESOLVED - 25/428 **Cr M McDonell/Cr G Judge**

That Cr Kinghorne and Cr Peterson be permitted to attend the Council Meeting of Orange City Council on 2 September 2025 via Audio Visual Link.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton, Cr K Duffy

1.2 LIVESTREAMING AND RECORDING

The Mayor advised that the meeting was being livestreamed and recorded.

1.3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor conducted an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.4 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cr Mileto declared a Non-Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in Item 4.1 Notice of Motion - ACON and Pride in Sport Memberships as he is the president of the Orange & District Football Association.

Cr Greenhalgh declared a Non-Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in item 4.1 Notice of Motion - ACON and Pride in Sport Memberships as she is the Secretary of Bloomfield Junior Rugby League Club.

Cr Kinghorne declared a Significant Pecuniary Interest in PDC Item 2.3 Development Application DA 187/2025(1) - 8 Whistling Way as her husband's environmental consulting company has undertaken work on this site.

Cr Kinghorne declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in FPC Item 2.1-2(g) Small Donations - Requests for Donations - Phillip Shaw Wines as she has been the recipient of care from a McGrath Foundation breast care nurse.

Cr Mallard declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in FPC Item 2.1-2(b) Small Donations - Requests for Donations - Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Orange (ECCO) as he is an active member of ECCO and involved in their events.

Cr Mallard declared a Non-Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in FPC Item 2.1-2(e) Small Donations - Requests for Donations - Rotary Club of Orange as he is an active member of ECCO which will likely be a stallholder at the event, though he does not participate in the organising or running of the Sustainable Living Expo.

Cr Peterson declared a Non-Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in FPC Item 2.1-2(k) Small Donations - Requests for Donations - Orange Scouts Camp as he was previously a member of the Scouts.

THE MAYOR DECLARED THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL ADJOURNED FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE OPEN FORUM AT 6.34PM.

Cr Duffy arrived at the meeting with the time being 6:37pm

FPC Item 2.1 – Small Donations – Requests for Donations

- Kerry Ford – Blossoms Rescue
- Kate Staniforth - Canobolas Public School P&C
- Ashlee Browning - Phillip Shaw Wines
- John Mills - Rotary Club of Orange

CCL Item 4.2 – Notice of Motion – Parkour Design

- Conor England – Orange Parkour OPK

PDC Item 2.2 - Orange Croquet Club

- Len Banks - Orange City Croquet Club

THE MAYOR DECLARED THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL RESUMED AT 7.01PM

2 MAYORAL MINUTES

Nil

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED - 25/429 **Cr G Power/Cr M McDonell**

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Orange City Council held on 19 August 2025 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the Council meeting held on 19 August 2025, noting an administrative correction to the resolution of Item 5.3 Development Application DA 748/ 2024(1) - 184 Leeds Parade that Council provide a submission to the WRPP in accordance with the information outlined in that staff report.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

RESOLVED - 25/430 **Cr M Ruddy/Cr K Duffy**

That the Finance Policy Committee meeting be moved to the first of the Policy Committees discussed at the Council Meeting of Orange City Council on 2 September 2025.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

THE MAYOR DECLARED THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL ADJOURNED FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS AT 7.03PM.

THE MAYOR DECLARED THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL RESUMED AT 8.22PM.

4 NOTICES OF MOTION/NOTICES OF RESCISSION

4.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - ACON AND PRIDE IN SPORT MEMBERSHIPS

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1778

Cr Mileto declared a Non-Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in this item as he is the president of Orange & District Football Association.
Cr Greenhalgh declared a Non-Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in this item as she is the Secretary of Bloomfield Junior Rugby League Club.

MOTION Cr M McDonell/Cr D Mallard

That in the interest of providing safe spaces for every member of our community, Orange City Council become a member of Pride In Sport – supporting Australian sport to be inclusive of LGBTQIA+ communities.

THE MOTION ON BEING PUT WAS LOST

For: Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell
Against: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Absent: Cr J Whitton

Cr McDonell asked how long Council has been a member of the Diversity Council of Australia and if Council sought information or support from the DCA prior to submitting the Aquatic Centre Policy.
The Director Community, Recreation & Cultural Services advised that Council joined the DCA in 2023. Council was not in contact with the DCA, but did utilise the documentation and guideline they provide. Research was done using DCA resources on anti-discrimination and the goal of providing safe and inclusive spaces for people, while trying to balance that with Council's obligation to the broader community.

Cr Kinghorne asked for clarification on why it is necessary for Council to become a member of another organisation if the DCA already provides the resources needed to support community services and facilities.
The Director Community, Recreation & Cultural Services advised that the DCA does provide a multitude of resources available to Council, though it is a question of if it is enough when sourcing solutions for a direct matter.

4.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - PARKOUR DESIGN

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1779

MOTION **Cr T Greenhalgh/Cr K Duffy**

That Council resolves:

1 To reaffirm its commitment to establishing a Parkour Park in Orange, as resolved by Council on 7 November 2023.
2 To consider the allocation of $7,500 in the next quarterly budget review to engage a designer to prepare the design for a Parkour Park in Orange.
3 To note the total estimated project cost of approximately $300,000, including soft-fall requirements.
4 To consider including the estimated cost of $300,000 in Council's budget at the next quarterly budget review to enable delivery of the Parkour Park within the current Council term and to maximise Council's ability to apply for external grant funding.

AMENDMENT **Cr D Mallard/Cr M Ruddy**

That Council resolves:

1 To reaffirm its commitment to establishing a Parkour Park in Orange, as resolved by Council on 7 November 2023.
2 To consider the allocation of $7,500 in the next quarterly budget review to engage a designer to prepare the design for a Parkour Park in Orange.
3 To note the total estimated project cost of approximately $300,000, including soft-fall requirements.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power
Absent: Cr J Whitton

THE AMENDMENT ON BEING PUT WAS LOST

THE MOTION ON BEING PUT WAS CARRIED

RESOLVED - 25/468 **Cr T Greenhalgh/Cr K Duffy**

That Council resolves:

1 To reaffirm its commitment to establishing a Parkour Park in Orange, as resolved by Council on 7 November 2023.
2 To consider the allocation of $7,500 in the next quarterly budget review to engage a designer to prepare the design for a Parkour Park in Orange.
3 To note the total estimated project cost of approximately $300,000, including soft-fall requirements.
4 To Consider including the estimated cost of $300,000 in Council's budget at the next quarterly budget review to enable delivery of the Parkour Park within the current Council term and to maximise Council's ability to apply for external grant funding.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell
Absent: Cr J Whitton

Cr Ruddy asked if Council ever receives grant funding that covers the full amount of a project.
The Director Community, Recreation & Cultural Services advised that it does happen, though it is most commonly a 50/50 contribution. It depends entirely on the grant program.

Cr Kinghorne asked for clarification on the wording 'to consider including' in relation to Council allocating funding.
The Chief Executive Officer advised that it would come back to Council with more information and options to accommodate the funds

Cr Duffy asked when Council will start working on next year's budget.
The Chief Executive Officer advised that Council's intention is to start before the end of the year.

5 GENERAL REPORTS

5.1 ALGA CONFERENCE REPORT

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1769

RESOLVED - 25/469 **Cr M McDonell/Cr T Greenhalgh**

That the report from the CEO on the ALGA Conference be noted.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

5.2 FEES AND CHARGES AMENDMENTS

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1780

RESOLVED - 25/470 **Cr G Power/Cr M Ruddy**

That Council resolves to place the Pound Fees - Surrender Fee (Risk to Community Safety) and Inspections - Food Premises (Charities and Community Not-For-Profit) on exhibition for the information of the community for a minimum period of 28 days.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

5.3 REVIEW OF ABORTION SERVICES - ORANGE LGA

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1754

RESOLVED - 25/471 **Cr M Ruddy/Cr D Mallard**

That Council acknowledge the information provided on Abortion Services in this report.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

6 CLOSED MEETING

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, in the opinion of the Chief Executive Officer, the following business is of a kind as referred to in Section 10A(2) of the Act, and should be dealt with in a Confidential Session of the Council meeting closed to the press and public.

In response to a question from the Mayor, the Chief Executive Officer advised that no written submissions had been received relating to any item listed for consideration by the Closed Meeting of Council.

The Mayor extended an invitation to any member of the public present at the meeting to make a presentation to the Council as to whether the meeting should be closed for a particular item.

RESOLVED - 25/472 **Cr M Ruddy/Cr T Greenhalgh**

That Council adjourn into a Closed Meeting and members of the press and public be excluded from the Closed Meeting, and access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Closed Meeting be withheld unless declassified by separate resolution. This action is taken in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993 as the items listed come within the following provisions:

6.1 Tender F4456 - Design, Construction and Supply of Trailer Stage

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

6.2 Submission Redaction Report 2 September 2025

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (e) information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr T Greenhalgh, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

The Mayor declared the Ordinary Meeting of Council adjourned for the conduct of the Closed Meeting at 9.15pm.

The Mayor declared the Ordinary Meeting of Council resumed at 9.25pm.

7 RESOLUTIONS FROM CLOSED MEETING

The Chief Executive Officer read out the following resolutions made in the Closed Meeting of Council.

6.1 TENDER F4456 - DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLY OF TRAILER STAGE

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1785

RESOLVED - 25/473 **Cr G Power/Cr G Judge**

That Council resolves to:

1 Not accept any of the tenders for the Mobile Trailer Stage; and
2 Grant permission to the Chief Executive Officer, or his nominee to negotiate with suppliers with a view to entering into a contract in relation to the purchase of a Mobile Trailer Stage.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

6.2 SUBMISSION REDACTION REPORT 2 SEPTEMBER 2025

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1771

RESOLVED - 25/474 **Cr D Mallard/Cr K Duffy**

That the information in the Submission Redaction report be acknowledged.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.27PM

This is Page Number 8 and the Final Page of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Orange City Council held on 2 September 2025.

4 NOTICES OF MOTION/NOTICES OF RESCISSION

Nil

5 GENERAL REPORTS

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes from Policy Committee Meetings 2 September 2025

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/1903
AUTHOR: Janessa Constantine, Manager Corporate Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's Policy Committees (Planning and Development Committee, Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee, Finance Policy Committee, Infrastructure Policy Committee, Recreation & Culture Policy Committee, Services Policy Committee and Regional & Economic Development Policy Committee) have delegation to determine matters before those Committees.

This report provides minutes of the Policy Committees held this month. Resolutions made by the Committees are presented for adoption or amendment by Council.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "15.1 Provide representative, responsible and accountable community governance".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION

1 **That the Minutes of the Finance Policy Committee at its meeting held on 2 September 2025 be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**

2 **That the Minutes of the Planning & Development Policy Committee at its meeting held on 2 September 2025 be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**

3 **That the Minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee at its meeting held on 2 September 2025 be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**

4 **That the Minutes of the Infrastructure Policy Committee at its meeting held on 2 September 2025 be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**

5 **That the Minutes of the Services Policy Committee at its meeting held on 2 September 2025 be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**

6 **That the Minutes of the Regional ad Economic Development Policy Committee at its meeting held on 2 September 2025 be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council's key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

Service/Project Delivery	Inaccurate records may misrepresent decisions, affecting service planning and delivery.

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes from Policy Committee Meetings 2 September 2025

Financial	Misstated resolutions could lead to unbudgeted expenditures or financial mismanagement.
Reputation/Political	Misstated approvals could lead to unbudgeted expenditures or financial mismanagement.
Environment	Errors in recorded decisions may overlook environmental commitments or risks.
Compliance	Failing to confirm accuracy may breach governance standards or statutory obligations.
People & WHS	Mis-recorded actions could impact staff safety measures or people related decisions.
Information Technology/Cyber Security	Inaccurate documentation may affect IT governance or data integrity.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Finance Policy Committee
At the Finance Policy Committee meeting held on 2 September 2025, all resolutions were made under delegation, and the minutes are presented for adoption.

Planning and Development Policy Committee
At the Planning and Development Policy Committee meeting held on 2 September 2025, all resolutions were made under delegation, and the minutes are presented for adoption.

Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee
At the Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee meeting held on 2 September 2025, all resolutions were made under delegation, and the minutes are presented for adoption.

Infrastructure Policy Committee
At the Infrastructure Policy Committee meeting held on 2 September 2025, all resolutions were made under delegation, and the minutes are presented for adoption.

Services Policy Committee
At the Services Policy Committee meeting held on 2 September 2025, all resolutions were made under delegation, and the minutes are presented for adoption.

Regional & Economic Development Policy Committee
At the Regional & Economic Development Policy Committee meeting held on 2 September 2025, all resolutions were made under delegation, and the minutes are presented for adoption.

ATTACHMENTS

1 FPC 2 September 2025 Minutes, 2025/1894⇩
2 PDC 2 September 2025 Minutes, 2025/1898⇩
3 ESPC 2 September 2025 Minutes, 2025/1897⇩
4 IPC 2 September 2025 Minutes, 2025/1893⇩
5 SPC 2 September 2025 Minutes, 2025/1892⇩
6 REDPC 2 September 2025 Minutes, 2025/1891⇩

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE POLICY COMMITTEE

HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE

ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2025

COMMENCING AT 7:04PM

1 INTRODUCTION

ATTENDANCE

Cr T Mileto (Chairperson)(Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne (*Audio Visual*), Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson (*Audio Visual*), Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Chief Executive Officer, Director Corporate and Commercial Services, Acting Director Development Services (Johnston), Director Community, Recreation and Cultural Services, Director Technical Services, Chief Financial Officer, Manager Corporate Governance, Governance Lead, Governance Officer

With Cr Peterson attending via Audio Visual Link, Cr Mileto (Mayor) chaired the meeting

1.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

RESOLVED - 25/431 **Cr M McDonell/Cr G Judge**

That the apologies be accepted from Cr Whitton for the Finance Policy Committee of Orange City Council on 2 September 2025.

For: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

RESOLVED - 25/432 **Cr M McDonell/Cr G Judge**

That Cr Kinghorne and Cr Peterson be permitted to attend the Finance Policy Committee Meeting of Orange City Council on 2 September 2025 via Audio Visual Link.

For: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

1.2 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cr Kinghorne declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in Item 2.1-2(g) Small Donations - Requests for Donations - Phillip Shaw Wines as she has been the recipient of care from a McGrath Foundation breast care nurse.

Cr Mallard declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in Item 2.1-2(b) Small Donations - Requests for Donations - Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Orange (ECCO) as he is an active member of ECCO and involved in their events.

Cr Mallard declared a Non-Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in Item 2.1-2(e) Small Donations - Requests for Donations - Rotary Club of Orange as he is an active member of ECCO which will likely be a stallholder at the event, though he does not participate in the organising or running of the Sustainable Living Expo.

Cr Peterson declared a Non-Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in Item 2.1-2(k) Small Donations - Requests for Donations - Orange Scouts Camp as he was previously a member of the Scouts.

2 GENERAL REPORTS

2.1 SMALL DONATIONS - REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1757

RESOLVED - 25/433 **Cr T Greenhalgh/Cr G Judge**

1 That this item be heard and voted on in seriatim.

For: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

RESOLVED - 25/434 **Cr T Greenhalgh/Cr M McDonell**

2a) That Council donate $2,500 to Blossoms Rescue to contribute to desexing and rehoming unwanted, injured and stray cats and kittens in the Orange area.

For: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

Cr Mallard declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in item 2.1-2(b) as he is an active member of ECCO and involved in their events, left the meeting with the time being 7.10pm and did not participate in discussion or voting on this item

MOTION **Cr M Ruddy/Cr M McDonell**

2b) That Council donate $2,500 to Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Orange ECCO to contribute to the cost of high-vis vests and a purchasing gazebo for promotional purposes

AMENDMENT **Cr F Kinghorne/Cr K Duffy**

2b) That Council donate $612.50 to Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Orange ECCO cover the costs of the high-vis vests and that funds for the gazebo are sourced elsewhere.

For: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr S Peterson, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Cr G Power, Cr M McDonell

Absent: Cr J Whitton, Cr D Mallard

THE AMENDMENT ON BEING PUT WAS CARRIED AND BECAME THE MOTION

THE MOTION ON BEING PUT WAS CARRIED

RESOLVED - 25/435 **Cr F Kinghorne/Cr K Duffy**

2b) That Council donate $612.50 to Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Orange ECCO cover the costs of the high-vis vests and that funds for the gazebo are sourced elsewhere.

For: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton, Cr D Mallard

Cr Mallard returned to the meeting with the time being 7.14pm

RESOLVED - 25/436 **Cr M McDonell/Cr F Kinghorne**

2c) That Council donate $1,000 to Mr Perfect Incorporated to contribute to hosting free monthly BBQ's for supporting men's mental health.

For: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor)

Absent: Cr J Whitton

MOTION **Cr M McDonell/Cr M Ruddy**

2d) That Council donate $2,500 to Orange High School to contribute to travel and accommodation costs for students participating in First Nations Dance Ensemble.

AMENDMENT **Cr F Kinghorne/Cr M Ruddy**

2d) That Council donate $1,250 to Orange High School to contribute to travel and accommodation costs for students participating in First Nations Dance Ensemble.

For: Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson)

Absent: Cr J Whitton

THE AMENDMENT ON BEING PUT WAS CARRIED AND BECAME THE MOTION

THE MOTION ON BEING PUT WAS CARRIED

RESOLVED - 25/437 **Cr F Kinghorne/Cr M Ruddy**

2d) That Council donate $1,250 to Orange High School to contribute to travel and accommodation costs for students participating in First Nations Dance Ensemble.

For: Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr S Peterson
Absent: Cr J Whitton

Cr Mallard declared a Non-Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in Item 2.1-2(e) as he is an active member of ECCO which will likely be a stallholder at the event, though he does not participate in the organising or running of the Sustainable Living Expo

RESOLVED - 25/438 **Cr M Ruddy/Cr D Mallard**

2e) That Council donate $2,500 to the Rotary Club of Orange to contribute to cost of hiring presenters, presentation equipment, marketing and promotion, and hire of Showground/Naylor Pavillion for the Orange Sustainable Living Expo.

For: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

RESOLVED - 25/439 **Cr K Duffy/Cr T Greenhalgh**

2f) That Council donate $306 to Orange Kart Club to contribute to the cost of running "Mini Karting Academy" to train young drivers in the sport.

For: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

**Cr Kinghorne declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in item 2.1-2(g) as she has been the recipient of care from a McGrath Foundation breast care nurse, left the meeting with the time being 7.24pm and did not participate in discussion or voting on this item.*

RESOLVED - 25/440 **Cr G Power/Cr K Duffy**

2g) That Council donate $2,500 to Phillip Shaw Wines to contribute to the costs of running The Breast Long Lunch in support of the McGrath Foundation's Breast Care Nurses.

For: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton, Cr F Kinghorne

Cr McDonell asked if Council has a say in whether the money raised stays with the local breast cancer nurses or if it goes to the organisation.
The Director Corporate & Commercial Services advised that the money is given to the applicant, which in this case is Phillip Shaw Wines for The Breast Long Lunch.

Cr Ruddy asked if this the Breast Long Lunch Application was classified as a donation or a sponsorship. *The Director Corporate & Commercial Services advised that this application was processed as a donation even though the form was for a sponsorship.*
Cr Kinghorne returned to the meeting with the time being 7.28pm
MOTION **Cr M McDonell/Cr J Stedman** 2h) That Council donate $2,000 to Allegri Singers to contribute to costs of soloists to perform alongside local musicians.
AMENDMENT **Cr F Kinghorne/Cr M Ruddy** 2h) That Council donate $1,000 to Allegri Singers to contribute to costs of soloists to perform alongside local musicians. For: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman Against: Cr M McDonell, Cr D Mallard Absent: Cr J Whitton
THE AMENDMENT ON BEING PUT WAS CARRIED AND BECAME THE MOTION
THE MOTION ON BEING PUT WAS CARRIED
RESOLVED - 25/441 **Cr F Kinghorne/Cr M Ruddy** 2h) That Council donate $1,000 to Allegri Singers to contribute to costs of soloists to perform alongside local musicians. For: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman Against: Nil Absent: Cr J Whitton
MOTION **Cr G Power/Cr T Greenhalgh** 2i) That Council donate $2,025 to Canobolas Public School Parents and Citizens Association to contribute to the gifting of books to each student at the end of year presentation day.
AMENDMENT **Cr M Ruddy/Cr F Kinghorne** 2i) That Council donate $1,015 to Canobolas Public School Parents and Citizens Association to contribute to the gifting of books to each student at the end of year presentation day. For: Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman Against: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr D Mallard, Cr G Power Absent: Cr J Whitton
THE AMENDMENT ON BEING PUT WAS LOST
THE MOTION ON BEING PUT WAS CARRIED

RESOLVED - 25/442 **Cr G Power/Cr T Greenhalgh**

2i) That Council donate $2,025 to Canobolas Public School Parents and Citizens Association to contribute to the gifting of books to each student at the end of year presentation day.

For: Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr F Kinghorne, Cr G Judge, Cr K Duffy, Cr S Peterson
Absent: Cr J Whitton

Cr Mileto noted that Canobolas Public School asked for a donation recently on the back of a fundraiser the school had done.

The Director Corporate & Commercial Services advised that there was an application made by the P&C, that did not comply with policy and therefore has not been presented to a Council meeting.

RESOLVED - 25/443 **Cr M Ruddy/Cr T Greenhalgh**

2j) That Council donate $2,000 to 2MCE Community Radio to contribute to replacing transmitter equipment at Mt Canobolas

For: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Cr F Kinghorne
Absent: Cr J Whitton

Cr Peterson declared a Non-Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in Item 2.1-2(k) as he was previously a member of the Scouts.

MOTION **Cr J Stedman/Cr T Greenhalgh**

2k) That Council donate $2,500 to Orange Scouts Camp to contribute to transport for Orange members to attend regional camp.

AMENDMENT **Cr M Ruddy/Cr M McDonell**

2k) That Council DEFER the decision to donate $2,500 to Orange Scouts Camp to contribute to transport for Orange members to attend regional camp to the next Council meeting on 16 September 2025 in order to obtain more information regarding travel costs.

For: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

THE AMENDMENT ON BEING PUT WAS CARRIED AND BECAME THE MOTION

THE MOTION ON BEING PUT WAS CARRIED

RESOLVED - 25/444 **Cr M Ruddy/Cr M McDonell**

2k) That Council DEFER the decision to donate $2,500 to Orange Scouts Camp to contribute to transport for Orange members to attend regional camp to the next Council meeting on 16 September 2025 in order to obtain more information regarding travel costs.

For: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

Cr McDonell asked if the Orange Scouts Camp will be using all 3 modes of transport listed on page 54 of the report, being two 22-seater buses from Orange and Dubbo Hertz as well as train and bus return costs.
The Director Corporate & Commercial Services advised that that level of detail was not provided.

For: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

2.2 EVENT DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1816

RESOLVED - 25/445 **Cr G Power/Cr D Mallard**

That Council supports the Australian National Field Days with $10,000 for their Rooftop Express Area Event.

For: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

Cr McDonell asked if the Australian National Field Days applied to Cabonne Council for funding.
The Director Corporate & Commercial Services advised we are not aware if funding has been provided.

Cr Peterson asked for clarification in relation to item 2.1-2(g) Small Donations - Request for Donations, Phillip Shaw Wines providing complimentary tickets for their Breast Long Lunch.
The Director Corporate & Commercial Services advised that as Council is providing funding as a donation and not as a sponsorship, tickets or promotion do not form part of this.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7:45 PM

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE

ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2025

COMMENCING AT 7:46PM

1 INTRODUCTION

ATTENDANCE

Cr M McDonell (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne*(Audio Visual Link)*, Cr D Mallard, Cr S Peterson*(Audio Visual Link)*, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Chief Executive Officer, Director Corporate and Commercial Services, Acting Director Development Services (Johnston), Director Community, Recreation and Cultural Services, Director Technical Services, Chief Financial Officer, Manager Corporate Governance, Governance Lead, Governance Officer

1.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

RESOLVED - 25/446 **Cr M McDonell/Cr G Judge**

That the apologies be accepted from Cr Whitton for the Planning & Development Committee of Orange City Council on 2 September 2025.

For: Cr M McDonell (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

RESOLVED - 25/447 **Cr M McDonell/Cr G Judge**

That Cr Kinghorne and Cr Peterson be permitted to attend the Planning and Development Policy Committee Meeting of Orange City Council on 2 September 2025 via Audio Visual Link.

For: Cr M McDonell (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

1.2 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cr Kinghorne declared a Significant Pecuniary Interest in Item 2.3 Development Application DA 187/2025(1) - 8 Whistling Way as her husband's environmental consulting company has undertaken work on this site.

Cr Greenhalgh joined the meeting with the time being 7.47pm

2 GENERAL REPORTS

2.1 ITEMS APPROVED UNDER THE DELEGATED AUTHORITY OF COUNCIL

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1760

RESOLVED - 25/448 **Cr G Power/Cr M Ruddy**

That Council resolves to acknowledge the information provided in the report by the Manager Development Assessments on Items Approved Under the Delegated Authority of Council.

For: Cr M McDonell (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

2.2 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION DA 246/2025(1) - 149 HILL STREET

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1766

RESOLVED - 25/449 **Cr D Mallard/Cr M McDonell**

That Council consents to development application DA 246/2025(1) for Recreation Facility (outdoor) (one additional croquet court, three shelter sheds and internal site fencing alterations) at Lot 1 DP 434040 - 149 Hill Street, Orange pursuant to the conditions of consent in the attached Notice of Approval.

For: Cr M McDonell (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

Cr Ruddy noted that in the croquet court design the new court almost touches the cricket pitch, and asked if the cricket pitch is being moved.
The Acting Director Development Services advised that Council resolved back in 2004 to approve the expansion of the Croquet Club for the purpose of the croquet green and that this does impact on the cricket pitch. Council works closely with the Junior Cricket Association, that particular cricket pitch has not been used for competition for 10 years.

2.3 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION DA 187/2025(1) - 8 WHISTLING WAY

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1761

Cr Kinghorne declared a Significant Pecuniary Interest in Item 2.3 Development Application DA 187/2025(1) - 8 Whistling Way as her husband's environmental consulting company has undertaken work on this site, left the meeting with the time being 7.52pm and did not participate in discussion or voting on this item.

RESOLVED - 25/450 **Cr M Ruddy/Cr D Mallard**

That Council consents to development application DA 187/2025(1) for Dual Occupancy, Subdivision (two lot Torrens title) and Retaining Wall at Lot 175 DP 1302416 - 8 Whistling Way, Orange pursuant to the conditions of consent in the attached Notice of Approval.

For: Cr M McDonell (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr D Mallard, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton, Cr F Kinghorne

Cr Kinghorne returned to the meeting with the time being 7.52pm

2.4 PLANNING PROPOSAL - HOUSEKEEPING AMENDMENT - SUPPLEMENTARY MATTER - ANIMAL BOARDING OR TRAINING ESTABLISHMENTS

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1731

RESOLVED - 25/451 **Cr D Mallard/Cr M Ruddy**

That Council resolves:

1 To supplement the recently endorsed Administrative (Housekeeping) Amendment to the Orange LEP 2011, by including an Additional Permitted Use in schedule 1 for Companion Animal Care Centres in the E4 zone as outlined in this report.

2 That the Chief Executive Officer, or such delegate, take all necessary action to submit the consolidated Planning Proposal, inclusive of the companion animal care centre matter, for Gateway Determination and public exhibition.

For: Cr M McDonell (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

Cr Duffy asked for an update on local Solar Farms.
The Acting Director Development Services advised that Council has received two applications for solar farms, one at the top of the Spring Creek Reservoir in Lone Pine Avenue that Council is working with on the visual impact issues and the other is along Cadia Road which staff is close to finalising a planning assessment. These applications go before the Regional Planning Panel.

Cr Mileto asked if Council will be making a submission to the Western Regional Planning Panel regarding both of the proposed solar farms.
The Acting Director Development Services advised that staff will provide reports to the Council for consideration before they go to the Western Regional Planning Panel.

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE **Cr K Duffy**

Cr Duffy asked for an update to be provided on arrangements for wind turbines on Mount Canobolas.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7:57 PM.

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY COMMITTEE

HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE

ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2025

COMMENCING AT 7.58PM

1 INTRODUCTION

ATTENDANCE

Cr D Mallard (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne *(Audio Visual)*, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson *(Audio Visual)*, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Chief Executive Officer, Director Corporate and Commercial Services, Acting Director Development Services (Johnston), Director Community, Recreation and Cultural Services, Director Technical Services, Chief Financial Officer, Manager Corporate Governance, Governance Lead, Governance Officer

1.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

RESOLVED - 25/452 **Cr M McDonell/Cr G Judge**

That the apologies be accepted from Cr Whitton for the Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee of Orange City Council on 2 September 2025.

For: Cr D Mallard (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

RESOLVED - 25/453 **Cr M McDonell/Cr G Judge**

That Cr Kinghorne and Cr Peterson be permitted to attend the Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee Meeting of Orange City Council on 2 September 2025 via Audio Visual Link.

For: Cr D Mallard (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

1.2 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil

2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

2.1 MINUTES OF THE TIDY TOWNS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING 18 JUNE 2025

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1755

RESOLVED - 25/454 **Cr M McDonell/Cr G Power**

1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Tidy Towns Community Committee at its meeting held on 18 June 2025.

2 That the minutes of the Tidy Towns Community Committee from its meeting held on 18 June 2025 be adopted.

For: Cr D Mallard (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

2.2 MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING 1 AUGUST 2025

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1783

RESOLVED - 25/455 **Cr T Greenhalgh/Cr G Power**

1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee at its meeting held on 1 August 2025.

2 That Council determine recommendations 3.2 from the minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee meeting of 1 August 2025.

3.2 That Council consider participation in National Water Week, to be held from 20 to 26 October 2025

3 That the remainder of the minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee from its meeting held on 1 August 2025 be adopted.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr T Greenhalgh, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE **Cr S Peterson**

Cr Peterson asked what the financial implications are of participating in the National Water Week.

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE **Cr K Duffy**

Cr Duffy noted that the Cook Park Master Plan had not yet returned to Council and asked for a report to include the meeting procedures and what happened at the previous meeting.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.04PM.

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY COMMITTEE

HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE

ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2025

COMMENCING AT 8.05PM

1 INTRODUCTION

ATTENDANCE

Cr T Mileto (Chairperson)(Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne*(Audio Visual Link)*, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson*(Audio Visual Link)*, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Chief Executive Officer, Director Corporate and Commercial Services, Director Development Services, Director Community, Recreation and Cultural Services, Director Technical Services, Chief Financial Officer, Manager Corporate Governance, Governance Lead, Governance Officer

In the absence of Cr Whitton, Cr Mileto (Mayor) chaired the meeting.

1.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

RESOLVED - 25/456 **Cr M McDonell/Cr G Judge**

That the apologies be accepted from Cr Whitton for the Infrastructure Policy Committee of Orange City Council on 2 September 2025.

For: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr K Duffy, Cr T Greenhalgh, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

RESOLVED - 25/457 **Cr M McDonell/Cr G Judge**

That Cr Kinghorne and Cr Peterson be permitted to attend the Infrastructure Policy Committee Meeting of Orange City Council on 2 September 2025 via Audio Visual Link.

For: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr K Duffy, Cr T Greenhalgh, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

1.2 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil.

2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

2.1 MINUTES OF THE CITY OF ORANGE TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING 12 AUGUST 2025

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1743

RESOLVED - 25/458 **Cr M Ruddy/Cr G Power**

1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the City of Orange Traffic Committee at its meeting held on 12 August 2025.

2 That Council determine recommendations 3.2 from the minutes of the City of Orange Traffic Committee meeting of 12 August 2025.

3.2 Charter – Local Transport Forum (formerly the City of Orange Traffic Committee)
That the Charter for the City of Orange Traffic Committee be adopted with the following changes:

- *Change of name from City of Orange Traffic Committee to Local Transport Forum.*
- *Quorum to change to one representative in attendance from Council and Transport.*
- *Addition to Membership and Roles – mandatory to invite the operator of a public passenger service, likely to be affected by a proposal, to any meeting where that proposal is being reviewed.*
- *There is no voting.*

3 That the remainder of the minutes of the City of Orange Traffic Committee from its meeting held on 12 August 2025 be adopted.

For: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr K Duffy, Cr T Greenhalgh, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

Cr Peterson asked how the Local Transport Forum will make decisions if there is no voting.
The Director Technical Services advised that the Local Transport Forum does not vote on issues however can advise of any contention they have with the proposals, which Council must take into consideration.

3 GENERAL REPORTS

3.1 CURRENT WORKS

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1775

RESOLVED – 25/459 **Cr T Greenhalgh/Cr M McDonell**

That the information provided in the report on Current Works be acknowledged.

For: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr K Duffy, Cr T Greenhalgh, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

Cr Kinghorne asked what the optimal level of water storage is, and if there is any sort of flood mitigation usages for the Suma Park Dam and Spring Creek Dam, as the Macquarie Pipeline is not often utilised.
The Director Technical Services advised that both Spring Creek Dam and Suma Park Dam are licenced for water storage for town use and not for flood mitigation purposes. The goal is to keep the water storage level between 80-100%, which places less restrictions on water users. The reason the Macquarie Pipeline is not utilised often is that a condition of use of the Macquarie Pipeline is that Orange needs to be below 90% water storage.

Cr Kinghorne asked if there is a financial reason behind not utilising the Macquarie Pipeline often as Orange water storage levels have dropped below 90% during this year.
The Director Technical Services advised that Council has a decision support tool that looks at the forecasts going forward through the year and determines whether Council needs to operate those facilities. The Macquarie Pipeline is the most expensive source of water as it has to be pumped, and it was not deemed necessary as the medium range weather forecast was for near average to above average rainfalls that will see Suma Park Dam fill and spill in Spring 2025.

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE **Cr D Mallard**

Cr Mallard requested asked what considerations have been made on providing assistance for people crossing the road at the Ploughman's Wetlands, such as pedestrian crossings or traffic calming infrastructure.

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE **Cr D Mallard**

Cr Mallard asked for the annual total of the supplementary raw water sources for the 2024/2025 year to be included in the Current Works report as a comparison.

Cr Duffy asked if Council could write to UGL to install boom gates at the railway crossing at Woodward Street.
The Director Technical Services advised that Council has already written to UGL, who has promoted the issue with Transport for NSW which will now form part of their consideration for Federal funding submissions.

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE **Cr M McDonell**

Cr McDonell asked for an update on the plans to upgrade the intersection at Racecourse Road and Woodward Street.

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE **Cr F Kinghorne**

Cr Kinghorne noted the recent Euchareena Road Resource Recovery Centre proactive lessons learnt session held between the contractor and the project management team, and ask for the outcomes of that session.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.17 PM.

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE

HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE

ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2025

COMMENCING AT 8.18PM

1 INTRODUCTION

ATTENDANCE

Cr M Ruddy (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne *(Audio Visual Link)*, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson *(Audio Visual Link)*, Cr G Power, Cr J Stedman

Chief Executive Officer, Director Corporate and Commercial Services, Acting Director Development Services (Johnston), Director Community, Recreation and Cultural Services, Director Technical Services, Chief Financial Officer, Manager Corporate Governance, Governance Lead, Governance Officer

1.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

RESOLVED - 25/460 **Cr M McDonell/Cr G Judge**

That the apologies be accepted from Cr Whitton for the Services Policy Committee of Orange City Council on 2 September 2025.

For: Cr M Ruddy (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

RESOLVED - 25/461 **Cr M McDonell/Cr G Judge**

That Cr Kinghorne and Cr Peterson be permitted to attend the Services Policy Committee Meeting of Orange City Council on 2 September 2025 via Audio Visual Link.

For: Cr M Ruddy (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

1.2 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil

2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

2.1 MINUTES OF THE NAIDOC WEEK COMMITTEE MEETING 24 JULY 2025

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1767

RESOLVED - 25/462 **Cr G Power/Cr M McDonell**

1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the NAIDOC Week Community Committee at its meeting held on 24 July 2025.

2 That Council determine recommendation 3.2 from the minutes of the NAIDOC Week Community Committee meeting of 24 July 2025.

3.2 That the following Expressions of Interest for NAIDOC Week 2025 events be accepted:
- *a. AECG Junior Ball, including budget – Amy Wilson*
- *b. NAIDOC Ball - Danielle Annesley and Danielle Trudgett*
- *c. Orange Regional Museum Workshop – Museum Manager*

3 That the remainder of the minutes of the NAIDOC Week Community Committee from its meeting held on 24 July 2025 be adopted.

For: Cr M Ruddy (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

2.2 MINUTES OF THE FAMILY & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING 29 JULY 2025

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1772

RESOLVED - 25/463 **Cr M McDonell/Cr D Mallard**

1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Family & Domestic Violence Community Committee at its meeting held on 29 July 2025.

2 That Council determine recommendation 5 from the minutes of the Family & Domestic Violence Community Committee meeting of 29 July 2025.

5. That Council staff discuss with the Communications team a means to put something out for awareness of Children Protection Week and that the Committee reach out to Tablelands Legal Service about scope to put on a webinar for Community awareness training including recent highlights of AVO's including children.

3 That the remainder of the minutes of the Family & Domestic Violence Community Committee from its meeting held on 29 July 2025 be adopted.

For: Cr M Ruddy (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

2.3 MINUTES OF THE ORANGE HEALTH LIAISON COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING 30 JULY 2025

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1765

RESOLVED - 25/464 **Cr M McDonell/Cr K Duffy**

1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Orange Health Liaison Committee at its meeting held on 30 July 2025.
2 That the minutes of the Orange Health Liaison Committee from its meeting held on 30 July 2025 be adopted.

For: Cr M Ruddy (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.21PM.

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE

HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE

ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2025

COMMENCING AT 8.21PM

1 INTRODUCTION

ATTENDANCE

Cr T Mileto (Mayor)(Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne *(Audio Visual Link)*, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson *(Audio Visual Link)*, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Chief Executive Officer, Director Corporate and Commercial Services, Acting Director Development Services (Johnston), Director Community, Recreation and Cultural Services, Director Technical Services, Chief Financial Officer, Manager Corporate Governance, Governance Lead, Governance Officer

1.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

RESOLVED - 25/465 **Cr M McDonell/Cr G Judge**

That the apologies be accepted from Cr Whitton for the Regional & Economic Development Policy Committee of Orange City Council on 2 September 2025.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr T Greenhalgh, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

RESOLVED - 25/466 **Cr M McDonell/Cr G Judge**

That Cr Kinghorne and Cr Peterson be permitted to attend the Regional & Economic Development Policy Committee Meeting of Orange City Council on 2 September 2025 via Audio Visual Link.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr T Greenhalgh, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

1.2 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil

2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

2.1 MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING 13 AUGUST 2025

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1763

RESOLVED - 25/467 **Cr T Greenhalgh/Cr K Duffy**

1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Economic Development Community Committee at its meeting held on 13 August 2025.

2 That the minutes of the Economic Development Community Committee from its meeting held on 13 August 2025 be adopted.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr T Greenhalgh, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman
Against: Nil
Absent: Cr J Whitton

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.22PM.

5.2 Responses to Questions Taken on Notice

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/1776
AUTHOR: Janessa Constantine, Manager Corporate Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides responses below to Questions Taken on Notice 19 August and 2 September 2025.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "15.1 Provide representative, responsible and accountable community governance".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information contained in the report on responses to Questions Taken on Notice be acknowledged.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council's key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

Service/Project Delivery	Delayed or incomplete responses may impact community confidence in Council's service or project delivery.
Financial	Misinterpreted or inaccurate responses could lead to financial commitments or liabilities.
Reputation/Political	Public or political reaction may arise from perceived evasiveness or inadequate transparency in responses.
Environment	Responses that overlook environmental implications may lead to reputational or regulatory risks.
Compliance	Failure to address statutory or policy-related questions accurately may result in non-compliance.
People & WHS	Responses involving staff actions or incidents may expose Council to WHS scrutiny or legal risk.
Information Technology/Cyber Security	Disclosure of sensitive or unverified information may pose data security or privacy risks.

5.2 Responses to Questions Taken on Notice

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

CCL 19 AUGUST 2025

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Cr Duffy requested information be provided on how the Menstrual Equity Program will operate and what criteria will be used to assess applications.

Residents will be able to claim using an online form developed by council staff

There are no criteria for the rebate other than:

- Being an Orange City Council resident
- Purchasing eligible products
- Claim limit is 50% of expenditure up to a limit of $100 per household.
- Claimants will need to acknowledge the terms and conditions being:
    1. The rebate of up to 50% of your total purchase (up to $100 per household) will be paid as a bank transfer directly into your nominated account, upon receipt of this application form by Orange City Council and verification of eligibility as per the conditions listed on this application.
    2. I agree to claim only for items purchased from 1 September 2025 and 31 August 2026. The rebate form submitted may include multiple receipts provided they are dated between 1 September 2025 and 31 August 2026.
    3. I agree to refund the rebate amount to Orange City Council if I return or exchange any of the products within twelve (12) months.
    4. I have completed this Application Form as accurately as possible. The information contained in this Application Form is truthful and correct and I am eligible for the rebate. Providing false, misleading or incomplete information may impact the ability of Orange City Council to accurately assess my application.
    5. I have read and understand the Eligibility Conditions, including the Privacy Statement and agree that by signing this application I accept those terms and conditions.

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Cr Duffy noted a recent incident on a footpath in Sale Street and requested information on what work is being done on remediating footpaths that may pose a risk to pedestrians in the CBD.

CBD footpaths are inspected on a monthly basis and in line with advice from Council's public liability insurer's any trip hazard greater than 20mm is marked with line marking paint for both visibility and scheduled maintenance throughout the year. This maintenance can be in the form of grinding of the adjacent surfaces to removal of sections and replacement.

QUESTION TAKE ON NOTICE

Cr Duffy asked for a list to be provided of books made available to students at Council owned Early Learning Centres and Preschools.

Response is subject to a separate report to Council at this meeting.

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Cr Mileto asked if a sign could be installed for the temporary carpark at Jack Brabham Park, to alert users to its availability.

The works team have been instructed to install a sign for the temporary carpark at Jack Brabham Park.

5.2 Responses to Questions Taken on Notice

PDC 2 SEPTEMBER 2025
QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
Cr Duffy asked that Council provide an update on the travel arrangements for the wind turbines on Mount Canobolas.

Council staff advise that there are currently no approved wind turbines located on the immediate summit of Mount Canobolas. However, Iberdrola Australia holds an investigation permit for the Four Mile Creek Wind Farm Prospect, which is situated near Orange within the Canobolas State Forest, but not on the mountain itself. It is understood that Iberdrola is presently undertaking feasibility studies to assess the viability of the project.

Separately, the Flyers Creek Wind Farm, which is also located in the broader region, is an approved and unrelated project.

The consent authority for developments of this nature is expected to be the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure. Should a formal proposal be lodged, it would be required to address a range of matters, including proposed access routes for construction, environmental impacts, and community consultation.

Council will continue to monitor developments and provide updates as further information becomes available.

ESPC 2 September 2025
QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
Cr Peterson asked what the financial implications are of participating in the National Water Week.

Council staff intend to participate through social media avenues with the only additional cost being time to create and/or post which will be absorbed through existing staff time.

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
Cr Duffy asked for a report regarding the Cook Park policies and the plan of management for them, and include the meeting procedures and what happened at the previous meeting within the report.

Staff will bring a report back to the next meeting of Council.

IPC 2 SEPTEMBER 2025
QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
Cr Mallard requested asked what considerations have been made on providing assistance for people crossing the road at the Ploughman's Wetlands, such as pedestrian crossings or traffic calming infrastructure.

The pram ramp and approach to the Ploughman's Wetland had been formalised in concrete for the Stirling Avenue mid-block crossing. The traffic volumes in Stirling Avenue currently do not warrant further treatment for a marked pedestrian crossing or centre refuge, with adequate gaps in traffic to cross the road safely. There is also a balance with the reduction in parking opportunities any formal crossing would create.

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
Cr Mallard asked for the annual total of the supplementary raw water sources for the 2024/25 financial year.

5.2 Responses to Questions Taken on Notice

The total supplementary raw water sources for the 2024/25 water year were reported in the 5th August 2025 Infrastructure Policy Committee and repeated below for Councillors information:

Supplementary Raw Water Sources

Extractions from the supplementary raw water supplies in recent months are provided in the table below. The 'Total' column is the tally for all months in the water year (starting July).

Raw Water Source	March 2025 (ML)	April 2025 (ML)	May 2025 (ML)	June 2025 (ML)	Total (ML) 2024/2025
Bores*	4.55	3.14	3.54	3.56	53.78
Stormwater	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Macquarie River	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	**4.55**	**3.14**	**3.54**	**3.56**	**53.78**

** Bores include two at Clifton Grove and two at the Showground/Margaret Street*

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Cr Duffy asked for the date of when boom gates will be installed on the railway crossing at Woodward Street.

I refer to previous advice emailed to Councillors on the 28th April this year:

Dear Councillors,

Some excellent news following on from the March Mayoral minute on the same subject, the UGL Operations Manager has advised Jason Theakstone that the Woodward Street rail level crossing has been included within the TfNSW ACLAM model review. This model review will take between 3-6 months and will ultimately prioritise the level crossings in NSW for funding under the Federal Governments Regional Australia Level Crossing Safety Program.

Discussions with UGL suggest that it should sit near the top of the priorities for the Safety Program.

NB: That as a Local Government we are ineligible to apply for this funding directly but can continue to advocate through local members, TfNSW and UGL as the rail operator.

By way of update the crossings upgraded in Cabonne Council were funded under last year's program. Woodward Street remains unfunded. It may receive funding later this financial year and then would expect it to be planned and scheduled for upgrade in the 2026/27 financial year.

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Cr McDonell asked for an update on the plans to upgrade the intersection at Racecourse Road and Woodward Street

Design and pavement investigation for Woodward Street intersections with both Racecourse Road and Gardiner Road are continuing with work scheduled for February March 2026.

5.2 Responses to Questions Taken on Notice

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Cr Kinghorne asked what was learnt during the proactive lessons learnt session held between the contractor and the project management team.

A summary of the key technical lessons learnt from the ERRRC works:

- CQA Engineer: For future cells, the CQA engineer should be engaged directly by the Principal rather than the contractor. This will increase Principal oversight but could be managed via a nominated subcontractor.
- EPA Requirements: The contractor was not fully aware of the extent of EPA requirements and the effort involved in securing CEMP approval, which they needed to allow more time at the start of the project.
- Design RFIs: Some technical details in the design required clarification to make drawings clearer and more understandable. These will have to be updated for future cells (5–8) to reduce RFIs and improve construction efficiency and understanding of the works.
- Existing Cell Connections: Connections to existing cells should be checked earlier in the project to confirm levels and tolerances. Pipe connections was different from what the level the design thought it was at.
- Geotech Investigations: Excavator test pits provide better clarity than drill rigs doing bore holes to help confirm quantity of materials (clays) to be reused. Future designs should allow for excavation-based investigations to confirm material volumes before bulk earthworks commence or during the design phase.
- Sequencing: Staging plans for the future cells and how to do it efficiently and effectively with excavating cells 5-8 and having to continue to cap cells 2-4.

5.3 Development Application DA 771/2024(1) - 140 Cadia Road, Springside

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/1845
AUTHOR: Dhawala Ananda, Town Planner

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Application lodged	14 January 2025
Applicant/s	EDPR Australia Pty Ltd
Owner/s	Mr J A C and Mrs J K Crombie
Land description	Lot 5 DP6173 - 140 Cadia Road, Orange
Proposed land use	Electricity Generating Works (solar farm) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
Value of proposed development	$16,026,010.94

The development application seeks consent for the establishment of Electricity Generating Works (solar farm) and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at 140 Cadia Road, Orange. The proposal involves two 5.0 MW PEG system solar farms on a 25.75-hectare site, with a combined fenced footprint of 13.01 hectares (representing 50.5% of the site area).

Each facility will consist of approximately 16,000 fixed, alternating-tilt solar panels, inverter stations, BESS units, and voltage conversion kiosks. The development will include landscape screening and 2.3-metre-high security fencing. Access to the site will be maintained via the existing driveway off Cadia Road, and additional power poles will be installed to connect the development to the existing electricity network.

Construction is anticipated to take approximately four months, with up to 50 personnel onsite during this phase. Once operational, the facility will be unmanned and subject to quarterly maintenance. The expected operational lifespan of the development is 35 years, with a total capital investment of $16.03 million (inclusive of GST).

Under Section 2.19(1) and Schedule 6 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021, the proposal qualifies as regionally significant development due to the proposal involving private infrastructure works exceeding $5 million in value. Accordingly, the Western Regional Planning Panel (WRPP) is the consent authority for this development application.

The purpose of this report is to inform Council that staff have completed the assessment of the Development Application. Council may now consider making a written submission to the WRPP regarding the proposed development. Should Council wish to make a submission, specific planning matters must be nominated to enable preparation of a submission letter for tabling at the WRPP meeting. It is important to note that, in accordance with the Sydney & Regional Planning Panels Operational Procedures, any Council submission cannot be specifically referenced in the assessment report or recommendations prepared by Council staff.

To assist Council in preparing a submission, the Planning Assessment Report, recommended Notice of Determination, Statement of Environmental Effects and Development Plans are attached. A copy of other supporting documentation can be provided upon request.

The proposed development is classified as Nominated Integrated Development and therefore "advertised development" under the Community Participation Plan. The application was publicly advertised for the prescribed 28-day period in accordance with Council's Community Participation Plan, during which 42 submissions were received. The issues raised in the submissions have been addressed in the attached planning assessment report for consideration by the WRPP. The matter is scheduled for determination by the WRPP on **30 September 2025**.

5.3 Development Application DA 771/2024(1) - 140 Cadia Road, Springside

DIRECTOR'S COMMENT

The Development Application proposes the construction of two 5.0 MW solar farms and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at 140 Cadia Road, Orange, on a 25.75-hectare site. The project has an anticipated operational life of 35 years and a total capital investment of $16.03 million (including GST).

As the proposal involves private infrastructure works exceeding $5 million, it is classified as Regionally Significant Development under the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021* meaning that the Western Regional Planning Panel (WRPP) is the consent authority for this application.

It is noted that the development is also classified as Integrated Development as it requires a Controlled Activity Approval due to its location over a mapped watercourse identified as a first-order stream under the Strahler system. General Terms of Approval have been issued and have been attached to the Notice of Determination.

Council's Planning Assessment has identified several key considerations, including but not limited to:

- Stormwater management
- Agricultural land use
- Visual impacts, including landscape and scenic amenity.

These matters have been addressed in the attached Planning Assessment Report.

The proposal was publicly exhibited as advertised development. At the close of the exhibition period 42 submissions were received - 41 objections and one (1) submission in support. All submissions were redacted and forwarded to the Applicant, along with a formal request for a detailed response to the issues raised. These matters have been addressed in the attached Planning Assessment Report.

The assessment concludes that, subject to appropriate conditions to mitigate impacts, the proposal is acceptable. Council may now consider whether or not to make a formal written submission to the WRPP regarding the proposed development.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan Strategy "7.3 Plan for growth and development that balances liveability with valuing the local environment".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

5.3 Development Application DA 771/2024(1) - 140 Cadia Road, Springside

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves:

1 **That the information contained in the report for development application DA 771/2024(1) for proposed *Electricity Generating Works (solar farm) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)* at Lot 5 DP6173 - 140 Cadia Road, Orange, be acknowledged.**

2 **That Council determine whether or not it makes a submission on the application to the Western Regional Planning Panel.**

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council's key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

Service/Project Delivery	Nil
Financial	Nil
Reputation/Political	Nil
Environment	The assessment report includes an analysis of the likely impacts of the proposed development. Mitigation conditions to address impacts have been recommended in the Notice of Determination.
Compliance	Nil
People & WHS	Nil
Information Technology/Cyber Security	Nil

Supporting Information

The Development Application seeks consent for electricity generating works in the form of a Solar Farm and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at 140 Cadia Road, Orange. The proposal involves the construction of two 5.0 MW PEG system solar farms on a 25.75-hectare site, with a combined fenced footprint of 13.01 hectares, representing approximately 50.5% of the total site area. Each facility will include around 16,000 fixed, alternating-tilt solar panels, inverter stations, BESS units, and voltage conversion kiosks. The development will also incorporate landscape screening and 2.3m high security fencing. Access to the site will be maintained via the existing driveway off Cadia Road, and additional power poles will be installed to connect the development to the existing electricity network.

Construction is expected to take approximately four months, with up to 50 personnel onsite during this phase. Once operational, the facility will be unmanned and maintained on a quarterly basis. The development has an anticipated operational life of 35 years and represents a capital investment of $16.03 million (including GST).

In accordance with Section 2.19(1) and Schedule 6 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021, the proposal qualifies as regionally significant development due to the capital investment value exceeding $5million. As such, the Western Regional Planning Panel (WRPP) is the consent authority for this application.

5.3 Development Application DA 771/2024(1) - 140 Cadia Road, Springside

The proposed development is classified as "advertised development" under the Community Participation Plan. The application was publicly advertised for the prescribed 28-day period, during which 42 submissions were received. Of these, only one (1) submission was in support of the proposal. The issues raised in the submissions have been addressed in the attached Planning Assessment Report, which will be considered by the WRPP.

A detailed assessment of the relevant planning matters has been undertaken by Council staff. Key considerations include stormwater management, the impact on agricultural land use, and visual impacts, particularly in relation to landscape and scenic amenity. The proponent has submitted supporting technical reports addressing these issues. Following review, Council staff conclude that, subject to the adoption of recommended conditions to mitigate impacts, the proposed development can operate in an acceptable manner.

The purpose of this report is to inform Council that the staff assessment of the Development Application has been completed. Council may now choose to make a written submission to the WRPP regarding the proposal.

Should Council wish to do so, specific planning matters must be nominated so that arrangements can be made for a submission letter to be prepared and tabled for the WRPP's consideration. It is important to note that, in accordance with the Sydney and Regional Planning Panels Operational Procedures, any Council submission cannot be specifically referenced in the assessment report or recommendations prepared by Council staff.

To assist Council in considering whether to make a submission, the Planning Assessment Report, recommended Notice of Determination, Development Plans and Statement of Environmental Effects are attached. A copy of other supporting documents submitted in support of the Development Application can also be made available upon request.

Council is advised that the matter is scheduled for consideration by the WRPP on 30 September 2025. Should Council wish to make a submission, it is recommended that this be prepared and submitted in advance of this date.

ATTACHMENTS

1 Planning Report, D25/80505⇩
2 Draft Notice of Determination, D25/105891⇩
3 Statement of Environmental Effects (redacted), D25/105539⇩
4 Plans, D25/105497⇩
5 Submissions x 42 (redacted), D25/100745⇩

D25/80505

REPORT TO **CCL 16 SEPTEMBER 2025**
WESTERN REGION PLANNING PANEL

FROM **SENIOR PLANNER (DHAWALA ANANDA)**

DATE **16 SEPTEMBER 2025**

ON **DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION**
140 CADIA ROAD, ORANGE
ELECTRICITY GENERATING WORKS (SOLAR FARM) AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS)

PAN-499518 - PR2156

Application Lodged	14 January 2025
Development Application No	DA 771/2024(1)
Documents Detail	1. Site Plans; Titled - Orange South 8B & 9B 2 X 5MW Solar Farms; Sheet numbers - G-0100, G-0310, G-0400, G-2100, G-2200, C-4300, C-4310, C-5310, C-5300, C-6300, C-7300, E-3400, E-4300, E-5300; revised plans date - 17/04/2025; Prepared by ITP Renewables 2. Statement of Environmental Effects prepared by Zenith Town Planning, dated 26/05/2025 3. Bushfire Risk and Operations plan prepared by BEMC, Reference - 242105; Dated 12/12/2024 4. Bushfire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan - prepared by BEMC, Dated 12/12/2024 5. Fire and Hazard Study - prepared by EDP Renewables; dated 22/05/2025 6. Glint and Glare Study - prepared by ITP Renewables; dated 09/12/2024 7. Waste and Decommissioning Assessment - prepared by EDP Renewables; dated 22/10/2024 8. Traffic and Parking Impact Statement – reference 240856.01FA; prepared by M^{c}LAREN TRAFFIC ENGINEERING; Dated 10/12/2024 9. Water Channels Assessment Report - prepared by EDP Renewables; dated 14/03/2025 10. Visual Impact Assessment Report - prepared by Zenith Town Planning, dated 23/05/2025 11. Noise Study and Addendum - Prepared by Muller Acoustic Consulting; Dated 24/03/2025 12. Prelim Groundcover Management Plan - prepared by EDP Renewables; dated August 2025 13. Biosecurity Management Plan - prepared by EDP Renewables; dated August 2025 14. Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment Rev A - prepared by Zenith Town Planning, dated 28/08/2025

Applicant	EDPR Australia Pty Ltd Level 4/54 Marcus Clarke Street CANBERRA ACT 2601
Owner/s	Mr J A and Mrs J K Crombie 140 Cadia Road ORANGE NSW 2800
Land Description	Lot 5 DP 6173 - 140 Cadia Road, Orange
Proposed Land Use	Electricity Generating Works (solar farm) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
Value of Proposed Development	$16,026,011.00
Provisions of LEP 2011 (amended)	C3 Environmental Management
Details of Advertisement of Project	Advertised in the Central Western Daily on Friday, 24 January 2025 and neighbouring properties notified. Exhibition closed on Monday, 24 February 2025 - 42 submissions received.
Recommendation	Approval

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Application lodged	14 January 2025
Applicant/s	EDPR Australia Pty Ltd
Owner/s	Mr JA and Mrs JK Crombie
Land description	Lot 5 DP 6173 - 140 Cadia Road, Orange
Proposed land use	Electricity Generating Works (solar farm) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
Value of proposed development	$16,026,011.00

The development application seeks consent for the establishment of Electricity Generating Works (solar farm) and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at 140 Cadia Road, Orange. The proposal involves two 5.0 MW PEG system solar farms on a 25.75-hectare site, with a combined fenced footprint of 13.01 hectares (representing 50.5% of the site area).

Each facility will consist of approximately 16,000 fixed, alternating-tilt solar panels, inverter stations, BESS units, and voltage conversion kiosks. The development will include landscape screening and 2.3-metre-high security fencing. Access to the site will be maintained via the existing driveway off Cadia Road, and additional power poles will be installed to connect the development to the existing electricity network.

Construction is anticipated to take approximately four months, with up to 50 personnel onsite during this phase. Once operational, the facility will be unmanned and subject to quarterly maintenance. The expected operational lifespan of the development is 35 years, with a total capital investment of $16.03 million (inclusive of GST).

Under Section 2.19(1) and Schedule 6 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021, the proposal qualifies as regionally significant development due to the proposal involving private infrastructure works (electricity generating works) exceeding $5 million in value. Accordingly, the Western Regional Planning Panel (WRPP) is the consent authority for this development application.

Please refer to the locality plan below for the site context and layout.

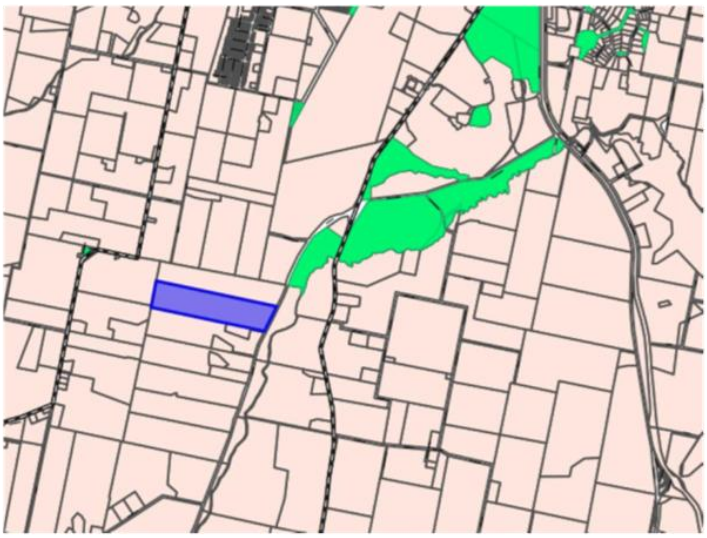

Figure 1 - locality plan

The development is depicted diagrammatically below.

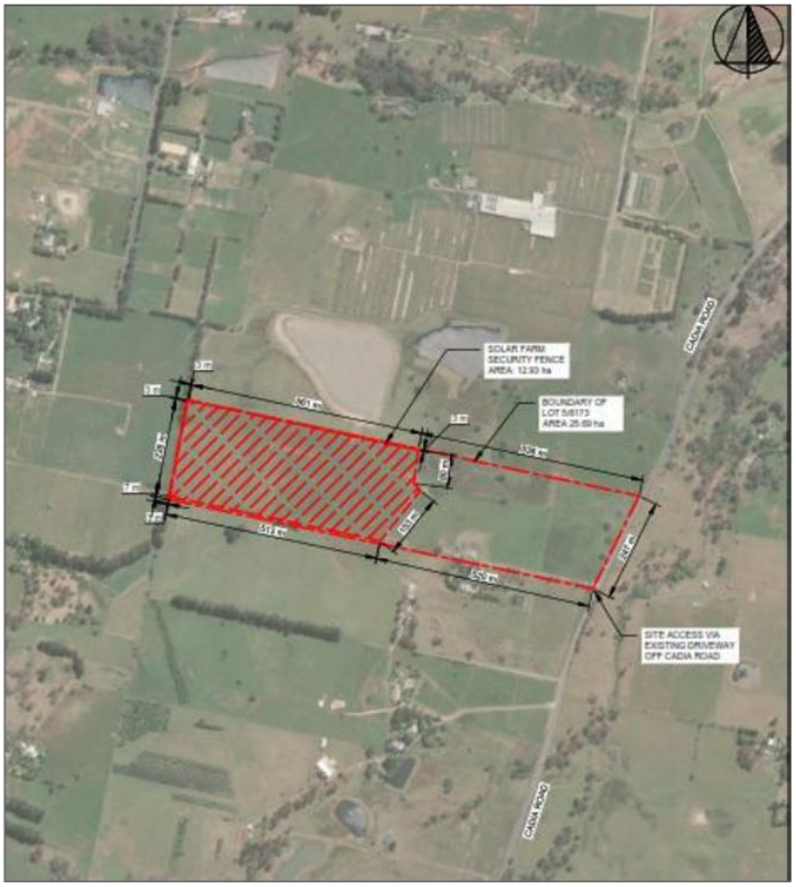

Figure 2 - locality plan

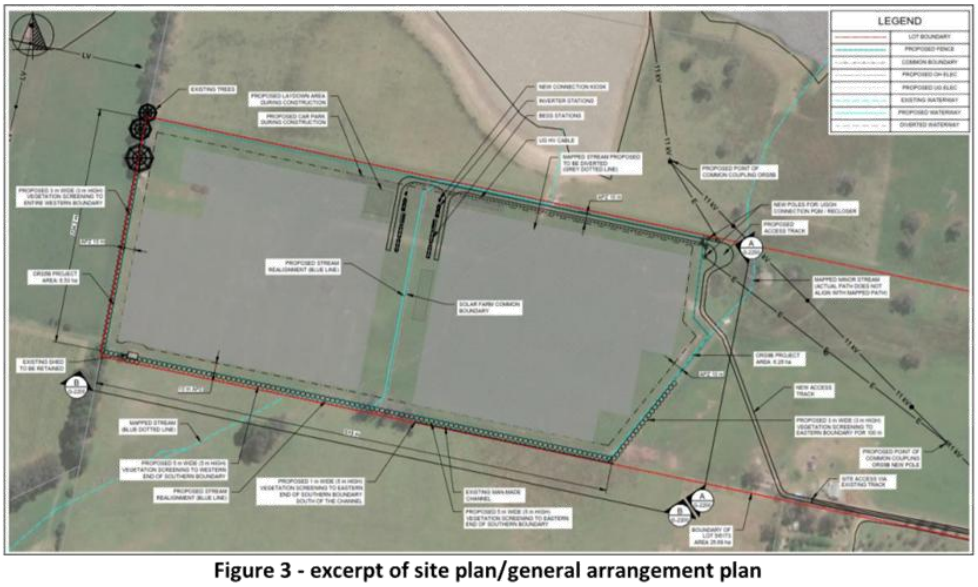

Figure 3 - excerpt of site plan/general arrangement plan

Engagement

The development is categorised as Integrated Development given the approval requirements for a controlled activity approval as the development is located over a mapped watercourse that is a 1st order stream under the Strahler system which requires a 28 Day exhibition period. The development was exhibited for the requisite period. At the conclusion of the exhibition period a total of 42 submissions were received, out of which all are objections to the proposed development expect one (1) that was in favour of the development.

The submissions were redacted and provided to the applicant accompanied by a request to provide a detailed response to the matters raised. Out of this request and also following an onsite meeting with the applicant, WRPP members and Council staff on 8 April 2025, the applicant elected to increase the amount of landscaping offered.

The amendment to the proposal was determined not significant and as such a re-exhibition was not required. The submissions received have been considered by Council staff and are addressed later in this planning report.

Assessment

A detailed assessment of all relevant matters is provided below. The central matters identified out of the below assessment relate to the suitability of the site for the proposed development - primarily relating to the development's effect on scenic value, the visual impacts (specifically from nearby residential receivers). Other matters such as the adequacy of the proposed landscaping, the impact of the development on agricultural land, construction noise and traffic impacts are also addressed in detail.

Summary

The proposed development is permissible with the consent of the Western Region Planning Panel pursuant to Division 4, Clause 2.36 of State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure 2021) and Orange LEP 2011. Under Section 2.19(1) and Schedule 6 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021, the proposal qualifies as regionally significant development due to the proposal involving private infrastructure works (electricity generating works) exceeding $5 million in value. The proposed development is not inconsistent with the relevant aims, objectives and provisions of Orange Development Control Plan 2004.

Furthermore, the project site is not identified in the Orange Local Housing Strategy as an Urban Release Area intended for the expansion of the Orange township. As such, the proposed development will not interfere with nor hinder the planned future growth of Orange.

It is noted that the site is located outside of the Central West Renewable Energy Zone. The proposal is not considered to be inconsistent with the planning priorities, goals and actions of the Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2041 and Orange Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020.

Potential impacts have been identified in relation to stormwater management, agricultural land use, and visual impacts, including landscape and scenic amenity. These likely impacts have been assessed in the report. It is considered that appropriate mitigation measures have been proposed, and relevant conditions have been included to manage and minimise any adverse effects.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY/GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the Western Region Planning Panel consents to development application DA 771/2024(1) for *Electricity Generating Works (solar farm) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)* at Lot 5 DP 6173 - 140 Cadia Road, Orange pursuant to the conditions of consent in the attached Notice of Approval.

THE APPLICATION

The proposal seeks consent from the Western Region Planning Panel for a solar farm and energy storage system (BESS) at the subject site as a regionally significant project. The project is referred to as Orange South 8B and 9B Solar farm plus BESS NSW. The proponent is EDPR Australia Pty Ltd.

Specifically, the proposal involves:

- Construction of two (2) PEG system solar farms with an AC output of 5.0 MW per farm. The 8B system will be occupying 6.53ha at the western end and the 9B system is to occupy 6.48ha at the centre of the property, thereby a total of 13.01ha of 25.75ha is to be utilised for the solar farms.
- There are to be approximately 16,000 solar modules per system supported by inverter stations and BESS enclosed within a security fence and partial landscape screening. Access is to be via an existing driveway off Cadia Road into the project site.
- The operational life of the solar farms is anticipated to be 35 years, depending on various factors. The solar panels and related infrastructure will be decommissioned and removed upon termination of operations.

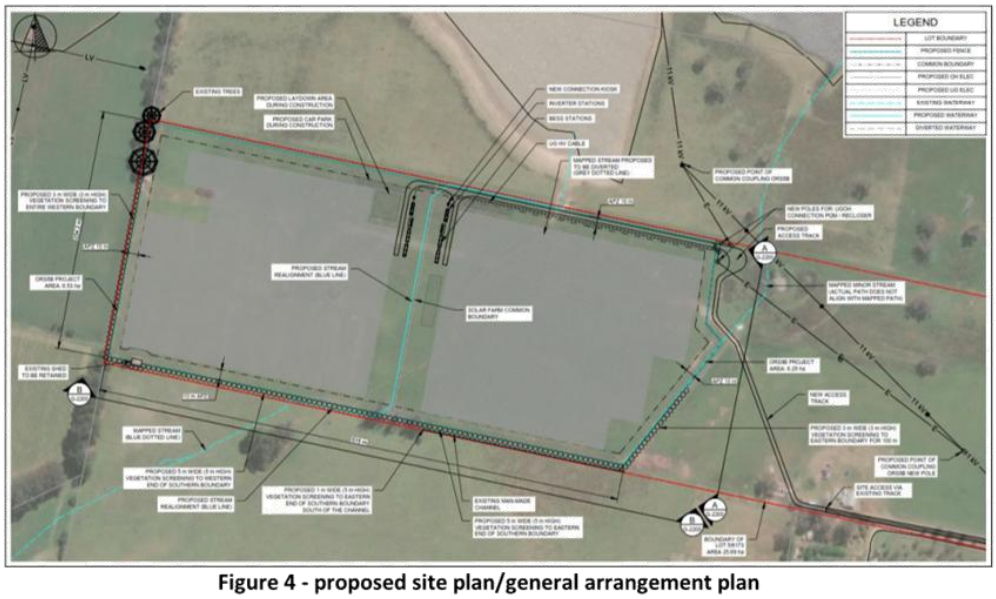

Figure 4 - proposed site plan/general arrangement plan

Figure 5 - example of PEG system installation

The development is described in the summary below -

Development Summary -

ASPECT	DESCRIPTION
PROJECT SUMMARY	The development involves the following: ▪ Two PEG system solar farms with an AC output of 5.0 MW per site ▪ 8B system to occupy 6.53ha and 9B system to occupy 6.48ha, total site area is 25.75ha ▪ Approximately 16,000 solar modules per system supported by inverter stations and BESS enclosed within a 1.8m security fence (topped with three rows of barbed wire to give a total height of 2.3m) and landscape screening ▪ Access to the site will remain from an existing driveway off Cadia Road ▪ Panels will have approximate height of 1.2m above ground level; they are fixed and has alternating-tilt positions (East to West) ▪ A 2.5MW inverter station within each facility that is 3m high and mounted on a 12.2m long skid located in the centre of the array ▪ Two 2.9m high kiosks to convert high and medium voltage to low voltage electricity

	▪ Two 2.9m high battery energy storage systems located on skid located in the centre of the array ▪ Additional power poles at the north-eastern corner and lines to connect to existing power lines
ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY	EDPR Australia Pty Ltd
SITE AREA	25.75ha
DEVELOPMENT FOOTPRINT (FENCED AREA)	13.01ha (50.5% of the total site area)
SITE ACCESS	Access to the site will remain from an existing driveway off Cadia Road
OPERATIONAL LIFE	Anticipated to operate for 35 years
CONSTRUCTION PHASE	Approximately 4 months for both sites, construction timings: 7am to 4pm, Monday to Friday
EMPLOYMENT	Construction phase: 50 personnel working onsite Operational phase: Unmanned, maintenance carried out quarterly by 2-3 crew members
CAPITAL INVESTMENT VALUE	$16,026,011.00 (Incl. GST)

SITE PHOTOS

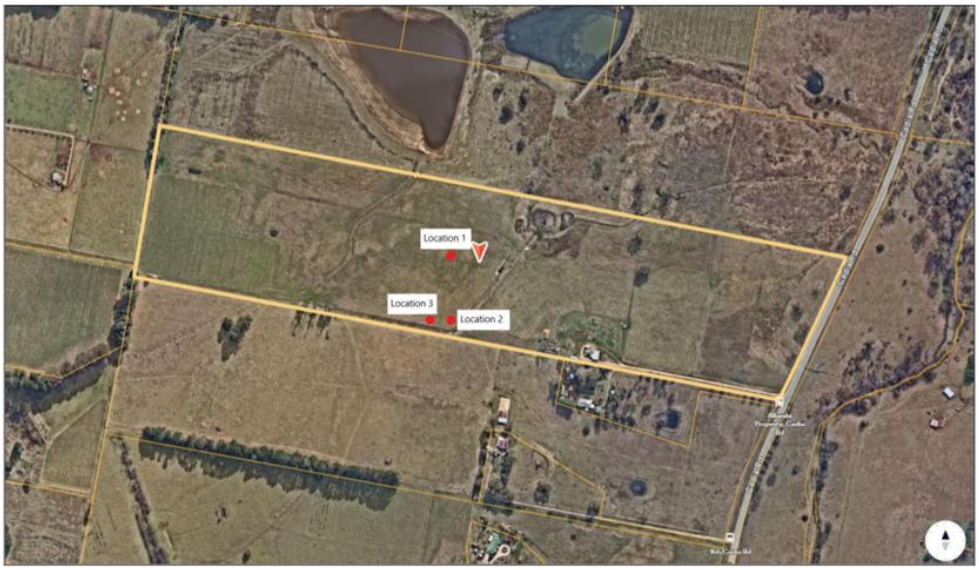

Figure 6 - site locality

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Figure 7 - looking south from the site

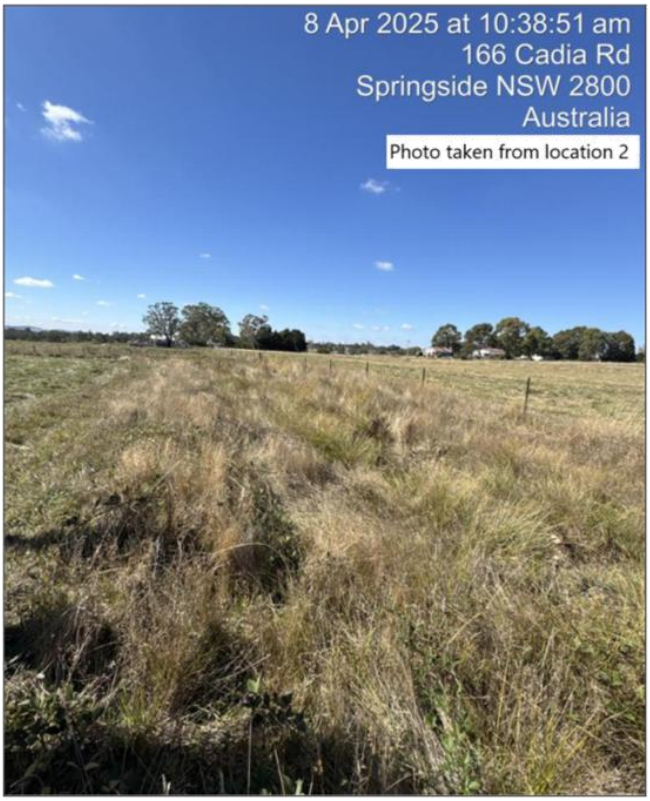

Figure 8 - looking south-east from the site

Figure 9 - looking west from the site

BACKGROUND

The development application was lodged on 14 January 2025, a chronology of the development application since lodgement is outlined in table below.

Date	Event
14 January 2025	DA lodged
16 January 2025	DA referred to external agencies (Department of Planning and Environment-Water, Essential Energy, Department of Primary Industry - Agriculture)
24 January 2025	Exhibition of the application for 28 days as the application is determined as Integrated Development.
4 March 2025	Redacted version of the submissions provided to applicant
5 March 2025	Request for Information from Council to applicant
10 March 2025	Request for additional time to provide RFI from Applicant to Council & Department of Planning and Environment-Water
11 March 2025	Request for Information from Council to applicant (Preliminary Contamination Report)
14 March 2025	Panel briefing
31 March 2025	Request for Information from Department of Planning and Environment-Water to applicant

08 April 2025	Site Inspection with Council, WRPP and Applicant
23 April 2025	Applicant requests additional time to respond for the RFI
1 May 2025	Upon providing additional information requested, General Terms of Approval received from Department of Planning and Environment-Water
23 July 2025	Additional comments have been received from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPI&RD). While the Department is generally supportive of the proposed development, concerns regarding groundcover management and biosecurity management remain unresolved and unsatisfactory at this stage.
14 August 2025	The applicant has been requested to provide a Groundcover Management Plan and a Biosecurity Management Plan to enable completion of the planning assessment.
27 August 2025	Groundcover Management Plan and a Biosecurity Management Plan received by Council
04 September 2025	Council planning assessment complete

SITE HISTORY

The site has been issued a Notice of Approval for Development Application DA 297/2022(1), which proposes a Dual Occupancy (one additional rural dwelling) and shed. Approval was granted on 27 January 2023, with the consent set to lapse on 27 January 2028.

The proposed solar farms (8B system and 9B system) are located further west of the approved dwelling, carport, and shed (refer to Figure 10). In this context, the surrender of the consent for DA 297/2022(1) is not required. However, a review of the site and approved plans indicates that the proposed access track for the solar farm may interfere with the approved shed and carport.

To avoid conflict between the approved rural dwelling development and the proposed solar farm infrastructure, a condition has been required to ensure that:

- The access track is realigned or designed in a manner that avoids encroachment on the approved shed and carport footprint.
- The access arrangement is modified to ensure both developments can coexist without operational or structural conflicts.

This condition would provide certainty that both the approved residential development and the proposed solar farm can proceed without compromising one another.

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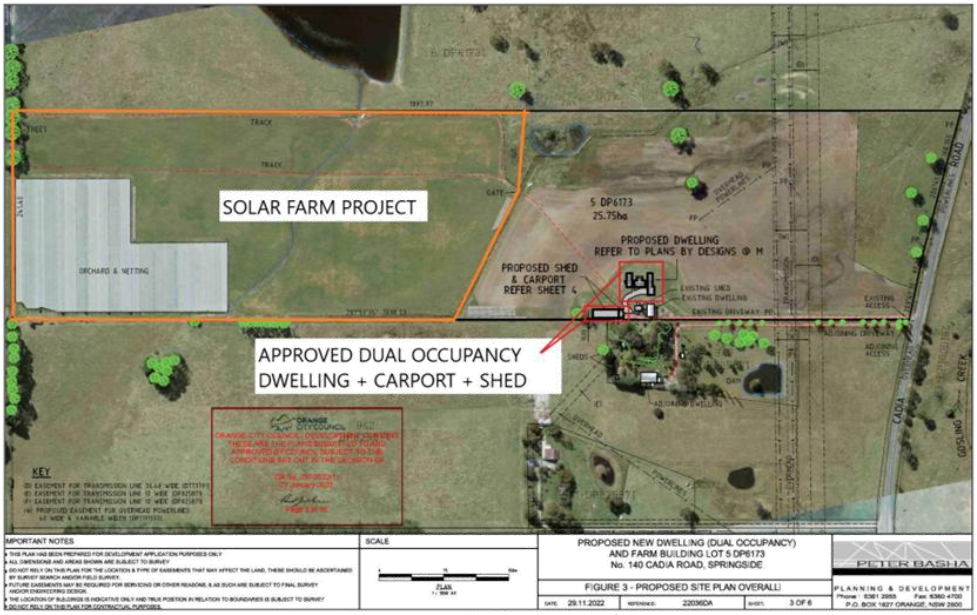

Figure 10 - approved plan [DA 297/2022(1)]

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The proposed development - comprising two PEG system solar farms and an associated Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) - aligns with a number of strategic planning priorities at the local, regional, and state levels, particularly in relation to renewable energy generation, climate resilience, and sustainable land use.

The subject site is located in the south-western fringe of the Orange Local Government Area, an area traditionally used for agricultural purposes, with a long-standing rural zoning designation. While the land has not been identified for urban expansion in the Orange Local Housing Strategy, it presents an appropriate location for non-urban development that supports broader sustainability outcomes without compromising the city's planned growth.

The proposal supports the intent of the NSW Electricity Strategy and the State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021, both of which encourage the development of renewable energy infrastructure to meet the State's net-zero emissions targets and growing energy demands.

Strategically, the proposal:

- Contributes to the diversification of land uses in rural zones, consistent with evolving rural land use policy.
- Aligns with the Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2041, which supports renewable energy investment in appropriate rural locations.
- Provides infrastructure that strengthens energy reliability, particularly with the integration of a BESS, enabling energy storage and improved grid stability.
- Does not conflict with urban expansion priorities or environmental conservation strategies identified in the Orange Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS).

Although visual and amenity impacts have been identified, they are site-specific and can be managed through appropriate mitigation measures. On balance, the strategic benefits of

supporting renewable energy generation on non-urban land, coupled with the absence of conflict with core land release or environmental strategies, indicate that the proposal is strategically compatible with the long-term planning vision for the locality and region.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

Section 1.7 - Application of Part 7 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and Part 7A of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*

Section 1.7 of the EP&A Act identifies that Part 7 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act) and Part 7A of the Fisheries Management Act 1994 have effect in connection with terrestrial and aquatic environments.

There are four triggers known to insert a development into the Biodiversity Offset Scheme (ie the need for a BDAR to be submitted with a DA):

- Trigger 1: development occurs in land mapped on the Biodiversity Values Map (OEH) (clause 7.1 of BC Regulation 2017);
- Trigger 2: development involves clearing/disturbance of native vegetation above a certain area threshold (clauses 7.1 and 7.2 of BC Regulation 2017); or
- Trigger 3: development is otherwise likely to significantly affect threatened species (clauses 7.2 and 7.3 of BC Act 2016).

The fourth trigger (development proposed to occur in an Area of Outstanding Biodiversity Value (clause 7.2 of BC Act 2016) is generally not applicable to the Orange LGA; as no such areas are known to occur in the LGA. No further comments will be made against the fourth trigger.

In consideration of this section, the subject land is not identified on the Biodiversity Values Map. The site is largely clear of native vegetation, and the proposal does not involve any vegetation clearing or tree removal. Accordingly, the provisions of Part 7 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and Part 7A of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* are not triggered by the development.

Section 4.14 - Consultation and development consent - certain bushfire prone land

Section 4.14 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* requires Council to consider development on bushfire prone land and the following clauses be satisfied -

(1) Development consent cannot be granted for the carrying out of development for any purpose (other than a subdivision of land that could lawfully be used for residential or rural residential purposes or development for a special fire protection purpose) on Bushfire prone land (being land for the time being recorded as bushfire prone land on a relevant map certified under Section 10.3(2)) unless the consent authority -

(a) is satisfied that the development conforms to the specifications and requirements of the version (as prescribed by the regulations) of the document entitled *Planning for Bushfire Protection* prepared by the NSW Rural Fire Service in co-operation with the Department (or, if another document is prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this paragraph, that document) that are relevant to the development (*the relevant specifications and requirements*), or

(b) has been provided with a certificate by a person who is recognised by the NSW Rural Fire Service as a qualified consultant in Bushfire risk assessment stating that the development conforms to the relevant specifications and requirements.

This section of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* applies to the proposal, as the site is identified as Bushfire prone land (Vegetation Category 3). The solar farm does not constitute development that requires a Bushfire Safety Authority under Section 100B of the *Rural Fires Act 1997*, as confirmed by the *Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019* (PBP 2019). Accordingly, referral to the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) is not required.

The consent authority is however required under Section 4.14(1)(a) to be satisfied that the development is consistent with Section 8.3.5 ("Wind and Solar Farms") of Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019. (PBP)

Figure 11 - subject site within bushfire prone land

PLANNING FOR BUSHFIRE PROTECTION - 2019

Section 8.3.5 Wind and solar farms

Wind and solar farms require special consideration and should be provided with adequate clearances to combustible vegetation as well as firefighting access and water.

The following should be provided for wind and solar farms:

- *a minimum 10m APZ for the structures and associated buildings/infrastructure; and*
- *the APZ must be maintained to the standard of an IPA for the life of the development.*
- *Infrastructure for the purposes of requiring APZ excludes:*
- *road access to the site; and*
- *power or other services to the site and associated fencing.*

The proposed solar farm complies with these requirements by incorporating a 10m APZ around solar arrays and associated infrastructure, a new access track, and utility services located within the fenced compound.

Further to the above, Section 8.3.5 of *Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019* (PBP 2019) requires that essential equipment be designed and housed to minimise the impact of bushfires on infrastructure during bushfire emergencies. Equipment must also be designed and maintained to ensure it does not pose a bushfire risk to surrounding vegetation.

PBP 2019 also requires a Bushfire Emergency Management and Operations Plan to identify all relevant risks and mitigation measures associated with the construction and operation of wind or solar farms. The plan should address:

- measures to prevent or mitigate ignition sources
- restrictions on works during total fire bans
- availability of fire-suppression equipment, access and water
- storage and maintenance of fuels and other flammable materials
- notification procedures with the NSW RFS Fire Control Centre for works with ignition potential during Bushfire danger periods, and
- overall bushfire emergency management planning.

In response to these requirements, the application is supported by *Draft Bush fire risk and operations plan (prepared by BEMC) and a Bushfire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan (prepared by BEMC)*, which addresses the matters outlined in Section 8.3.5 of *Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019*. The Plan identifies risks, details fire-prevention and suppression measures and establishes procedures for safe operations during bushfire danger periods and total fire bans. To secure ongoing implementation, a condition of consent will require the development to operate in accordance with the Plan for the life of the development, thereby ensuring bushfire risks are appropriately managed.

Section 4.15

Section 4.15 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* requires Council to consider various matters, of which those pertaining to the application are listed below.

PROVISIONS OF ANY ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING INSTRUMENT s4.15(1)(a)(i)

Orange Local Environmental Plan 2011

Part 1 - Preliminary

Clause 1.2 - Aims of Plan

The broad aims of the LEP are set out under Subclause 2. Those relevant to the application are as follows:

(a) to encourage development which complements and enhances the unique character of Orange as a major regional centre boasting a diverse economy and offering an attractive regional lifestyle,

(b) to provide for a range of development opportunities that contribute to the social, economic and environmental resources of Orange in a way that allows present and future generations to meet their needs by implementing the principles for ecologically sustainable development,

(c) to conserve and enhance the water resources on which Orange depends, particularly water supply catchments,

(d) to manage rural land as an environmental resource that provides economic and social benefits for Orange,

(e) to provide a range of housing choices in planned urban and rural locations to meet population growth,

(f) to recognise and manage valued environmental heritage, landscape and scenic features of Orange.

The application is broadly consistent with the above aims as it promotes economic diversification and renewable energy generation in line with the principles of ecologically sustainable development. This is, however, subject to the appropriate management of agricultural land values, biosecurity, groundcover, and visual impacts, all of which are addressed in detail within this report.

Clause 1.6 - Consent Authority

This clause establishes that, subject to the Act, Council is the consent authority for applications made under the LEP.

Notwithstanding the above clause, and as outlined under the heading *State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021*, the development is classified as 'electricity generating works' pursuant to Schedule 6, Clause 5 – *Private infrastructure and community facilities over $5 million*. As such, the proposed development is declared regionally significant, and the Western Regional Planning Panel (WRPP) is the consent authority in accordance with Section 4.5(b) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Therefore, any reference to Council as the consent authority shall be interpreted as a reference to the WRPP.

Clause 1.7 - Mapping

The subject site is identified on the LEP maps in the following manner:

Land Zoning Map:	**Land zoned C3 - Environmental Management**
Lot Size Map:	**Minimum Lot Size 100ha**
Heritage Map:	Not a heritage item or conservation area
Height of Buildings Map:	No building height limit
Floor Space Ratio Map:	No floor space limit
Terrestrial Biodiversity Map:	No biodiversity sensitivity on the site
Groundwater Vulnerability Map:	**Groundwater vulnerable**
Drinking Water Catchment Map:	**Within the drinking water catchment**
Watercourse Map:	**Affecting a defined watercourse, Strahler Stream Order 1 traverses through the site (joining to the Gosling Creek)***
Urban Release Area Map:	Not within an urban release area
Obstacle Limitation Surface Map:	No restriction on building siting or construction
Additional Permitted Uses Map:	No additional permitted use applies
Flood Planning Map:	Not within a flood planning area
Bushfire prone land:	**Within vegetation Category 3**

*a Strahler Stream Order 1 flows through the subject site, connecting to Gosling Creek; the development footprint is well-separated from the defined water course (i.e., Gosling Creek).

Those matters that are of relevance are addressed in detail in the body of this report.

Clause 1.9A - Suspension of Covenants, Agreements and Instruments

This clause provides that covenants, agreements and other instruments which seek to restrict the carrying out of development do not apply with the following exceptions:

(a) to a covenant imposed by the Council or that the Council requires to be imposed, or

(b) to any relevant instrument under Section 13.4 of the Crown Land Management Act 2016, or

(c) to any conservation agreement under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, or

(d) to any Trust agreement under the Nature Conservation Trust Act 2001, or

(e) to any property vegetation plan under the Native Vegetation Act 2003, or

(f) to any biobanking agreement under Part 7A of the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995, or

(g) to any planning agreement under Subdivision 2 of Division 7.1 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Council staff are not aware of the title of the subject property being affected by any of the above.

Part 2 - Permitted or Prohibited Development

Clause 2.1 - Land Use Zones and Clause 2.3 - Zone Objectives and Land Use Table

The subject site is located within the C3 Environmental Management zone. The proposed development is defined as an *electricity generating works* under OLEP 2011.

Electricity generating works means a building or place used for the purpose of -

(a) making or generating electricity, or

(b) electricity storage.

The proposed development is permissible pursuant to Clause 2.42 of State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021. The proposed development is permitted with consent for this zone. This application is seeking consent.

As alluded to above the proposal constitutes regional development pursuant to Schedule 6, Clause 5 – *Private infrastructure and community facilities over $5 million*. As such, the Western Regional Planning Panel (WRPP) is the consent authority.

Clause 2.3 of LEP 2011 references the Land Use Table and Objectives for each zone in LEP 2011. These objectives for land zoned C3 Environmental Management are as follows:

Objective (C3 Environmental Management Zone)	Assessment	Consistency
To protect, manage and restore areas with special ecological, scientific, cultural or aesthetic values.	Site largely cleared; no significant ecological or cultural features impacted. Visual impacts can be mitigated through landscaping.	Partially consistent
To provide for a limited range of development that does not have an adverse effect on those values.	Solar farm is low-impact and non-polluting; mitigation measures (groundcover, biosecurity, stormwater, visual) reduce potential adverse effects.	Consistent (with conditions)
To manage development within water supply catchment lands to conserve and enhance the city and district's water resources.	Site is within a designated drinking water catchment; stormwater and erosion controls are required to protect water resources.	Consistent (with conditions)

To maintain the rural function and primary production values of the area.	Land is Class 3 agricultural and BSAL; co-location of panels may reduce traditional agricultural use; management plans required to maintain productivity.	Partially consistent
To ensure development along the Southern Link Road has alternative access.	Access arrangements to remain as existing from Cadia Road, no changes proposed.	consistent

Part 3 - Exempt and Complying Development

The application is not exempt or complying development.

Part 4 - Principal Development Standards

This part is not relevant to the development application.

Part 5 - Miscellaneous Provisions

This part is not relevant to the development application.

Part 6 - Urban Release Area

Not relevant to the application. The subject site is not located in an Urban Release Area.

Part 7 - Additional Local Provisions

7.1 - Earthworks

This clause establishes a range of matters that must be considered prior to granting development consent for any application involving earthworks, such as:

(a) the likely disruption of, or any detrimental effect on, existing drainage patterns and soil stability in the locality of the development

(b) the effect of the development on the likely future use or redevelopment of the land

(c) the quality of the fill or the soil to be excavated, or both

(d) the effect of the development on the existing and likely amenity of adjoining properties

(e) the source of any fill material and the destination of any excavated material

(f) the likelihood of disturbing relics

(g) the proximity to and potential for adverse impacts on any waterway, drinking water catchment or environmentally sensitive area

(h) any measures proposed to minimise or mitigate the impacts referred to in Paragraph (g).

Clause 7.1 of the Orange LEP 2011 requires that any proposed earthworks be assessed with regard to their impact on the surrounding environment, including soil stability, water quality, erosion and sediment control, as well as potential effects on adjoining properties and infrastructure.

For the proposed solar farm, earthworks will be limited to the construction of access tracks, panel foundations, and ancillary infrastructure. The site features generally gentle topography, which supports minimal disturbance.

The application is accompanied by a Ground Cover Management Plan that outlines the proponent's approach to managing potential erosion. The Ground Cover Management Plan is referred to as Soil and Water Management Plan in the draft notice of determination. To mitigate soil erosion within PEG-mounted solar arrays, the applicant proposes the installation of a gravel layer beneath the panels. This layer will serve as a riprap barrier, protecting against scour caused by water and wind erosion. The typical design includes 10mm-diameter gravel applied in 50mm-thick layers, with final specifications to be confirmed during the detailed design phase.

It is proposed that expected sheet flow and runoff from the gravelled areas will be captured by grassy swales, which will convey water to a detention basin or Large Ponded Detention (LPOD) system. These features are designed to manage water quality and address biosecurity considerations for the project.

Detailed design and refinement of the Ground Management Plan (GMP), including specific groundcover concept plans, will be required during the construction phase. In the draft notice of determination, the requirements of ground cover management plan are covered under the *Soil and Water Management Plan (SWMP)* condition which is written as below - To *be prepared by a suitably qualified person and submitted to the Certifier for approval prior to the issuing of a Construction Certificate. The management plan is to be in accordance with the Landcom, Managing Urban Stormwater; Soils and Construction Handbook and shall detail both the during construction and post construction controls necessary to maintain the stability of soils on the site and maintain predevelopment water quality.*

With the implementation of appropriate erosion and sediment controls, and adherence to groundcover and soil management plans, the earthworks are unlikely to result in significant adverse environmental impacts. The proposal is therefore considered generally consistent with the objectives of Clause 7.1.

7.3 - Stormwater Management

This clause applies to all industrial, commercial and residential zones and requires that Council be satisfied that the proposal:

(a) is designed to maximise the use of water permeable surfaces on the land having regard to the soil characteristics affecting onsite infiltration of water

(b) includes, where practical, onsite stormwater retention for use as an alternative supply to mains water, groundwater or river water; and

(c) avoids any significant impacts of stormwater runoff on adjoining downstream properties, native bushland and receiving waters, or if that impact cannot be reasonably avoided, minimises and mitigates the impact.

Clause 7.3 of the Orange LEP 2011 requires that development is designed to minimise the impact of stormwater runoff on adjoining properties, watercourses, and the broader environment.

For the proposed solar farm, stormwater is proposed to be managed through a combination of passive and engineered measures to maintain natural hydrology and protect water quality. The design proposes to incorporate grassy swales to capture and convey sheet flow from the solar arrays to a detention basin or Large Ponded Detention (LPOD) system, which aims at slow runoff, reduce peak flows, and allow for sediment settlement prior to discharge.

Council considers that these measures are consistent with recognised industry standards for stormwater management, including maintaining vegetative groundcover to promote infiltration and reduce erosion risk.

Detailed design of swales, detention capacity, and associated controls are required to be submitted to Council prior to the issue of a construction certificate.

7.6 - Groundwater Vulnerability

This clause seeks to protect hydrological functions of groundwater systems and protect resources from both depletion and contamination. Orange has a high water table and large areas of the LGA, including the subject site, are identified with "Groundwater Vulnerability" on the Groundwater Vulnerability Map. This requires that Council consider:

(a) whether or not the development (including any onsite storage or disposal of solid or liquid waste and chemicals) is likely to cause any groundwater contamination or have any adverse effect on groundwater dependent ecosystems, and

(b) the cumulative impact (including the impact on nearby groundwater extraction for potable water supply or stock water supply) of the development and any other existing development on groundwater.

Furthermore, consent may not be granted unless Council is satisfied that:

(a) the development is designed, sited and will be managed to avoid any significant adverse environmental impact, or

(b) if that impact cannot be reasonably avoided - the development is designed, sited and will be managed to minimise that impact,

(c) if that impact cannot be minimised - the development will be managed to mitigate that impact.

The proposal is not anticipated to involve the discharge of toxic or noxious substances and is therefore unlikely to contaminate the groundwater or related ecosystems. The proposal does not involve extraction of groundwater and will therefore not contribute to groundwater depletion. The design and siting of the proposal avoid impacts on groundwater and is therefore considered acceptable.

7.7 - Drinking Water Catchments

(1) The objective of this clause is to protect drinking water catchments by minimising the adverse impacts of development on the quality and quantity of water entering drinking water storages.

(2) This clause applies to land identified as "Drinking water" on the Drinking Water Catchment Map.

(3) Before determining a development application for development on land to which this clause applies, the consent authority must consider whether or not the development is likely to have any adverse impact on the quality and quantity of water entering the drinking water storage, having regard to:

(a) the distance between the development and any waterway that feeds into the drinking water storage, and

(b) the onsite use, storage and disposal of any chemicals on the land, and

(c) the treatment, storage and disposal of waste water and solid waste generated or used by the development.

(4) Development consent must not be granted to development on land to which this clause applies unless the consent authority is satisfied that:

(a) the development is designed, sited and will be managed to avoid any significant adverse impact on water quality and flows, or

(b) if that impact cannot be reasonably avoided - the development is designed, sited and will be managed to minimise that impact, or

(c) if that impact cannot be minimised - the development will be managed to mitigate that impact.

Clause 7.7 of the Orange LEP 2011 aims to protect drinking water catchments by minimising the adverse impacts of development on the quality and quantity of water entering drinking water storages.

The proposed solar farm at 140 Cadia Road is located within a drinking water catchment; therefore, appropriate measures are required to ensure compliance with this objective.

The development is proposing to maintain existing topography as far as practicable, with earthworks limited to access tracks, panel foundations, and ancillary infrastructure. As provided by the applicant the Ground Cover Management Plan (GMP) prepared, which includes erosion and sediment control measures, vegetative groundcover establishment, and the use of gravel layers beneath PEG-mounted arrays to reduce scour. Stormwater runoff will be managed through grassy swales directing flows to a detention basin or Large Ponded Detention (LPOD) system, ensuring water quality is maintained and sediment is captured prior to discharge.

The requirement for a Soil and Water Management Plan (SWMP), as conditioned, will ensure that appropriate measures are implemented to prevent adverse impacts on the quality or quantity of water entering the drinking water catchment, consistent with the objectives of Clause 7.7.

Clause 7.11 - Essential Services

Clause 7.11 applies and states:

Development consent must not be granted to development unless the consent authority is satisfied that any of the following services that are essential for the proposed development are available or that adequate arrangements have been made to make them available when required:

(a) the supply of water,

(b) the supply of electricity,

(c) the disposal and management of sewage,

(d) storm water drainage or onsite conservation,

(e) suitable road access.

In consideration of this clause, the development is required to adequately be serviced to ensure health, safety, and functionality.

The proposed solar farm does not require reticulated water or sewerage services. During the construction phase, portable toilets are to be provided for wastewater disposal, and water supply will be managed via portable tanks or carts.

Electrical services are available to the site to support operational requirements. Stormwater management will be addressed through the measures outlined in the previous clause, with detailed design to be provided at the Construction Certificate stage.

Site access will be achieved directly from Cadia Road via an existing driveway; however, the existing site access requires improvements and related engineering conditions have been inserted in the draft notice of determination.

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICIES

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY (PLANNING SYSTEMS) 2021

State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021 is applicable to the development, the SEPP categorises development of a certain type and or value as state or regional development.

Relevantly, pursuant to Clause 5 within Schedule 6; the development is categorised a private infrastructure and community facility over $5 million (electricity generating works are explicitly listed), and as such is regionally significant.

Pursuant to Section 4.5(b) of the EP&A Act, the consent authority for regional development is the Western Region Planning Panel.

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY (RESILIENCE AND HAZARDS) 2021

Chapter 3 - Hazardous and offensive development

3.7 - Consideration of Departmental guidelines

In determining whether a development is -

(a) a hazardous storage establishment, hazardous industry or other potentially hazardous industry, or

(b) an offensive storage establishment, offensive industry or other potentially offensive industry,

Consideration must be given to current circulars or guidelines published by the Department of Planning relating to hazardous or offensive development.

In accordance with this clause, the applicant has undertaken an analysis and screening process to determine whether the proposal constitutes a potentially hazardous development under the Department of Planning's guidelines for hazardous and offensive development. SEPP (Resilience and Hazards) sets out the screening and risk assessment framework, noting that risk potential is typically influenced by five key factors:

- the properties of the substances handled or stored
- the conditions of storage or use
- the quantity involved
- the location in relation to the site boundary and
- surrounding land uses.

The SEPP screening process does not prescribe thresholds for Australian Dangerous Goods (ADG) Code Class 9 materials (Miscellaneous Hazardous Substances), which include the

lithium-ion batteries proposed for the site. As such, a Preliminary Hazard Analysis (PHA) is not automatically triggered on the basis of screening thresholds.

The proposal addresses potential fire risks associated with the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) through the adoption of mitigation and management measures outlined in the below table.

Table 4 – Recommended mitigation measures for potential hazardous materials risks

No.	Safeguard and mitigation measures
HM1	The Orange South 8B & 9B Solar and BESS site would manage the fire risks associated with the BESS by: • Installing reliable, automated monitoring and control systems, with an alarm and shutdown response capability. • Taking reasonable and safe measures to prevent the risks of external heat effects in the event of a bushfire. • Designing appropriate separation and isolation between battery cubicles, and between the BESS and other infrastructure, in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations, and including gravel set-off areas around the facility. • Compliance with all applicable Australian codes and standards. • Preparation of a BESS-specific fire response plan, in conjunction with the NSW Rural Fire Service. • Installing an adequate automatic fire suppression system integrated into the detection and control system. • Disposal (and where possible, recycling) of any potentially hazardous material in accordance with the best international practices available at that time.
HM2	Fuels and pesticides/herbicides in use at the site will be stored at the laydown area in appropriately bunded areas designed in accordance with AS1940-2004.

Accordingly, the proposal is not considered to constitute a potentially hazardous development under the provisions of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021, subject to the implementation of the identified risk mitigation and management measures.

Chapter 4 - Remediation of Land

4.6 - Contamination and Remediation to be Considered in Determining Development Application

(1) A consent authority must not consent to the carrying out of any development on land unless:

(a) it has considered whether the land is contaminated, and

(b) if the land is contaminated, it is satisfied that the land is suitable in its contaminated state (or will be suitable, after remediation) for the purpose for which the development is proposed to be carried out, and

(c) if the land requires remediation to be made suitable for the purpose for which the development is proposed to be carried out, it is satisfied that the land will be remediated before the land is used for that purpose.

(2) Before determining an application for consent to carry out development that would involve a change of use on any of the land specified in Subsection (4), the consent authority must consider a report specifying the findings of a preliminary investigation of the land concerned carried out in accordance with the contaminated land planning guidelines.

(3) The applicant for development consent must carry out the investigation required by Subsection (2) and must provide a report on it to the consent authority. The consent authority may require the applicant to carry out, and provide a report on, a detailed investigation (as referred to in the contaminated land planning guidelines) if it considers that the findings of the preliminary investigation warrant such an investigation.

(4) The land concerned is:

(a) land that is within an investigation area,

(b) land on which development for a purpose referred to in Table 1 to the contaminated land planning guidelines is being, or is known to have been, carried out,

(c) to the extent to which it is proposed to carry out development on it for residential, educational, recreational or child care purposes, or for the purposes of a hospital - land:

(i) in relation to which there is no knowledge (or incomplete knowledge) as to whether development for a purpose referred to in Table 1 to the contaminated land planning guidelines has been carried out, and

(ii) on which it would have been lawful to carry out such development during any period in respect of which there is no knowledge (or incomplete knowledge).

The subject site is identified on Council's mapping as "potentially contaminated land" (see Figure 12) due to its historical use as an apple orchard located in the south-western corner of the site.

The Preliminary Contamination Investigation provided with the application indicates that impacts from the former orchard use are likely to be low to negligible. Council is satisfied that the imposition of an unexpected finds condition is sufficient to manage any contamination issues that may arise during construction. Given that a solar farm is not considered a sensitive land use, and no staff will be permanently located on site, exposure risk is minimal.

On this basis, and consistent with the advice received, the unexpected finds condition has been included in the draft notice of determination. Subject to this condition, the proposal is considered acceptable with respect to Chapter 4 of the SEPP (Resilience and Hazards).

Figure 12 - subject site identified as contaminated land

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY (TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE) 2021

Chapter 2 Infrastructure

Division 4 Electricity generating works or solar energy systems

2.36 Development permitted with consent

(9) ***Solar energy systems*** *Development for the purpose of a solar energy system may be carried out by any person with consent on any land.*

Clause 2.36 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021 permits development for the purpose of a solar energy system with consent on any land. The proposed development at 140 Cadia Road involves the construction and operation of a solar farm, which falls within the definition of a solar energy system. As such, the proposal is consistent with this provision, being a permissible form of development subject to development consent.

2.42 Determination of development applications for solar or wind electricity generating works on certain land

(1) This section applies to development in a regional city for the purposes of electricity generating works using a solar or wind energy source that is -

(a) State significant development, or

(b) Regionally significant development.

(2) Development consent must not be granted unless the consent authority is satisfied that the development -

(a) is located to avoid significant conflict with existing or approved residential or commercial uses of land surrounding the development, and

(b) is unlikely to have a significant adverse impact on the regional city's -

(i) capacity for growth, or

(ii) scenic quality and landscape character.

(3) In determining whether to grant development consent, the consent authority must consider measures proposed to be included in the development to avoid or mitigate conflicts referred to in Subsection (2)(a) or adverse impacts referred to in Subsection (2)(b).

(4) In this section -

Regional Cities Map *means the State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007 Regional Cities Map.*

Regional City *means an area of land identified as "subject land" on the Regional Cities Map.*

Clause 2.42 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021 applies to development in a regional city for the purposes of electricity generating works using a solar or wind energy source that is State significant or regionally significant development. The proposed solar farm at 140 Cadia Road is regionally significant development and is therefore subject to this clause.

Clause 2.42(2) requires that, when determining development applications for solar electricity generating works in a regional city, consideration must be given to the potential impacts of the development on surrounding land uses and the ability of the regional city to

accommodate future growth. The application is supported by a Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment (LUCRA), which concludes that the proposed solar farm is generally benign in nature and can co-exist with surrounding land uses with minimal risk of conflict.

The LUCRA identifies potential risks during construction, operation, and decommissioning phases, including air quality and noise emissions, traffic interactions on Cadia Road, biosecurity risks, and temporary loss of agricultural land. These risks are considered manageable through the implementation of recommended mitigation measures, such as dust suppression, traffic management, weed and pest control, and biosecurity protocols. Importantly, the report notes that the land can continue to support compatible agricultural activities, such as livestock grazing on the land surrounding the array during the operational phase and can be fully restored to agricultural use following decommissioning.

The proposal does not compromise the regional city's capacity for growth. While the development will have some impact on scenic quality and visual amenity, the applicant proposes to mitigate these impacts through the establishment of vegetation screening along the eastern, southern, and part of the western boundaries. The proposed screening includes a 5m wide planting strip along the southern boundary, designed to grow to a height of approximately 5m. An additional 1m wide (5m high) vegetative screen is proposed along the south-eastern boundary to reduce visual impacts on the adjoining residential property. The eastern and western boundaries will include 3m wide plantings with an expected height of 3m. Figures 13 and 14 illustrates the proposed vegetation screening elevation. In relation to vegetation, the application was referred to Council's Manager City Presentation and the following comments were received -

> *Whilst I have no objection to the location and size of the vegetation shown in the plan, I agree that a detailed landscape plan should be submitted prior to the issue of the Construction Certificate, particularly given the current absence of proposed vegetation species on the plan.*
>
> *Existing trees in the northwest and southwest corner of the development should be retained.*
>
> *As discussed, I would prefer to see similar vegetation planting along the northern boundary to reduce the visual impact on the surrounding area; however, I appreciate the adverse effect this would have on the performance of the solar panels. Perhaps consideration could be given to including low-level native shrubs or grasses along the northern boundary.*

As per comments above, conditions are inserted in the draft Notice of Determination.

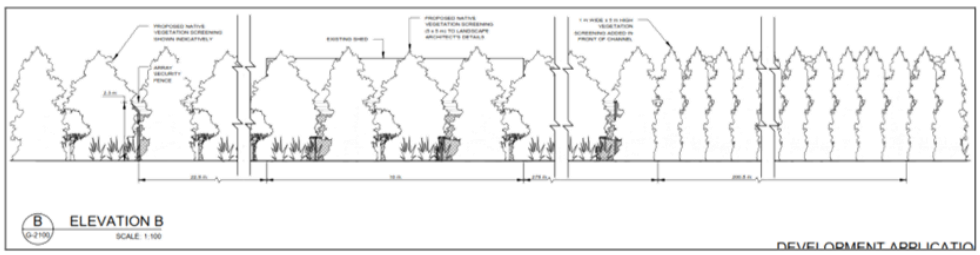

Figure 13 - proposed vegetation screening along southern boundary

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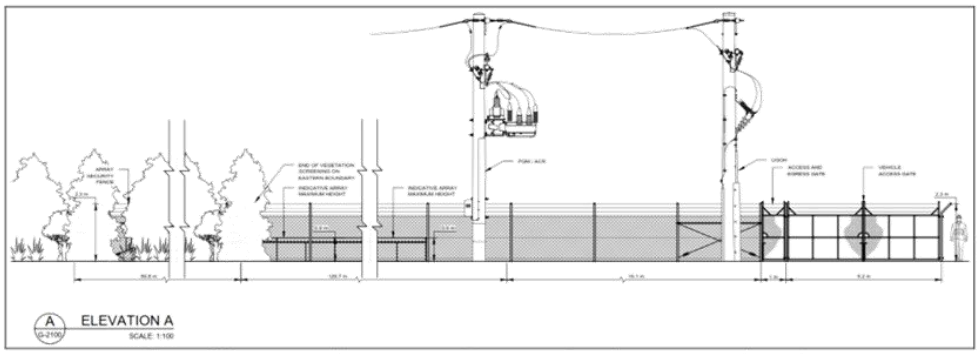

Figure 14 - proposed part vegetation screening along eastern boundary

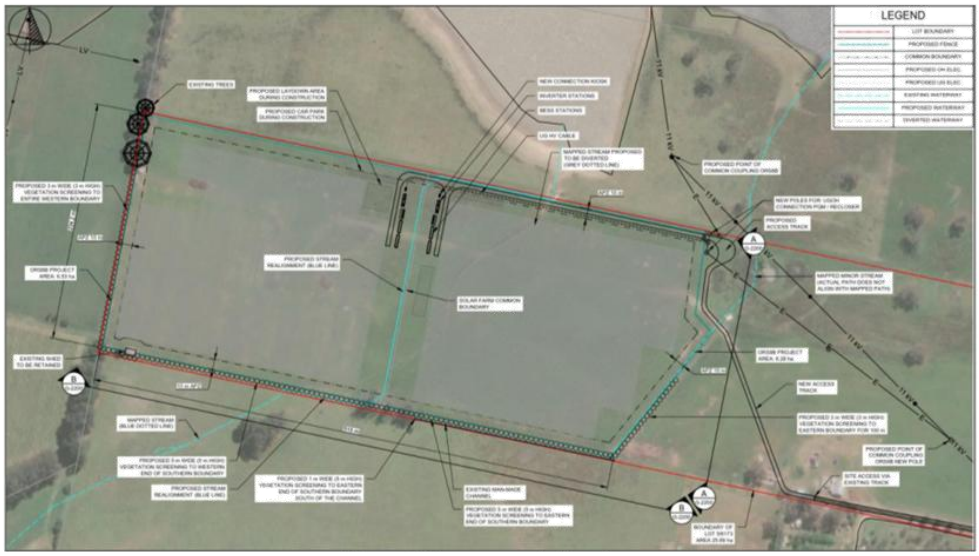

Figure 15 - proposed site plan

In addition to scenic quality and visual amenity impacts, potential risks to water quality have been identified in relation to the proposed development. The Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment (LUCRA) outlines management strategies to address these risks through the implementation of a Biosecurity Management Plan and a Groundcover Management Plan.

The Biosecurity Management Plan identifies activities that could contribute to the introduction or spread of weeds and facilitate pest animal incursions, including:

- Movement of vehicles to, from, and within the site
- Ground disturbance associated with access track construction
- Vegetation clearing
- Delivery of materials
- Ongoing site management

To minimise these risks, the proposal incorporates measures such as awareness and training programs, access control procedures, vehicle hygiene protocols, record-keeping, and targeted weed management. Based on the details provided in the Biosecurity Management Plan, Council staff are satisfied that these measures will effectively mitigate biosecurity risks and maintain the agricultural viability of the land.

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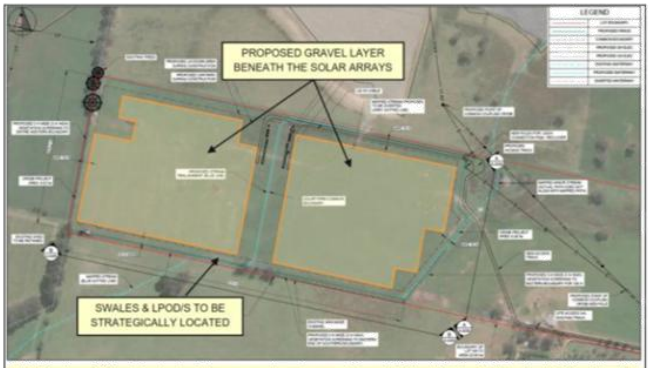
The Groundcover Management Plan identifies the following potential impacts on groundcover and soil:

- Erosion
- Loss of vegetation (grass cover)
- Soil compaction
- Weed invasion
- Land capability

To minimise these risks, the proposal incorporates measures such as installing a gravel layer beneath the solar arrays, constructing grassy swales for runoff management, and minimising ground disturbance during construction. The plan also highlights additional mitigation strategies and references an example of a similar EDPR PEG system installation.



As proposed in the preliminary concept plan (***Figure 3*** above), the existing groundcover can effectively be maintained with the proposed gravel layer beneath the PEG system solar arrays to exceed the 70% cover target. A final detailed concept plan, in accordance with relevant regulatory guidelines will be designed by a civil designer during the detailed planning phase, following the development approval process.

Figure 16 - proposed groundcover plan

Figure 17 - example of gravel installation beneath PEG system solar panels

The proposed solution includes a gravel layer under the arrays to protect against erosion, complemented by strategically designed grassy swales to manage runoff and direct flows to detention basins, thereby safeguarding water quality. Additional measures include establishing pasture in non-gravelled areas, implementing rigorous weed control, and maintaining minimal soil disturbance.

The Groundcover Management Plan (GMP) aligns with the objectives of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)*, the *Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)*, and relevant NSW guidelines, including the Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline (2022) and DPI's "AgFacts" on maintaining groundcover. These guidelines include measures such as gravel layers under arrays, grassy swales for runoff control, pasture establishment in non-gravelled areas, and targeted weed management. These strategies ensure effective erosion control, soil stability, and water quality protection throughout the project lifecycle.

Based on the LUCRA findings and recommended management strategies, the development is considered consistent with Clause 2.42, as it avoids or minimises land use conflict and maintains the long-term productive potential of the land.

2.48 Determination of development applications - other development

(2) Before determining a development application (or an application for modification of a consent) for development to which this section applies, the consent authority must -

(a) give written notice to the electricity supply authority for the area in which the development is to be carried out, inviting comments about potential safety risks, and

(b) take into consideration any response to the notice that is received within 21 days after the notice is given.

In accordance with Clause 2.48(2), the application was referred to Essential Energy for comment. Essential Energy provided general advice, noting the following:

- *If the proposed development changes, there may be potential safety risks and it is recommended that Essential Energy is consulted for further comment;*
- *Any existing encumbrances in favour of Essential Energy (or its predecessors) noted on the title of the above property should be complied with;*
- *Any activities in proximity to electrical infrastructure must be undertaken in accordance with the latest industry guideline currently known as ISSC 20 Guideline for the Management of Activities within Electricity Easements and Close to Infrastructure;*
- *Prior to carrying out any works, a "Dial Before You Dig" enquiry should be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Part 5E (Protection of Underground Electricity Power Lines) of the Electricity Supply Act 1995 (NSW); and*
- *It is the responsibility of the person/s completing any works around powerlines to understand their safety responsibilities. SafeWork NSW (www.safework.nsw.gov.au) has publications that provide guidance when working close to electricity infrastructure. These include the Code of Practice - Work near Overhead Power Lines and Code of Practice - Work near Underground Assets.*

The above comments are included as general advice in the draft notice of determination.

PROVISIONS OF ANY DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING INSTRUMENT THAT HAS BEEN PLACED ON EXHIBITION 4.15(1)(a)(ii)

There are no draft Environmental Planning Instruments currently on exhibition that relate to the subject land or proposed development.

INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT

The development is classified as Integrated Development under the provisions of Clause 4.46(1) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and is referred to as Nominated Integrated Development under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021. The reason being: a Controlled Activity Approval under the provisions of Sections 89, 90 and 91 of the Water Management Act 2000 will be required from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment - Water.

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment - Water have issued General Terms of Approval which are attached to the consent.

PROVISIONS OF ANY DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN s4.15(1)(a)(iii)

Orange Development Control Plan 2004

Orange Development Control Plan 2004 ("the DCP") applies to the subject land. An assessment of the proposed development against the relevant Planning Outcomes will be undertaken below.

Chapter 0 - Transitional Provisions

Section 0.2 - General Translation of Zones

Section 0.2 provides that any reference to a zone under Orange Local Environmental Plan 2000 is to be a reference to the corresponding zones in the zone conversion table.

The table identifies that the C3/E3 Environmental Management corresponds with the 7 Environmental zone.

Section 0.4 - Former LEP Matters

0.4-11 Transport routes

Objectives.

1 To ensure the continued safe and efficient operation of arterial and other important road corridors.
2 To alleviate traffic flows on high volume routes whenever feasible.
3 To promote a high level of urban design on land exposed to significant volumes of traffic, cyclists and pedestrians.

PO 0.4-11 INTERIM PLANNING OUTCOMES - TRANSPORT ROUTES

1 The development provides a high standard of visual appeal to motorists, cyclists and pedestrians as well as adjoining property owners.
2 The visual appearance of the development, including any signage, lighting or other ancillary element, must not generate a distraction to motorists.
3 Any signage must not be animated whether by movement or flashing lights.
4 Where land has more than one street frontage the street with the lower volume of traffic is to provide the principal access to the development, subject to safety considerations.
5 Where access is provided onto an arterial road, distributor road or major collector road, the access point must have appropriate safe sight distances for the prevailing speed limit and clear and unimpeded entrance/exit signage must be displayed.
6 Where on-site customer parking is provided that is not immediately visible from a public road clear and unimpeded directional signage must be displayed.
7 Where the proposal is residential, or another noise sensitive form, appropriate noise mitigation measures to limit the development from traffic noise must be demonstrated.

The objectives of this section seek to ensure the continued safe and efficient operation of arterial and other important road corridors to alleviate traffic flows on high-volume routes wherever feasible, and to promote a high standard of urban design on land exposed to significant volumes of traffic, cyclists and pedestrians.

In relation to these objectives, the proposal is considered satisfactory for the following reasons:

- The development will not adversely impact the safe and efficient operation of Cadia Road. The site has only one road frontage, and access is provided directly from Cadia Road, which is suitable given the scale and nature of the proposal.
- Screening vegetation is proposed to be planted along the southern, eastern and western boundaries (to a height of 5m and 3m wide on the southern boundary) to provide a high level of visual amenity for motorists, cyclists, pedestrians and adjoining property owners. The site will not be readily visible from Cadia Road.
- Additional smaller vegetation (less than 1m in height) will be conditioned along the northern boundary to enhance visual aspects from this frontage.
- No signage or lighting is proposed, thereby avoiding unnecessary distraction to motorists.

Further to the above, the proponent has submitted a Glare and Glint Study in support of the development. The study identified that 34 observation points and seven road routes may experience green glare, while four observation points and three road routes may experience yellow glare. Green glare has a low potential to cause after-images, whereas yellow glare has a higher potential to impact drivers.

The study found that glare impacts are generally of short duration. The most affected locations (Observation Points 1 and 2) were predicted to receive up to 15 minutes of glare in a single day. To mitigate this, it was recommended that the vegetation screen be extended along the south-eastern boundary. Yellow glare along road routes was also limited to small sections and did not exceed 15 minutes, however, additional mitigation may be required at the intersection of Forest Road and Gosling Creek Road through extended screening on the eastern boundary.

The Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline provides the following key principles while assessing for the glint and glare for a project.

Glint and glare principles

- Solar panels should be sited to reduce the likely impacts of glint and glare.
- Solar panels and other infrastructure should be constructed of materials and/or treated to minimise glint and glare.
- If a large scale-solar energy development is likely to exceed the relevant criteria for glare and standards for glint, mitigation strategies must be adopted to reduce the impacts.

The proposed development is located with a setback of approximately 500m from Cadia Road and is further assisted by the natural slope of the land. These site characteristics help reduce the likelihood of glint and glare impacts on road users and adjoining properties.

The Glint and Glare Assessment submitted with the application found that impacts are within the moderate range specified in the Guideline. As stated in the guideline, mitigation measures including vegetative screening along the southern, eastern, and western boundaries (up to 5m high and 3m wide), as well as low-level planting to the north, are incorporated to ensure residual impacts are minimised. These measures are consistent with the Guideline's requirement to adopt mitigation strategies where impacts may arise.

Overall, the Glare and Glint Assessment concluded that with the proposed vegetation planting around the site, visual impacts from glare will be sufficiently mitigated in most cases. Where yellow glare is experienced, it will be of short duration and in locations with relatively low traffic volumes.

On this basis, the proposal is considered satisfactory with the objectives and planning outcomes for development along transport routes under Section 0.4 of the DCP.

Chapter 2 - Natural Resource Management

Section 2.1 - Water Quality

This section highlights that developments which alter natural drainage patterns such as by concentrating or redirecting flows, increasing flow rates, or disturbing land near creeks, impact waterways through erosion, sedimentation, and nutrient release, all of which may reduce downstream water quality. It also notes that activities involving groundwater extraction or onsite wastewater disposal have the potential to affect groundwater resources.

Specific planning outcomes for stormwater quality are as follows:

P0 2.1-1 PLANNING OUTCOMES - STORMWATER QUALITY	
1	Development is carried out in a manner that does not contribute to downstream erosion or sedimentation of waterways.
2	Development complies with the *Water and Soil Erosion Control* requirements of the *Development and Subdivision Code*.
3	On-site detention is carried out in accordance with the *Development and Subdivision Code* for all developments comprising buildings with a site coverage greater than $50m^2$ or where site coverage exceeds the "percentage impervious" level listed in the Code applicable to that development.
4	Where on-site detention is not appropriate, contributions are made towards retarding basins and/or GPTs and associated drainage under the Contribution Plan that applies to the land.
5	Development in the vicinity of natural watercourses is positioned away from the waterway and includes measures to minimise the impact of the development on the waterway such as the establishment of creekside buffer zones and planting of native trees in a manner that enhances streambank stability.

Stormwater considerations are addressed under the heading "Clause 7.3 - Stormwater Management" under LEP considerations in this report. Additionally, it is noted that the General Terms of Approval (GTA) issued by the Department of Planning and Environment - Water provides conditions in relation to requiring detailed soil and water management plan, detailed drainage plans and detailed bulk earthworks plans prior to commencing any proposed works.

The proposed development is considered satisfactory with regards to stormwater quality.

Specific planning outcomes for groundwater quality are as follows:

PO 2.1-2 PLANNING OUTCOMES - GROUNDWATER QUALITY	
1	Development applications for development (excluding dwelling houses) that proposes to extract groundwater or involve on-site wastewater disposal identify potential risks to, and management of, groundwater resources.
2	Development is carried out in a manner that does not adversely affect groundwater resources.
3	Development considered by Council to have the potential to significantly affect groundwater quality incorporates a monitoring program and provides test results from a NATA-accredited laboratory to Council for review and for inclusion in the City SoE Reports.
4	Development that requires or proposes the use of groundwater demonstrates that the groundwater extraction will meet the requirements of DLWC, where necessary.

Groundwater quality considerations have been addressed under "Clause 7.6 - Groundwater Vulnerability" in this report. The submitted documentation indicates that dangerous goods stored onsite will be contained within appropriately designed and managed facilities to prevent spills. Additionally, no extraction of groundwater is proposed. As the development does not involve the discharge of toxic or noxious substances, it is considered unlikely to contaminate groundwater or associated ecosystems. Similarly, the absence of groundwater extraction means the proposal will not contribute to groundwater depletion.

Based on the information provided within the submitted material and the recommended conditions of consent, it is considered that the planning outcomes relating to water quality would be met.

Section 2.2 - Soil resource management

This section identifies that soil characteristics influence land use and development capability, and the suitability for building footings, onsite waste disposal, road engineering and drainage.

Specific planning outcomes for soil resource management are as follows:

PO 2.2-1 PLANNING OUTCOMES – SOIL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	
1	Development complies with the *Water and Soil Erosion Control* requirements of the *Development and Subdivision Code.*
2	Sites affected by soil degradation are restored in accordance with management strategies to be submitted with development proposals.
3	Agricultural practices apply conservation farming techniques particularly within the water supply catchments and in areas susceptible to significant erosion hazard.
4	A geotechnical investigation is carried out by a NATA-accredited laboratory that identifies and classifies all new residential lots for dwelling houses in accordance with AS 2870-1996 *Residential Slabs and Footings Construction.*
5	A geotechnical investigation is undertaken that determines the suitability of land for on-site disposal of sewage effluent in accordance with *Environmental and Health Protection Guidelines: On-site Sewage management for Single Households* where appropriate.
6	Non-agricultural activities in rural areas are carried out on less -productive soils.

The proposed solar farm has been assessed against the relevant planning outcomes for soil resource management:

- The development incorporates erosion and sediment control measures consistent with the Water and Soil Erosion Control requirements of the Development and Subdivision Code.
- These measures are detailed in the Groundcover Management Plan (GMP), which includes gravel layers beneath arrays, grassy swales for runoff management, and pasture establishment in non-gravelled areas. The site is not identified as significantly

degraded, however, the GMP includes strategies to maintain and restore groundcover during and after construction, ensuring soil stability and minimising erosion.

While the proposal is a non-agricultural use, the design supports co-use opportunities such as livestock grazing during operation, consistent with conservation principles and maintaining agricultural viability.

The fourth and fifth planning outcomes relate primarily to residential development and onsite sewage disposal and are not applicable to the proposed solar farm. Wastewater during construction will be managed via portable facilities, and no onsite sewage disposal is proposed.

The development is located on rural land within the Towac and Spring Hill soil landscapes, which dominate the southern half of the City of Orange and are considered highly productive agricultural land, identified as Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL). The site is also classified as Class 3 - High Capability Land, which has moderate limitations and is capable of sustaining cropping with careful management to avoid environmental degradation.

In relation to development on highly productive agricultural land, the proposal will result in a minor, temporary loss of agricultural land. However, it is noted that the subject land has not been used for cropping for several years, other than for grazing activities. The proposal allows for future grazing within the fenced solar array area after construction, and the remaining land outside the solar farm footprint may continue to be used for livestock grazing or cultivation.

The proposal will not impact the day-to-day operations of neighbouring primary production uses. The loss of 13.01ha represents approximately 0.07% of the total agricultural land within the Orange LGA, which is considered negligible in the regional context.

The proposal satisfies the relevant planning outcomes for soil resource management through the implementation of comprehensive erosion control measures, maintenance of groundcover, and provision for agricultural co-use. While the site is identified as BSAL and Class 3 land, the scale of impact is minor, temporary, and reversible, ensuring that the long-term agricultural potential of the land is maintained.

Section 2.3 - Vegetation and Section 2.4 - Flora, Fauna and Biodiversity

The natural environment of the Orange LGA has been heavily modified as a consequence of land clearing for various uses, including agriculture, plantation forests, mining and urban development; and that clearing of native vegetation has significantly affected native habitats.

Specific planning outcomes for vegetation and flora, fauna and biodiversity include:

PO 2.3-1 PLANNING OUTCOMES – VEGETATION MANAGEMENT	
1	Compliance with the *Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997*.
2	Development is designed and constructed in a way that minimises the impact on existing vegetation.
3	Particular attention is given to the effect of rural or urban residential release development on existing vegetation and scenic areas.
4	Development applications indicate on plans the location of all significant trees affected by or in the vicinity of development.
5	Applications demonstrate to Council's satisfaction that all practical measures have been made to retain trees that contribute to and embellish the Orange landscape.

PO 2.4-1 PLANNING OUTCOMES - FLORA & FAUNA MANAGEMENT	
1	Where there is a likely impact of development on native habitats, that impact is addressed in the development application.
2	A *Species Impact Statement* is prepared for development that is likely to significantly affect habitats of threatened species. The statement is submitted with a development application and indicates how threatened species will be managed with the development.
3	Development affecting all or part of significant water bodies or remnant woodland areas with the potential to comprise habitats of threatened species incorporates the protection and conservation of these areas where deemed reasonable by Council.
4	Threatened species, populations and ecological communities are managed in conjunction with development in accordance with the *Threatened Species Conservation Act*.

Vegetation, flora, fauna and biodiversity have previously been addressed under "Section 1.7 - Application of Part 7 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and Part 7A of the Fisheries Management Act 1994". The subject site is not identified as containing terrestrial biodiversity.

The development is considered satisfactory with regards to flora, fauna and biodiversity.

Chapter 3 - General Considerations

Section 3.1 - Cumulative Impacts

This section identifies that the consent authority will consider not only the direct impacts of a particular development but also whether the development, when carried out in conjunction with other development in the locality, has a more significant environmental impact.

Specific planning outcomes regarding cumulative impact include:

PO 3.1-1 PLANNING OUTCOMES - CUMULATIVE IMPACT	
1	Applications for development demonstrate how the development relates to the character and use of land in the vicinity.
2	The introduction of new development into a locality maintains environmental impacts within existing or community-accepted levels.
3	Water conservation measures are implemented.

Cumulative impacts of the proposed solar farm are addressed under the heading "the likely impacts of the development s4.15(1)(b)".

Section 3.2 - Scenic, Landscape and Urban Areas

This section of the DCP identifies that in scenic rural areas, the visual and environmental contribution of trees plays a vital role in defining the unique landscape character. Development within these areas should aim to preserve and enhance this character by maintaining existing shelter belts composed of introduced species such as hawthorn and pine, protecting native remnant vegetation, and integrating ornamental plantings. These

elements, often found among orchards, grazing lands, and vineyards, collectively contribute to the area's distinctive rural aesthetics and should be thoughtfully incorporated into future planning and design.

PO 3.2-1 PLANNING OUTCOMES - SCENIC, LANDSCAPE AND URBAN AREAS	
1	Development incorporates landscaping that enhances the landscaped setting of the locality.
2	External finishes, materials and colour schemes of development complement its setting.

In relation to Planning Outcome 1, the proposed development has indicated that a landscaping strip will be installed along the southern, western and eastern boundaries of the solar farm. It is discussed in detail under Clause 2.42 of Chapter 2 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021.

Included in the attached Notice of Determination, a condition of consent is mentioned that requires the submission of an amended landscape plan that provides further detail and refinement of what has been submitted. The development is considered satisfactory within Section 3.2 of the Orange DCP. The consent authority in determining this matter will need to be satisfied that the proposed landscape elements suitably assist in mitigating the visual and amenity impacts that have been identified in the submissions.

Chapter 4 - Special Environmental Considerations

Section 4.4 - Contaminated Land

In relation to this section, the subject land is identified as contaminated under Council's mapping system. An assessment of contamination risks has been undertaken in this report in accordance with Clause 4.6 of Chapter 4 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021. Based on that assessment, the proposed development is considered satisfactory, with relevant conditions being recommended and included in the Notice of Determination.

Chapter 5 - General Consideration for Zones and Development

Section 5.3 - Advertised and neighbour notified development

This section directs one to Council's Community Participation Plan for guidance on advertised and neighbour notified development. It is noted that Electricity Generating Works are not listed as a type of development that is either advertised or notified development.

Notwithstanding this, *Clause 8A, Schedule 1 Community Participation requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and *the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021* identify that nominated integrated development must be advertised for a period of 28 days. Accordingly, the development application was advertised and on exhibition from Friday, 24 January to Monday, 24 February 2025.

Following the exhibition period, a total of 42 submissions were received. They were redacted and furnished to the applicant with a request to prepare a response addressing the matters raised. As a result of this process and in response to the submissions the applicant amended the application by adding additional vegetation screening along the southern boundary. The height of the vegetation to be installed was also considered and increased to reduce visual impacts to the surrounding.

Council staff accepted the amended plans, and the amendments were considered minor and as such a re-advertisement and re-exhibition was considered not necessary.

Submissions received during the advertising period are addressed later in this report under Section 4.15(1)(d) *Any Submissions Made in Accordance with the Act*.

Chapter 10 - Special Uses and Road Zones

Section 10.4 - Development along Cadia Road

Section 10.4 identifies Cadia Road as a busy road, primarily due to increased traffic generated by mining operations at Cadia. As a result, careful consideration must be given to the number, location, and design of new intersections along Cadia Road.

The section also notes that noise-sensitive developments should be located as far as practicable from Cadia Road to minimise potential impacts.

	PO 10.4-1 PLANNING OUTCOMES – DEVELOPMENT ALONG CADIA ROAD
1	Residential development on land fronting Cadia Road is set back sufficient distance or incorporate appropriate noise attenuation in the house design so as not to expose residents to potential noise conflicts associated with mine-related traffic using Cadia Road.

This planning outcome is relevant to residential development and is considered not applicable to the current proposal. The proposed development is not regarded as a highly noise-sensitive use, and a more detailed assessment of potential impacts is provided later in this report under the heading *"The likely impacts of the development - s4.15(1)(b)."*

Chapter 15 - Car Parking

Section 15.4 - Parking requirements

Section 15.4 identifies the requirements for off-street car parking spaces.

Section 15.4 does not nominate a minimum car parking rate for a solar farm or any other similar land use. Similarly, a secondary resource often used by Council staff, *the Roads and Maritime Service Guide to Traffic Generating Development*, which is now updated and replaced by the newer *Guide to Transport Impact Assessment 2024* does not address a minimum car parking rate for a solar farm or any other similar land use either. In such circumstances a professionally prepared car parking report is to be provided.

A traffic and parking impact statement report was submitted in support of the development which provides commentary on parking generation for the development. The report indicates the following table for staff parking requirements:

Land Use	Scale	Rate	Spaces Required
CONSTRUCTION PHASE			
Solar Farm	Up to 30 staff	0.8 spaces per 1 staff (1)	24
OPERATIONAL PHASE			
Solar Farm	3 staff	1 space per 1 staff	3

Notes: (1) Assuming 20% carpooling between construction workers.

The proposed development plans showcase provision made for temporary parking of 40 light vehicles during the construction phase of the development. The temporary car parking area is appropriately sited within the site so as to allow ingress and egress in a forward gear. The parking area shown on plans exceed the recommended spaces and is considered satisfactory.

The application was referred to Council's Assistant Development Engineer and the following comments were made, and relevant conditions were inserted:

- *Proposed access from Cadia Road to be constructed to suit the turn path of a B-Double heavy vehicle prior to the commencement of construction.*
- *The proposed site access to be generally in conformance with Figure 7.4 of Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4, with a bitumen seal extending at least 30m from the Cadia Rd pavement edge.*
- *Obtain Road Opening Permit for works within road reserve.*

A separate laydown area for equipment brought to the site via B-Doubles is also provided within the site and is separate to the temporary car parking for light vehicles.

The development is considered satisfactory with regards to onsite car parking.

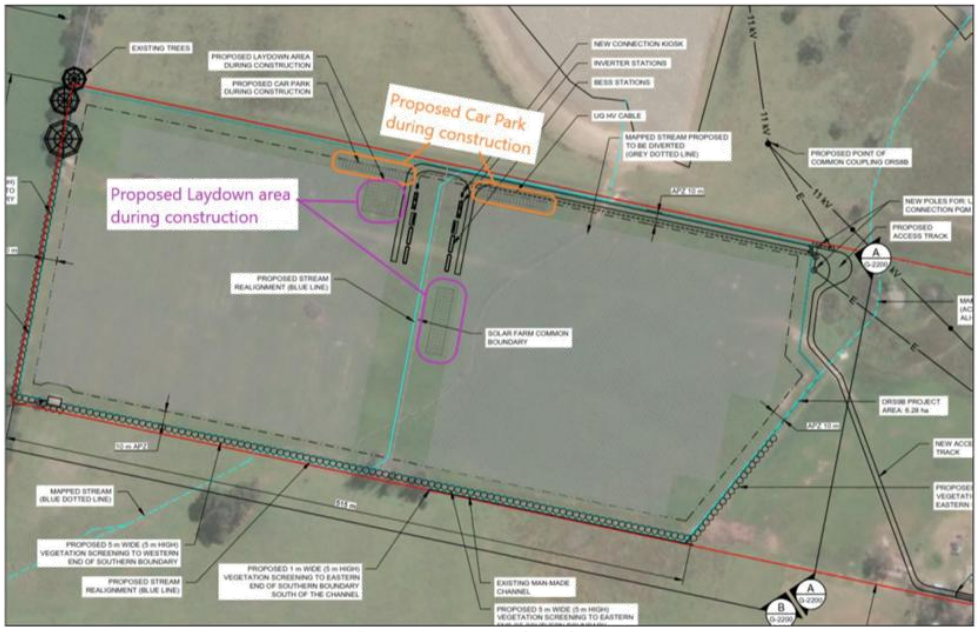


Figure 18 - car parking layout

PROVISIONS PRESCRIBED BY THE REGULATIONS s4.15(1)(a)(iv)

Demolition of a Building (clause 61)

The proposal does not involve the demolition of a building.

Fire Safety Considerations (clause 62)

The proposal does not involve a change of building use for an existing building.

Buildings to be Upgraded (clause 64)

The proposal does not involve the rebuilding, alteration, enlargement or extension of an existing building.

BASIX Commitments (clause 75)

BASIX is not applicable to the proposed development.

THE LIKELY IMPACTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT s4.15(1)(b)

Context and Setting

The site is located within a rural-zoned property of approximately 25.75ha. The land is gently undulating to moderately sloping, with cleared paddocks and patches of remnant vegetation along property boundaries. The development footprint will occupy two discrete areas: the 8B system (6.53ha) at the western end of the site, and the 9B system (6.48ha), resulting in a total development footprint of approximately 13.01ha. The site has an existing single storey dwelling with ancillary structures such as cattle yards and sheds.

The surrounding area is primarily rural, with agricultural uses including cropping and grazing, and is sparsely populated. There are five residential dwellings located in proximity to the proposed development. The properties to the south of the subject site are elevated in relation to the subject land and will have the opportunity to view the subject development.

The introduction of solar arrays and associated infrastructure, including the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), will modify the existing visual appearance of the site and character of the broader locality.

Visual impacts and Landscape Character

The likely impacts upon existing views, vistas, and the impact upon the general landscape character of the locality are central to the assessment of this application; and critical in determining the appropriateness and suitability of the proposed development in the locality.

Quantifying such impacts is challenging. Unlike other matters typical of a planning assessment such as overshadowing or height of a building which are numerical based; determining the level of impact likely as a result of this development requires one to undertake a qualitative exercise.

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure has prepared a practice note titled "*Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline*" and its supporting "*technical Supplement for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*" along with Transport for New South Wales "*Guideline for Landscape Character and Visual Impact Assessment*" aim to achieve balanced outcomes that support the development of solar energy industry while avoiding and managing major impacts on the landscape and private views.

The guidelines differentiate between landscape impact assessment (which is the assessment of impact on the aggregate of an area's built, natural and cultural character or sense of place) and visual impact assessment (which is the assessment of impact on views).

> *Landscape character assessment helps determine the overall impact of a project on an area's character and sense of place (what people think and feel about a place and how society values it, whether or not they are physically present at it).*
>
> *Visual impact assessment helps define the day-to-day visual effects of a project on people's views (what people see at a place, when they are there).*
>
> *The two assessments should be clear and discrete as it is likely the design responses and mitigation measures to address landscape character impact will be different to those for visual impact.*

The measure of impact is carried out based on a combination of sensitivity, magnitude, private receivers and private agreements.

Sensitivity refers to a measure of the capacity of a landscape or view to absorb the impacts from the proposed change. For example, a pristine natural environment is likely to be more sensitive than an industrial area. A view from a residence is also likely to be more sensitive than from a local road where views are more intermittent and less frequent.

Magnitude refers to the physical scale of the solar energy development and is influenced by several factors. The apparent size of the development decreases as the distance from the viewer increases, while it appears larger when there is a greater relative height difference between the viewer and the solar array. Additionally, the apparent size increases with the actual physical scale and dimensions of the solar installation, although this effect becomes less noticeable as the distance from the viewer grows.

Private receivers - The visual impact assessment must assess the potential impacts on private receivers, including private recreation areas and sporting fields, dwellings, and tourist and visitor accommodation. In assessing the visual impacts on dwellings, the assessment must focus only on views from the dwelling and not from the property boundary or other parts of the property. The assessment should also consider the potential worst-case views that have the greatest potential to impact residential amenity. Residential amenity encompasses the overall quality, experience and nature of views and outlooks available to occupants of a dwelling and its immediate surrounds, including pool areas and adjacent gardens.

Private agreements - The applicant has not provided any details of private agreements that may exist between the applicant and neighbouring or affected private landowners.

Once the above metrics are established for a specific location or vantage point, they are incorporated into an evaluation matrix to determine the level of impact, which ranges from Negligible to High, as shown below.

		Magnitude			
		High	Moderate	Low	Negligible
Sensitivity	High	High	High-Moderate	Moderate	Negligible
	Moderate	High-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-low	Negligible
	Low	Moderate	Moderate-low	Low	Negligible
	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Figure 7 Landscape character and visual impact rating matrix.

The material submitted in support of the application includes a visual impact assessment, prepared in accordance with the methodology outlined in the above-referenced document, and is summarised as follows:

The landscape to the south of Orange has been extensively modified by human activity, predominantly associated with the agricultural industry. It is characterised by a mix of farming operations, rural land uses, and arterial roads, including those providing connections to the Cadia mining operations. The overall magnitude of the proposal and its impact on the broader landscape character is considered moderate when viewed from private properties and public roads in the locality.

The sensitivity of private property to landscape change is considered low to moderate, reflecting the existing modified rural landscape, which is predominantly agricultural in character, combined with the separation distance from most residences and the

influence of topography. Sensitivity decreases with distance, such that visibility of the solar farm from dwellings and other structures located beyond 2km is expected to be negligible. Accordingly, the overall impact on landscape character in relation to private property is assessed as ranging from moderate to negligible.

The sensitivity of public places such as Cadia Road to landscape change would be high in close proximity to a new development. However, distance separation and the local topography reduce that sensitivity, and in this case, it is assessed to be moderate. The works would be most visible to motorists travelling southbound along Cadia Road on approach to the site, where the solar arrays and associated infrastructure would appear within the view corridor. Beyond this approach, views of the solar farm are expected to be limited due to intervening landform and roadside vegetation. Accordingly, the overall impact on landscape character in relation to the public domain is assessed to range from moderate to low.

Figure 19 - 2km visual catchment

As illustrated in Figure 19, a 2km radius visual catchment has been identified around the development site. In general, the greater the distance from the site, the less discernible the solar farm becomes. The ability to distinguish the type of land use and the composition of materials diminishes with distance. The site itself is cleared and contains no existing structures or vegetation that would provide screening within the development footprint. However, the undulating topography and surrounding vegetation interrupt direct views towards the property from most directions.

Within the defined catchment, five dwellings (OP1, OP2, OP3, OP12 and OP48) are assessed as experiencing a high visual impact – refer figure 20, owing to their close or mid-range proximity to the project site, combined with elevated outlooks that afford direct or partially filtered views of the solar arrays. A further eight observation points are rated as experiencing a moderate impact, while eight observation points are rated

as experiencing a low impact. For all other locations, the combination of distance, landform, existing vegetation and built structures is expected to obscure or significantly reduce visibility of the development.

In relation to the public domain, the visual impact along Cadia Road is assessed as high for motorists approaching the site from the north and when travelling past the northern boundary. However, this impact is tempered by the topographic difference of approximately 17m, requiring views to be directed upward and across a distance of more than 400m to observe the array (refer to Figure 20).

Figure 20 – Five residences with high visual impact

43

Figure 21 - views from Cadia Road

The Visual Impact Assessment report concludes and recommends that vegetation be planted as a landscape screening along the southern, western and eastern boundaries of the proposed development (refer to Figure 22).

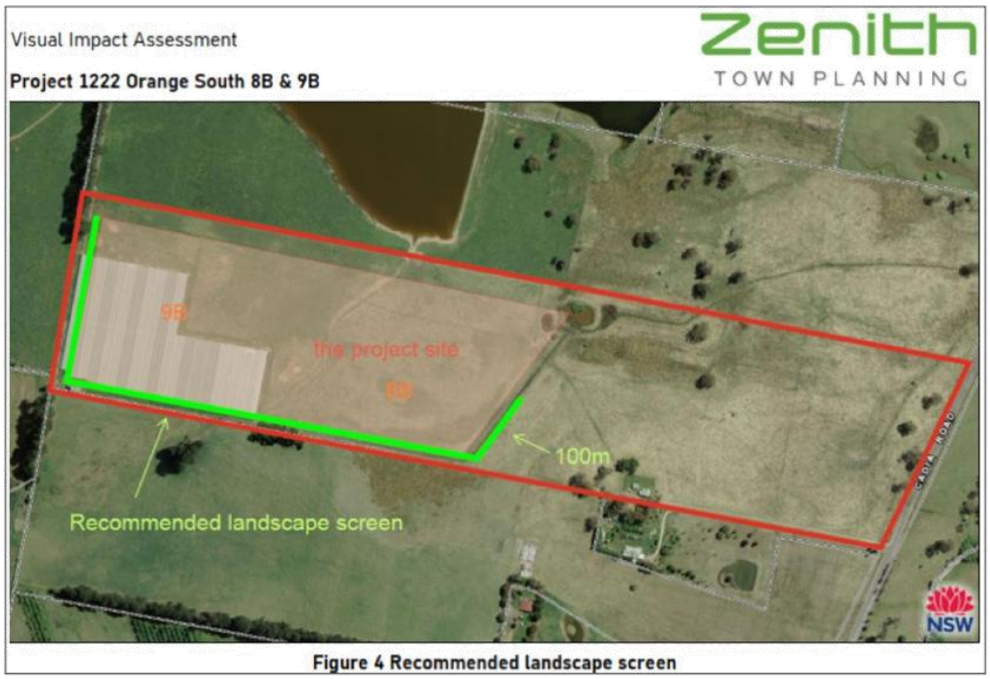


Figure 4 Recommended landscape screen

Figure 22 - proposed landscape screen

In response to the submitted visual impact assessment, it is acknowledged that the properties identified in the study represent those most likely to experience direct visual effects from the proposal. Council staff are satisfied that the assessment adequately addresses the relevant landscape character considerations and appropriately identifies the potential visual impacts arising from the development. As outlined in the report, and illustrated in Figure 20, five dwellings are considered to be subject to varying degrees of visual impact. The extent of impact differs due to local variations in landform, topography, and the presence of existing vegetation and landscape features that provide screening. Of the five dwellings, the property identified as OP2 is assessed as being the most directly and significantly affected. The images below illustrate the representative views from OP2.

In assessing visual impact, consideration has been given to the accepted four-step planning principle [Planning Principle for views - general principles Tenacity Consulting v Warringah Council [2004] NSWLEC 140 at 25-29], namely:

1. identifying the views to be affected
2. determining from which part of the property those views are obtained
3. assessing the extent of the impact, and
4. assessing the reasonableness of the proposal causing the impact.

Based on this principle, the assessment has focused on views obtained from the primary living spaces of the affected dwellings. Having regard to this framework, the proposal is considered acceptable as it will not unreasonably diminish the existing views enjoyed by the identified property owners.

Picture 1: View from the entrance of our house - proposed site marked in red

Picture 3: View from Lounge Room Window - proposed site marked in red

Picture 2: View from kitchen window – proposed site marked in red

Picture 4: View from our deck - proposed site marked in red

With respect to Section 5.7 of the *Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline - Development Rights*, it is noted that a development application [DA 1/2013(1)] was previously approved for a single-storey dwelling on adjoining land at 168 Cadia Road. This consent lapsed on 23 September 2018. Notwithstanding the lapse, the land continues to benefit from a dwelling entitlement by virtue of Clause 4.2A(3)(b) of the *Orange Local Environmental Plan 2011*.

Accordingly, while the proposed solar farm is expected to result in visual impacts on adjoining land that retains but has not yet exercised development rights, it is considered that any future dwelling on this land could be designed, sited, and oriented to avoid or minimise significant visual intrusion from the project. In addition, the proposed landscape screening measures will further mitigate potential high visual impacts and help ensure an acceptable visual relationship between the solar farm and any future residential development.

Summary - on balance, while the proposal will result in some high visual impacts for a limited number of nearby dwellings and for motorists along Cadia Road, these impacts are considered manageable and acceptable in planning terms. The overall landscape character has already been modified by rural and agricultural uses, and measures such as appropriate siting, design, orientation of future dwelling on adjoining land, together with proposed landscape screening that will be enhanced by a recommended condition, will serve to mitigate impacts. Accordingly, the visual impacts of the development are not considered to warrant refusal of the application.

Agricultural Viability

In relation to development on highly productive agricultural land, the proposal will result in a minor, temporary loss of agricultural land. However, it is noted that the subject land has not been used for cropping for several years. The predominant use of the property has been for grazing activities. The submitted documentation indicates that the proposal allows for future grazing within the fenced solar array area after construction, and the remaining land outside the solar farm footprint may continue to be used for livestock grazing or cultivation.

The proposal will not impact the day-to-day operations of neighbouring primary production uses. The loss of 13.01ha represents approximately 0.07% of the total agricultural land within the Orange LGA, which is considered negligible in the regional context. The proposed footprint occupies approximately 50.5% of the subject land, leaving a considerable portion available for the continuation of agricultural activities.

The proposal is therefore considered satisfactory in terms of maintaining the land's ongoing contribution to the agricultural industry within the Orange LGA. To reinforce this outcome, a condition of consent will require the continuation of sheep grazing within the fenced area of the solar farm to ensure the land remains productively utilised throughout the life of the development.

Traffic Impacts

The development is not expected to generate any adverse traffic impacts, either during construction or during the operational phase of the development.

Construction Phase

During the construction phase, up to 80 truck deliveries (including B-doubles) are expected over the course of the project, averaging approximately eight truck movements per day. These movements will generally occur outside of peak traffic periods, between 10am and 2pm. A peak construction workforce of around 30 staff may generate up to 15 vehicle trips per peak hour.

The application was referred to Council's Assistant Development Engineer (ADE), who raised no concerns subject to the imposition of appropriate conditions of consent. As part of construction management, advanced warning signage advising of trucks turning are to be installed along Cadia Road during the construction period. In addition, a light vehicle car park and a temporary laydown area are to be provided within the site (as per plans), designed to allow all vehicles to enter and exit in a forward gear, ensuring safe and efficient access.

Operational Phase

The traffic associated with the ongoing operation of the development will be minimal, limited to approximately two to three staff undertaking maintenance and cleaning on a quarterly basis. While occasional visits by technicians may be required for repairs or fault rectification, such activity is expected to be infrequent and well within the capacity of the local road network. These operational traffic levels will not give rise to any adverse impacts on the locality.

On this basis the development is considered satisfactory with respect to traffic impacts.

Environmental Impacts

The development is not anticipated to result in any adverse environmental impacts in relation to endangered ecological communities, threatened species, or habitat, as outlined

in the preceding assessment. The site has been selected and designed to avoid areas of ecological sensitivity, and vegetation disturbance will be minimised.

In addition, the applicants submit that proposal will deliver positive environmental outcomes through the generation of renewable energy, contributing to reduced greenhouse gas emissions and supporting the transition to a more sustainable energy supply.

Noise Impacts

PEG system

The development incorporates the PEG system, a simplified high-density ground-mount solution that achieves greater land yield compared with tracker and fixed-tilt systems. Its low-profile tilt design requires minimal spacing between modules, creating a contiguous array of solar panels. The system is lightweight, mobile, and relatively simple to install using only hand tools, avoiding the need for heavy machinery, DC trenching, foundations, or concrete works.

The solar panels are supported by slender steel rods (typically 16 mm in diameter), referred to as posts or piles, which are driven into the ground. This process, known as *nailing*, is undertaken using handheld equipment such as jackhammers, impact drivers, or hammer drills. According to the Noise Assessment prepared by Muller Acoustic Consulting (March 2025), the estimated total sound power level for this nailing activity is 105 dBA (approximately 97 dBA at 1m).

During construction

Noise modelling was undertaken for typical construction activities at identified receivers, measured at 1.5m above ground level and assessed against standard construction hours. The modelling incorporated a 10 dB attenuation factor to account for standard mitigation measures.

Predicted noise levels were modelled for a range of construction scenarios, including trenching, nailing, and assembly, across 45 identified receivers. The results indicate that no receiver is expected to exceed the relevant threshold criteria, with all predicted noise levels remaining within compliance limits. Accordingly, construction noise impacts are considered to be acceptable.

Operational period

The noise assessment adopted a night-time Project Noise Trigger Level (PNTL) of 35 dBA LAeq(15min). Modelling of the operational phase, including inverters and the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), demonstrates that noise emissions will comply with the applicable criteria at all identified residential receivers. As such, the operational noise impacts are assessed as negligible.

Conclusion

The PEG system installation method - through nailing of narrower posts - generates substantially lower noise levels compared with hydraulic piling rigs typically required for tracker systems. The detailed noise assessment confirms that predicted noise levels during the construction of the Orange South 8B and 9B Solar Farms and the associated Battery Energy Storage System, including PEG system installation, remain within the relevant construction noise management levels. As a result, noise impacts on the surrounding community are expected to be minimal and temporary, limited to the four-month construction period.

Nailing

Hydraulic Piling Rig

Decommissioning and Site Rehabilitation

As detailed in the Waste and Decommissioning Assessment submitted with the application, the solar farm will be decommissioned at the end of its approximate 35-year lifespan, with the site restored to its original condition or repurposed for agricultural uses.

A significant portion of the solar farm materials are recyclable. Waste generated during decommissioning will be categorised and either recycled or disposed of in accordance with the POEO Act. Established specialised industries will undertake this work, and it is expected that these industries will continue to grow and improve efficiency as more solar farms are decommissioned over time.

To address concerns regarding potential site abandonment, the developer/owner is legally responsible for decommissioning and must comply with long-term contracts with stakeholders to ensure proper site remediation. Condition of consent has been recommended.

Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts of a development can arise under four typical scenarios:

- Time-crowded effects where individual impacts occur so close in time that the initial impact has not dissipated before the next occurs.
- Space-crowded effects where impacts overlap due to their proximity in space.
- Nibbling effects where small, often minor impacts collectively erode the environmental condition of a locality.
- Synergistic effects where heterogeneous impacts interact such that the combined effect is greater than the sum of the individual effects.

The proposed development has the potential to generate one or more of these scenarios, such as multiple noise-generating construction activities occurring simultaneously, or two or more large vehicles making deliveries concurrently, potentially affecting traffic along Forest Road and Cadia Road.

Notwithstanding this, the implementation of suitable mitigation measures - including a Construction Environmental Management Plan, a Traffic Management Plan, and noise control measures - will ensure that any cumulative impacts remain within acceptable levels.

Furthermore, it is noted that there are no other similar developments in close proximity to the site that would collectively result in unacceptable cumulative impacts.

THE SUITABILITY OF THE SITE s4.15(1)(c)

The site is considered suitable for the proposed development. Despite identified constraints relating to soil management and water catchment, visual amenity and landscape character, and agricultural land use, these matters can be effectively managed through appropriate mitigation measures and conditions of consent.

The development is a permissible use under the provisions of the State Environmental Planning Policy and the Orange Local Environmental Plan 2011.

It is also noted that Council staff are not aware of any physical, technological, or natural hazards affecting the land that would otherwise constrain the development from occurring in a satisfactory manner. The site's topography, accessibility, and surrounding land uses are compatible with the proposed solar farm, and environmental assessments indicate that the development can be carried out without generating unacceptable impacts. Accordingly, the site is well-suited to accommodate the proposed use.

ANY SUBMISSIONS MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACT s4.15(1)(d)

The proposed development is classified as "advertised development" under the provisions of the Community Participation Plan. The application was publicly exhibited for the prescribed period of 28 days, during which a total of 42 submissions were received. Of these, one submission expressed support for the development, while the remaining submissions raised concerns regarding the proposal.

The categories of issues raised in the submissions are summarised below -

Issue raised	Planning response
Consultation and Process Submissions expressed dissatisfaction with the absence of early and meaningful community engagement. Concerns were raised that the project has not met expectations under the Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline in relation to consultation with neighbours and stakeholders.	The large-scale solar energy guideline that is referred to in the submissions does not apply to the proposal. Notwithstanding, whilst Council in its CPP encourages developers to carry out early engagement with neighbours in developing a project it is not a formal requirement. While earlier engagement may have been limited, the DA exhibition process provides an opportunity for public input into the planning process.
Visual and Landscape Impacts Objections focused on the visual prominence of the proposal, with submitters stating that screening measures would be inadequate to protect valued views. Concerns included the	A detailed Visual Impact Assessment was submitted in support of the application. An evaluation of visual and landscape matters has been provided in the body of this report.

transformation of a rural landscape into an industrial-scale facility, with flow-on effects for nearby cellar doors, tourism and rural character.	Landscape screening along the southern boundary has been increased, the height of vegetation proposed is at 5m (earlier 3m) and additional 1m wide vegetation is proposed along the south-eastern boundary. It is acknowledged that landscape mitigation measures will take time to get established resulting in some impacts initially until vegetation matures. Visual change is acknowledged but considered acceptable within the rural setting subject to implementation of mitigation measures.
Glint and Glare Concerns were raised regarding potential glare effects on nearby dwellings, road users, cyclists and aircraft. While CASA advised no hazard to aircraft operations, residents consider the impacts on local traffic and amenity to be unacceptable.	A glare and glint assessment has been provided in the body of this report. The assessment concluded that with the proposed vegetation planting around the site, visual impacts from glare will be sufficiently mitigated in most cases. Where yellow glare is experienced (see assessment in the body of this report), it will be of short duration and in locations with relatively low traffic volumes. Additionally, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) confirmed no aviation safety risk.
Traffic and Road Safety Submissions identified road safety risks associated with construction and operational traffic, particularly heavy vehicles. Concerns included B-double access, potential congestion, and increased conflict with existing users such as school buses, cyclists, and mine-related traffic.	A detailed assessment of traffic impacts has been provided in the body of this report. It is understood that construction will involve up to 80 truck deliveries (avg. 8/day between 10am–2pm) and a peak workforce of 30 generating around 15 vehicle trips per peak hour. Traffic management measures include onsite parking/laydown areas and advance warning signage for large vehicles. Council's ADE raised no concerns subject to the implementation of recommended conditions. Operational traffic will be minimal (2-3 staff visits quarterly, occasional technicians), within the road network

	capacity. No adverse traffic impacts are expected.
Agricultural Land Use and Food Security A number of submissions objected to the use of high-quality basalt soils for non-agricultural purposes. Issues raised included the permanent loss of productive farmland, risks of soil compaction and erosion, and inconsistency with Orange's established agricultural and viticultural economy.	A detailed assessment of the impact that the development will have on agricultural lands has been provided in the body of this report. The impacts identified are considered manageable through the implementation of recommended mitigation measures, such as dust suppression, traffic management, weed and pest control, and biosecurity protocols. Also, the LUCRA report notes that the land can continue to support compatible agricultural activities, such as livestock grazing on the land surrounding the array during the operational phase and can be fully restored to agricultural use following decommissioning.
Environmental and Ecological Impacts Concerns included potential contamination of water catchments (notably Gosling Creek and Spring Creek Dam), impacts on biodiversity and pollinator populations, and alteration of drainage and microclimate conditions.	A detailed assessment of **Environmental and Ecological Impacts** has been provided in the body of this report. To address these concerns, a Ground Cover Management Plan is submitted which proposes a gravel layer beneath panels to prevent erosion, with runoff directed to grassy swales and a detention basin/LPOD system. These measures manage water quality. Also, a biosecurity management plan is provided which proposes the mitigation measures to address biosecurity considerations. A Water Assessment, based on publicly available data, confirms the site is within the Orange water supply catchment and promotes sustainable soil management. The solar panels are similar to residential installations, containing no heavy metals or hazardous chemicals. The Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment recommends ongoing monitoring of water quality during operations to manage potential impacts.
Bushfire and Safety Risks	

Several submissions raised concerns about bushfire risks from solar panels, inverters and battery storage systems, including the release of toxic smoke during fire events and the ignition potential of high-voltage infrastructure.	Safety is a key consideration throughout the project. The developer is required to comply with all Australian workplace health and safety laws. A Fire and Hazard Assessment, together with a Bushfire Risk and Operations Plan, has been prepared, as the site is identified by Orange City Council as bushfire prone. The design includes a minimum 10m Asset Protection Zone (APZ) around the solar arrays and BESS, managed as an Internal Protection Area (IPA) per NSW Rural Fire Service standards to provide a buffer against radiant heat for emergency services. The project also incorporates system fault monitoring, automated fire detection and suppression, and robust safety procedures embedded in Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) policies.
Noise Impact Submissions highlighted potential noise impacts from the construction and operation of the solar farm and BESS on surrounding residents and livestock	A Noise Assessment, referencing the NSW Industrial Noise Policy and relevant Australian Standards, evaluated potential noise during construction and operation. The assessment concluded that noise levels at all receivers will comply with applicable management levels with standard mitigation measures. The use of the PEG System for panel installation is expected to minimise construction noise.
Impacts to Property Value A few submissions expressed concerns about the potential for the development to negatively impact property values in the surrounding area.	While some submissions raised concerns regarding potential impacts on property values, there is no empirical evidence to suggest that solar farm developments of this type result in measurable decreases in nearby property values. Numerous studies and precedent developments indicate that well-designed and managed solar farms do not adversely affect residential or rural land values. The proposal incorporates appropriate visual screening, setbacks, and landscaping measures to minimise any potential perception impacts, ensuring the development is compatible with the

	surrounding area. Impacts on property values is not a relevant consideration required under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act
Decommissioning and Site Rehabilitation Submissions questioned the decommissioning, recycling/disposal of panels, and the potential for the site to be abandoned.	As detailed in the Waste and Decommissioning Assessment submitted with the application, the solar farm will be decommissioned at the end of its approximate 35-year lifespan, with the site restored to its original condition or repurposed for agricultural uses. A significant portion of the solar farm materials is recyclable. Waste generated during decommissioning will be categorised and either recycled or disposed of in accordance with the POEO Act. Established specialised industries will undertake this work, and it is expected that these industries will continue to grow and improve efficiency as more solar farms are decommissioned. To address concerns regarding potential site abandonment, the developer/owner is legally responsible for decommissioning and must comply with long-term contracts with stakeholders to ensure proper site remediation.
Policy, Strategic, and Locational Issues Concerns were raised that the site lies outside the designated Renewable Energy Zone and is inconsistent with Orange LEP objectives to protect agricultural and tourism values. Many submitters argued the project is opportunistically located close to transmission infrastructure rather than in a more suitable, less densely populated area.	Although the site is not located within a formal Renewable Energy Zone, its selection considered zoning restrictions, proximity to the existing electricity network, and overall land suitability. The proposed location is in a non-urban zone where a solar farm is a permissible development.
Economic and Social Concerns Submissions questioned the claimed community benefits of the project, with scepticism about reductions in energy costs. Some expressed concerns about foreign ownership of the proponent and the potential for social division within the local	The proposed development is expected to provide positive economic benefits, including local employment opportunities during construction and ongoing maintenance, as well as increased demand for local goods and services. Socially, the

community.	project has been designed to minimise disruption to the community, with traffic, noise, and visual impacts carefully managed. No adverse effects on the broader community are anticipated, and the development is considered compatible with existing land uses.

While a range of issues have been identified, the assessment demonstrates that potential impacts can be effectively managed through appropriate conditions of consent. Overall, the project is consistent with relevant planning policies and guidelines and is considered acceptable in the context of the surrounding land uses.

PUBLIC INTEREST s4.15(1)(e)

The proposed development is considered to be of moderate to high public interest, given the number of submissions received and the nature and extent of potential visual impacts. Notwithstanding this, based on the detailed assessment undertaken, it is concluded that the development remains within acceptable limits and satisfies the public interest test.

The proposal is consistent with relevant policy statements, planning studies, and guidelines, and no applicable matters have been identified that have not been addressed in this assessment.

SUMMARY

The proposed development is permissible with the consent of the Western Region Planning Panel pursuant to Clause 2.42 of State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021. The proposed development complies with the relevant aims, objectives and provisions of Orange LEP 2011 and DCP 2004.

The proposal constitutes Regional development pursuant to Schedule 6, Clause 5 – *Private infrastructure and community facilities over $5 million*. As such, the Western Regional Planning Panel (WRPP) is the consent authority.

The proposed development complies with the relevant aims, objectives and provisions of Orange LEP 2011 (as amended) and DCP 2004. A Section 4.15 assessment of the development indicates that the development is acceptable in this instance. Attached is a draft Notice of Determination outlining a range of conditions considered appropriate to ensure that the development proceeds in an acceptable manner.

COMMENTS

The requirements of the Environmental Health and Building Surveyor and the Engineering Development Section are included in the attached Notice of Approval.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Notice of Approval
2. Plans
3. General Terms of Approval – Department of Planning and Environment – water

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION OF A DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

Application number	DA 771/2024(1) PAN-499518
Applicant	Jou Jong Level 4, 54 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra ACT 2601
Description of development	Development of a two 5MW solar farm (PEG System) and battery energy storage system (BESS).
Property	140 CADIA ROAD SPRINGSIDE 2800 5/-/DP6173
Determination	Approved Consent Authority - Sydney / Regional Planning Panel
Date of determination	30/09/25
Date from which the consent operates	30/09/25
Date on which the consent lapses	30/09/30
Approval bodies that have given general terms of approval	Department of Planning and Environment - Water

Under section 4.18(1) of the EP&A Act, notice is given that the above development

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application has been determined by the granting of consent using the power in section 4.16(1)(a) of the EP&A Act, subject to the conditions specified in this notice.

Reasons for approval

1. To ensure compliance with relevant statutory requirements.
2. To ensure the utility services are available to the site and adequate for the development.
3. To provide adequate public health and safety measures.
4. To prevent the proposed development having a detrimental effect on adjoining land uses.
5. To comply with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
6. The proposal will reasonably satisfy local and state planning controls.
7. The proposal development will be consistent with the zone objectives and principal development standards.
8. The proposal development will complement the existing or desired future character of the area.

Right of appeal / review of determination

If you are dissatisfied with this determination:

Request a review

You may request a review of the consent authority's decision under section 8.3(1) of the EP&A Act. The application must be made to the consent authority within 6 months from the date that you received the original determination notice provided that an appeal under section 8.7 of the EP&A Act has not been disposed of by the Court.

Rights to appeal

You have a right under section 8.7 of the EP&A Act to appeal to the Court within 6 months after the date on which the determination appealed against is notified or registered on the NSW planning portal.

The Dictionary at the end of this consent defines words and expressions for the purposes of this determination.

PAUL JOHNSTON
MANAGER DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENTS
Person on behalf of the consent authority

For further information, please contact Dhawala Ananda / Senior Planner

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Terms and Reasons for Conditions

Under section 88(1)(c) of the EP&A Regulation, the consent authority must provide the terms of all conditions and reasons for imposing the conditions other than the conditions prescribed under section 4.17(11) of the EP&A Act. The terms of the conditions and reasons are set out below.

General Conditions

1	**Erection of signs**
	1. This section applies to a development consent for development involving building work, subdivision work or demolition work. 2. It is a condition of the development consent that a sign must be erected in a prominent position on a site on which building work, subdivision work or demolition work is being carried out— a. showing the name, address and telephone number of the principal certifier for the work, and b. showing the name of the principal contractor, if any, for the building work and a telephone number on which the principal contractor may be contacted outside working hours, and c. stating that unauthorised entry to the work site is prohibited. 3. The sign must be— a. maintained while the building work, subdivision work or demolition work is being carried out, and b. removed when the work has been completed. 4. This section does not apply in relation to— a. building work, subdivision work or demolition work carried out inside an existing building, if the work does not affect the external walls of the building, or b. Crown building work certified to comply with the Building Code of Australia under the Act, Part 6.
	Condition reason: Prescribed condition under section 70 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021.
2	**Approved plans and supporting documentation**
	Development must be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans and documents, except where the conditions of this consent expressly require otherwise. Approved Plans: Site Plans; Titled – Orange South 8B & 9B 2 X 5MW Solar Farms; Sheet numbers – G-0100, G-0310, G-0400, G-2100, G-2200, C-4300, C-4310, C-5310, C-5300, C-6300, C-7300, E-3400, E-

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	4300, E-5300; revised plans date – 17/04/2025; Prepared by ITP Renewables. Approved documents: Statement of Environmental Effects prepared by Zenith Town Planning, dated 26/05/2025; In the event of any inconsistency between the approved plans and documents, the approved Plans / Documents prevail. In the event of any inconsistency with the approved plans and a condition of this consent, the condition prevails.
	Condition reason: To ensure all parties are aware of the approved plans and supporting documentation that applies to the development.
3	**Development and subdivision works requirements**
	All of the following conditions are to be at the full cost of the developer and to the requirements and standards of the Orange City Council Development and Subdivision Code, unless specifically stated otherwise. All engineering work required by the following conditions is to be completed prior to the issue of an Occupation or Subdivision Certificate, unless stated otherwise.
	Condition reason: To comply with Council's Development and Subdivision Code.
4	**National Construction Code**
	All building work must be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the National Construction Code.
	Condition reason: To ensure compliance with relevant statutory requirements.
5	**Duration of Operation and Solar Panel Design Compliance**
	The solar farms (maximum capacity of 5.0 MW at each PEG system) is to operate for a maximum period of 35 years from the date of occupation. The applicant is required to provide written confirmation to Council within 7 days of the solar farm operation commencing, advising of the date on which the solar farm operation has commenced. In accordance with the details set-out, the design of the solar panel array is to comply with the following: • The maximum height of any solar panel installed (at maximum tilt) at the subject site is 1.0m.
	Condition reason: To ensure the solar farm operates within the approved timeframe and design limits.

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Building Work

Before issue of a construction certificate

6	**Bush fire attack level design and construction**
	Before the issue of a construction certificate, detailed plans must be submitted to the certifier or Council (where certifier is not applicable) that demonstrate compliance with the section 8.3.5 under the '*Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*' issued by the NSW Rural Fire Service and compliance with mitigation measures as outlined in section 8.5 of the '*Draft Bush Fire Risk and Operations Plan'* accompied with development application.
	Condition reason: To ensure the building is suitably constructed for potential bush fire attack.
7	**Construction Site Management Plan**
	Before the issue of a Construction Certificate, a construction site management plan must be prepared, and provided to **the certifier or Council (where a certifier is not required)**. The plan must include the following matters: a. The location and materials for protective fencing and hoardings on the perimeter of the site; b. Location of dedicated washdown areas (located away from drainage lines, stormwater drains and water bodies); c. Provisions for public safety; d. Pedestrian and vehicular site access points and construction activity zones; e. Details of construction traffic management including: i. Proposed truck movements to and from the site; ii. Estimated frequency of truck movements; and iii. Measures to ensure pedestrian safety near the site; f. Details of bulk earthworks to be carried out; g. The location of site storage areas and sheds; h. The equipment used to carry out works; i. The location of a garbage container with a tight-fitting lid; j. Dust, noise and vibration control measures; k. Details of chemical storage and management; l. The location of temporary toilets; m. The working hours; n. Stakeholder/community engagement; o. The protective measures for the preservation of trees on-site and in adjoining public areas including measures in accordance with: i. AS 4970 – Protection of trees on development sites; ii. An applicable Development Control Plan; iii. An arborist's report approved as part of this consent A copy of the construction site management plan must be kept on-site at all times while work is being carried out.

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	Condition reason: To require details of measures that will protect the public, and the surrounding environment, during site works and construction.
8	**Waste Management Plan requirements**
	The applicant must submit a waste management plan that describes the nature of wastes to be removed, the wastes to be recycled and the destination of wastes. Any waste stockpile on site during construction is to be located to minimise impact on amenity of neighbouring properties and the public domain. All wastes from the construction phases of this project are to be deposited at a licensed or approved waste disposal site.
	Condition reason: To ensure waste management practices are undertaken, resource recovery is promoted and local amenity protected during construction site works.
9	**Road opening permit required**
	A Road Opening Permit in Accordance with Section 138 of the Roads Act 1993 must be approved by Council prior to a Construction Certificate being issued or any intrusive works being carried out within the public road reserve.
	Condition reason: To ensure compliance with relevant statutory requirements.
10	**Soil and Water Management Plan**
	A Soil and Water Management Plan (SWMP) is to be prepared by a suitably qualified person and submitted to the Certifier for approval prior to the issuing of a Construction Certificate. The management plan is to be in accordance with the Landcom, Managing Urban Stormwater; Soils and Construction Handbook and shall detail both the during construction and post construction controls necessary to maintain the stability of soils on the site and maintain predevelopment water quality.
	Condition reason: To ensure no substance other than rainwater enters the stormwater system and waterways.
11	**Landscaping - amended plan showing landscaping**
	An amended detailed plan showing landscaping must be submitted with an application for a construction certificate. The amended plan must include the following: • Details of all proposed vegetation species • Vegetation planting along the full length of the western boundary and the first 100 metres of the eastern boundary (measured from the southern end), with plantings designed to achieve a minimum 3-metre width and 3-metre height at maturity • Vegetation planting along the full southern boundary, with plantings designed to achieve a minimum 3-metre width and 5-metre height at maturity. In addition, vegetation planting to a minimum width of 1 metre and 5 metres in height at maturity must be provided for a length of 210 metres from the eastern end of the southern boundary • Vegetation planting comprising low-level native shrubs or grasses along the northern

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boundary to reduce visual impact on the surrounding area
- Retention of existing trees located in the north-west and south-west corners of the development site.
- Fencing along site boundaries, to prevent cattle and sheep from grazing on and damaging the landscaping.

and must submitted to, and approved by Council's Manager Development Assessments prior to the issue of a construction certificate.

Condition reason: To ensure a quality rural setting for the development which complements the surrounding environment.

12 **Decommissioning Plan**

A decommissioning Plan for the solar farms shall be submitted to Council's Manager Development Assessments for approval prior to the issue of a construction certificate. The decommissioning plan shall, as a minimum, detail the process for removing infrastructure from the site including timeframes, waste minimisation and recycling strategies to minimise waste going to landfill (including opportunities to reuse and/or recycle solar panels and other best practice wast minimisation actions available), the expected means of disposal of the waste; and proposed remediation and rehabilitation of the site as part of returning the site to owners of the land and
completing the obligations under the lease of land. The decommissioning must comply with the following table:

Feature	Objective
Development site (as a whole)	Safe, stable and non-polluting
Solar farm infrastructure and all ancillary infrastructure	To be decommissioned and removed
Land use	Restore land capability to pre-existing agricultural use, unless the Council agrees otherwise
Community	Ensure public safety

This plan shall form part of the terms of the lease of the land. Evidence shall be provided to Council to demostrate that the decommissioning plan is a binding condition on the lease of the land for the purposes of the solar farm.

Condition reason: To ensure the site is safely restored and managed at the end of the solar farm's operational life.

13 **Farm Management Plan**

Prior to the issue of a Construction Certificate, a detailed Farm Management Plan must be prepared and submitted to the satisfaction of Council's Manager Development Assessments. The Plan is to address, at a minimum:

- The management of cattle and/or sheep grazing around the solar arrays, and

	• The irrigation strategy for the proposed landscaping.
	Condition reason: To manage the land use of both the solar farm and agricultural practices.

Before building work commences

14	**Cadia Road vehicle access construction requirements**
	Prior to the commencement of any onsite construction work, the following site access improvements are to be constructed at the proposed intersection with Cadia Road to the satisfaction of Orange City Council as the roads authority under a Road Opening Permit process: • Provide an access driveway generally in conformance with Figure 7.4 of Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4, with a bitumen seal extending at least 30m from the Cadia Road edge of pavement, and either a 2m wide by 100mm deep heavy-duty concrete dish drain or 375mm culvert and headwalls for the full width of the bitumen sealed splay. • The intersection works are to be designed and constructed for the posted speed limit at this location and be able to accommodate up to a 26m B-Double. • Truck warning signs (W5-22 Size B) with distance plates (W8-5 Size B) under are to be installed 300m in advance of the site access in both directions on Cadia Road, and are to be removed after completion of construction. Provide details of proposed signage and locations for Orange City Council concurrence as part of the road works design review. • Details of any ancillary works are to be provided including (but not limited to) line marking, drainage transitions, batter slopes, vegetation removal, services relocation, and road reserve widening acquisition. • Safe Intersection Sight Distance (SISD) requirements as outlined in Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4A and relevant TfNSW Supplements to Austroads is to be provided and maintained in both directions at the site access intersection.
	Condition reason: To comply with Orange City Council Development and Subdivision Code
15	**Construction certificate required**
	A construction certificate must be obtained from Council or an accredited certifier at least two (2) days prior to any building or ancillary work commencing. Where the construction certificate is obtained from an accredited certifier, the determination and all appropriate documents must be notified to Council within seven (7) days of the date of determination.
	Condition reason: To ensure compliance with Section 6.7 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, and Part 3 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021.

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16	**Appoint PC**
	Appoint Principal Certifier. The person having the benefit of the development consent and a construction certificate shall: (a) Appoint a Principal Certifier and notify Council of the appointment (if Council is not appointed) and, (b) Notify Council of their intension to commence the erection of the building (at least two (2) day's notice is required) The Principal Certifier shall determine when inspections and compliance certificates are required.
	Condition reason: To ensure compliance with relevant statutory requirements.
17	**No commencement until details received**
	The construction works the subject of this development consent MUST NOT be commenced until: (a) Detailed plans/specifications of the building have been endorsed with a construction certificate by: (i) the Council, or (ii) a registered certifier, and (b) The person having the benefit of the development consent: (i) has appointed a Principal Certifier, and (ii) has notified the Council of the appointment, and (c) The person having the benefit of the development consent has given at least two (2) day's notice to the Council of the person's intention to commence the erection of the building; and (d) Builder's name and licence number has been supplied to Council or the Principal Certifier; or (e) Owner Builder's permit issued by Department of Fair Trading to be supplied to Council or the Principal Certifier; and (f) Home Building Compensation Fund (HBCF) has been paid and a copy of the

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	Certificate supplied to Council or the Principal Certifier; and (g) A sign has been erected onsite in a prominent position containing the information prescribed by Clause 98A(2) and (3) of the EP&A Regulations, being the name, address and telephone number of the Principal Certifier for the work, name of the principal contractor for the work and telephone number on which that person may be contacted outside working hours, and stating that unauthorised entry to the site is prohibited. This sign must be maintained onsite while work is being carried out and removed when the work has been completed.
	Condition reason: To ensure compliance with relevant statutory requirements.
18	**Onsite toilet**
	A temporary onsite toilet is to be provided and must remain throughout the project or until an alternative facility meeting Council's requirements is available onsite.
	Condition reason: To provide adequate public health and safety measures.
19	**Department of Planning and Environment-Water - TC-G001**
	Before commencing any proposed controlled activity on waterfront land, an application must be submitted to Department of Planning and Environment-Water, and obtained, for a controlled activity approval under the Water Management Act 2000.
	Condition reason: To ensure compliance with relevant statutory requirements.
20	**Department of Planning and Environment-Water - TC-G004**
	A. This General Terms of Approval (GTA) only applies to the proposed controlled activity described in the plans and associated documents found in Schedule 1, relating to Development Application DA 771/2024(1) provided by Council to Department of Planning and Environment-Water. B. Any amendments or modifications to the proposed controlled activity may render the GTA invalid. If the proposed controlled activity is amended or modified, Department of Planning and Environment-Water, must be notified in writing to determine if any variations to the GTA will be required. **SCHEDULE 1** The plans and associated documentation listed in this schedule are referred to in general terms of approval (GTA) issued by Department of Planning and Environment-Water for integrated development associated with IDAS-2025-10039 as provided by Council: • Statement of Environmental Effects, Solar Farm, prepared by Zenith Town Planning dated 19 December 2024 • Site plans 2 x 5 MW Solar Farms, Sheet No.G-0000 to E-5300 prepared by ITP Renewables dated 17 April 2025

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	• Draft Bush Fire Risk and Operations Plan, prepared by BEMC dated 12 December 2024
	Condition reason: To ensure compliance with relevant statutory requirements.
21	**Department of Planning and Environment-Water - TC-G005**
	A. The application for a controlled activity approval must include the following plan(s): • Site plans - shall define the waterfront land boundary from the top of the watercourse bank • Detailed civil construction plans • Construction streamworks plans - shall be consistent with the Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and • Construction - Volume 1 (https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/publications/managing-urban-stormwater-soilsand-construction-volume-1) • Construction watercourse crossing design plans - shall include a Site Management Plan that details the construction sequence, duration of works and details how elevated flows events will be managed • Soil and water management plan • Construction detailed drainage plans • Construction detailed bulk earthworks plans B. The plan(s) must be prepared in accordance with Department of Planning and Environment-Water 's guidelines located on the website - https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/water/licensing-and-trade/approvals/controlled-activity-approvals/what/guidelines
	Condition reason: To ensure compliance with relevant statutory requirements.
22	**Soil Erosion and Sediment Control**
	Soil erosion control measures shall be implemented on the site as per the Soil and Water Management Plan (SWMP) apporved by the Council.
	Condition reason: To prevent soil erosion and protect water quality during site works.
23	**Access Track Compatibility**
	Prior to the commencement of works for the solar farm, the access track and any associated infrastructure must be designed and constructed so as not to encroach on the approved shed and carport footprint of the rural dwelling. The final access arrangement must be modified, to the satisfaction of Council to ensure both the approved dwelling development and the solar farm infrastructure can operate independently and without conflict.
	Condition reason: To avoid conflict between the approved rural dwelling development and the proposed solar farm infrastructure and to ensure that both developments can coexist without operational or structural interference.

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During building work

24	**Tree protection during work**
	While site works are being carried out, all required tree protection measures for the existing trees located in the north-west and south-west corners of the development site must be implemented and maintained in good condition for the duration of the works. This includes maintaining adequate soil grades and ensuring all machinery, builders refuse, spoil and materials remain outside tree protection zones.
	Condition reason: To protect trees during the carrying out of site work.
25	**Adjustments to utility services**
	Any adjustments to existing utility services that are made necessary by this development proceeding are to be at the full cost of the developer.
	Condition reason: To comply with Council's Development and Subdivision Code.
26	**Driveway and parking areas**
	All vehicle access driveways and parking areas are to be designed for all weather access and expected loading conditions (provided however that the minimum pavement depth for gravel roadways is 200mm).
	Condition reason: To comply with Council's Development and Subdivision Code.
27	**Hours of work - construction**
	All construction work on the site is to be carried out between the hours of 7am and 6pm Monday to Friday inclusive, 7am to 5pm Saturdays, and with no works proposed on Sundays and Public Holidays. Written approval must be obtained from the Chief Executive Officer of Orange City Council to vary these hours.
	Condition reason: To ensure compliance with relevant statutory requirements.
28	**Protection of the Environment Operations Act - material delivery**
	All materials onsite or being delivered to the site are to be contained within the site. The requirements of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* are to be complied with when placing/stockpiling loose material, or when disposing of waste products, or during any other activities likely to pollute drains or watercourses.
	Condition reason: To protect waterways from pollution by stockpiled or placed construction materials.
29	**Unexpected finds - contamination**

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	In the event of an unexpected find during works such as (but not limited to) the presence of undocumented waste, odorous or stained soil, asbestos, structures such as underground storage tanks, slabs, or any contaminated or suspect material, all work onsite must cease immediately. The beneficiary of the consent must discuss with Council the appropriate process that should be followed therein. Works onsite must not resume unless the express permission of Council's Director Development Services is obtained in writing.
	Condition reason: To ensure any unexpected finds of contamination are notified to Council and managed appropriately.
30	**Landscaping Establishment and Maintenance**
	The required landscaping must be the first works undertaken on the site following the issue of the construction certificate to allow plants to establish as early as possible. During this period, construction personnel must monitor, maintain, and water the landscaping on a weekly basis. Any plants that die must be replaced on a like-for-like basis.
	Condition reason: To ensure the successful establishment of landscaping and maintain the visual amenity of the site.
31	**Biosecurity and Weed Management**
	The development must be carried out in accordance with the approved Biosecurity Management Plan, prepared by edp Renewables, dated August 2025, including implementation of awareness and training programs, access control procedures, vehicle hygiene protocols, record-keeping, and targeted weed management.
	Condition reason: To minimise biosecurity risks and ensure effective weed management during the operation of the development.
32	**Noise Management and Community Consultation**
	1. The approved Construction Site Management Plan must be implemented and complied with for the full duration of the construction period. 2. All plant must be operated conservatively, with no over-revving of motors/engines, and shut down when not in use. Only plant with quiet operation performance may be used. 3. Multiple noisy plant or equipment operating simultaneously is to be avoided, and impact noise minimised. 4. Vehicles must be fitted with broadband reversing alarms instead of high-frequency alarms. Signage must be displayed at the site entrance to advise drivers to minimise noise when entering and exiting the site. 5. All drivers and contractors must receive training to ensure awareness of noise-sensitive receivers and their obligation to minimise noise-generating activities during construction. 6. The use of project related community consultation forums to notify residential receivers of project progress, upcoming potenially noise generating works, including the duration and nature are to be conducted.

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	Condition reason: To minimise construction noise impacts and ensure timely communication with the community.

Before issue of an occupation certificate

33	**Completion of works on public land and services**
	Certification from Orange City Council is required to be submitted to the Principal Certifying Authority prior to the issue of an Occupation Certificate stating that all works relating to connection of the development to Council assets, works on public land, works on public roads, and stormwater have been carried out in accordance with the Orange City Council Development and Subdivision Code and the foregoing conditions.
	Condition reason: To comply with Council's Development and Subdivision Code.
34	**Completion of works relating to road opening permit**
	A Road Opening Permit Certificate of Compliance is to be issued for the works by Council prior to any Occupation Certificate being issued for the development.
	Condition reason: To ensure compliance with relevant statutory requirements.
35	**Erosion and sediment control - soil to be stabilised**
	Prior to the issuing of an occupation certificate, soil on the site shall be stabilised to prevent erosion and the pollution of waters by uncontrolled sediment.
	Condition reason: To prevent site erosion and sediment loss, and protect waterways from sediment pollution.
36	**Landscaping - to be installed and maintained in accordance with approved plans**
	Landscaping must be installed in accordance with the approved plans and must be permanently maintained to the satisfaction of Councils Manager Development Assessments.
	Condition reason: To ensure a quality urban design for the development which complements the surrounding environment.
37	**Litter management plan**
	Prior to the issue of an occupation certificate, the applicant shall submit a Litter Management Plan for the approval of Council's Manager Building and Environment. The Litter Management Plan shall detail the commitments required to be undertaken by the operator of the premises during routine operations to reasonably manage the pick-up of rubbish from the site, the surrounding street network and open spaces.
	Condition reason: To ensure litter generated from the operation of food premises is

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	appropriately managed.
38	**On-Site Firefighting Water Supply**
	Prior to the issue of an occupation certificate, a rainwater tank with a minimum capacity of 10kL, equipped for firefighting purposes, must be installed within the fenced area of the solar farm and filled to capacity with water. The tank must be permanently maintained at not less than 90% capacity. A static water supply notice must be attached to the front gate of the development site.
	Condition reason: To ensure adequate on-site water supply is available for firefighting purposes.
39	**No use or occupation without occupation certificate**
	No person is to use or occupy the building or alteration that is the subject of this approval with the prior issuing of an occupation certificate.
	Condition reason: To ensure compliance with the Building Code of Australia.

Occupation and ongoing use

40	**Essential Energy Comments**
	• If the proposed development changes, there may be potential safety risks and it is recommended that Essential Energy is consulted for further comment; • Any existing encumbrances in favour of Essential Energy (or its predecessors) noted on the title of the above property should be complied with; • Any activities in proximity to electrical infrastructure must be undertaken in accordance with the latest industry guideline currently known as ISSC 20 Guideline for the Management of Activities within Electricity Easements and Close to Infrastructure; • Prior to carrying out any works, a "Dial Before You Dig" enquiry should be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Part 5E (Protection of Underground Electricity Power Lines) of the Electricity Supply Act 1995 (NSW); and • It is the responsibility of the person/s completing any works around powerlines to understand their safety responsibilities. SafeWork NSW (www.safework.nsw.gov.au) has publications that provide guidance when working close to electricity infrastructure. These include the Code of Practice – Work near Overhead Power Lines and Code of Practice – Work near Underground Assets.
	Condition reason: To ensure compliance with relevant statutory requirements.
41	**Outdoor Lighting**
	Any outdoor lighting must be designed, installed, and operated in accordance with AS/NZS

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	4282:2023 – Control of the Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting.
	Condition reason: To minimise light spill and protect the amenity of nearby sensitive receivers.
42	**Maximum Electricity Generation Capacity**
	The development comprises two PEG system solar farms, each with a maximum capacity of 5 MW (AC). Each PEG system must not exceed 5 MW (AC) at any time.
	Condition reason: To ensure the development operates within the approved generation capacity.
43	**Duration of Operation**
	This consent allows the electricity generating works (solar farm) to operate for a maximum period of 35 years from the date of occupation.
	Condition reason: To ensure complaince with relevant statutory requirements.
44	**Landscape Monitoring and Maintenance**
	Landscaping shall be permanently maintained in accordance with the approved plans. Additionally, a 24-month landscape monitoring period must commence, upon the issue of an occupation certificate. During this period, the following minimum requirements apply: • Fortnightly watering of all landscaping; • Bi-annual mulching of all landscaping; • Quarterly inspections of all landscaping to identify sick or dead plants. Any damaged or deteriorating plants identified during inspections must be replaced like-for-like within 7 days of the inspection. Council officers, or officers appointed by Council, may inspect the landscaping at any time.
	Condition reason: To ensure the successful establishment and ongoing maintenance of landscaping and the protection of visual amenity.
45	**Site Decommissioning and Rehabilitation**
	Within 3 months of the cessation of operations, the site must be rehabilitated to the satisfaction of Council, in accordance with the approved Decommissioning Plan. Documentary evidence from a suitably qualified person must be provided to Council to confirm that the development has been successfully decommissioned to the required standards.
	Condition reason: To ensure the site is safely rehabilitated and restored.
46	**Bushfire Emergency Management and Operations**
	The development must at all times be operated in accordance with the endorsed Bushfire

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	Risk and Operations Plan and the Bushfire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan, both prepared by BEMC. The development must be regularly maintained to ensure compliance with the requirements of Section 8.3.5 of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*.
	Condition reason: To ensure ongoing bushfire preparedness, emergency response, and safe operation of the development in accordance with current bushfire protection requirements.

General advisory notes

This consent contains the conditions imposed by the consent authority which are to be complied with when carrying out the approved development. However, this consent is not an exhaustive list of all obligations which may relate to the carrying out of the development under the EP&A Act, EP&A Regulation and other legislation. Some of these additional obligations are set out in the *Conditions of development consent: advisory notes*. The consent should be read together with the *Conditions of development consent: advisory notes* to ensure the development is carried out lawfully.

The approved development must be carried out in accordance with the conditions of this consent. It is an offence under the EP&A Act to carry out development that is not in accordance with this consent.
Building work or subdivision work must not be carried out until a construction certificate or subdivision works certificate, respectively, has been issued and a principal certifier has been appointed.

A document referred to in this consent is taken to be a reference to the version of that document which applies at the date the consent is issued, unless otherwise stated in the conditions of this consent.

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Dictionary

The following terms have the following meanings for the purpose of this determination (except where the context clearly indicates otherwise):

Approved plans and documents means the plans and documents endorsed by the consent authority, a copy of which is included in this notice of determination.

AS means Australian Standard published by Standards Australia International Limited and means the current standard which applies at the time the consent is issued.
Building work means any physical activity involved in the erection of a building.

Certifier means a council or a person that is registered to carry out certification work under the *Building and Development Certifiers Act 2018.*

Construction certificate means a certificate to the effect that building work completed in accordance with specified plans and specifications or standards will comply with the requirements of the EP&A Regulation and *Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021.*

Council means ORANGE CITY COUNCIL.

Court means the Land and Environment Court of NSW.

EPA means the NSW Environment Protection Authority.

EP&A Act means the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.*

EP&A Regulation means the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021.*

Independent Planning Commission means Independent Planning Commission of New South Wales constituted by section 2.7 of the EP&A Act.

Occupation certificate means a certificate that authorises the occupation and use of a new building or a change of building use for an existing building in accordance with this consent.

Principal certifier means the certifier appointed as the principal certifier for building work or subdivision work under section 6.6(1) or 6.12(1) of the EP&A Act respectively.

Site work means any work that is physically carried out on the land to which the development the subject of this development consent is to be carried out, including but not limited to building work, subdivision work, demolition work, clearing of vegetation or remediation work.

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Stormwater drainage system means all works and facilities relating to:

- the collection of stormwater,
- the reuse of stormwater,
- the detention of stormwater,
- the controlled release of stormwater, and
- connections to easements and public stormwater systems.

Strata certificate means a certificate in the approved form issued under Part 4 of the *Strata Schemes Development Act 2015* that authorises the registration of a strata plan, strata plan of subdivision or notice of conversion.

Sydney district or regional planning panel means Western Regional Planning Panel.

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STATEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Orange South 8B & 9B Solar Farm + BESS

Chris Grose/Beyond Zero Emissions

26 May 2025 Rev A

Zenith
TOWN PLANNING

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Project 1322 Orange South 8B & 9B Solar Farm + BESS

Zenith TOWN PLANNING

Project details

Project number	**1322**
Project title	Orange South 8B & 9B Solar Farm + BESS
Document title	Statement of Environmental Effects
Property	Lot 5 DP 6173 No. 140 Cadia Road, Springside, NSW
Client	
Author	
Company	Zenith Town Planning Pty Ltd PO Box 591 Moruya NSW 2537
ABN	11 624 467 349
Qualifications	Bachelor of Arts (Honours), UNSW Master of Urban & Regional Planning, USyd PIA Registered Planner Planning Institute Australia APA
Version	Draft: 13 December 2024 Final: 19 December 2024 Draft Rev A: 22 May 2025 Final Rev A: 26 May 2025

Report title: This report should be cited as *Orange South 8B & 9B Solar Farm + BESS Statement of Environmental Effects*, prepared by Zenith Town Planning Pty Ltd.

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Ownership: This report is the intellectual property of and Zenith Town Planning Pty Ltd.

Disclaimer: The contents of this report are only to be used for the express purpose of supporting the respective project described above. All care is taken to ensure the accuracy and veracity of this information, however, no responsibility is accepted for the interpretation of that information by end users.

Authorship: The author of this report, , is a director of Zenith Town Planning Pty Ltd and has been practicing in the field of urban and regional planning since 1994. He specialises in assessing development proposals for the development of regional scale renewable energy, waste management and extractive industry projects. This report has been prepared in full by the author without the assistance of AI.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Statement of Environmental Effects supports an application to Orange City Council to develop a solar farm and battery energy storage system (BESS) at Lot 5 DP 6173 No. 140 Cadia Road, Springside, referred to as the Orange South 8B & 9B Solar Farm + BESS NSW. The land is located approximately 5.5 kilometres south-west of Orange town centre. The proponent is . The application is for regionally significant development that needs consent and is to be determined by the Western Regional Planning Panel.

is proposing to construct two PEG System solar farms with an AC output of 5.0 MW per site. The 8B system will occupy 6.53 hectares at the western end and the 9B system is to occupy 6.48 hectares at the centre of the property that has a total site area of 25.75 hectares. There are to be approximately 16,000 solar modules per system supported by inverter stations and BESS enclosed within a security fence and partially within landscape screening. Access is to be via an existing driveway off Cadia Road into the project site.

During the construction phase, there is expected to be approximately 50 personnel working on-site, with around 30 personnel present on-site at any one time. The typical working hours will be from 7.00am to 4.00pm, Monday through Friday. The construction phase for both sites is expected to take approximately 4 months in total. Once operational the site will be unmanned and maintenance would to be carried out quarterly, or as required, by a crew of 2 to 3 people.

The operational life of the solar farms is anticipated to be approximately 35 years, depending on various factors. The solar panels and related infrastructure will be decommissioned and removed upon cessation of operations. This is likely to occur within two years of the end of the project. The site can then be returned to the pre-development land use or as agreed upon.

The site selection process has involved liaison with Orange City Council officers; identification of environmental and topographical constraints; existence of necessary infrastructure including accessways, power lines and sub-stations; proximity to the settlement of Orange to enable supply of power direct to the township; sufficient cleared land area; willingness of the land owner to develop the property and enter lease arrangements to facilitate the solar farm; and the availability of solar resources.

It is integrated development as a controlled activity approval may be required to be issued under section 4.46 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* for works on or over a mapped watercourse which is classified as a 1st order stream.

The land is zoned C3 Environmental Management under *Orange LEP 2011*. The development is defined as *electricity generating works* which means a building or place used for the purpose of making or generating electricity - a use permitted with consent zone under provisions of *Orange LEP 2011* and *SEPP (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021*

The township of Orange is mapped as a 'regional city' in *SEPP (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021*. Impacts on scenic quality and landscape character have been assessed in accordance with that state policy. These impacts will be mitigated or minimized by the proposed vegetation screening of the solar array.

The project site is not identified in *Orange Local Housing Strategy* as an urban release area for the expansion of Orange township. The proposed development will not interfere with or prevent the planned growth of Orange.

Although not located within the Central West Renewable Energy Zone, the proposal is not inconsistent with the planning priorities, goals and actions of the *Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2041* and the *Orange Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020*.

Key issues are potential impacts on biodiversity, management of water issues, access to the site and traffic impacts, the effects of noise emissions, impacts on agricultural uses, and impacts on landscape and scenic amenity. The likely impacts of the development have been considered and measures recommended to avoid, minimise or mitigate these impacts.

The use is suited to a rural location due to the need for a large land area and the ability to connect to the local electrical transmission network. The addition of a solar farm to the semi-rural area of Orange would not detract unreasonably from local amenity or the natural environment.

Electricity generated by the system will be directed to the settlement of Orange via existing electrical infrastructure to contribute to the supply of electricity for use by households and businesses. The solar farm will generate community economic benefits through local employment opportunities during the planning and construction phases as well as maintenance and inspection jobs once operational. The land may continue to be used for agriculture and returned to its current condition once the facility is decommissioned. The cumulative impacts of the proposed development are minor as the proposal is a small town-scale facility. Other solar farms have been developed in neighbouring areas but there have been no other solar farm proposals in the vicinity of the project site. There is sufficient capacity in the electricity grid system to accommodate the Orange South 8B & 9B Solar Farm + BESS as evidenced by contractual arrangements made by EDPR Australia with Essential Energy to connect to infrastructure.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

The purpose of this Statement of Environmental Effects is to support an application to Orange City Council to develop a solar farm and battery energy storage system (BESS) at Lot 5 DP 6173 No. 140 Cadia Road, Springside, referred to as the Orange South 8B & 9B Solar Farm + BESS. The application is for regionally significant development that needs consent and is to be determined by the Western Regional Planning Panel.

The purpose of this report is to assist Council's assessment of the proposal against the matters for consideration listed in section 4.15 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

It is integrated development as a controlled activity approval may be required to be issued under section 4.46 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* for works on or over a mapped watercourse.

Table 1 below is a checklist of this application against relevant sections of legislation that may generate the need for a separate approval.

Table 1: Integrated development checklist

Act	Provision	Approval	The proposal	Integrated (Y/N)
Coal Mine Subsidence Compensation Act 2017	s 22	approval to alter or erect improvements, or to subdivide land, within a mine subsidence district	The land is not designated a mine subsidence district	No
Fisheries Management Act 1994	s 144	aquaculture permit	It is not proposed to carry out aquaculture	No
	s 201	permit to carry out dredging or reclamation work	It is not proposed to carry out dredging or reclamation work	No
	s 205	permit to cut, remove, damage or destroy marine vegetation on public water land or an aquaculture lease, or on the foreshore of any such land or lease	It is not proposed to remove, damage or destroy marine vegetation	No

Act	Provision	Approval	The proposal	Integrated (Y/N)
	s 219	permit to— (a) set a net, netting or other material, or (b) construct or alter a dam, floodgate, causeway or weir, or (c) otherwise create an obstruction, across or within a bay, inlet, river or creek, or across or around a flat	It is not proposed to carry out any works across or within a bay, inlet, river or creek, or across or around a flat	No
Heritage Act 1977	s 58	approval in respect of the doing or carrying out of an act, matter or thing referred to in s 57(1)	The application does not relate to an interim heritage order or an item listed on the State Heritage Register	No
Mining Act 1992	ss 63, 64	grant of mining lease	The development does not involve an application for a mining lease	No
National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974	s 90	grant of Aboriginal heritage impact permit	Due diligence indicates that there is no item or place of Indigenous significance and an application is not being made for a permit	No
Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991	s 16	grant of production lease	The development does not involve an application for a petroleum production lease	No
Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997	ss 43(a), 47 and 55	Environment protection licence to authorise carrying out of scheduled development work at any premises.	The application does not involve scheduled development	No
	ss 43(b), 48 and 55	Environment protection licence to authorise carrying out of scheduled activities at any premises (excluding any activity described as a "waste activity" but including any activity described as a "waste facility").	The application does not involve scheduled activities	No
	ss 43(d), 55 and 122	Environment protection licences to control carrying out of non-scheduled activities for the purposes of regulating water pollution resulting from the activity.	The application does not involve non-scheduled activities that would generate water pollution	No

Act	Provision	Approval	The proposal	Integrated (Y/N)
Roads Act 1993	s 138	consent to— (a) erect a structure or carry out a work in, on or over a public road, or (b) dig up or disturb the surface of a public road, or (c) remove or interfere with a structure, work or tree on a public road, or (d) pump water into a public road from any land adjoining the road, or (e) connect a road (whether public or private) to a classified road	There are no works proposed or required to be undertaken on a classified road	No
Rural Fires Act 1997	s 100B	Authorisation under section 100B in respect of bush fire safety of subdivision of land that could lawfully be used for residential or rural residential purposes or development of land for special fire protection purposes	The application does not involve subdivision for a residential use or a special fire protection purpose	No
Water Management Act 2000	ss 89, 90, 91	water use approval, water management work approval or activity approval under Part 3 of Chapter 3	Part of the proposed development is located over a mapped watercourse that is a 1st order stream under the Strahler system. An application for a controlled activity approval is necessary. The application does not involve a water use approval or water management work approval	Yes

1.2 Scope of the report

This Statement has been prepared having regard to information that has been sourced from the Council's website, the NSW legislation website, SIX Maps, the website of the Department of Planning & Environment, the Planning Portal and SEED (Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data). All information referenced in this Statement has been sourced from publicly available documents or websites and from expert reports produced to support the application that are listed in Table 2. A Property Report sourced from the Planning Portal is appended as Attachment A.

This statement is accompanied by the documents listed in Table 2 which support the development application and have been submitted under separate cover.

Note that the findings and recommendations of expert reports that accompany the application are summarised in this Statement. Further information about these matters should be sought from the original documents.

Table 2: Development application documents

Plan/Doc No.	Plan/Doc Title	Prepared by	Issue	Date
22113	Orange South 8B & 9B Solar Farm + BESS Drawing Pack	ITP Renewables	various	various
MAC180781-27RP1V1	Noise Assessment	Muller Acoustic Consulting Pty Ltd	-	10/12/2024
240856.01FA	Traffic and parking Impact Statement	McLaren Traffic Engineering	2	10/12/2024
-	Water Assessment	EDPR Australia Pty Ltd	2	06/12/2024
-	Glare and Glint Study	ITP Renewables	1	09/12/2024
-	Waste and Decommissioning Assessment	EDPR Australia Pty Ltd	1	22/10/2024
-	Fire and Hazard Assessment	EDPR Australia Pty Ltd	2	22/05/2025
-	Preliminary Site Contamination Report	EDPR Australia Pty Ltd	1	22/05/2025
-	Biodiversity Inspection Report	Red-Gum Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd	-	16/10/2024
1322	Visual Impact Assessment	Zenith Town Planning Pty Ltd	-	26/11/24
242105	Draft Bushfire Risk and Operations Plan	Bushfire Emergency Management Consultancy	4	12/12/24
212104	Draft Bushfire Emergency Management & Evacuation Plan	Bushfire Emergency Management Consultancy	4	12/12/24

1.3 The proponent

The proponent of the project is . Based in with an office in has a growing portfolio of renewable developments across regional Australia, specialising in both large and town-scale solar farms and BESS projects designed to match current and future electricity demand.

, which is headquartered in and has a pan-regional presence with approximately 1.3 GWp of committed solar capacity.
is part of , a global leader in the renewable energy sector with more than 15 GW installed capacity in 29 markets across Europe, North America, South America and Asia Pacific. is recognised as the world's most sustainable energy utility company with an ambition to be Net-Zero by 2040, under the new Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) Net-Zero Standard.

1.4 Justification

Solar energy is energy created by the heat and light of the sun. Solar power is produced when this energy is converted into electricity or used to heat air, water, or other substances. Australia has the highest average solar radiation per square metre of any continent in the world. The Commonwealth and NSW Governments have recognized the need to supplement energy derived from fossil fuels with energy generated from renewable sources. Alternative energy supply may be sourced from solar photovoltaic, geo-thermal, solar thermal, wave and tidal action, and wind.

The development of solar photovoltaic power is well underway in NSW and across Australia. This growth in the local solar PV sector continues to provide a significant boost for Australia's regional economy with renewable infrastructure development estimated to create upwards of 2,300 direct jobs plus indirect employment.

According to the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), the deployment of household solar PV that generates about 5 kW is expected to continue and at the same time an increase in rooftop solar PV installations on commercial premises generating around (10-100 kW) is expected.

Large scale solar PV is also rapidly expanding in Australia with several solar farms being constructed that will have the capacity to generate over 50MW. The proposed solar farm aims to fill the gap in the mid-sized plants. It will generate 5MW of AC power and contribute to renewable energy supply to supplement electricity generation from coal, oil and gas.

The proposed development is in accordance with relevant objects of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* in that it will assist to generate power to be distributed to residents of NSW thereby promoting the social and economic welfare of the community in a manner that manages and conserves natural resources. The proposed solar farm will further the goals of sustainability, and the orderly and economic use of land.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION AND CONTEXT

2.1 Description

The site of the proposed Orange South 8B & 9B Solar Farm + BESS is described as Lot 5 DP 6173 No. 140 Cadia Road, Springside, NSW that is 25.75 hectares in area. The project site is shown edged red in the aerial image below.

Figure 1: Aerial image. Source: Google Earth

The site has been used for livestock grazing and horticulture. Structures include a dwelling and sheds located near the south-eastern corner of the site, and a small dam near the northern boundary. The terrain is generally flat with a gentle slope to the east.

The site is cleared of native vegetation other than a few eucalypts in the vicinity of the dwelling and scattered trees near the eastern boundary and near the dam. Horticultural uses comprise an apple orchard that is contained within a timber trellis structure at the south-western corner which will be removed prior to construction.

Current access to the site is by way of an entrance off Cadia Road at the south-eastern corner of the site. Cadia Road runs parallel to the eastern boundary and is a local road managed by Orange City Council.

An 11KV power line runs north-west to south-east across the eastern end of the site. Gosling Creek runs parallel to Cadia Road on the opposite side to the project site and connects with the Gosling Creek Reservoir to the north.

Plate 1: Looking west across the site from the south-eastern corner

2.2 Context

Orange local government area is located in the central west region of NSW. Its traditional custodians are the Wiradjuri people. The explorer and surveyor Major Thomas Mitchell named the settlement of Orange. It was proclaimed in 1846 and became a municipality in January 1860. The town expanded rapidly during the gold rush years to then become a major producer of crops and maturing into the regional centre of today.

The project site is located approximately 5.5 kilometres south-west of the township of Orange. The edge of urban residential development is 3.8 kilometres to the north-east and Orange Hospital is located 2.3 kilometres north-east of the site. Surrounding land uses comprise agricultural activities, rural industries and some rural living dwellings. Figure 2 shows the locality of the proposed development and proximity to Orange town centre.

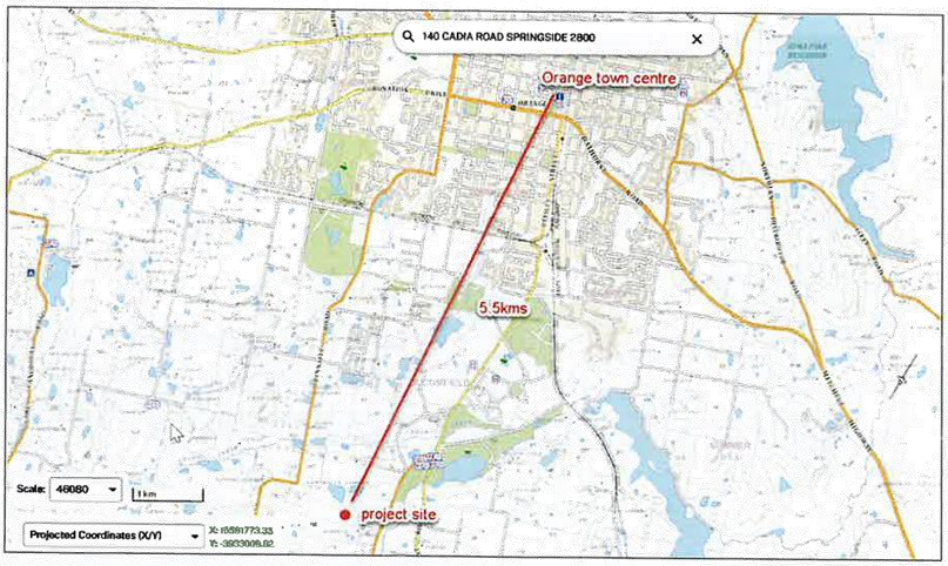


Figure 2: Locality map. Source: SEED

2.3 Climate

Global solar exposure is described by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology as being the total amount of solar energy falling on a horizontal surface. The daily global solar exposure is the total solar energy for a day. Typical values for daily global solar exposure range from 1 to 35 MJ/m^2 (megajoules per square metre). The values are usually highest in clear sun conditions during the summer, and lowest during winter or very cloudy days. Global solar exposure coincides with seasons – the longer the daylight hours the greater the solar radiation due to the tilt of the earth during summer months.

Solar exposure estimates are important for a wide range of applications, including for agriculture, power generation and solar heating system design and use. This climatic information sourced from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology indicates that the global solar exposure, or solar radiation, is sufficient to support power generation in the proposed location which benefits from the presence of electricity power lines in the vicinity of the project site.

The mean monthly global solar exposure measured at Orange Agricultural Institute (station number 63254), the closest measuring station to the solar farm site, is given in Table 3 below. The annual mean daily global exposure for 2023 was 17.9MJ/m². This data demonstrates that Orange receives adequate solar energy to harness and convert to clean electricity and the area is suitable for solar electricity generation.

Table 3: Mean monthly global solar exposure at Orange Agricultural Institute, 2023

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly mean	24.6	24.3	17.3	13.4	10.5	9.1	10.4	13.4	19.7	23.3	21.9	26.8

The map below (Figure 3) indicates that Orange receives an average daily solar exposure of 15 to 18 MJ/m² based on readings taken over the 30-year period from 1990 to 2019. This map has been sourced from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology. It confirms that the solar exposure received at Orange is sufficient to generate electrical energy at a commercial scale using photovoltaic panels.

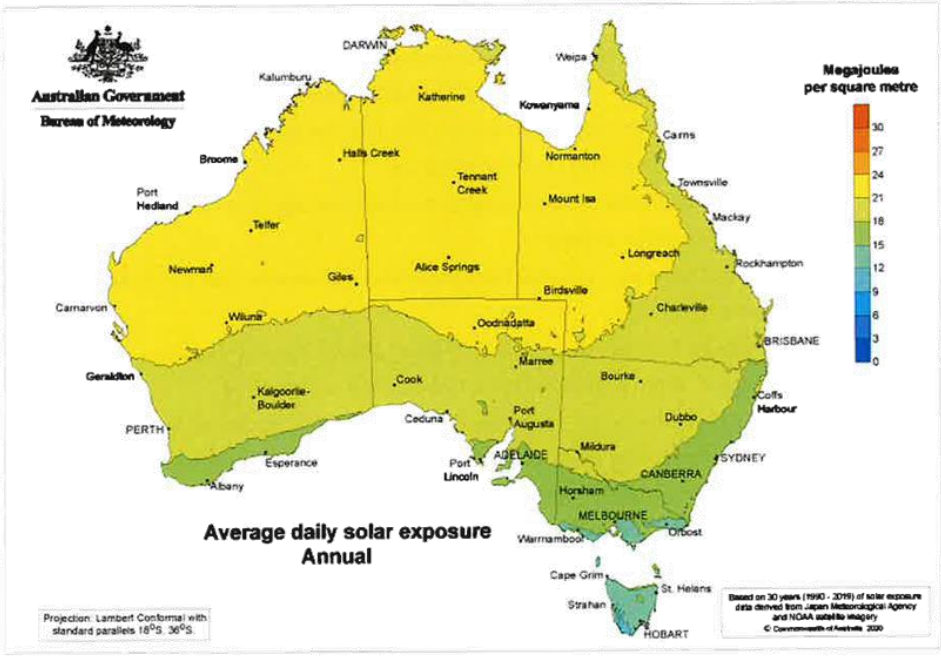


Figure 3: Average daily solar exposure. Source: Australian Bureau of Meteorology

3. DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Overview

EDPR Australia Pty Ltd is proposing to construct two PEG System solar farms with an AC output of 5.0 MW per site. The 8B system will occupy 6.53 hectares at the western end of the property and the 9B system is to occupy 6.48 hectares in the centre of the property.

The project comprises installation of groups of aligned PV modules on a vertical mounting structure at a height of approximately 1.2 metres above ground level, known as the PEG system. PEG Systems are ground-mounted PV systems that comprise high-density, lightweight solar arrays. The solar panels are installed in fixed, alternating-tilt positions and are oriented in an east-west (EW) direction to maximise energy production throughout the day

The layout of the solar farm is shown on General Arrangement Plan prepared by EDPR Australia. Components of the facility are:

- Approximately 16,000 solar panels per system installed to about 1.2 metres in height on mounting posts that are driven into the ground to a depth of between 0.8 and 2.0 metres,
- A 2.5MW inverter station within each facility that is 3 metres high and each mounted on a 12.2 metre long skid located in the centre of the array,
- Two 2.9 metre high kiosks to convert high and medium voltage to low voltage electricity suitable for connection to the local system,
- Two 2.9 metres high battery energy storage systems each mounted on a 12.1 metre skid located in the centre of the array,
- Access off Cadia Road using an existing driveway and a 4 metre wide access road to temporary car parking and materials laydown areas in the centre of each array,
- Additional power poles at the north-eastern corner and lines to connect to existing power lines,
- A 1.8 metre high security fence topped with three rows of barbed wire to give a total height of 2.3 metres surrounding each array,
- Diversion of the mapped watercourse that traverses the project site to avoid any encroachment of structures or components of the system over the watercourse, and
- Vegetation screening on the western and southern sides of the array and for a distance of 100 metres along the southern section of the eastern side of the array to be located on the outer side of the security fence.

The operational life of the solar farms is anticipated to be approximately 35 years, depending on various factors. The solar panels and related infrastructure will be decommissioned and removed upon cessation of operations. This is likely to occur within two years of the end of the project. The site can then be returned to the pre-development land use or as agreed.

3.2 Construction and maintenance

During construction, there is expected to be up to 50 personnel with only approximately 30 on site at any one time working from 7.00am to 4.00 pm Monday to Friday. The construction stage is expected to take approximately 4 months for both arrays.

Once operational the site will be unmanned. Maintenance is expected to be carried out quarterly, or as required, by a crew of 2 or 3 people. Maintenance workers would not be required to remain on site. Cleaning of the PV panels would be carried out on an annual basis to maximise the performance of the system. This is done using water brought into the site and a sponge mop.

Construction may be limited to the off-peak tourist season if necessary. It is important to ensure that the timing of construction of the solar farm does not coincide with the period of construction of other infrastructure or local events that attract visitors to avoid additional pressure on visitor accommodation.

3.3 Access and car parking

It is proposed to use an existing driveway off Cadia Road at the south-eastern corner of Lot 5 to gain access to the development area. It will be necessary to construct a new 4 metre wide internal access track from the existing track to the north-eastern corner of the development area. The internal track then heads west parallel to the northern boundary to the location of each inverter station and BESS centre at the northern edge of each array. It is expected that a gravel all-weather road would suffice given that limited vehicles will access the site during and after the construction period.

Temporary materials laydown and car parking areas are to be located adjacent the inverter stations and BESS. It is expected that temporary car parking for up to 24 small vehicles would be needed to cater for the 30 construction workers at the rate of 0.8 spaces per worker.

Car parking spaces will be temporary and not require bitumen sealing. Permanent parking spaces for the maintenance crew are not considered necessary as maintenance activities would be carried out by way of a utility vehicle carrying a water cube and mowing/slashing equipment. The crew will be mobile and moving around and between rows of panels to clean panels and maintain grasses.

Plate 2: Looking north along Cadia Road from the site entrance

Plate 3: Looking south along Cadia Road from the site entrance

3.4 Services

Reticulated water and sewer services are not required to be provided to the solar farm as there are no permanent offices or amenities proposed on site. Portaloos for wastewater disposal (see https://www.kennards.com.au/site-equipment/showers-toilets.html) and water supply by way of a portable tank or cart (https://www.kennards.com.au/site-equipment/water-tank.html) are proposed to be installed during the construction phase.

3.5 Landscaping

In line with the recommendations of the *Visual Impact Assessment*, it is proposed to screen the facility on the western and southern sides of the array and for a distance of 100 metres along the southern section of the eastern side of the array. Screening is to consist of a 3 metre wide vegetation strip planted on the outer side of a security fence using a variety of shrubs endemic to the Orange locality that grow to a maximum height of 3 metres along the western and eastern sides of the array. Screening is to consist of a 5 metre wide vegetation strip planted on the outer side of a security fence using shrubs that grow to a maximum height of 5 metres along the southern side of the array plus an additional row of screening, 1 metre wide by 5 metres high along the eastern half of the southern boundary adjacent to the stock fence line. The vacant section long the eastern half of the southern boundary, situated between the fence line and the southern channel (described I Section 5.3.2, page 38), is to be planted with a 1 metre wide by 5 metre high screen to avoid interference with the channel. No trees are to be removed during construction or for operation of the solar farm. Land that is disturbed during construction of the solar farm and not to be used for access or other maintenance purposes will be sown with grasses following completion of construction to minimise site disturbance and reduce the likelihood of airborne dust. Regular inspections of the site will be carried out to ensure that grassland is managed to reduce the risk of bushfire to surrounding land and to control weeds. Mowing or slashing between rows of panels and in the area immediately surrounding the arrays would be carried out as required. Livestock grazing may be carried out around the array and will benefit from condensation of moisture on the panels that will assist the growth of pasture grasses.

3.6 Security and setbacks

The solar array is to be enclosed within a 1.8 metre high chain mesh fence topped with three rows of barbed wire giving a total height of 2.3 metres. The fence is to be setback a minimum of 3 metres from the option boundary, i.e. the boundary of the lease area. Asset protection zones and access for fire-fighting vehicles are provided by a 10 metres wide setback between the security fence and the array. Security lighting is not proposed to be installed.

4. STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

4.1 Legislation

4.1.1 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment (EPA) Act 1979* is the principal piece of legislation governing the use and development of land in NSW. The objects of the Act are:

(a) *to promote the social and economic welfare of the community and a better environment by the proper management, development and conservation of the State's natural and other resources,*
(b) *to facilitate ecologically sustainable development by integrating relevant economic, environmental and social considerations in decision-making about environmental planning and assessment,*
(c) *to promote the orderly and economic use and development of land,*
(d) *to promote the delivery and maintenance of affordable housing,*
(e) *to protect the environment, including the conservation of threatened and other species of native animals and plants, ecological communities and their habitats,*
(f) *to promote the sustainable management of built and cultural heritage (including Aboriginal cultural heritage),*
(g) *to promote good design and amenity of the built environment,*
(h) *to promote the proper construction and maintenance of buildings, including the protection of the health and safety of their occupants,*
(i) *to promote the sharing of the responsibility for environmental planning and assessment between the different levels of government in the State,*
(j) *to provide increased opportunity for community participation in environmental planning and assessment.*

The objects of the EPA Act are intended to guide land planning and management. Section 4.15 of the Act lists matters for consideration when assessing and determining an application for development.

4.1.2 Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

The *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* introduced the *Biodiversity Offsets Scheme* which is used to determine whether the *Biodiversity Assessment Method* is necessary to assess the impacts of a development proposal on threatened species, endangered ecological communities and habitats. Determining whether a *Biodiversity Development Assessment Report* is required under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and subsequently whether the *Biodiversity Offsets Scheme* would apply to the proposed works is subject to three steps.

- The first step is to identify whether the site is mapped on the *Biodiversity Values Map*.
- The second step is to estimate whether the extent of native vegetation to be cleared for the proposed development is above the clearing threshold for the minimum lot size.
- The third step is to carry out a test of significance to predict whether impacts on biodiversity are likely to be significant.

Under the *Biodiversity Offsets Scheme*, offset obligations may apply where the biodiversity assessment finds that the removal of vegetation to facilitate the development will have significant impacts on flora. These offsets are in the form of credit obligations whereby payment is made to a biodiversity conservation fund which enable vegetation removal and provides funds to assists to preserve the same vegetation community elsewhere. Credit obligations also apply to fauna species where particular species are likely to be living in or frequenting the property. These matters are addressed in section *5.1 Biodiversity* of this Statement.

4.1.3 Water Management Act 2000

The *Water Management Act 2000* includes provisions to control or permit works near a watercourse or stream. Works within specified distances of the top of the bank of a watercourse may necessitate issue of a *controlled activity approval* by the Natural Resources Assessment Regulator. Impacts on surface and groundwaters are addressed in *5.3 Water resources* of this Statement.

4.1.4 Local Land Services Act 2013

The *Local Land Services Act 2013* regulates the clearing of native vegetation on rural land and where an activity is permitted without Council consent. There are two broad categories of land under the LLS Act - Category 1 (Exempt) land and Category 2 (Regulated, Vulnerable or Sensitive) land which are shown on the Native Vegetation Regulatory Map .

Clearing may be authorised on Category 1 (Exempt) Land but only where the activity is permitted without consent and when no other permit is required under other legislation. The onus is on the applicant to ensure they are not committing an offense under other legislation. If located on Category 2 (Regulated, Sensitive or Vulnerable) Land, the clearing may be authorised as an Allowable Activity or under the Land Management (native vegetation) Code within the *LLS Act*. If the clearing on Category 2 Land is not an Allowable Activity or is not authorised under the Land Management (native vegetation) Code, the clearing will need to be offset under the Biodiversity Offset Scheme. This means a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report is needed and the clearing will need to be approved by the Native Vegetation Panel.

The LLS Act does not apply to the proposed solar farm as development consent is required to be obtained to enable the works to proceed.

4.1.5 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1994

The objectives of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* are to conserve and protect habitat, ecosystems, biodiversity, landforms, landscapes and objects, places or features of cultural value in NSW. Under the NPW Act, it is an offence to knowingly harm or desecrate an Aboriginal object. Harm includes destroy, deface or damage an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal Place, and in relation to an object, move the object from the land on which it has been situated. Aboriginal objects include sites, relics or cultural material such as scar trees, middens and ancestral remains.

The NPW Act can also protect areas of land that have no Aboriginal objects, that is, they may have no physical evidence of Aboriginal occupation or use. These areas can be declared 'Aboriginal places' if they have spiritual, natural resource usage, historical, social, educational or other type of significance.

Anyone who exercises due diligence in determining that their actions will not harm Aboriginal objects has a defense against prosecution for the strict liability offence if they later harm an object. The *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* provides a process whereby a reasonable determination can be made as to whether or not Aboriginal objects will be harmed by an activity, whether further investigation is warranted and whether the activity requires an application for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit.

4.1.6 Heritage Act 1977

The aims of the *Heritage Act 1977* are to identify, protect and conserve items of State heritage significance. Provisions of the Heritage Act facilitate the establishment of a State Heritage Register for the listing of items of State significance and the preparation of conservation management plans for these items. The Heritage Act also sets out the procedures for the approval of works relating to items listed on the State Heritage Register. Impacts on listed heritage items are addressed in section *5.9 Heritage* of this Statement.

4.1.7 Noxious Weeds Act 1993

The aims of the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* are to prevent the establishment, reduce the risk of spread and minimise the extent of noxious weeds within NSW. The extent of noxious weeds and procedures to

eradicate weed infestation from the project site are addressed in section *3. Details of the proposed development* in this Statement.

4.1.8 Roads Act 1993

Under section 138 of the Roads Act 1993, consent is required to carry out works in, on or over a public road, remove or interfere with a structure, work or tree on a public road or connect a road to a classified road. The consent of Transport for NSW is required in the case of works relating to a classified road. Traffic impacts are addressed in section *5.6 Traffic* of this Statement.

4.1.9 Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* aims to protect nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places. The approval of the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment is required for actions that may have a significant impact on matters of national environmental significance. The *EPBC Act* also requires Commonwealth approval for certain actions on Commonwealth land.

An assessment of the potential impact of the proposed works on any matters of national environmental significance under the *EPBC Act* and the need for referral to the Commonwealth is provided in section *5.1 Biodiversity* of this Statement.

4.2 State Environmental Planning Policies

4.2.1 State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021

Chapter 4 Hazardous and offensive development of *SEPP (Resilience and Hazards) 2021* and the *Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 6 – Guidelines for Hazard Analysis* require that a preliminary hazard assessment (PHA) be prepared for potentially hazardous or offensive development. EDPR Australia Pty Ltd has carried out a hazard analysis and risk screening, submitted separately and entitled *Fire and Hazard Assessment*. The findings of this report are summarised in section *5.2.2 Fire* of this Statement.

Chapter 4 Remediation of land of *SEPP (Resilience and Hazards) 2021* requires the consent authority to consider whether land is contaminated and to determine whether the proposed use is suitable with or without contamination. Council can require an applicant for development to conduct a preliminary investigation and a subsequent more detailed investigation if warranted. Where contamination exists and

remediation is necessary, Council must be satisfied that the remediation will take place before the land is used for the proposed purpose. It is noted that should the preliminary investigation identify contamination on the site then the NSW *Contaminated Land Planning Guidelines* apply to subsequent investigations. Land contamination is addressed in section 5.2.3 of this Statement.

4.2.2 State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021

Chapter 2 Infrastructure of *SEPP (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021* aims to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure across NSW. The policy contains provisions relating to approval processes and assessment requirements for infrastructure proposals according to the type or sector of infrastructure. It outlines land use zones where types of infrastructure are permissible with or without consent and identifies certain works as exempt and complying development.

Part 2.3 Division 4 of the policy relates to electricity generating works and solar energy systems. Section 2.36(9) enables the development of a solar energy system with consent by any person on any land. Part 3 Division 4 of the policy relates to electricity generating works and solar energy systems. The proposed development is permitted with consent by *SEPP (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021*.

Section 2.42 applies to the development of a solar energy system that is state or regionally significant in a mapped regional city. Under this section the consent authority must be satisfied that the development is located to avoid significant conflict with existing or approved residential or commercial uses of land surrounding the development. The consent authority must also be satisfied that the development is unlikely to have a significant adverse impact on the regional city's capacity for growth, or scenic quality and landscape character. Orange is mapped as a regional city under this policy. Impacts on scenic quality and landscape character have been assessed in accordance with that state policy. These impacts will be mitigated or minimized by the proposed vegetation screening of the solar array.

The project site is not identified in *Orange Local Housing Strategy* as an urban release area for the expansion of Orange township. The proposed development will not interfere with or prevent the planned growth of Orange.

Part 2.3 Division 5 of the policy relates to energy transmission or distribution. Section 2.48 requires the consent authority to consult with the electricity supply authority where development occurs near electricity infrastructure. If an electricity line runs within an easement on or near the project site, or the development is adjacent a substation, the consent authority is to consult the energy authority prior to determination of the application.

Part 2.3 Division 17 relates to roads and traffic. Section 2.118 requires that a consent authority must not grant consent to development with a frontage to a classified road where there is an alternative access, where the safety, efficiency and ongoing operation of the classified road is expected to be adversely affected and where the development is sensitive to use of the classified road. Section 2.122 triggers a referral to Transport for NSW where electricity generating works are expected to generate 200 or more vehicles per hour with access to a road, or 50 or more vehicles per hour where access is to a classified road or a road that connects to a classified road.

4.2.3 State Environmental Planning Policy (Primary Production) 2021

Relevant objectives of *Chapter 2 Primary production and rural development* of *SEPP (Primary Production) 2021* are:

(a) *to facilitate the orderly economic use and development of lands for primary production*
(b) *to reduce land use conflict and sterilisation of rural land by balancing primary production, residential development and the protection of native vegetation, biodiversity and water resources*
(c) *to identify State significant agricultural land for the purpose of ensuring the ongoing viability of agriculture on that land, having regard to social, economic and environmental considerations*
(d) *to simplify the regulatory process for smaller-scale low risk artificial waterbodies, and routine maintenance of artificial water supply or drainage, in irrigation areas and districts, and for routine and emergency work in irrigation areas and districts*
(e) *to encourage sustainable agriculture, including sustainable aquaculture*

The policy applies to *State significant agricultural land*, farm dams and other artificial waterbodies, livestock industries and aquaculture. There is no *State significant agricultural land* listed in the schedule to the policy.

The Department of Primary Industries (Agriculture) has released draft mapping of *State Significant Agricultural Land* in NSW to assist decision-making regarding development on rural land. This matter is addressed in section *5.7 The community and economy*.

4.2.4 State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021

Development that is state and regionally significant is identified in *SEPP (Planning Systems) 2021*. Electricity generating works including solar farms which have an estimated development cost of more than $30 million, or an estimated development cost of more than $10 million and are located in an environmentally sensitive area of State significance, are declared state significant development. Private

infrastructure, including electricity generating stations, that have an estimated development cost of over $5 million are declared regionally significant and are to be determined by a Regional Planning Panel.

4.3 Local Environmental Plans

The property is zoned C3 Environmental Management under *Orange LEP 2011* as shown in Figure 4.

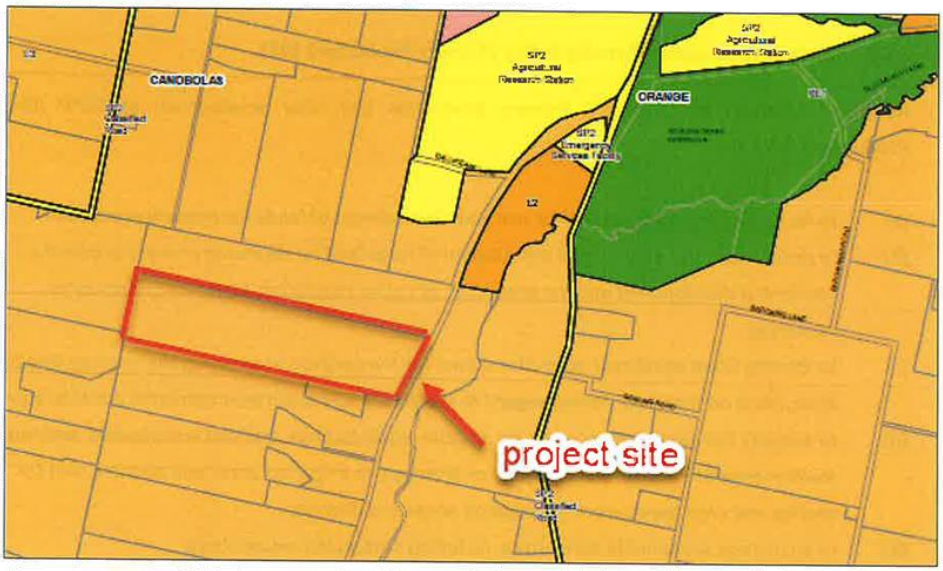


Figure 4: Land zoning. Source: Orange LEP 2011 – Land Zoning Map Sheet LZN_009

The objectives of zone C3 are:

- *To protect, manage and restore areas with special ecological, scientific, cultural or aesthetic values.*
- *To provide for a limited range of development that does not have an adverse effect on those values.*
- *To manage development within water supply catchment lands to conserve and enhance the city and district's water resources.*
- *To maintain the rural function and primary production values of the area.*
- *To ensure development along the Southern Link Road has alternative access.*

The development is defined as ***electricity generating works*** which means a building or place used for the purpose of making or generating electricity. This use is permitted with consent in zone C3.

The proposed development is satisfactory to the objectives of zone C3 in that renewable energy through the harnessing of sunlight is a form of primary industry. The development will thereby maintain the rural function and primary production values of the land. The development will not cause fragmentation or alienation of resource land as livestock grazing may continue around the perimeter of the solar array when the facility is constructed and operating.

The solar farm will diversify rural activities and provide an alternative means of income thereby supporting other on-farm activities. It will not lead to land use conflict with other land uses or any special values as it is a benign development during the operational phase that will not produce noise, odour, dust or other emissions that would impact on the amenity of surrounding land.

Employment opportunities will be created for the local community both during construction and operation. There are no statutory intentions to expand the urban settlement of Orange towards the project site and the solar farm will not obstruct any unplanned growth of the township of Orange. The project site is not mapped as an Urban Release Area in *Orange LEP 2011* (see Urban Release Area Map Sheet URA_009).

The solar farm would not adversely affect valuable environmental assets and would not have a significant impact on biodiversity or the ecological integrity of water resources, native vegetation or habitat linkages between patches of native vegetation.

Figure 5: Urban release areas. Source: Orange LEP 2011 – Urban Release Area Map Sheet URA_009

It is considered that the proposed development is not inconsistent with the aims of *Orange LEP 2011* or the objectives of zone C3 Environmental Management.

The following clauses of *Orange LEP 2011* apply to the proposed development.

Clause 7.5 Riparian land and watercourses

The objectives of clause 7.5 are to protect and maintain the following water quality within watercourses, the stability of the bed and banks of watercourses, aquatic riparian habitats, and ecological processes within watercourses and riparian areas. The project site is within 40 metres of a mapped sensitive waterway. The consent authority is to consider whether the development:

(a) is likely to have any adverse impact on the following—
- *(i) the water quality and flows within a watercourse,*
- *(ii) aquatic and riparian species, habitats and ecosystems of the watercourse,*
- *(iii) the stability of the bed and banks of the watercourse,*
- *(iv) the free passage of fish and other aquatic organisms within or along the watercourse,*
- *(v) any future rehabilitation of the watercourse and its riparian areas, and*

(b) is likely to increase water extraction from the watercourse.

The impacts of the facility on surface waters are considered in the *Water Assessment* prepared by EDPR Australia and summarised in section 5.3.

Clause 7.6 Groundwater vulnerability

The objectives of this clause are to maintain the hydrological functions of key groundwater systems and to protect vulnerable groundwater resources from depletion and contamination as a result of inappropriate development.

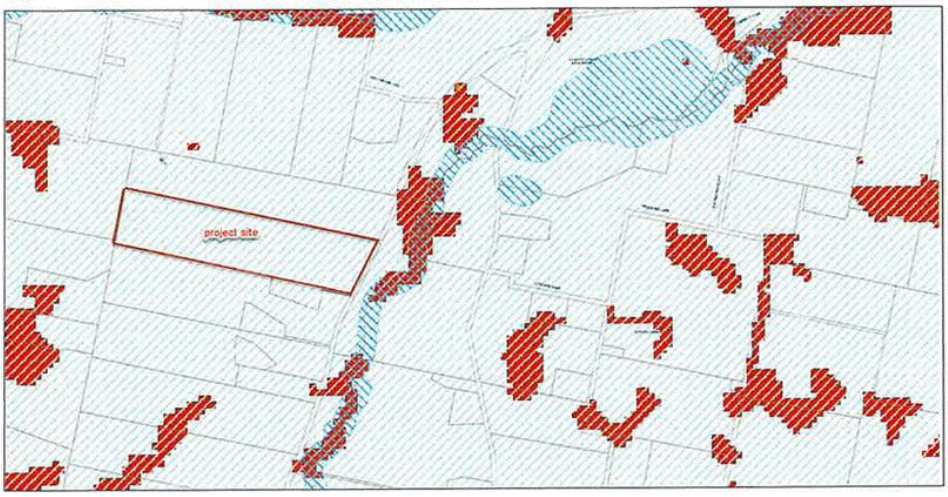


Figure 6: Groundwater vulnerability. Source Orange LEP 2011 – Groundwater Vulnerability Map Sheet CL2_009

The consent authority is to consider whether or not the development (including any on-site storage or disposal of solid or liquid waste and chemicals) is likely to cause any groundwater contamination or have any adverse effect on groundwater dependent ecosystems, and the cumulative impact (including the impact on nearby groundwater extraction for potable water supply or stock water supply) of the development and any other existing development on groundwater.

This matter is considered in the *Water Assessment* prepared by EDPR Australia and summarised in section 5.3. No groundwater is proposed to be extracted and there is not expected to be any interference with the groundwater table as a result of the proposed facility.

Clause 7.7 Drinking water catchments

The objective of this clause is to protect drinking water catchments by minimising the adverse impacts of development on the quality and quantity of water entering drinking water storages. The consent authority must consider:

(a) the distance between the development and any waterway that feeds into the drinking water storage, and

(b) the on-site use, storage and disposal of any chemicals on the land, and

(c) the treatment, storage and disposal of waste water and solid waste generated or used by the development.

Impacts on water quality are considered in the *Fire and Hazard Assessment* and the *Water Assessment* prepared by EDPR Australia and summarised in sections 4.2.1 and 5.3 respectively. The edge of the project site is over 70 metres from the mapped Gosling Creek at the closest points and is separated by Cadia Road (see Figure 6). There are not expected to be any adverse effects on the water quality, stability or biodiversity of Gosling Creek or Gosling Creek Reservoir subject to implementation of the recommended mitigation measures.

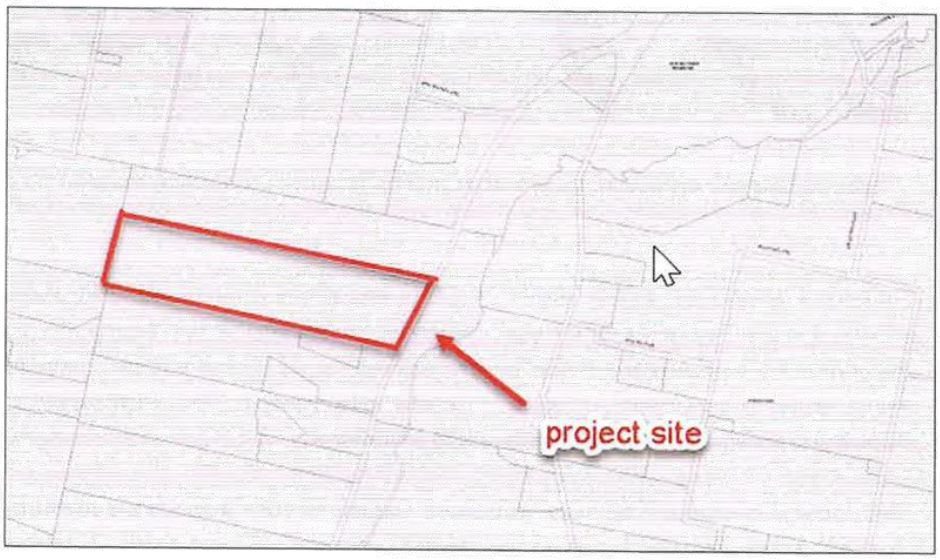


Figure 7: Drinking water catchment. Source: Orange LEP 2011 – Drinking Water Catchment Map Sheet CL1_009

Clause 7.11 Essential services

This clause requires a consent authority to be satisfied that any of the following services that are essential for the development are available or that adequate arrangements have been made to make them available when required:

(a) the supply of water,
(b) the supply of electricity,
(c) the disposal and management of sewage,

(d) stormwater drainage or on-site conservation,

(e) suitable road access.

The supply of reticulated water and sewerage services is not required for the proposed development. However, portaloos for wastewater disposal (see https://www.kennards.com.au/site-equipment/showers-toilets.html) and water supply by way of a portable tank or cart (see https://www.kennards.com.au/site-equipment/water-tank.html) are proposed to be installed during the construction phase.

Electrical services are available to the site. Stormwater management is proposed to be addressed by controls recommended in this Statement with full details to be provided with the application for a construction certificate. Direct access is proposed off Cadia Road using an existing driveway that achieves safe intersection sight distances.

There are no draft environmental planning instruments that are on exhibition or have been exhibited but not yet published that apply to the site, or that relate to the proposed development of electricity generating works.

4.4 Development Control Plans

4.4.1 Orange Development Control Plan 2004

Orange DCP 2004 applies to all land in Orange LGA and was updated and revised in 2021.

Planning outcomes of *Orange DCP 2004* that are applicable to the proposed development are given in Table 4 below with the reference to the relevant section of this Statement.

Table 4: Planning outcomes of Orange DCP 2004

Planning Outcome	Section of Statement of Environmental Effects
2 Natural resource management – water quality	
Development is carried out in a manner that does not contribute to downstream erosion or sedimentation of waterways	Section 5.3 Water resources
2 Natural resource management – groundwater quality	
Development is carried out in a manner that does not adversely affect groundwater resources	Section 5.3 Water resources

Planning Outcome	Section of Statement of Environmental Effects
2 Natural resource management – soil resource management	
Non-agricultural activities in rural areas are carried out on less productive soils	Section 5.7 The community and economy
2 Natural resource management – vegetation management	
Development is designed and constructed in a way that minimise the impact on existing vegetation	Section 5.1 Biodiversity
DAs indicate on plans the location of all significant trees affected by or in the vicinity of development	Section 5.1 Biodiversity
2 Natural resource management – flora and fauna management	
Where there is a likely impact of development on native habitats, that impact is addressed in the DA	Section 5.1 Biodiversity
3 General Considerations - cumulative impact	
DAs demonstrate how the development relates to the character and use of land in the vicinity	Section 5.10 Landscape character and visual amenity
The introduction of new development into a locality maintains environmental impacts within existing or community-accepted levels	Section 5.7 The community and economy
Water conservation measure are implemented	Section 5.3 Water resources
3 General Considerations – scenic, landscape and urban areas	
Development incorporates landscaping that enhances the landscaped setting of the locality	Section 5.10 Landscape character and visual amenity
External finishes, materials and colour schemes of development complement its setting	DA Drawings by EDPR Australia Pty Ltd. Details of finishes and colour schemes to be submitted with application for construction certificate in accordance with planning outcomes for 4 Special Environmental Considerations – scenic areas
4 Special Environmental Considerations – land shaping	
Applications include details on the existing and proposed landform, watercourses and vegetation	Section 5.10 Landscape character and visual amenity
Applications are accompanied by a soil-erosion control plan for implementation prior to and upon commencement of the work	Condition of consent to provide to Council with application for construction certificate
4 Special Environmental Considerations – land contamination	
Land subject to development is clear from contamination	Section 5.2 Natural hazards
4 Special Environmental Considerations – scenic areas	
Trees that contribute to the landscape character are retained and embellished in scenic areas	Section 5.1 Biodiversity, Section 5.10 Landscape character and visual amenity

Planning Outcome	Section of Statement of Environmental Effects
The external materials of buildings reflect the natural colours of the setting, i.e. with shades of natural green and browns	DA Drawings by EDPR Australia Pty Ltd
Details of proposed colour schemes, finishes of external materials, existing trees and proposed landscaping are submitted for Council endorsement prior to the issue of a construction certificate	Condition of consent to provide to Council with application for construction certificate

4.5 Land use strategies

4.5.1 Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2041

The *Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2041* sets a 20-year strategic land use planning framework for the region. Objective 2 is to *Support the State's transition to Net Zero by 2050 and deliver the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone*.

Orange is located south of the renewable energy zone. Despite not being included in the REZ, the Orange South 8B & 9B Solar Farm + BESS can contribute to achieving the transition goal of the NSW Government.

4.5.2 Orange Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020

Orange City Council Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020 sets a vision and framework to guide detailed land use planning by connecting regional planning priorities with local environmental and community plans. The LSPS puts forward 'diversification' as an economic goal to increase employment options, and goods and services available in the local area to reduce escape expenditure. Energy security is an environmental goal and renewable energy sources are encouraged and deployed sensitively to respect heritage and streetscape values.

4.5.3 Orange Sustainable Settlement Strategy

The purpose of the *Orange Sustainable Settlement Strategy* and its update in 2010 was to inform the land zonings of *Orange LEP 2011*, to analyse the residential and rural residential land markets and to identify land that is suitable for urban expansion. The project site is located within an area of land to the south-west of Orange that is not labelled and identified for urban growth in the strategy. The nearest land unit is LU-10 which is over one kilometre north of the project site and is earmarked for future urban residential or large lot residential

4.5.4 Orange Local Housing Strategy

The *Orange Local Housing Strategy* was adopted by Orange City Council in 2022. An aim of the strategy is to identify where housing growth is to occur in Orange LGA. The strategy supersedes the *Orange Sustainable Settlement Strategy*. The project site is not identified in the housing strategy as an urban release area for the expansion of Orange township. The southern section of land unit LU-10 that was identified in the *Orange Sustainable Settlement Strategy* for future urban or large lot residential development is not considered suitable for residential development in the *Orange Local Housing Strategy* as the northern section of this land unit has not yet been fully developed.

4.6 Guidelines

4.6.1 Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline

The *Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline* applies to state significant developments. Although the guidelines do not legally apply to the proposed development, the NSW Government encourages applicants, councils and planning panels to consider the objectives and principles when preparing, assessing and determining applications for regionally significant development. The objectives, principles and assessment issues outlined in the guideline have been considered during preparation of this *Statement of Environmental Effects* and are referenced in the matters assessed in chapter *5. Environmental Effects* and chapter *6. Conclusion*.

4.6.2 Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019

The *Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019* guideline applies to land that is mapped as bushfire prone and is used to determine the extent of asset protection zones, access arrangements, water supplies and other matters that affect the ability to protect life and property in the event of a bushfire. Section *8.3.5 Wind and solar farms* of the guideline sets out the requirements for the development of renewable energy facilities. This matter is addressed in section *5.2.2 Fire* of this Statement.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

5.1 Biodiversity

5.1.1 Assessment of impacts

Biodiversity (Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline – for consideration only)
Where the proposed site contains native vegetation, habitat of threatened species or ecological communities, and requires clearing, an assessment must be undertaken in accordance with the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, the Biodiversity Assessment Method and documented in a biodiversity development assessment report (BDAR).
The Planning Secretary has the power to waive the requirement for a BDAR if an applicant can demonstrate that the proposed development is not likely to have a significant impact on biodiversity values.
Applicants are expected to demonstrate that they have applied principles of avoidance, minimisation and mitigation of impacts in project design.

A biodiversity assessment has been carried out by Red-Gum Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd to determine the potential impact on any threatened species and endangered ecological communities that are present on the project site and in the vicinity of the site. The findings of the assessment are summarized below. Reference should be made to the *Biodiversity Inspection Report* that is submitted with the development application for further information or clarification of any matter concerning the assessment and recommendations.

Methodology for the biodiversity assessment involved desktop research and a site inspection. The assessment covered details of recorded sightings of threatened species including koalas and identification of vegetation communities in the vicinity of the project site. The *Biodiversity Inspection Report* provides a test of significance in accordance with requirements of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, an assessment of potential koala habitat as required by *SEPP (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021*, and also satisfies requirements of the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

5.1.2 Findings

Red-Gum contends that the majority of the site is dominated by exotic pasture grass which has little to no value to threatened fauna and threatened flora which are not present in these previously pasture improved areas. As long as no damage is done to the medium value native trees, there is no precedent for the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* provisions to come into effect, nor will further assessment likely be required.

No koala individuals have been sighted within 5 kilometres of the activity area and it is highly unlikely that a koala will be present in the activity area or be impacted by the proposed work, as there are no suitable food and habitat Eucalypt trees in or around the works zone.

If disturbance is kept to the minimum required level, then the proposed activities are unlikely to have an adverse effect on the foraging ability or the life cycle of threatened species that may be opportunistically using the site or surrounding areas and it is highly unlikely to displace any rare or threatened species. The assessment extends to any access tracks entering the property and within the site. Cadia Road, Orange NSW, is a sealed road and any access tracks to the development will cause minimal native vegetation loss as the ground cover is dominated by exotic grasses. The ecologist is of the opinion that the activities as proposed will not have a significant effect on any threatened species and ecological communities and/or their conservation if responsible construction methods are adhered to.

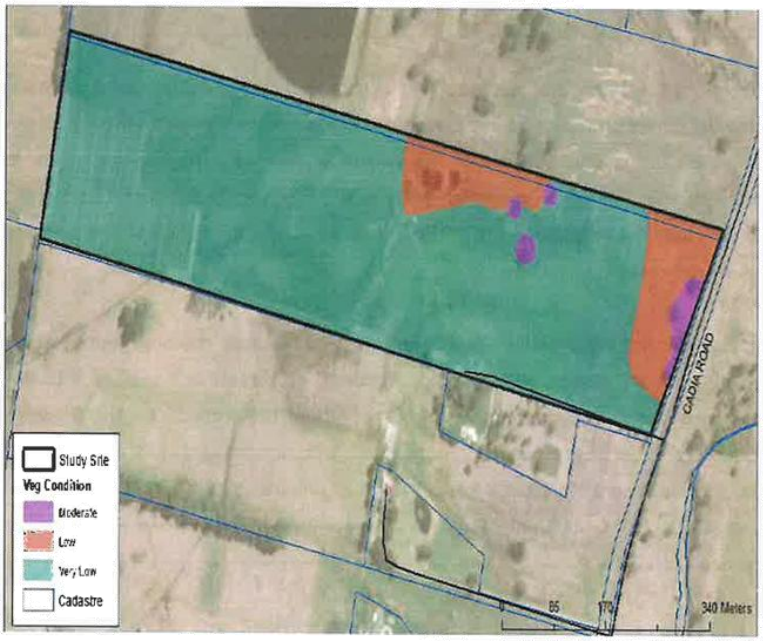


Figure 8: Plant community types in the immediate area. Source: Red Gum Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd

5.1.3 Mitigation measures

By way of a clearing process that minimizes the risk to threatened species that may be opportunistically using the site, it is recommended that:

I. Construction limits and exclusion zones be clearly identified prior to work,
II. A visual inspection is conducted by environmental staff before construction commences to identify any areas of the site that might be supporting native fauna,
II. Vehicle movements around the site will be restricted to the construction footprint and away from any flagging exclusion fencing to be installed,
III. Soil disturbance by vehicle and pedestrian access is to be kept to a minimum outside the construction footprint, and
V. Any weeds removed (particularly those bearing seeds) are to be disposed of appropriately at the nearest waste management facility.

5.2 Hazards

Hazards (Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline – for consideration only)
The location of solar energy infrastructure should avoid any land subject to identified natural hazards (such bushfires, flooding or land instability) and should not contribute to an increase in risk of a natural hazard.
Any natural hazards or risks associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the solar energy project must be assessed. These include those associated with hazardous materials (for instance, from PV panels and battery storage), and the threat of fire spreading to a solar development or being caused by associated infrastructure such as cables, panels or transmission lines.
If the project is located in a bushfire prone area, applicants must prepare a strategic bushfire study in accordance with the NSW Rural Fire Service's Planning for Bush Fire Protection.

5.2.1 Flooding

The site is not mapped as a Flood Planning Area on the Flood Planning Map of *Orange LEP 2011*. The project site does contain any significant drainage lines, noting that there is a 1st order stream that crosses the site.

The site is elevated above the Gosling Creek Reservoir and Gosling Creek as shown in Figure 9 below.

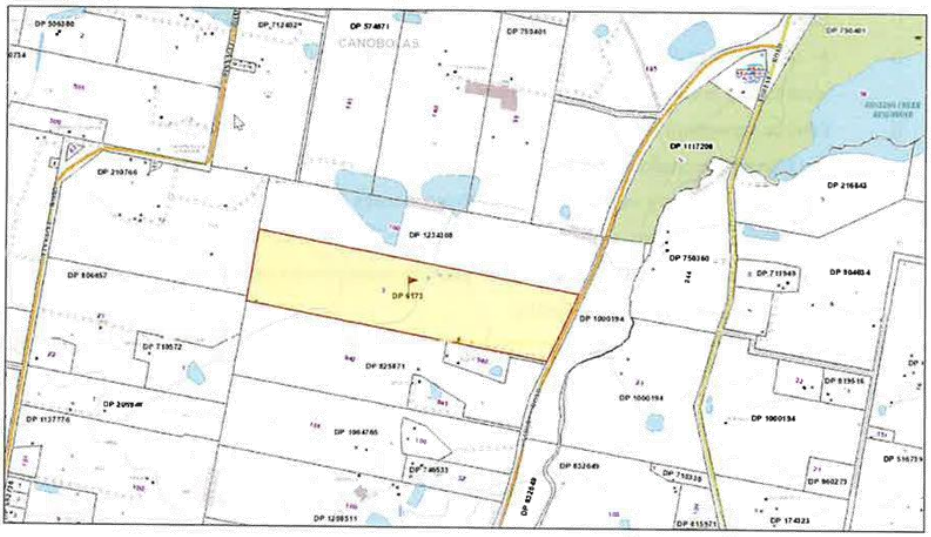


Figure 9: Contour map. Source: SIX Maps

Refer to section *5.3 Water resources* and the *Water Assessment* prepared by EDPR Australia Pty Ltd for details of flooding and stormwater management and recommended mitigation measures to address these matters.

5.2.2 Fire

Due to the inclusion of grasslands, the site is mapped as being affected by bushfire on the bushfire prone land map that is available on the NSW Spatial Viewer. The project site is mapped as vegetation category 3. Section *8.3.5 Wind and solar farms* of *Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019* has therefore been considered.

Defendable space is available within a setback between the array and the security fence that is 10 metres in width which is to be managed as an inner protection zone for the operating life of the solar farm. Infrastructure comprising electricity generating works is not a habitable building and is not listed as a *special fire protection purpose* under section 100B of the *Rural Fires Act 1997*.

In terms of fire safety including the threat of bushfire, the report recommends that the facility with battery storage can be made safer through the integration of safety in design principles from bushfire standards including APZ clearances, internal protection areas, comprehensive system fault monitoring,

automated fire detection and suppression systems and safety procedures built into WHS policies and procedures to ensure these farm assets and the surrounding area are protected from the risk of fire.

The layout of the solar array is proposed to include an Asset Protection Zone (APZ) surrounding the entire site with a 10 metre wide setback from a non-combustible chain-link fence. The APZ will not be located on land exceeding a slope of 18 degrees. This APZ is also intended to act as a defendable space and a buffer against radiant heat effects for emergency services. An APZ shall also be established around the battery stations (which includes the cubicles, switching station and associated structures of the BESS) and other infrastructure such as the inverter stations and DC-DC converters located at the northern edge of each array.

Road access to the site and fencing are excluded from the APZ. Internal access roads are to have a minimum carriageway width of 5.5 metres between obstructions such as fencing, bollards and trees, and vertical clearances of 4 metres. Internal curves of the APZ and inner protection area (IPA) are designed with minimum 6 metre radius turning circles to assist in vehicle access. The APZ around the array provides access for fire-fighting vehicles. Fire-fighting vehicles are able to traverse and manoeuvre through the grasslands with open vision and adequate ability to pass each other.

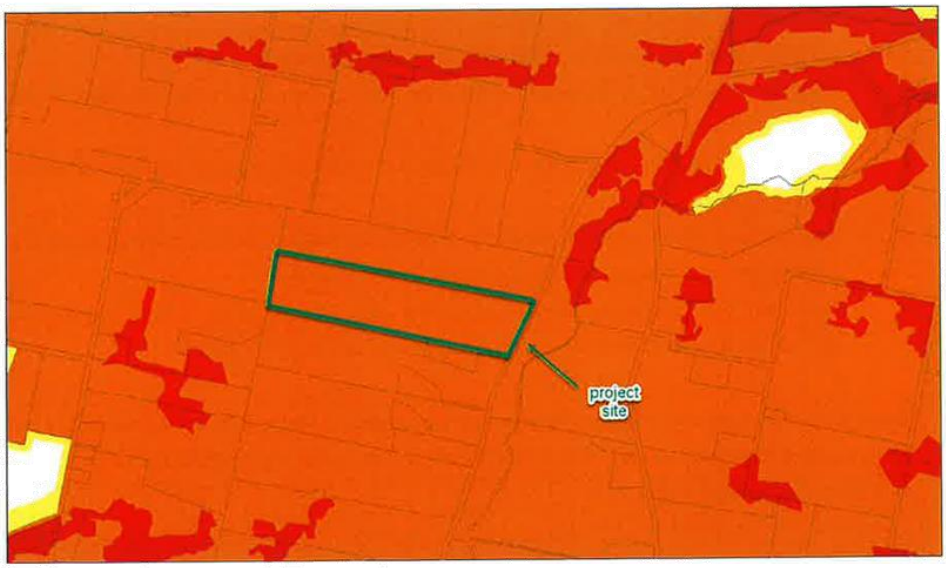


Figure 10: Extract from bushfire prone land map. Source: Orange city Council

Batteries (Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline – for consideration only)
If the project includes battery energy storage that has a capacity of more than 30 MW, the applicant must undertake a preliminary hazard analysis in accordance with Hazardous industry Planning Advisory Paper No 4 – Risk Criteria for Land Use Safety Planning (PDF 367 KB), Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No 6 – Hazard Analysis (PDF 525 KB) and Multi-level Risk Assessment (PDF 624 KB).

EDPR Australia Pty Ltd has carried out a hazard analysis and risk screening, submitted separately and entitled *Fire and Hazard Assessment*.

The results of risk screening are that a PHA is not required for dangerous goods to be stored on the site. However, the following management measures have been recommended to be implemented:

- Installing reliable, automated monitoring and control systems, with an alarm and shutdown response capability,
- Taking reasonable and safe measures to prevent the risks of external heat effects in the event of a bushfire,
- Designing appropriate separation and isolation between battery cubicles, and between the BESS and other infrastructure, in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, and including gravel set-off areas around the facility,
- Compliance with all applicable Australian codes and standards,
- Preparation of a BESS-specific fire response plan, in conjunction with the NSW Rural Fire Service,
- Installing an adequate automatic fire suppression system integrated into the detection and control system,
- Disposal (and where possible, recycling) of any potentially hazardous material in accordance with the best international practices available at that time, and
- Fuels and pesticides/herbicides in use at the site will be stored at the laydown area in appropriately bunded areas designed in accordance with AS1940-2004.

The solar farm includes an early warning system of issues such as earth faults and automatically initiates safety systems to prevent uncontrolled outbreaks of hazards such as electricity disturbances on the grid or localised issues such as fire.

A draft *Bushfire Risk and Operations Plan* and a draft *Bushfire Emergency Management and Evacuations Plan* have been prepared to establish procedures to respond to a fire event and other measures such as maintenance of ground fuels, access arrangements, on site fire-fighting equipment and isolation of electrical infrastructure. These two plans will need to be finalized after preparation of detailed designs for the project are prepared to apply for a construction certificate.

5.2.3 Contamination

A search of the Environment Protection Authority's *List of Notified Contamination Sites* and *Protection of the Environment Operations Act Public Register* has been undertaken which revealed that there is no contaminated site listed in or around the project site. There are no known prior land-uses on the project site that are likely to have resulted in contamination of the land.

A *Preliminary Site Contamination Report* was prepared by EDP Renewables. The objective of the report is to ascertain whether the site, particularly the onsite soil, presents a risk to humans and/or the environment due to contamination from any past/present usage of the site or neighbouring properties.

Soil sampling was undertaken in order to assess the nature, location and potential distribution of any contamination (and associated risk) on the site. The samples were tested at the Wollongbar Environmental Laboratory, a site operated by the NSW Department of Primary industries and Regional Development. The site holds accreditation with the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA).

The sole potential source of contamination was identified as the remains of an orchard located within the proposed Orange South 8B development area. The results of the chemical analyses indicate that the site does not present a risk to human health or the environment in a 'residential with garden/accessible soil' setting and is considered suitable for the proposed development.

5.2.4 Mitigation measures

- There are no mitigation measures recommended in relation to flooding or land contamination.
- Finalise the draft *Bushfire Risk and Operations Plan* and a draft *Bushfire Emergency Management and Evacuations Plan* after preparation of detailed designs for the construction certificate.

5.3 Water resources

Water management (Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline – for consideration only)
Surface water-related impacts, such as flooding, discharge/run-off and erosion, must be assessed. Appropriate mitigation measures, such as sediment controls, must be proposed where warranted.
Applicants should consult with landholders regarding potential surface-water related impacts of the project on neighbouring properties and any mitigation measures.
Any assessment of surface water-related impacts must be informed by a soil survey that considers the potential for erosion.
If there is any water take associated with the project, the applicant should identify the source of water (both potable and non-potable) and may need to acquire water access licences if the project is approved.

5.3.1 Assessment of impacts

A *Water Assessment* of potential impacts on groundwater and surface water flows and flooding has been carried out by EDPR Australia Pty Ltd. The findings of the assessment are summarized below. Reference should be made to the *Water Assessment* that is submitted with the development application for further information or clarification of any matter concerning the assessment and recommendations.

5.3.2 Findings

Orange is located in the south-eastern part of the Macquarie-Castlereagh water sharing plan region. Other towns in the broad vicinity include Bathurst and Wellington. There are two main creeks within the urban area of Orange- Blackmans Swamp Creek and Ploughmans Creek, both of which drain to the Macquarie River. The catchments of the Castlereagh and Macquarie rivers support a diverse range of ecosystems, ranging from forest, woodlands and wetlands to grasslands in both temperate and semi-arid environments.

The site of the proposed Orange South 8B & 9B Solar Farm + BESS is located to the south-west of Orange township and is located within a large sub-catchment that includes Blackmans Swamp and Ploughmans creeks. The site is relatively flat with a gradual slope to the north-west and levels ranging from approximately 956 metres AHD at the western side of the site to 946 metres AHD on the eastern side. The centre of the project site has an elevation of 950 metres AHD. The surrounding area has some small hills to the north and south reaching heights of 1,030 metres AHD.

A *Floodplain Risk Management Study* by Lyall and Associated in 2020 provides a 1% AEP event inundation map for Orange township which informed the designation of a flood planning area in *Orange LEP 2011*. These maps indicate that the site is unlikely to flood although there is the potential for some localized minor drainage lines running through the site.

Orange lies within the NSW Murray-Darling Basin Fractured Rock Groundwater Sources and there are groundwater dependent ecosystems of moderate to high potential near Orange. The site is mapped as groundwater vulnerability in *Orange LEP 2011*. There will be no extraction of groundwater or interference with the groundwater table and the works are not expected to contribute to any regional groundwater issues.

The primary river in the area is the Macquarie which rises in the Great Dividing Range near Bathurst and flows north-west through foothills and slopes past Wellington and towards Dubbo. The Macquarie-Castlereagh Surface Water Resource Plan identifies that the highest risks to irrigation water from salinity

were found in tributaries of the Macquarie River between Orange and Dubbo. Water quality is listed as fair in the Orange area.

The project site contains a mapped watercourse as shown in Figure 11. The watercourse is identified as a first order stream based on the *Strahler system* approach. Interpretation of relevant Department of Planning and Environment-Water guidelines and regulations indicates that this first order stream falls under the definition of a "minor stream".

The stream is an intermittent watercourse, which in some sections does not exhibit the typical features of a defined channel. According to the EPI – Riparian Lands dataset (utilised by *SIX Maps*), the stream partially traverses the southern and eastern boundaries of the proposed development area. The layout of the PEG System solar panels, which are arranged and installed in "blocks", have been designed to maximise land use while minimally impacting the stream.

Notably, the proposed development consists of photovoltaic panels mounted on galvanised steel rods that, while different in function, are structurally similar to common stock fence posts and star pickets. Additionally, the mounting rods are typically driven directly into the ground, eliminating or reducing the requirement for footings and extensive concreting. A typical cross section of a PEG installation is captured in Figure 12 below. The design of a PEG system allows its primary mounting fixtures and solar modules to be elevated off the ground, enabling the preservation of the existing natural terrain of the land. In this particular case it is anticipated the stream banks and features can be largely preserved.

With reference to the ***Controlled activities – Guidelines for riparian corridors on waterfront land*** fact sheet, the recommended Vegetated Riparian Zone (VRZ) width for first order streams is 10 metres each side of the watercourse (Figure 13). Based on the proposed design, stream mapping and the riparian guidelines, encroachment of the solar farms arrays and security fencing on the Riparian Corridor (RC) of the stream is estimated to be:

Orange South 8B (western site):

a. Solar arrays (south-west corner of site) – 1,100m².
b. Security fencing – 20 metres + channel width

Orange South 9B (eastern site):

c. Solar arrays (south-east corner of site) – 200m2.
d. Security fencing – 20 metres + channel width

It is understood that General Terms of Approval are required to grant consent for the application and a controlled activity approval would need to be obtained to carry out the works.

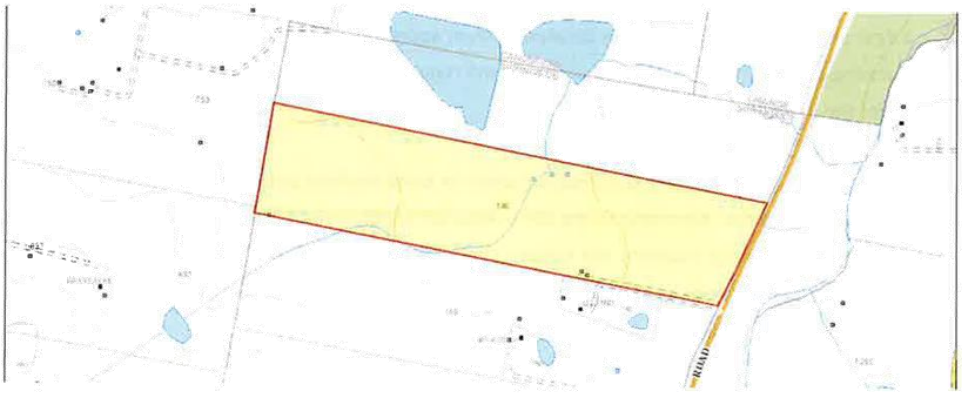


Figure 11: Mapped first order stream. Source: SIX Maps

In response to a request for further information from The Department of Planning and Environment - Water, a *Water Channels Assessment Report* was prepared and submitted by EDPR Australia Pty Ltd in March 2025. Based on further site investigations the report verifies that the mapped first-order stream appears to have been significantly altered and diverted by a man-made channel that runs along the southern boundary of Lot 5 DP 6173 adjacent the boundary fenceline then through the centre of Lot 5 towards the northern boundary. Photographic evidence illustrates the following characteristics of the channel:

- Artificial Construction: The channel exhibits features indicative of artificial construction, including a relatively straight alignment and formed banks.
- Limited Natural Features: The channel lacks significant natural stream bed and bank characteristics observed in undisturbed first-order streams.
- Intermittent Flow: Consistent with the description in the previously submitted Water Assessment, this channel rarely contains flowing water and primarily conveys surface runoff during and immediately following significant rainfall events.
- Absence of Aquatic Habitat: Due to the intermittent nature of the flow and the modified structure of the channel, there is no evidence of sustained aquatic habitat or the presence of significant riparian vegetation directly within the channel. The dominant vegetation is consistent with the surrounding ground cover.

This report demonstrated that the proposed design of the Orange South 8B & 9B Solar Farm, utilising an elevated PEG system, will result in minimal impact to the identified waterfront land due to the artificial and intermittent nature of the channel, the elevated structures, and the implementation of comprehensive environmental management measures.

EDPR Australia Pty Ltd requested that DPE-Water consider this information and grant a controlled activity approval for the proposed solar farm development, allowing the energy project to proceed as per the proposed layout as:

- The flowpath is an artificially constructed channel with limited natural stream characteristics and intermittent flow.
- The elevated design of the solar arrays and the slim profile of the substructure steel rods will not impede surface water conveyance within the channel, in the rare event the channel was to accumulate with water.
- Sediment and erosion control measures will prevent any degradation of water quality or channel stability.
- The channel does not support significant aquatic habitat due to its intermittent nature.

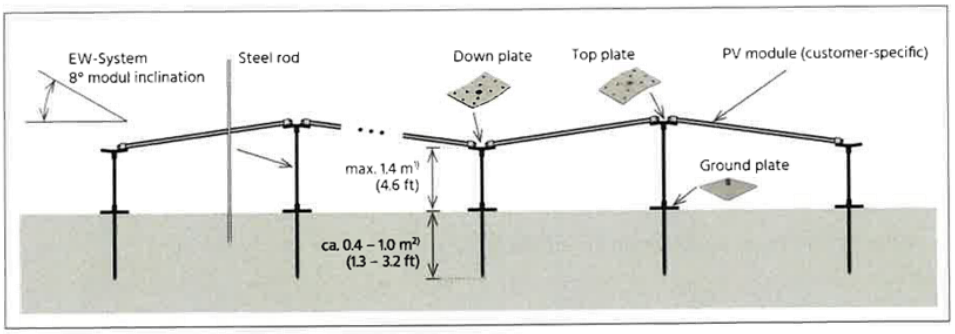


Figure 12: PEG System simplified design (cross-section). Source: ITP Renewables

The Department of Planning and Environment – Water did not accept the findings of the Water Channels Assessment Report and subsequently requested further information on 28 March 2025 that demonstrates *how the layout of the solar array has been designed to minimise the construction footprint or mitigates impacts on the mapped watercourse and channels that convey flows to the dams.* It was requested to *amend the solar installation layout to ensure that no structures are located within the mapped watercourse or any channel that conveys flows to the dams* and *to provide amended site plans showing the revised solar farm layout, including any proposed encroachments or watercourse crossings.*

Table 1. Recommended riparian corridor widths

Watercourse type	VRZ width (each side of watercourse)	Total RC width
1st order	10 metres	20 m + channel width
2nd order	20 metres	40 m + channel width
3rd order	30 metres	60 m + channel width
4th order and greater (includes estuaries, wetlands and any parts of rivers influenced by tidal waters)	40 metres	80 m + channel width

Note: where a watercourse does not exhibit the features of a defined channel with bed and banks, the department may determine that the watercourse is not waterfront land for the purposes of the WM Act.

Figure 11: Riparian corridor widths. Source: Controlled activities – Guidelines for riparian corridors on waterfront land

In response to this request for further information and noting that the watercourse has already been realigned to run parallel to and along part of the southern boundary of the project site, ITP Renewables has revised the general arrangement plan (Dwg No. 22113-G-2100) to indicate that it is now proposed to divert the mapped watercourse from its current alignment to continue to run parallel to the southern boundary to the common boundary between the 8B and 9B arrays, then to run to the north as far as the northern boundary of the project site, then to run east and parallel to the northern boundary to enable water to drain to the existing dam on Lot 100 DP 1234308.

The proposed site activity is not expected to materially contribute to any regional groundwater issues, particularly those associated with nearby farming districts. Potential adverse surface water-related impacts to the site relate to site accessibility and managing downstream sedimentation.

The development has the potential to alter existing water quality conditions within the site. The impervious area of solar facilities is typically only marginally increased owing to associated hardstand and building areas. However, the panels may impact the nature of vegetation/grass coverage on the site, which has the potential to increase surface runoff and peak discharge. Increased flow concentration off the panels also has the potential to erode soil at the base of solar panels.

As the site has been historically used for farming there is very little natural ground cover vegetation. Modelling by the NSW Government indicates a soil profile of clay loam with nil cracks in the top horizons.

There is the potential that site runoff may contain sediments and increase turbidity or other water quality parameters in downstream water ways.

5.3.4 Mitigation measures

The potential for site accessibility and the potential for inundation issues during flood events should be reviewed and procedure developed to halt construction during heavy rainfall to reduce potential impacts to the development and to increases in downstream sedimentation. The following mitigation measures given in Table 5 are recommended to manage downstream sedimentation.

Table 5: Proposed mitigation measures to manage downstream sedimentation

Stage	Measure	Activities/approach
Design	Site drainage and water quality controls	Design Basis • Undertake hydrological assessment of the site's catchment in accordance with relevant methods outlined in Australian Rainfall and Runoff • Determine sediment management targets and drainage control standards in accordance with Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction Vol 1 (Blue Book) (DECC, 2008). • Develop a site erosion and sediment control plan in accordance with the Blue Book. • Develop site drainage design incorporating detention basins and sedimentation management structures where relevant. • Permanent site drainage should coincide with temporary arrangements where possible
Construction and/or demolition	Site drainage and water quality controls	General site works: • Catch drains to be located downslope of any proposed road works. • Install location appropriate sediment fences or other applicable control measures depending on whether the feature is upstream or downstream of a disturbed part of the site or will need to be trafficable. • All stormwater collection points need to have appropriate sedimentation and erosion controls. • Undertake ongoing inspections of stormwater facilities and water control measures to assess their effectiveness. • Vibration grids or wash bays at all construction exits. • Level spreaders at locations where concentrated flow is discharged offsite to ensure sheet flow like conditions are maintained. • Flat land erosion control options include erosion control blankets, gravelling, mulching, soil binder, turfing and revegetation
Construction and/or Demolition	Stormwater point source control	In the event of concrete works: • Do not undertake works if chance of heavy rain. • Store rinsate water, if applicable, separately to other water on site and dispose of offsite as appropriate. • Block on site drains in the area of the works and remove any contaminated runoff.

Stage	Measure	Activities/approach
		In the event that dewatering practices are required: • Elevate pump hose intakes for withdrawing water from excavations to minimise sediment pumping and direct hose to a containment area for settling prior to discharge of water. • Limit direct discharge off site (consistent with the design requirements for sediment pond discharge). • Stormwater collected on site should be reused where possible. Controls should be inspected and maintained on a regular basis. All water released from sediment basins should be clear or disposed of off site by vehicle. • Material and waste storage areas should be designed and operated to minimise interaction with surface waters. • Vehicle washdown areas should be located away from water courses

5.4 Air quality

5.4.1 Assessment of impacts

Air quality (Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline – for consideration only)
Dust suppression measures that will be used during construction and operation, such as water carts during land preparation, temporary wind fences and re-vegetation of disturbed areas, should be considered.

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment maintain air quality monitoring stations across rural NSW. The instruments used at most rural network sites are low cost indicative particulate monitors that respond to all aerosols including smoke and fog.

Total suspended particles are solid particles and liquid droplets 100 micrometres or less in diameter. They come from natural and human-made sources, such as pollen, bushfires and motor vehicle emissions. Dust emissions are also a source of air pollution and can cause poor air quality. The pollutants measured by the Department are nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and ammonia.

Particles are also measured as PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$. PM_{10} are particles less than 10 micrometres in diameter. Sources include crushing or grinding operations and dust stirred up by vehicles on roads. $PM_{2.5}$ are fine particles less than 2.5 micrometres in diameter. Sources include all types of combustion, including motor vehicles, power plants, residential wood burning, forest fires, agricultural burning, and some industrial processes.

Table 6 gives 24-hour average readings of PM_{10} particles, $PM_{2.5}$ particles and the rating for the nearest monitoring station to the project site which is located at Orange.

Table 6: Average hourly air quality readings

Monitoring station	Orange	
Period	18 November 2024, 24-hour average	
Particles	Reading	Rating
PM_{10}	7.6 ug/m³	Good
$PM_{2.5}$	1.8 ug/m³	Good

Activities that disturb the earth's surface and that are carried out with the use of machinery have the potential to generate dust emissions. This may be exacerbated by wind exposure to an exposed ground surface. The previous use of the land for farming may have involved regular tilling, sowing and harvesting that may create dust and impact on air quality. Similarly, grazing would generate dust as animals trample the ground surface. The land has been modified for agriculture with the consequent loss of most native vegetation leading to exposed soil surfaces.

The construction of the solar farm will not involve extensive earthworks. Pile driving for footings for the array framework and excavation for roads and ancillary structures will be carried out. Along with the delivery of materials using heavy vehicles, these construction works may generate dust, however, once operational the change of use of the land from agricultural to solar photovoltaic electricity generation is expected to reduce particulate emissions and lead to an improvement in local air quality. Vehicle movements would be restricted to internal access roads and the majority of the site would be revegetated with native or pasture grasses.

The presence of agricultural activities in the vicinity of the site may cause dust to settle on the panels. However, the proposed regular maintenance regime of cleaning panels every two to three months would ensure that the array operates at maximum efficiency.

5.4.2 Mitigation measures

To minimize dust generation during the construction and operational phases the following mitigation measures are proposed:

During construction:

- Limit vehicle movements to areas necessary to deliver panels, ancillary structures and equipment,
- Suppress dust emissions using watering and cease works during dry and windy conditions,

- Ensure ground disturbance is limited to areas necessary to place footings or to be used for access,
- Ensure minimal handling of excavated materials, and
- Ensure stockpiles of excavated material is bunded and protected from wind and vehicle movements.

During operation:

- Grade and add road base to internal accessways,
- Revegetate the site with suitable groundcover immediately after construction works are completed, and
- Ensure all plant and equipment is maintained in a clean condition and operates in accordance with specifications.

5.5 Noise

5.5.1 Assessment of impacts

Noise and vibration (Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline – for consideration only)
Construction noise impacts should be assessed in accordance with the Interim Construction Noise Guideline and operational noise impacts in accordance with the NSW Noise Policy for Industry.

A *Noise Assessment* of the impacts of noise emissions has been carried out by Muller Acoustic Consulting. The findings of the assessment are summarized below. Reference should be made to the *Noise Assessment* that is submitted with the development application for further information or clarification of any matter concerning the assessment and recommendations. The purpose of the *Noise Assessment* is to quantify potential environmental noise emissions associated with the construction and operation of the project. Where impacts are identified, recommendations are made to mitigate and manage noise.

5.5.2 Findings

The results of the Noise Assessment demonstrate that noise levels are expected to comply with noise management levels at the identified receivers shown in Figure 14 during standard construction hours and taking into account the standard mitigation measures. Similarly, operational noise management levels are satisfied at all receiver locations. Road noise emissions associated with the project are anticipated to satisfy the relevant Road Noise Policy criteria at all receivers along the proposed transportation route. Sleep disturbance is not anticipated, as there are no operational noise sources that

generate significant maximum noise events and noise emissions from the project are predicted to satisfy the EPA maximum noise level criteria. A qualitative assessment of potential vibration impacts has been completed. Due to the nature of the works proposed and distances to potential vibration sensitive receivers, vibration impacts from the project would be negligible.

Based on these results, the project satisfies the relevant requirements of the *Interim Construction Noise Guideline*, *Noise Policy for Industry* and the *Road Noise Policy*. Approval of the project is supported subject to the implementation of recommended mitigation measures.

5.5.3 Mitigation measures

The following mitigation measures are recommended to address noise emissions during the construction phase. Reference should be made to *Table 12 Standard Mitigation Measures* in the *Noise Assessment* dated 29 October 2024 for further details.

- Implement community consultation or notification measures,
- Site inductions,
- Minimise disturbance arising from delivery of goods to construction sites,
- Shield stationary noise sources, and
- Shield sensitive receivers from noise activities.

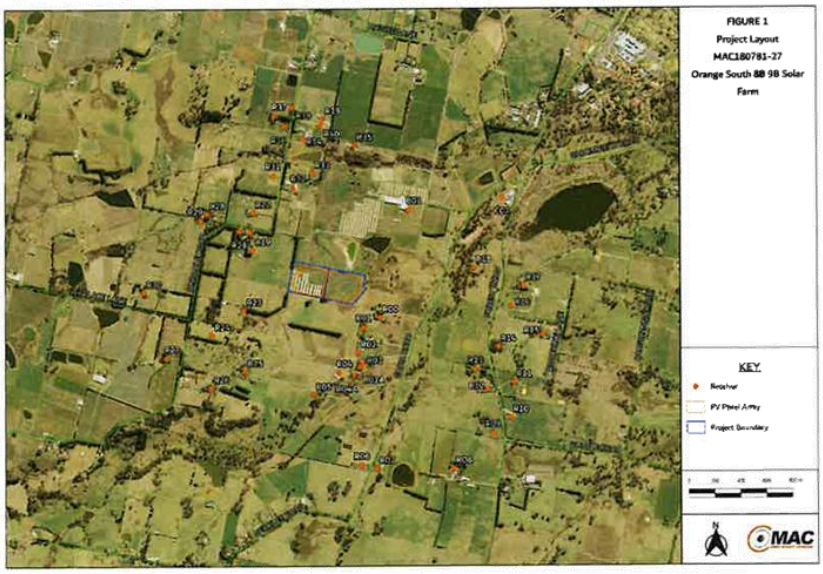


Figure 14: Location of noise sensitive receivers. Source: Muller Acoustic Consulting

5.6 Traffic and access

5.6.1 Assessment of impacts

Traffic and transport (Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline – for consideration only)
Applicants should consider whether the local and classified road network can accommodate the traffic generated by the construction of the solar energy project, having regard to any advice from relevant road authorities.
Applicants should provide a clear list of road upgrades required and an assessment of the relevant impacts of these upgrades, having regard to advice from relevant road authorities. Applicants must identify whether the road upgrades require landowner's consent.

A *Traffic and Parking Impact Assessment* has been prepared by McLaren Traffic Engineering. The findings of the assessment are summarized below. Reference should be made to the *Traffic and Parking Impact Assessment Report* that is submitted with the development application for further information or clarification of any matter concerning the assessment and recommendations.

The traffic assessment includes a description of the existing road network and considers expected traffic generation during site construction and operation. Site access arrangements and intersection capacity are also considered.

It is noted in the traffic assessment that access is proposed from Cadia Road which is an unclassified local road with a signposted 100km/hr speed limit. Cadia Road joins Forest Road to the north which is a classified regional road. All construction vehicles required to access the site will utilise the existing road network. The largest construction vehicle required to access the site is a 26 metre B-Double and is to access the site via a right turn from Cadia Road and egress the site via a left turn onto Cadia Road.

Construction and operation of the solar farm does not require the use of over-size and over-mass (OSOM) vehicles. The project site is neither of sufficient size or capacity or fronted by/provided access via a classified road. Referral to Transport for NSW as part of the development application process is not required.

In terms of public transport, the site is located within a 1.9 kilometre walking distance of a bus stop (ID: 280060) with services provided by Orange Buslines which connect to the town centre and hospital. Orange Train Station is located approximately 5.6 kilometres to the north-east of the project site which services the North West NSW TrainLink and the Western NSW TrainLink timetable.

5.6.2 Findings

Parking

A maximum of 30 construction workers on site at any one day are likely to generate movements in the order of 24 vehicles entering and exiting the site. This is based on the number of vehicles being 80% of the workforce.

The provision of one parking space per employee is considered appropriate therefore 24 spaces are to be provided during construction and three during the operational phase. On site parking should be in an informal/temporary arrangement for the type of development proposed. If more parking spaces are needed on-site then a shuttle bus service can be implemented to transport construction workers to and from a location in Orange.

Traffic impacts

During the construction period an estimated 80 trucks (including up to 26 metre B-Doubles) will access the site and are expected to generate up to eight truck movements per day (4 inbound and 4 outbound). The trucks will access the site throughout the day generally between 10.00am and 2.00pm and would therefore not contribute to morning or afternoon peak hour traffic.

Traffic generation is given in Table 7 below. The proposed development is classified as low impact with reference to the *Austroads Guide to Traffic Management Part 12: Integrated Transport Assessments for Developments.*

Table 7: Expected traffic generation

Phase	Description of vehicles	Expected vehicle trips
Establishment	10-15 trucks and trailers to deliver gravel with 4 to 5 workers with 2 persons per vehicle	10 vehicle trips per day for 2 to 3 days
	Light vehicles	4 to 6 vehicle trips per day
Construction	80 B-double articulated trucks of 26m length to deliver equipment	8 vehicle trips per day
	40 light vehicle trips for 40 construction workers (worst case with no shuttle bus operation)	80 vehicle trips per day
Commissioning	Light & heavy rigid vehicles for 10 workers with 2 persons per vehicle	10 vehicle trips per day
Operational	1 light vehicle for maintenance contractor	2 vehicle trip every 2 to 3 months

Sight distances

A sight distance of 160 metres either side of the site entry is required. The minimum sight distance is achieved on approach to the site entry from both the north and the south, resulting in compliance with AS2890.1:2004 and AS2890.2:2018.

5.6.3 Mitigation measures

No mitigation measures are recommended to manage traffic and car parking impacts.

5.7 The community and economy

Social and economic impacts (Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline – for consideration only)
A social impact assessment is required for all state significant projects and must be undertaken in accordance with the department's Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Projects (PDF 2,181 KB). The assessment will include both positive and negative impacts of the proposed development on potentially affected people and groups, including how the impacts are distributed. This includes workforce accommodation, job creation opportunities and flow-on economic impacts to local communities.

5.7.1 Population and accommodation

The population of Orange urban centre in 2021, as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics which includes the town of Orange and rural land surrounding the settlement, was 40,127 persons. The total population of Orange local government area in 2021 was 43,512 persons. Orange township represents over 90% of the LGA population. The median age of people in Orange urban centre in 2021 was 36 years compared to 37 for the LGA.

Unemployment at the time of the 2021 Census of Population and Housing was 3.6% of the labour force comprising persons aged 15 years and over in Orange urban centre. The labour force participation rate in 2021 was 61.7%. The top three occupations were professionals, technicians and trade workers, and community and personal service workers. The top three industries of employment were hospitals, gold ore mining, and other social assistance services.

There were a total of 16,461 private dwellings in Orange in 2021. 91.4% of these were occupied private dwellings. There were 1,414 unoccupied private dwellings or 8.6% of all private dwellings. There were a further 62 unoccupied private dwellings across the LGA. The majority of dwellings in Orange (85.4%) were separate houses and the remainder were medium density dwellings comprising semi-detached, row or terrace houses, townhouses, flats and apartments.

There are 120 establishments offering accommodation for visitors to Orange and the surrounding district listed on the NSW Government's VisitNSW website https://www.visitnsw.com/destinations/country-nsw/orange-area/accommodation. These include holiday parks, motor inns, bed and breakfasts, serviced apartments and hotels. In addition to these establishments there are 1,414 unoccupied private dwellings some of which may be available as short term rentals, and unregulated accommodation places such as AirBnB and Stayz. Accommodation is also on offer in the nearby town of Bathurst and numerous villages within a short distance of Orange.

Table 8: Key demographic characteristics

Sector	Characteristic	Orange urban centre	Orange LGA	NSW
Population	Total persons	40,127	43,512	8,072,163
	Median age	36	47	39
Employment	Labour force participation rate	61.7%	62.1%	58.7%
	Unemployment rate	3.6%	3.5%	4.9%
Housing	Occupied private dwellings	91.4%	91.7%	90.6%
	Unoccupied private dwellings	8.6%	8.4%	9.4%
	Total private dwellings	16,461	17,659	3,199,992
	Average occupancy rate	2.4	2.5	2.6
	Median monthly mortgage repayments	$1,668	$1,700	$2,167
	Median weekly rent	$330	$330	$420
	Proportion separate houses	85.4%	86.3%	65.6%

5.7.2 Agriculture and land capability

Agricultural land use principles (Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline – for consideration only)

1. Applicants should consider the agricultural capability of the land during the site selection process.
2. Applicants should avoid siting solar energy projects on important agricultural land as far as possible.
3. Agricultural assessment should be proportionate to the quality of the land and the likely impacts of a project.
4. Mitigation strategies should be adopted to ensure that any significant impacts on agricultural land are minimised.

Orange is located in the Central West Region as defined by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences. The agricultural sector supports an estimated 7,351 jobs or 12.5% of regional employment in the region. (https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/australian.bureau.of.agricultural.and.resource.economics.and.sci/viz/AMR_v9_A3L/Dashboard1).

Data released in 2022 indicates that the estimated annual economic output of the agricultural sector was $2,427 million in the region with wheat and cattle and calves contributing the bulk of this value. Agricultural land in the region occupies three quarters of the region. The most common land use by area is grazing native vegetation followed by modified pastures and cropping. There are a total of 3,675 farms operating in the Central West region.

The Department of Primary Industries issued a factsheet in September 2012 titled *Central West Region Piot Area Agricultural Profile*. The project identified important agricultural lands in a study area which included Orange, Forbes, Cabonne and Blayney LGAs to guide land use planning and support sustainable Industry development.

A key characteristic of the study area is the diversified production system that combines cropping with sheep meat, wool or cattle production. The variety of landscapes and climates in the study area mean that a diverse range and quantity of produce can be grown. The range of agricultural industries in the study area is significant and includes various crops, fruit, beef, wool, prime lambs, milk, pigs, grapes, vegetables, eggs, nuts and meat poultry.

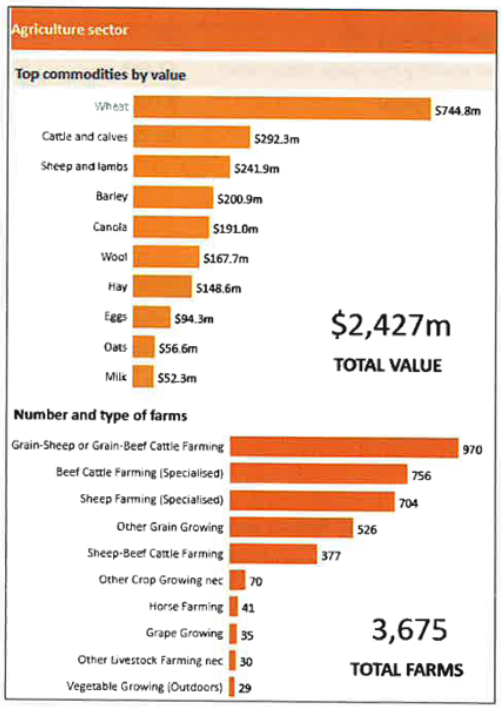


Figure 15: Central West region agricultural data. Source: ABARES 2023

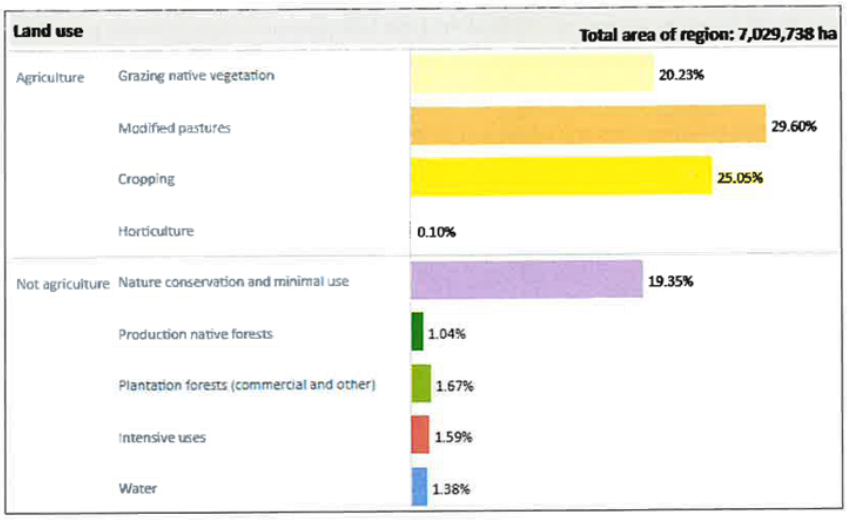


Figure 16: Central West region land use data. Source: ABARES 2023

Data regarding agricultural production in Orange LGA has been sourced from *AgTrack – Agricultural and Land Use Dashboard* that is maintained by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. The most recent data is for the 2020/2021 financial year.

Table 9: Agricultural data for Orange LGA 2020/2021

Land area	284 square kilometres
Area used for agricultural production	192 square kilometres
Proportion of total land area used for agriculture	68%
Total gross value of agricultural commodities	$15.19 million
Total employment directly related to agriculture	300 fte
Agricultural commodities produced	22
Total agricultural businesses	49
Agricultural commodities diversity	32% of 59 commodities produced in NSW

Orange LGA is located within the Central West/Orana planning region as defined by the NSW Government (noting that the boundaries of the region differ to those defined by the Commonwealth Government). The total gross value of agricultural commodities produced in 2020/2021 was $3.56 billion.

Agricultural activities occupy two thirds of the total land area of Orange LGA with livestock production covering 41.5% of the land area, cropping 23.2% and horticulture 3%. Of livestock grazing, two-thirds is carried out on modified pastures and the remainder feeding on native vegetation. In 2020/21 there were 24 businesses grazing sheep and lambs and 31 grazing meat cattle.

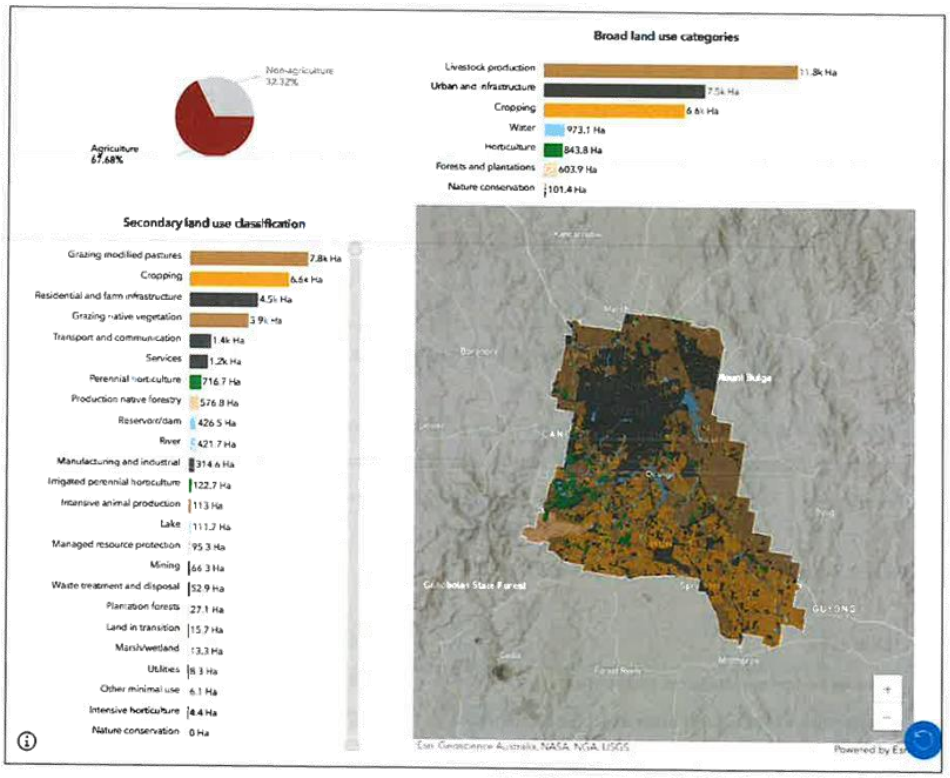


Figure 17: Land uses in Orange LGA. Source: AgTrack

The total gross value of agricultural commodities produced in Orange LGA in 2020/21 was 15.19 million. Of this livestock products including meat accounted for 58.1% of this produce, the second biggest producer in value terms was the fruit and nuts sector which accounted for 26.1% of the gross value of commodities. The agricultural sector employed 300 people in 2020/21 and a further 109 jobs were in related industries within the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector.

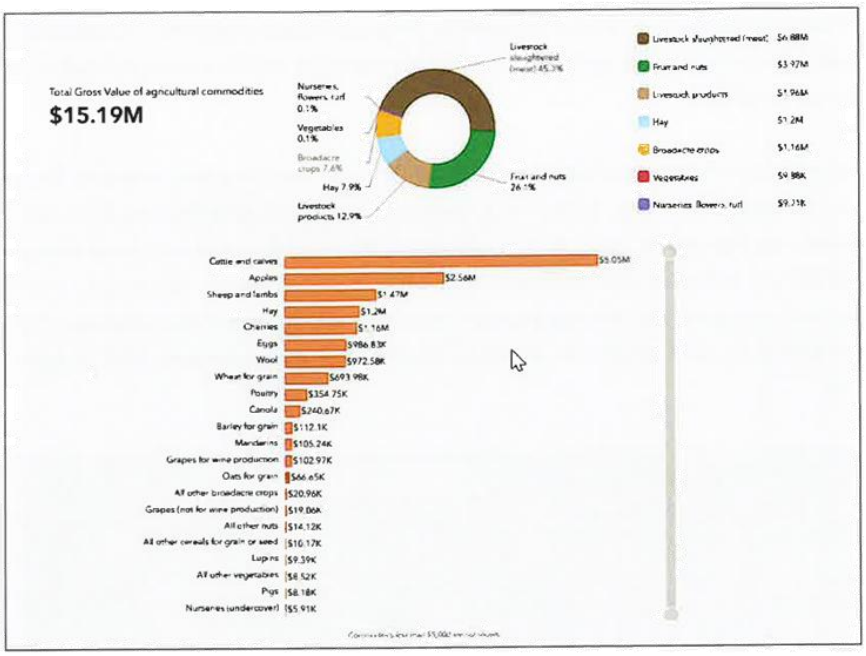


Figure 18: The gross value of agricultural commodities 2020/21 Orange LGA. Source: AgTrack

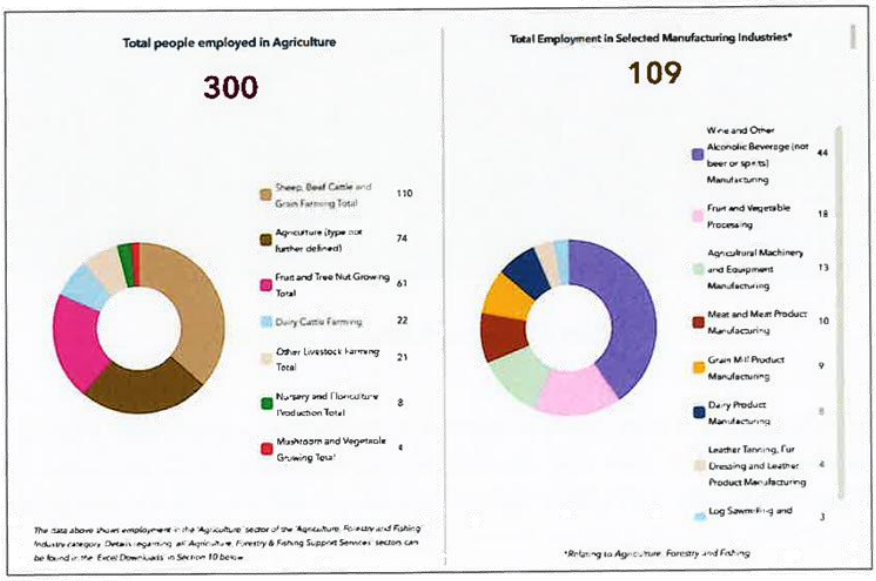


Figure 19: Agricultural employment in Orange LGA 2020/21. Source: AgTrack

DPI Agriculture uses the land and soil capability mapping scheme as the preferred methodology for the classification of agricultural land. Eight classes of rural land are mapped plus flood irrigation, and mining and quarrying land.

Figure 20 below shows land capability mapping for the project site and surrounding land. The project site has a land capability of class 3. This is high capability land that has moderate limitations and is capable of sustaining high-impact land uses, such as cropping with cultivation, and using more intensive, readily available and widely accepted management practices. However, careful management of limitations is required for cropping and intensive grazing to avoid land and environmental degradation. (*The land and soil capability assessment scheme – A general rural land evaluation scheme for NSW, 2nd Approximation*, OEH).

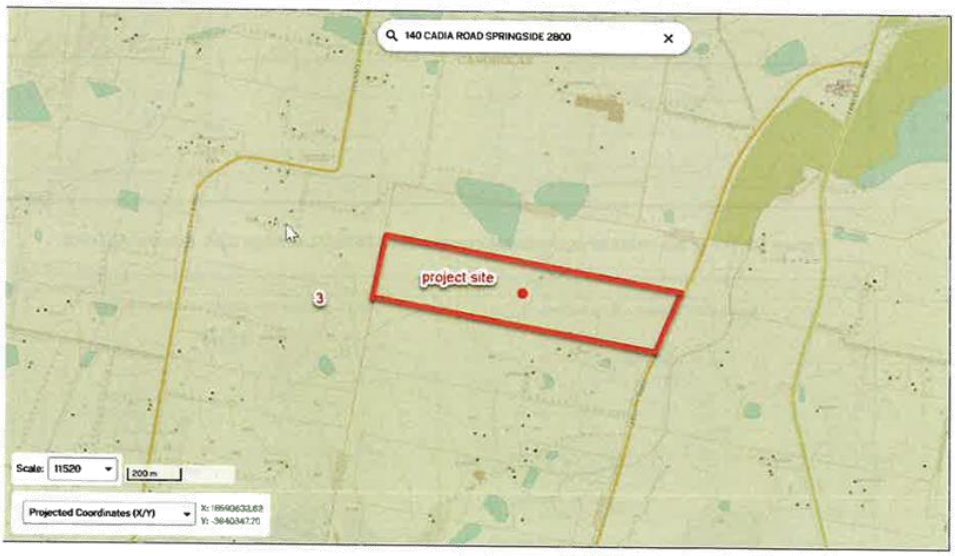


Figure 20: Land capability mapping. Source: SEED

The Department of Primary Industries (Agriculture) has recently released draft mapping of *State Significant Agricultural Land* in NSW under *SEPP (Primary Production and Rural Development) 2019*. The project site is mapped as being *State Significant Agricultural Land* under *State Environmental Planning Policy (Primary Production) 2021* as shown in Figure 21 below.

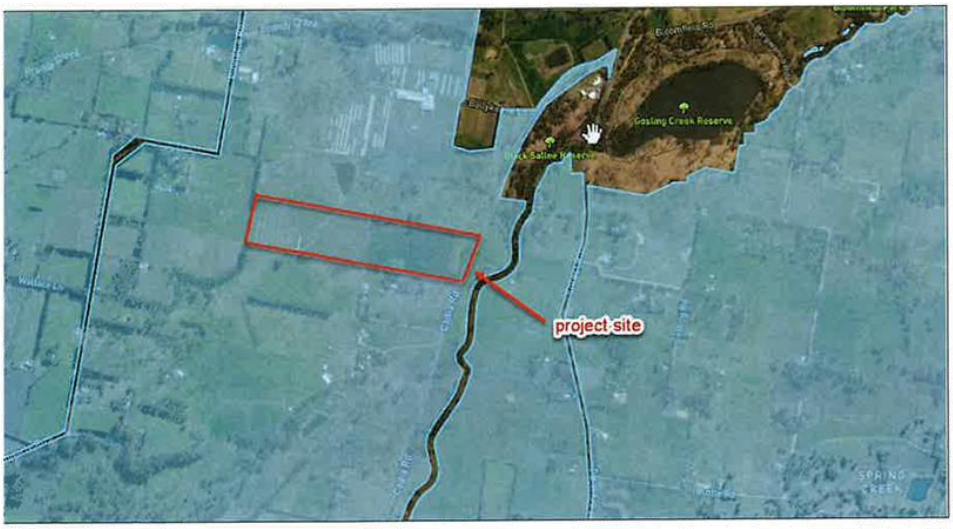


Figure 21: Draft State Significant Agricultural Land Map. Source: DPI 2022

Strategic regional land use mapping in Figure 22 indicates that the project site is also mapped as Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL). This is land with high quality soil and water resources capable of sustaining high levels of productivity.

Figure 22: Strategic Regional Land Use Policy. Source: SEED

Important Agricultural Lands are being mapped across NSW by the Department of Primary Industries. The purpose of this mapping is to identify land which has the inherent capability of being productive with minimal input and to assist in making planning decisions about agricultural land.

5.7.3 Potential socio-economic impacts

Employment

It is anticipated that there will be 50 personnel directly involved in construction with a maximum of 30 workers on site at any one time. Construction is expected to take approximately four months. Varying levels of expertise will be required ranging from labourers to qualified electricians and project managers. In addition, personnel would be involved in transport and delivery of materials to the site. Some of this employment may be able to be sourced locally. The construction period and availability of workers is subject to the availability of skilled and unskilled labour which is currently in short supply in regional areas due to high levels of development including infrastructure renewal.

Expenditure

This initial expenditure generates flow on effects throughout the local economy through income and employment. EDPR Australia Pty Ltd will commission local professionals to carry out the land survey of the project site. If necessary, sites officers employed by Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council will be engaged to carry out a cultural survey prior to commencement of works to identify any Indigenous items or places present on the project site.

The facility will bring direct economic benefits to the local economy through wages and salaries and indirect benefits through the need for accommodation and sustenance in the area for non-local employees. Restaurants, cafes, bakeries, supermarkets, pubs, newsagents would all benefit from the additional business this will bring.

Accommodation

It is considered that there is adequate accommodation available to cater to the 50 construction workers given the number of visitor accommodation establishments in the area. In addition, there are 1,414 unoccupied private dwellings in Orange urban centre some of which may be available for short term rentals and as unregulated visitor accommodation. There are likely to be negligible effects on the availability of affordable rental over the short construction period as it is not expected that landlords would evict long-term tenants in preference of short term workers. Workers coming to the area would

be likely to take up tourist accommodation similar to mine workers across country NSW, however, construction may be limited to the off-peak tourist season if necessary.

Agrivoltaics

Heat island (Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline – for consideration only)
Where a solar energy project is located adjacent to a horticultural or cropping activity, the solar array should be setback from the property boundary by at least 30m to mitigate any heat island effect.

The amount of land given over to renewable energy production will be 13.01 hectares which is 50% of the whole property and 0.07% of the total area of land used for agriculture in Orange LGA. There will be a minor temporary loss of agricultural land, however, the landowners may continue to farm the project site, for example, by grazing livestock around the array and on the remaining vacant parts of the rural parcel. These activities which are defined as extensive agriculture in *Orange LEP 2011*, do not require development consent in zone C3 Environmental Management and may proceed at any time. The additional lease income may be put to improvements elsewhere on the property. The facility will contribute to the local economy through direct and indirect employment over the short term and through the benefits that renewable energy supply will bring to the region.

EDPR Australia encourages livestock grazing around the solar array to continue agricultural production and with the added benefits of reduced land maintenance and fire risk. The solar array will likely improve pasture yields. The panels protect the ground in summer, reducing moisture loss from the soil and increasing moisture due to condensation on the panels. Experience elsewhere is that the panels also protect lambing ewes from eagles and ravens and the security fence will help protect the lambs from foxes. The NSW Farmers *Renewable Energy Landholder Guide* (2000) also notes that '*some producers have found the area* (beneath and around a solar array) *to be an ideal lambing paddock, due to the added shelter and protection provided by chain link perimeter fencing*'. Land adjoining the project site is not being used to cultivate crops or for horticulture within 30 metres of the boundary at the present time.

The potential for dual use of rural land, known as agrivoltaics, is gaining media attention as evidenced by an article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* in August 2024. The owner of a property in Glenrowan, Victoria says that *there is no noticeable difference in productivity between the paddocks with solar panels and those without … (the sheep) have shade in summer and shelter from the rain and the grass is greener from the moisture running off the panels*. This practice has been commonplace in Europe and North America for about a decade. The chief executive of Farmers for Climate Action is quoted as saying *renewable energy helps make farms more financially secure because it pays the farmer drought-proof income without compromising agricultural productivity* (*Sydney Morning Herald* by Caitlin Fitzsimmons, 18 August 2024).

Plate 4: Sheep grazing beneath solar panels. Source: Chris Grose/Beyond Zero Emissions

In summary:

- The solar farm will generate community economic benefits through local employment opportunities during the planning and construction phases as well as limited maintenance and inspection jobs once operational,
- Indirect economic benefits are through the flow-on expenditures to linked industries,
- The development of a solar farm will create a new market for local contractors and expand diversity of income for the landowners,
- There will be only a minor temporary loss of agricultural land although the land has not been used for agricultural purposes for several years. Sheep grazing may continue to some extent and the remaining land that is part of the parcel and not proposed to be used for renewable energy may be used for livestock grazing or cultivation in the future.. The loss of 13.01 hectares of agricultural land represents 0.07% of the total land area used for agriculture in Orange LGA,
- The array of panels can be removed once the facility is decommissioned and the land returned to its current condition,
- Community benefits of the solar farm will be through an understanding of sustainable development and by gaining commitment to greater reliance on renewable energy, and

- The power generated by the solar farm would be directed to the township of Orange for consumption by households and businesses.

5.7.6 Mitigation measures

It is recommended that labour to construct the solar farm and for ongoing maintenance be sourced from within Orange LGA wherever possible. Where labour needs to be brought into the area, it is considered that there would be sufficient accommodation options for employees in the LGA for the estimated maximum of 50 workers engaged during the construction phase. It is also recommended that advertising be placed in local media and to approach local businesses to determine whether there is the capacity and expertise available in Orange and surrounding districts to participate in the construction and ongoing maintenance activities.

5.8 Heritage

5.8.1 Indigenous heritage

Aboriginal cultural heritage (Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline – for consideration only)
The loss of Aboriginal cultural heritage should be avoided. If losses cannot be avoided, impacts must be minimised. An assessment of the likely impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage must be undertaken and should include consultation with the Aboriginal community undertaken in accordance with the Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents and test excavations, if required.

5.8.1.1 Determining whether to use the generic due diligence process

The property lies within the area managed by Orange Local Aboriginal Lands Council. To determine whether due diligence should be carried out a number of questions are posed:

1. *Is the activity a Part 3A project declared under s.75B of the EP&A Act?*

The proposed development is of regional scale and is not considered major development, noting that Part 3A of the EP&A Act no longer exists.

2. *Is the activity exempt from NPW Act or NPW Regulation?*

The proposed development is not exempt from NPW Act or NPW Regulation.

3. *Will the activity involve harm that is trivial or negligible?*

The proposed development will not cause harm that is trivial or negligible and involves ground disturbance.

4. *Do either or both of these apply:*
   - *Is the activity in an Aboriginal Place?*
   - *Have previous investigations that meet the requirements of this code identified Aboriginal objects?*

The site of the proposed development is not a declared Aboriginal Place under the NPW Act and there are no known previous investigations into the presence of Aboriginal objects on the site.

5. *Is the activity a low impact one for which there is a defence in the NPW Regulation?*

The proposed development is not a low impact activity that is listed in the NPW Regulation.

6. *Do you want to use an industry specific code of practice, adopted by the NPW Regulation or other due diligence process?*

There is no industry code that applies to the development of small-scale solar farms or other form of renewable energy that has been adopted under the NPW Regulation. No other due diligence process has been carried out.

It is therefore necessary to follow the generic due diligence process outlined in the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*. This code was implemented by the NSW Government in 2010 to ensure that an adequate due diligence process that addresses Aboriginal cultural heritage issues has been carried out.

This process follows the steps shown in Figure 23 below.

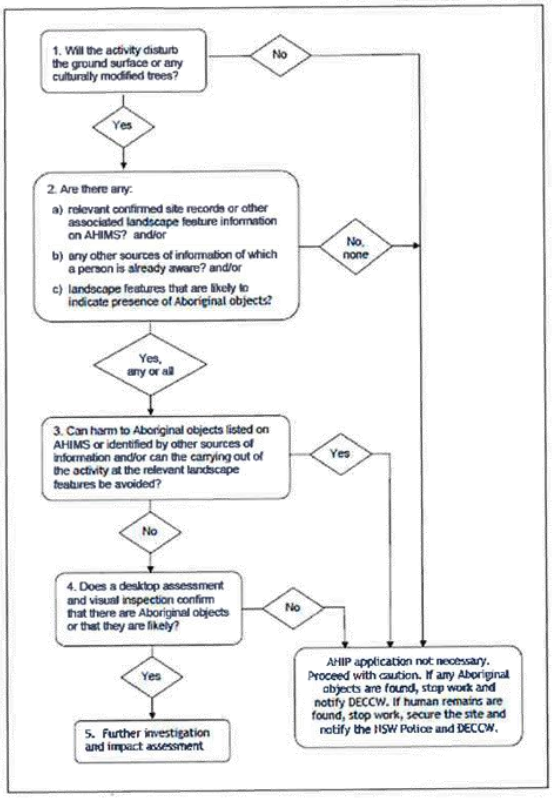


Figure 23: The generic due diligence process.

Source: Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW, 2010

5.8.1.2 Implementing the due diligence process

The generic due diligence process outlined in the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* was implemented to ensure that an adequate due diligence process that addresses Aboriginal cultural heritage issues has been carried out. This process follows the following five steps:

1. *Will the activity disturb the ground surface?*

Yes. Earthworks will involve trenching which is required for the cabling of each PV array/module to inverters and a substation. Other earthworks would be pile-driving to support module frames, and to enable the placement of concrete slabs and gravel accessways. However, most of the infrastructure would be pre-fabricated off-site, delivered and assembled on-site.

2a. Search the AHIMS database

In accordance with the code, an on-line search was carried out of the *Aboriginal Heritage Information Management Service (AHIMS)* that is maintained by Heritage NSW. The search is part of the due diligence process and remains valid for 12 months.

A search of Lot 5 DP 6173 with a buffer of 50 metres to encompass the development footprint and access tracks was performed on 19 November 2024. The search results are:

- There are no Aboriginal sites recorded in or near the selected location, and
- There are no Aboriginal places that have been declared in or near the selected location.

It is noted that surveys for Aboriginal objects have not been carried out in all parts of NSW and Aboriginal objects may exist on a parcel of land even though they have not been recorded in *AHIMS*. Further, not all known Aboriginal sites are registered on the *AHIMS* database and not all sites consist of physical evidence or remains, e.g. dreaming and ceremonial sites.

2b. Activities in areas where landscape features indicate the presence of Aboriginal objects

The development area does not possess landscape features that indicate the presence of Aboriginal objects. The vast majority of the site has been cleared for many years and used to graze livestock and horticulture. The development area is not located within 200 metres of a waterbody, within a sand dune or on a ridge top, ridgeline or headland, is not located within 200 metres of a cliff face or within 20 metres of a cave, rock shelter or cave mouth. There is a very low probability of Aboriginal objects occurring on the project site.

3. Can you avoid harm to the object or disturbance of the landscape features

This step only applies if the proposed development is on land that is not disturbed land or contains known Aboriginal objects.

The development area has been disturbed and farmed, does not possess significant landscape features and no known Aboriginal objects are listed in *AHIMS*.

4. Desktop assessment and visual inspection

This step only applies if the proposed development is on land that is not disturbed land or contains known Aboriginal objects.

A site inspection was made on 7 December 2022 and there was no obvious evidence of any artefacts or items of cultural significance on the surface of the land.

5. *Further investigations and impact assessment*

A basic search of *AHIMS* records has been carried out and the generic due diligence process has been implemented. It is considered that extensive search of *AHIMS* records or further investigations and an *Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit* are not required as there are no Aboriginal sites or places that have been recorded or observed on the project site and the landscape features of the site do not indicate the presence of any Aboriginal cultural objects.

Orange LALC has been advised of the plans to develop the solar farm by email. As not all culturally significant items or places are made public and listed on AHIMS, a request was forwarded to the LALC enquiring as to whether the organization has any knowledge of Indigenous items or places of significance on the property and whether a site survey is required to be carried out prior to commencement of works.

A representative of Orange LALC replied to an email relating to the Orange South 7A Solar Farm & BESS at 25 Lone Pine Avenue that is also proposed by EDPR Australia stating that *this parcel is privately owned land and there would be no way of knowing if there are any items of cultural significance. If the owner is planning any development, he would need to contact us here at the OLALC to undertake a cultural heritage study to have this determined.*

A response has not been received from Orange LALC regarding the subject application for Orange South 8B & 9B, however, it is assumed that a site survey should be carried out before any work commences to determine whether an *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment* is necessary and subsequently whether an *Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit* is required to be obtained.

5.8.2 Non-indigenous heritage

Non-Aboriginal heritage (Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline – for consideration only) An assessment is required of the likely impacts on archaeological objects and places.

The site of the proposed Orange South 8B & 9B Solar Farm + BESS is not listed as an item of heritage significance in *Schedule 5 Environmental heritage* of *Orange Local Environmental Plan 2011*. The nearest

items that are listed in Schedule 5 are item 114 Gosling Creek Reservoir and item 62 Adavale House at Spring Creek. Both of these items are of local heritage significance. The closest point of item 114 is 575 metres from the project site and item 62 is 1.1 kilometres from the eastern boundary of the project site. These two items are not considered to be located in the vicinity of the project site meaning that a heritage management document is not required.

5.8.3 Mitigation measures

There are no recommendations in relation to Indigenous or non-Indigenous heritage.

5.9 Glint and glare

5.9.1 Assessment of impacts

Glint and glare principles (Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline – for consideration only)

1. Solar panels should be sited to reduce the likely impacts of glint and glare.
2. Solar panels and other infrastructure should be constructed of materials and/or treated to minimise glint and glare.
3. If a large scale-solar energy development is likely to exceed the relevant criteria for glare and standards for glint, mitigation strategies must be adopted to reduce impacts.

A *Glint and Glare Assessment* has been carried out using the Solar Glare Hazard Analysis Tool by ITP Renewables. The findings of the assessment are summarized below. Reference should be made to the *Glint and Glare Assessment* that is submitted with the development application for further information or clarification of any matter concerning the assessment and recommendations.

The *Glint and Glare Assessment* is based on identifying the potential sensitive receptors in close proximity to the project site having regard to the elevation of the site relative to surrounding land and structures or vegetation that would act as visual barriers. The analysis is desktop and is considered to represent the worst-case scenario as modelling is unable to capture all vegetation and structures that may obstruct glint and glare to a particular receptor. If necessary, where potential glare and glint impacts are assessed mitigation measures are recommended to reduce potential impacts to an acceptable level.

5.9.2 Findings

The results of the GlareGauge analysis indicated that 34 observation points and 7 road routes may receive green glare, while 4 observation points and 3 road routes may receive yellow glare. Yellow glare has the potential to cause after image to observers, while green glare has low potential to

cause after image. Observation points 1 and 2, which are located to the south of the project-associated dwelling, are the most impacted by glare both receiving up to 15 minutes of glare in a single day. The glare experienced by these locations is only for a short duration per day. ITP recommends extending the screen from the southern boundary to partially screen the south-eastern boundary of the development area to mitigate glare potential at these observation points.

Yellow glare experienced along the road routes did not exceed 15 minutes in a single day and is generally limited to small sections of the roads. However, the intersection of Forest Road and Gosling Road shows glare will impact drivers navigating this intersection. This may require mitigation through the extension of the vegetation screening around the eastern side of the site. This impact is considered minor and does not mandate the extension of the vegetation screen for the length of the eastern boundary of the array.

As a result of the glare study, ITP believe that the proposed vegetation screening will be sufficient to mitigate visual impacts of glare in most cases. Where yellow glare is experienced, the durations are short and low traffic is expected in these areas.

5.9.3 Mitigation measures

Extend the southern vegetation screen along the south-eastern boundary of the site to mitigate glare to dwellings adjoining the project site to the south. Consider extending the vegetation screen for the length of the eastern boundary of the array.

5.10 Landscape character and visual amenity

5.10.1 Assessment of impacts

Visual amenity principles (Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline – for consideration only)

1. The baseline character of the landscape must be determined through engagement with the community.
2. Applicants must consider landscape character and visual impacts early in the site selection and design process to minimise impacts and conflicts where possible.
3. Solar energy projects should be sited and designed to avoid areas with topographical constraints that would increase the visibility of a development.
4. Where solar energy projects are likely to result in moderate or high visual impacts, mitigation strategies must be adopted to reduce or manage impacts.

Impacts on landscape character and visual amenity of the proposed solar farm have been assessed by Zenith Town Planning Pty Ltd. Reference should be made to the *Visual Impact Assessment* that is

submitted with the development application for further information or clarification of any matter concerning the assessment and recommendations.

The methodology included site inspections of the location of the proposed works and the surrounding area in December 2022 to identify potential viewpoints, land uses and characteristics of the surrounding area, and includes an assessment against planning principles for visual impact established by the Land and Environment Court.

The assessment estimates the likely impacts on landscape character and viewpoints within a 2 kilometre radius based on the sensitivity to physical change and the magnitude, or relative size and scale, of the works to apply an impact rating. The observation points and public roads shown within the visual assessment catchment are the same as those used for the glint and glare analysis by ITP Renewables.

Figure 24: Visual catchment map. Source: ITP Renewables

Plate 5: Dwelling to the south of the site

Plate 6: Dwelling north-west of the site

5.10.2 Findings

The township of Orange is mapped as a 'regional city' in *SEPP (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021*. Impacts on scenic quality and landscape character have been assessed in accordance with that state policy.

The overall impact of the proposed Orange South 8B & 9B Solar Farm + BESS on landscape character is assessed to be low-moderate for both private property and the public domain. However, distance, the undulating topography and clustered vegetation lessen the effects on landscape character.

Five dwellings to the south and north-west have a visual impact rating of high due to being in close proximity to the project site or within mid-range proximity and at a higher elevation than the centre of the arrays and with a potential direct or filtered line of sight to the arrays. A further eight observation points have a visual impact rating of moderate and eight observation points have a visual impact rating of low. Distance, topography, existing vegetation and structures would obscure visibility of the site from the remaining observation points.

The visual impact on Cadia Road is high on approach to the project site from the north and whilst passing the northern boundary but will be tempered by the difference in elevation of around 17 metres meaning that it would be necessary to look up and across a distance of more than 400 metres to see the eastern array.

The rural landscape is a primary production environment and appropriate uses including solar farms are permissible in the zone. The development is of a type that is suited to a rural location due to the land area required, proximity to an urban centre and access to energy infrastructure. The presence of the solar farm in the landscape can be reversed without permanent impact. The land will return to its current appearance after the solar farm is decommissioned in approximately 35 years' time. The process of decommissioning will see the removal of all panels, supporting frames and ancillary items such as the inverter stations and fencing.

5.10.3 Mitigation measures

a. It is recommended that vegetation be planted as a landscape screen along the southern and western boundaries and for a distance of 100 metres along southern section of the eastern edge of the facility on the outer side of the security fence as shown below to mitigate visual impacts on neighbouring private properties and users of Cadia Road,

Figure 25: Recommended landscape screen

b. The landscape screen along the western boundary and part of the eastern boundary comprises shrubs or trees that grow to a maximum height of 3 metres so as to not interfere with sunlight access to the array and be planted to a width of 3 metres with stepped plantings to ensure dense screening,

c. The landscape screen along the southern boundary comprises shrubs or trees that grow to a maximum height of 5 metres and be planted to a width of 5 metres with stepped plantings to ensure dense screening plus an additional row of screening, 1 metre wide by 5 metres high along the eastern half of the southern boundary adjacent to the stock fence line. The screen is to be planted on the outer side of the security fence and between the security fence and realigned watercourse. The screen is proposed to be 5 metres high and 1 metre in width along the eastern half of the southern boundary, between the channel and the fence line, to avoid planting across the channel, and

d. All plants used in the landscape screen should be endemic to the Orange locality to ensure that the vegetation contributes to the rural landscape character of Orange South and enhances local biodiversity values. Plants should be selected from the table in section 6.5 of *Chapter 6 Rural Development* of *Orange Development Control Plan 2004* (as amended in 2021) titled *Suitable plants for buffers in the Orange area*.

The following plants that may be suitable for landscape screening are recommended in Chapter 6 Rural development of *Orange DCP 2004* for use as buffers in rural areas of Orange LGA.

Table 10: Suitable plants for buffers in the Orange area. Source: Orange DCP 2004

Botanical name	Common name	Mature height (m)
	ACACIA	
Baileyana	Cootamundra Wattle	6.0
Boormanni	Snowy River Wattle	4.0
Cardiophylla	Wyalong Wattle	3.0
Fimbriata	Fringed Wattle	6.0
Specatbilis	Mudgee Wattle	5.0
	BANKSIA	
Ericifolia	Heath Banksia	2.0
	CALLISTEMON	
Pallidus	Lemon Bottlebrush	4.0
Pinifolius	Green Bottlebrush, Red Bottlebrush	2.0
Seeberi	Alpine Bottlebrush	1.0
Subulatus		1.5
	GREVILLEA	
Rosmarinifolia		2.0
	HAKEA	
Sericea	Bushy Needlewood	2.5
	LEPTOSPERNUM	
Flavescens	Common Tea Tree	4.0
Squarossum	Peach Tea Tree	2.5
	MELALEUCA	
Armillaris	Honey-Myrtle	6.0
Decussate	Cross-Leaved Honey-Myrtle	5.0
Ericifolia	Swamp Melaleuca	3.0
Halmaturorum	Salt Paper Bark	3.0
Incana	Grey Honey-Myrtle	2.0

5.11 Waste management

Waste management principles (Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline – for consideration only)

1. Construction waste from large-scale solar energy projects must be minimised and the use of reusable and recyclable materials should be prioritised where possible.
2. Impacts on local waste management facilities must be minimised as far as practicable during construction, operation and decommissioning.
3. Recycling of photovoltaic panels and associated equipment should be prioritised and maximised as far as possible to avoid landfill.

5.11.1 Assessment of impacts

A *Waste and Decommissioning Assessment* of the waste generated during construction and operation of the proposed solar farm has been carried out by EDPR Australia to determine the appropriate means of waste disposal and recycling. The findings of the assessment are summarized below. Reference should be made to the *Waste and Decommissioning Assessment* that is submitted with the development application for further information or clarification of any matter concerning the assessment and recommendations.

The largest amount of waste will be generated during the construction phase and be classified as general solid waste (non-putrescible). Wastes would include wooden pallets, cardboard, plastics, green waste and domestic waste. Construction of a solar farm would not generate any putrescible waste products. Minimal waste would be generated when the farm is operational other than small amounts of replacement parts and packaging required for maintenance and repair works.

Local waste management facilities and capacities are identified in the assessment. Technology for recycling of PV panels is advancing rapidly worldwide and while recycling options currently exist, they are likely to be more advanced and readily available at the time of decommissioning. Options for recycling of PV panels should be reviewed as the project progresses.

Estimates of waste materials and proposed management arrangements for each phase of the development project are provided in Table 11 below.

Table 11: Estimated waste materials and waste management arrangements

Waste	Source	Estimated quantity (tbc by contractor)	Bin/container	Disposal and management
Commissioning				
Cardboard	• Solar panel cardboard packaging	30m³	Cardboard only recycling skip bin (3)	Laydown area to set up skip bins for transfer to waste contractor's off-site facilities and/or an alternative public waste management facility
Wooden pallets	• Solar panel shipment • Solar tracker mounting shipment	97 m³	Landfill skip bin (15)	Transfer to waste contractor's facilities or to an alternative public waste management facility
Plastics	• Plastic pipe offcuts/scrap • Solar panel plastic wrapping • Drums used to temporarily store diesel fuel and water • Electric cable reels	Minimal		Transfer to waste contractor's facilities or to an alternative public waste management facility
Scrap metal	• Electric cable waste	Minimal		Transfer to waste contractor's facilities or engage a scrap metal merchant
Concrete	• Excess concrete waste from inverter and battery foundations and piling works	Minimal		Specialised concrete recycling for repurposing into recycled products
Chemicals	• Used lubricating oils and filters • Unused or spent chemicals	Minimal	-	Fluids recycled where possible, or transfer to waste contractor's facilities
Operation				

Waste	Source	Estimated quantity (tbc by contractor)	Bin/container	Disposal and management
	• Waste as a result of maintenance or replacement of equipment	Minimal	-	Taken offsite to appropriate recycling/disposal
Decommissioning				
PV panels	• Glass for panels • Silicon for wafers • Supporting poles and mounts	16,000 panels (per site), 402 tonnes glass 60 tonnes silicon for wafers	-	Laydown area to set up skip bins for transfer to waste contractor's off-site facilities or to appropriate recycling facility
Scrap metal	• Electrical cable waste	860 tonnes scrap metal (per site)	Landfill skip bins	Transfer to waste contractor's facilities
Equipment	• Inverters and batteries	240 m^3 (per site)	Landfill skip bins	Transfer to waste contractor's facilities
Concrete	• Foundations of the inverter, transformer and battery	19 m^3 (per site)	Concrete recycling bin	Specialised concrete recycling for repurposing into recycled products
Other	• Fencing and storage containers	40-ft container (2) (per site)	-	Removed from site and reused where possible

Waste management should be predicated on the international hierarchy of waste management to avoid/reduce, reuse, recycle, recover, treat and dispose of waste products to avoid or reduce waste materials where possible, and to re-use, recycle and recover the majority of waste materials generated during each of the construction, operational and decommissioning phases.

5.11.2 Mitigation measures

It is recommended that a waste management plan be developed to provide detailed procedures to manage the waste stream.

The plan should contain:

- Strategies to reduce waste during all project phases,
- Recycling, re-use and recovery strategies and opportunities,
- Classification of all waste streams with a tracking register and details,
- On site recycling management,
- Allocation of responsibilities for recycling, re-use and disposal, and
- Reporting and notification procedures if a waste incident occurs and there is a threat to the environment.

5.12 Decommissioning

Decommissioning and rehabilitation principles (Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline – for consideration only)

1. The land on which a large-scale solar energy project and supporting infrastructure is developed must be returned to pre-existing use if the project is decommissioned.
2. If operations cease, infrastructure (including underground infrastructure) should be removed unless there is significant justification for retaining it.
3. Land must be rehabilitated and restored to pre-existing use, including the pre-existing LSC class, if previously used for agricultural purposes.
4. The owner or operator of a solar energy project should be responsible for decommissioning and rehabilitation, and this should be reflected in an agreement with the host landholder.

5.12.1 Assessment of impacts

The expected operating life of the Orange South 8B & 9B Solar Farm + BESS (excluding the construction and decommissioning phases) is expected to be approximately 35 years depending upon market conditions. The proponent is seeking a flexible approach to any limits imposed on the period of operation of the solar farm that enables the operator to respond to market conditions and any technological changes that occur over the next few decades.

Upon decommissioning all infrastructure, including cabling and panels and mounting frames including footings and inverters would be disassembled and removed from the site. Panels may contain small amounts of silver, tin and lead, much of which are recoverable and also disposed of (if applicable) in a safe manner at decommissioning stage. The panels used are identical to those found in residential rooftop solar panels across Australia. Solar panels are made almost entirely with abundant, earth-friendly materials like glass, aluminium, copper, and silicon. Solar farms do not produce air or water pollution or greenhouse gases in operation.

Decommissioning will involve:

- Notification of stakeholders (e.g. Essential Energy, Orange City Council) of proposed de-energisation,
- De-energisation of the solar farm and disconnection of assets,
- Removal of PV modules and associated infrastructure,
- Removal of electrical wiring, and
- Remediation of land.

Relevant equipment will be brought on to the site to facilitate decommissioning, including amenities for site crew for the duration of the works. This equipment may include mobile cranes, excavators, skid steers, loaders, rollers/compactors, pile drivers, telehandlers, skip bins, water carts, temporary shipping containers for storage, site office and site ablution blocks.

Full details of the process are provided in the *Waste and Decommissioning Assessment* prepared by EDPR Australia. Reference should be made to that report for an explanation of each step in the decommissioning process.

5.12.2 Mitigation measures

There are no mitigation measures in relation to decommissioning.

5.13 Health

Health (Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline – for consideration only)
Applicants should consider the power frequency and electric and magnetic field exposure guidelines referenced by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency.

5.13.1 Assessment of impacts

The information presented in this section has been sourced from the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA). It includes a description of the type of electromagnetic radiation that may be produced by the generation and distribution of electricity.

The generation, distribution and use of electricity can produce extremely low frequency (ELF) electromagnetic fields (EMF) from electrically charged particles. The electric field is produced by the voltage whereas the magnetic field is produced by the current. The strength of the electric field is measured in units of volts per metre whilst the strength of the magnetic field is expressed in units of tesla (T), microtesla (μT), gauss (G) or milligauss (mG).

ELF EMF is produced by both natural and artificial sources. Naturally occurring ELF EMF is associated with atmospheric processes such as ionospheric currents, thunderstorms and lightning. Artificial sources are the dominant sources of ELF EMF and are usually associated with the generation, distribution and use of electricity at the frequency of 50 or 60 Hz. The widespread use of electricity means that people are exposed to ELF electric and magnetic fields in the home, in the environment and in the workplace.

According to the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency, which maintains continual oversight of emerging research into the potential health effects of the EMF exposure, there is no established evidence of health effects from exposure to electric and magnetic fields from powerlines, substations, transformers or other electrical sources, regardless of proximity.

5.13.2 Mitigation measures

There are no mitigation measures in relation to health impacts.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 Findings

6.1.1 Suitability of the site

The site is considered suitable for the proposed development of the Orange South 8B & 9B Solar Farm + BESS. A connection and capacity are available to the Essential Energy zone substation to transfer power generated by the solar panels to the township and on to the grid.

The development area is relatively free of constraints and is accessible to large delivery vehicles during the construction phase and for utility vehicles for ongoing maintenance.

6.1.2 Triple bottom line assessment

Environmental

The likely impacts of the development have been considered in this Statement and supporting documents. Considerations include impacts on biodiversity, natural hazards, visual and scenic amenity, glare and glint, traffic, noise, air quality, water resources, indigenous and non-indigenous heritage, the community and the local economy. Any impacts on these interests have been found to be acceptable and mitigation measures have been recommended where necessary.

There will be minimal dust and noise emissions during construction and no dust or air emissions resulting from the development during the operational phase of the facility. Dust generated by any nearby industries would be managed through regular clearing of solar panels and is not considered a threat to the effective operation of the facility.

Noise impacts once operational have been assessed to be within noise management levels and therefore are not expected to interfere with inhabitants of dwellings near the site.

An intermittent 1st order stream runs along the southern boundary of the site and then runs north-south to the north-eastern corner of the 8B array. Some fencing and part of each array is to be located over and within 10 metres of the watercourse. The projects is integrated development as a controlled activity approval may be required to be issued under section 4.46 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* for works on or over a mapped watercourse.

Social

It is considered that the solar farm can co-exist with surrounding rural and semi-rural activities. It is recommended that the arrays be screened using vegetation types that are endemic to the Orange district which will ensure that visual impacts are mitigated as much as possible and scenic amenity is maintained.

According to the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency, which maintains continual oversight of emerging research into the potential health effects of the EMF exposure, there is no established evidence of health effects from exposure to electric and magnetic fields from powerlines, substations, transformers or other electrical sources, regardless of the proximity, causes any health effects. The location of the solar farm and the distance separation between nearby dwellings and the site mean that any potential impacts on health are mitigated.

Economic

The solar farm will generate community economic benefits through local employment opportunities during the planning and construction phases as well as maintenance and inspection jobs once operational. The development of a solar farm will create a new market for local contractors and expand diversity of income for the landowners.

The site represents 0.07% of agricultural land in Orange LGA. The land is of high capability that has moderate limitations and is capable of sustaining high-impact land uses, such as livestock grazing. The site is mapped as state significant agricultural land, however, there will be no permanent loss of agricultural land as the array can be removed once the facility is decommissioned. Livestock grazing around the array is permitted without consent and the landowner is encouraged to re-commence agricultural use of the land once the facility is operational. The remaining land that is part of the parcel and not proposed to be used for renewable energy may be used for livestock grazing or cultivation in the future. Adjoining land within 30 metres of the site boundaries is not presently under cultivation.

6.1.3 Potential cumulative impacts

Cumulative impacts (Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline – for consideration only)
Any cumulative impacts from other developments (proposed, approved and operative), especially biodiversity, socio-economic and construction traffic, must be assessed in accordance with the department's Cumulative Impact Assessment Guidelines for State Significant Projects (PDF 1,393 KB) (July 2021, or its latest version).

The cumulative impacts of the proposed development are minor. There have been no other utility scale solar farm proposals in the vicinity of the project site. There are no other electricity generating works in

the immediate area and the use is suited to a semi-rural location due to the need for a large area of land. The addition of a solar farm to the area would not detract unreasonably from local amenity or the natural environment.

6.1.4 Consistency with planning framework

Strategic context (Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline – for consideration only)
Applicants should consider whether the project is consistent with local or state planning strategies, and government policies such as climate change and energy policies, including the capability of the project to contribute to energy security and reliability.

The proposed development is consistent with the strategic planning framework that applies to the local government area, the site itself and to the development of electricity generating works. The solar farm is permissible with consent under provisions of *Orange LEP 2011* and *SEPP (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021* and is satisfactory to relevant provisions of other applicable SEPPs.

Regional cities (Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline – for consideration only)
Where an applicant proposes a large-scale solar development within a mapped area in proximity to a regional city, the provisions within the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP should be clearly and comprehensively addressed.
Residential and commercial developments that have been approved (but not yet commenced) should be included when identifying the surrounding urban environment.
The applicant should consult with the relevant council and identify any land identified for future growth in strategic planning documents including local strategic planning statements and housing strategies.

The township of Orange is mapped as a 'regional city' in *SEPP (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021*. Impacts on scenic quality and landscape character have been assessed in accordance with that state policy. These impacts can be mitigated by the proposed vegetation screening of the solar arrays.

The *Orange Local Housing Strategy* was adopted by Orange City Council in 2022. An aim of the strategy is to identify where housing growth is to occur in Orange LGA. The strategy supersedes the *Orange Sustainable Settlement Strategy*. The project site is not identified in the housing strategy as an urban release area for the expansion of Orange township. The proposed development will not interfere with or prevent the planned growth of Orange.

Although not located within the Central West Renewable Energy Zone, the proposal is not inconsistent with the planning priorities, goals and actions of the *Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2041* and the *Orange Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020*.

6.1.5 Contribution to government targets

Public interest (Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline – for consideration only)
Applicants should consider an analysis of the public interest, including the public interest in renewable energy, the objects of the EP&A Act and the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

Electricity generated by the system will be directed to the settlement of Orange via existing electrical infrastructure to contribute to the supply of electricity for use by households and businesses. Any surplus electricity will be stored by the BESS and/or sent to the grid and any deficit will be drawn from the BESS and/or the grid. As well as the potential to utilize local contractors to construct the facility, the township will benefit through the ability to use clean energy that is generated adjacent the settlement.

Currently, Australia's energy grid operates on about 60% coal and 40% renewables. Australia subsidises fossil fuels by $65 billion a year, or 2.5 per cent of GDP. The International Monetary Fund has found that in 2022 Australia granted $9.7 billion in explicit fossil fuel subsidies, such as household electricity bill relief or tax breaks for coal and gas producers. In addition, there was another $55.6 billion in implicit subsidies, with taxpayers footing the bill for premature deaths and poor health caused by air pollution, as well as environmental damage and global warming.

The NSW Government is committed to achieving a 50% emissions reduction by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050. The Commonwealth Government's target is to reduce emissions in 2030 to 43% below 2005 levels, for 82% of Australia's energy to be generated by renewable technologies in 2030 and net zero in 2050.

The development of the solar farm will assist the transition of our economy from reliance on fossil fuels to renewable sources. It will assist Commonwealth and NSW Governments to achieve targets and objectives relating to emissions to address climate change. Capacity exists to cater for the electricity generated by the proposed solar farm as evidenced by contractual arrangements that are in place with Essential Energy to connect with and contribute to the grid system.

The proposed development satisfies the objects of the EP&A Act in that renewable energy will promote the social and economic welfare of the community and a better environment through conservation of fossil fuel resources and use of solar resources to generate energy. The development will facilitate ecologically sustainable development by integrating relevant economic, environmental and social considerations in decision-making about environmental planning and assessment and will promote the orderly and economic use and development of land that satisfies the applicable strategic planning framework.

Given the local, regional and national benefits of renewable energy generation and based on implementation of the recommended mitigation measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts to the existing natural and built environment, the development is considered to be in the public interest.

6.2 Summary of mitigation measures

Table 12 provides a summary of mitigation measures. It is recommended that an environmental management plan be prepared to cover the construction and operational phases. Where necessary Table 12 includes a recommendation as to whether the mitigation measure should be included in the management plan. In addition to the mitigation measures detailed below, it is recommended that a waste management plan be prepared for inclusion in an environmental management plan.

Table 12: Summary of mitigation measures

Consideration	Mitigation measures	Environmental Management Plan
Biodiversity	By way of a clearing process that minimizes the risk to threatened species that may be opportunistically using the site, it is recommended that: I. Construction limits and exclusion zones be clearly identified prior to work, II. A visual inspection is conducted by environmental staff before construction commences to identify any areas of the site that might be supporting native fauna, III. Vehicle movements around the site will be restricted to the construction footprint and away from any flagging exclusion fencing to be installed, IV. Soil disturbance by vehicle and pedestrian access is to be kept to a minimum outside the construction footprint, and V. Any weeds removed (particularly those bearing seeds) are to be disposed of appropriately at the nearest waste management facility.	Yes, with reference to ongoing site access during both construction and operational phases, and to the storage of materials within the site
Hazards	• Install a reliable, automated monitoring and control systems, with an alarm and shutdown response capability • Take reasonable and safe measures to prevent the risks of external heat effects in the event of a bushfire • Design appropriate separation and isolation between battery cubicles, and between the BESS and other infrastructure, in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations, and including gravel set-off areas around the facility • Comply with all applicable Australian codes and standards • Prepare a BESS-specific fire response plan, in conjunction with the NSW Rural Fire Service • Install an adequate automatic fire suppression system integrated into the detection and control system	Yes, for construction and operational phases

Consideration	Mitigation measures	Environmental Management Plan
	• Dispose (and where possible, recycle) of any potentially hazardous material in accordance with the best international practices available at that time • Fuels and pesticides/herbicides in use at the site will be stored at the laydown area in appropriately bunded areas designed in accordance with AS1940-2004 In terms of fire safety including the threat of bushfire, the report recommends that the facility with battery storage can be made safer through the integration of safety in design principles from bushfire standards including APZ clearances, internal protection areas, comprehensive system fault monitoring, automated fire detection and suppression systems and safety procedures built into WHS policies and procedures to ensure these farm assets and the surrounding area are protected from the risk of fire. Finalise the draft *Bushfire Risk and Operations Plan* and a draft *Bushfire Emergency Management and Evacuations Plan* after preparation of detailed designs for the construction certificate	
Water resources	Design – site drainage and water quality controls: • Undertake hydrological assessment of the sites catchment in accordance with relevant methods outlined in Australian Rainfall and Runoff. • Determine sediment management targets and drainage control standards in accordance with Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction Vol 1 (Blue Book) (DECC, 2008). • Develop a site erosion and sediment control plan in accordance with the Blue Book. • Develop site drainage design incorporating detention basins and sedimentation management structures where relevant. • Permanent site drainage should coincide with temporary arrangements where possible	Yes, for construction and operational phases. Include an erosion & sediment control plan or soil and water management plan
	Construction and/or demolition – site drainage and water quality controls: • Catch drains to be located downslope of any proposed road works. • Install location appropriate sediment fences or other applicable control measures depending on whether the feature is upstream or downstream of a disturbed part of the site or will need to be trafficable. • All stormwater collection points need to have appropriate sedimentation and erosion controls. • Undertake ongoing inspections of stormwater facilities and water control measures to assess their effectiveness. • Vibration grids or wash bays at all construction exits. • Level spreaders at locations where concentrated flow is discharged offsite to ensure sheet flow like conditions are maintained.	

Consideration	Mitigation measures	Environmental Management Plan
	• Flat land erosion control options include erosion control blankets, gravelling, mulching, soil binder, turfing and revegetation	
	Construction and/or demolition – stormwater point source control: In the event of concrete works: • Do not undertake works if chance of heavy rain. • Store rinsate5 water, if applicable, separately to other water on site and dispose of offsite as appropriate. • Block on site drains in the area of the works and remove any contaminated runoff. In the event that dewatering practices are required: • Pump hose intakes for withdrawing water from excavations will be elevated to minimise sediment pumping and directed to a containment area for settling prior to discharge. • Limit direct discharge off site (consistent with the design requirements for sediment pond discharge). • Stormwater collected on site should be reused where possible. Controls should be inspected and maintained on a regular basis. All water released from sediment basins should be clear or disposed off site by vehicle. • Material and waste storage areas should be designed and operated to minimise interaction with surface waters. • Vehicle washdown areas should be located away from water courses	
Air quality	During construction: • Limit vehicle movements to areas necessary to deliver panels, ancillary structures and equipment • Suppress dust emissions using watering and cease works during dry and windy conditions • Ensure ground disturbance is limited to areas necessary to place footings or to be used for access • Ensure minimal handling of excavated materials • Ensure stockpiles of excavated material is bunded and protected from wind and vehicle movements During operation: • Grade and add road base to internal accessways • Revegetate the site with suitable groundcover immediately construction works are completed • Ensure all plant and equipment is maintained in a clean condition and operates in accordance with specifications.	Yes, for construction and operational phases
Noise	• Implement community consultation or notification measures, • Site inductions,	Yes, for construction phase

Consideration	Mitigation measures	Environmental Management Plan
	• Minimise disturbance arising from delivery of goods to construction sites, • Shield stationary noise sources, and • Shield sensitive receivers from noise activities.	
Traffic	No mitigation measures are recommended	n/a
The community & local economy	• labour to construct and maintain the solar farm be sourced from within the Orange local government area wherever possible • advertising be placed in local media and local businesses contacted to determine whether there is the capacity and expertise available to participate in the construction and ongoing maintenance activities • Ensure that the timing of construction of the solar farm does not coincide with the construction of major infrastructure projects to avoid a shortage of visitor accommodation	n/a
Heritage	There are no recommendations in relation to Indigenous or non-Indigenous heritage.	n/a
Glare and glint	Extend the southern vegetation screen along the south-eastern boundary of the site to mitigate glare to dwellings adjoining the project site to the south. Consider extending the vegetation screen for the length of the eastern boundary of the array.	Yes, for construction phase
Visual impacts	• It is recommended that vegetation be planted as a landscape screen along the southern and western boundaries and for a distance of 100 metres along southern section of the eastern edge of the facility on the outer side of the security fence as shown below to mitigate visual impacts on neighbouring private properties and users of Cadia Road, • The landscape screen along the western boundary and part of the eastern boundary comprises shrubs or trees that grow to a maximum height of 3 metres so as to not interfere with sunlight access to the array and be planted to a width of 3 metres with stepped plantings to ensure dense screening, • The landscape screen along the southern boundary comprises shrubs or trees that grow to a maximum height of 5 metres and be planted to a width of 5 metres with stepped plantings to ensure dense screening. An additional row of screening, 1 metre wide by 5 metres high, is to be planted along the eastern half of the southern boundary adjacent to the stock fence line. The screen is to be planted on the outer side of the security fence and between the security fence and realigned watercourse. The screen is proposed to be 5 metres high and 1 metre in width along the eastern half of	Yes, for construction phase

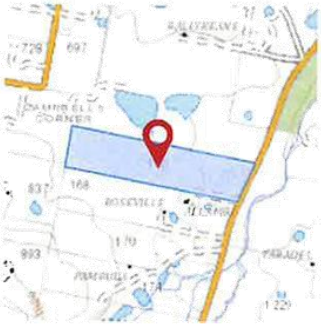
Consideration	Mitigation measures	Environmental Management Plan
	the southern boundary, between the channel and the fence line, to avoid planting across the channel, and • All plants used in the landscape screen should be endemic to the Orange locality to ensure that the vegetation contributes to the rural landscape character of Orange South and enhances local biodiversity values. Plants should be selected from the table in section 6.5 of *Chapter 6 Rural Development* of *Orange Development Control Plan 2004* (as amended in 2021) titled *Suitable plants for buffers in the Orange area.*	
Waste management	It is recommended that a waste management plan be developed to provide detailed procedures to manage the waste stream. The plan should contain: • Strategies to reduce waste during all project phases, • Recycling, re-use and recovery strategies and opportunities, • Classification of all waste streams with a tracking register and details, • On site recycling management, • Allocation of responsibilities for recycling, re-use and disposal, and • Reporting and notification procedures if a waste incident occurs and there is a threat to the environment.	Yes, for construction and operational phases
Decommissioning	There are no mitigation measures in relation to decommissioning.	n/a
Health	There are no mitigation measures in relation to health impacts.	n/a

NSW GOVERNMENT

Attachment A

Property Report

140 CADIA ROAD SPRINGSIDE 2800



Property Details

Address:	140 CADIA ROAD SPRINGSIDE 2800
Lot/Section /Plan No:	5/-/DP6173
Council:	ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Summary of planning controls

Planning controls held within the Planning Database are summarised below. The property may be affected by additional planning controls not outlined in this report. Please contact your council for more information.

Local Environmental Plans	Orange Local Environmental Plan 2011 (pub. 24-2-2012)
Land Zoning	C3 - Environmental Management: (pub. 5-11-2021)
Height Of Building	NA
Floor Space Ratio	NA
Minimum Lot Size	100 ha
Heritage	NA
Land Reservation Acquisition	NA
Foreshore Building Line	NA
Drinking Water Catchment	Drinking Water Catchment
Groundwater Vulnerability	Groundwater Vulnerability

Detailed planning information

State Environmental Planning Policies which apply to this property

State Environmental Planning Policies can specify planning controls for certain areas and/or types of development. They can also identify the development assessment system that applies and the type of environmental assessment that is required.

This report provides general information only and does not replace a Section 10.7 Certificate (formerly Section 149)

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NSW GOVERNMENT

Property Report

140 CADIA ROAD SPRINGSIDE 2800

- State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021: Allowable Clearing Area (pub. 2-12-2021)
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021: Land Application (pub. 2-12-2021)
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021: Subject Land (pub. 2-12-2021)
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Building Sustainability Index: BASIX) 2004: Land Application (pub. 25-6-2004)
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008: Land Application (pub. 12-12-2008)
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021: Land Application (pub. 26-11-2021)
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Industry and Employment) 2021: Land Application (pub. 2-12-2021)
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021: Land Application (pub. 2-12-2021)
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Primary Production) 2021: Land Application (pub. 2-12-2021)
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021: Land Application (pub. 2 -12-2021)
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021: Land Application (pub. 2-12-2021)
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021: Land Application (pub. 2-12-2021)
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021: Subject Land (pub. 2-12-2021)
- State Environmental Planning Policy No 65—Design Quality of Residential Apartment Development: Land Application (pub. 26-7-2002)

Other matters affecting the property

Information held in the Planning Database about other matters affecting the property appears below. The property may also be affected by additional planning controls not outlined in this report. Please speak to your council for more information

Land near Electrical Infrastructure	This property may be located near electrical infrastructure and could be subject to requirements listed under ISEPP Clause 45. Please contact Essential Energy for more information.
Local Aboriginal Land Council	ORANGE
Regional Plan Boundary	Central West and Orana

This report provides general information only and does not replace a Section 10.7 Certificate (formerly Section 149)

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2 / 2

NSW GOVERNMENT

AHIMS Web Services (AWS)
Search Result

Attachment B

Your Ref/PO Number : 1322
Client Service ID : 951691

Date: 19 November 2024

Zenith Town Planning
P O Box 591
Moruya New South Wales 2537
Attention: Allen Grimwood
Email: zenithplan@bigpond.com

Dear Sir or Madam:

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Lot : 5, DP:DP6173, Section : - with a Buffer of 50 meters, conducted by Allen Grimwood on 19 November 2024.

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.

A search of Heritage NSW AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

0	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *

If your search shows Aboriginal sites or places what should you do?

- You must do an extensive search if AHIMS has shown that there are Aboriginal sites or places recorded in the search area.
- If you are checking AHIMS as a part of your due diligence, refer to the next steps of the Due Diligence Code of practice.
- You can get further information about Aboriginal places by looking at the gazettal notice that declared it. Aboriginal places gazetted after 2001 are available on the NSW Government Gazette (https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/gazette) website. Gazettal notices published prior to 2001 can be obtained from Heritage NSW upon request

Important information about your AHIMS search

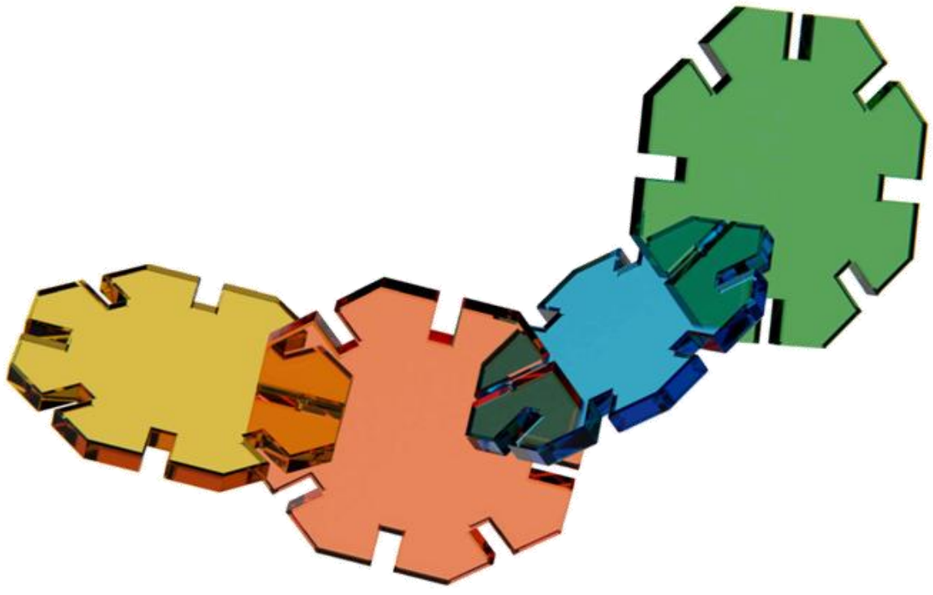
- The information derived from the AHIMS search is only to be used for the purpose for which it was requested. It is not be made available to the public.
- AHIMS records information about Aboriginal sites that have been provided to Heritage NSW and Aboriginal places that have been declared by the Minister;
- Information recorded on AHIMS may vary in its accuracy and may not be up to date. Location details are recorded as grid references and it is important to note that there may be errors or omissions in these recordings,
- Some parts of New South Wales have not been investigated in detail and there may be fewer records of Aboriginal sites in those areas. These areas may contain Aboriginal sites which are not recorded on AHIMS.
- Aboriginal objects are protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 even if they are not recorded as a site on AHIMS.
- This search can form part of your due diligence and remains valid for 12 months.

Level 6, 10 Valentine Ave, Parramatta 2150
Locked Bag 5020 Parramatta NSW 2124
Tel: (02) 9585 6345

ABN 34 945 244 274
Email: ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au
Web: www.heritage.nsw.gov.au

ORANGE SOUTH 8B & 9B 2 X 5 MW SOLAR FARMS

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION



Sheet List Table	
Sheet Number	**Sheet Title**
G - GENERAL: G-0000 - GENERAL: G-01XX - TITLE	
G-0100	TITLE
G - GENERAL: G-0000 - GENERAL: G-03XX - KEYNOTES & SYMBOLS	
G-0310	PROJECT INFORMATION
G - GENERAL: G-0000 - GENERAL: G-04XX - LOCATION PLAN	
G-0400	LOCATION PLAN
G - GENERAL: G-2000 - GENERAL ARRANGEMENT: G-21XX - GENERAL ARRANGEMENT PLANS	
G-2100	GENERAL ARRANGEMENT PLAN
G - GENERAL: G-2000 - GENERAL ARRANGEMENT: G-22XX - ELEVATIONS & SECTIONS	
G-2200	SITE ELEVATIONS
C - CIVIL: C-4000 - EQUIPMENT FOOTINGS: C-43XX - DETAILS	
C-4300	INVERTER FOOTING DETAILS
C-4310	BESS FOOTINGS DETAILS
C - CIVIL: C-5000 - FENCING: C-53XX - DETAILS	
C-5310	GATE DETAILS
C-5300	FENCING DETAILS
C - CIVIL: C-6000 - ROADS & ACCESS: C-63XX - DETAILS	
C-6300	ACCESS PATH DETAILS
C - CIVIL: C-7000 - LANDSCAPE & ENVIRONMENTAL: C-73XX - DETAILS	
C-7300	LANDSCAPE DETAILS
E - ELECTRICIAL: E-3000 - ARRAY: E-34XX - DETAILS	
E-3400	PEG ARRAY DETAILS
E - ELECTRICIAL: E-4000 - PV EQUIPMENT: E-43XX - DETAILS	
E-4300	INVERTER STATION DETAILS
E - ELECTRICIAL: E-5000 - BESS EQUIPMENT: E-53XX - DETAILS	
E-5300	BESS STATION DETAILS

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Level 1, 19-23 Moore St
Turner, ACT 2612
AUSTRALIA

CLIENT:
EDPR AUSTRALIA

ADDRESS:
140 CADIA ROAD
SPRINGSIDE
NSW 2800

SITE INFORMATION	
LOT / DP	5/6173
ADDRESS	140 CADIA ROAD, SPRINGSIDE, NSW 2800
LGA	ORANGE CITY COUNCIL
LAT / LONG	-33.333586 / 149.068851
LOT AREA	25.69 ha
DEVELOPMENT FENCED AREA	12.82 ha
CONNECTION VOLTAGE	11 kV
CONNECTION FEEDER	ESSENTIAL ENERGY ORS3B7
CONNECTION SUBSTATION	ESSENTIAL ENERGY ORANGE SOUTH 66/11 ZS

PV PROJECT INFORMATION (DA)	
AC CAPACITY	4.99 MW PER SITE
INVERTERS	2 x 3.4 MW AC PER SITE
FRAMING MODEL	PEG
PEG SPACING (N-S)	MIN. 1.2 m
PEG SPACING (E-W)	MIN. 0.3 m
SECURITY FENCE SETBACK	MIN. 3.0 m FROM OPTION BOUNDARY
ARRAY SETBACK	MIN. 10.0 m FROM SECURITY FENCE
ACCESS TRACK WIDTH	4.0 m

1 / - PROJECT INFORMATION
SCALE: NTS

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

REV NO.	DESCRIPTION	DSN	DWN	CHKD	APPR	DATE	NOTES
1	FENCED AREAS UPDATED	ISC	MJB	ISC	ISC	17/04/2025	
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							

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DO NOT SCALE

DRG TITLE: PROJECT INFORMATION

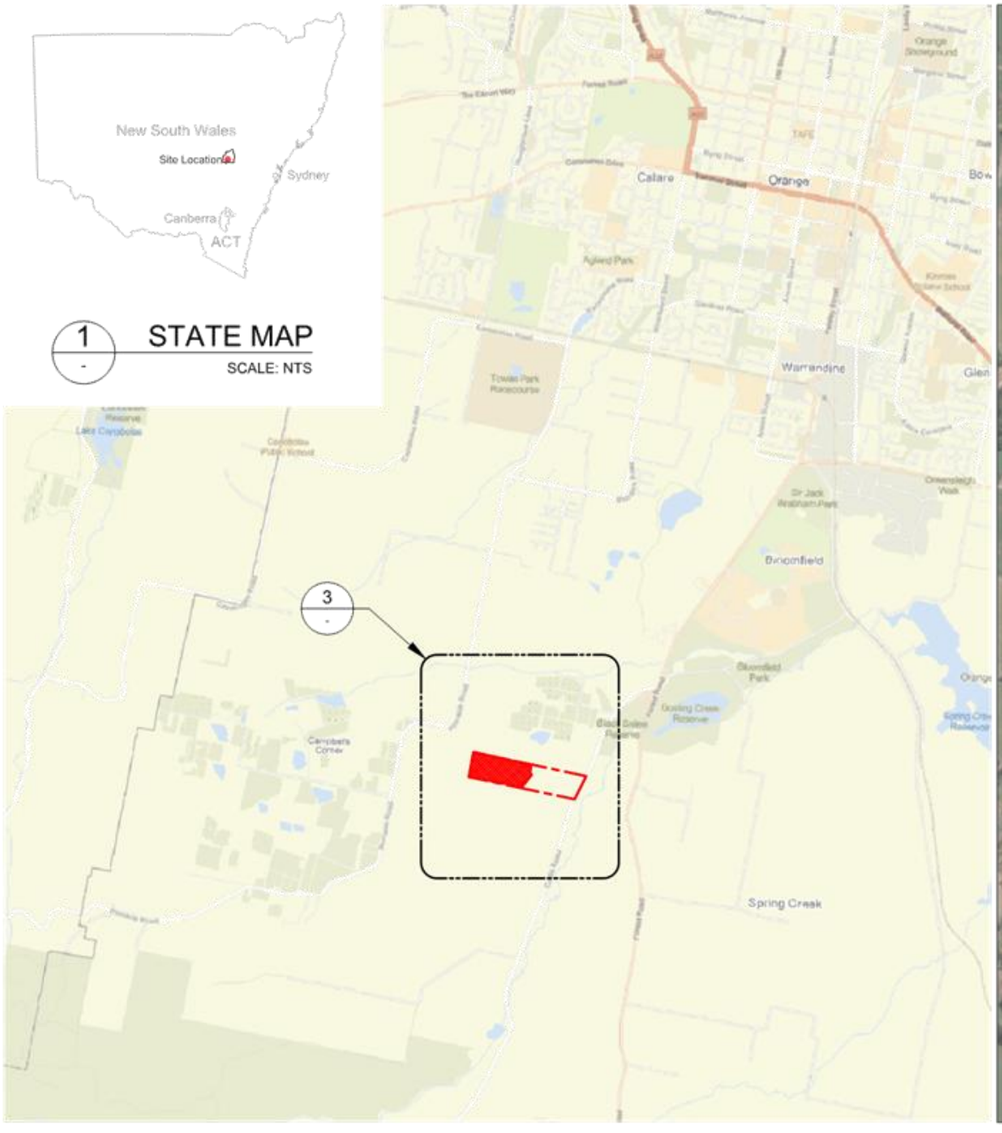
PROJECT: ORANGE SOUTH 8B & 9B 2 X 5 MW SOLAR FARMS
CLIENT: EDPR AUSTRALIA
ADDRESS: 140 CADIA ROAD SPRINGSIDE, NSW 2800

DRG NO. 22113-G-0310

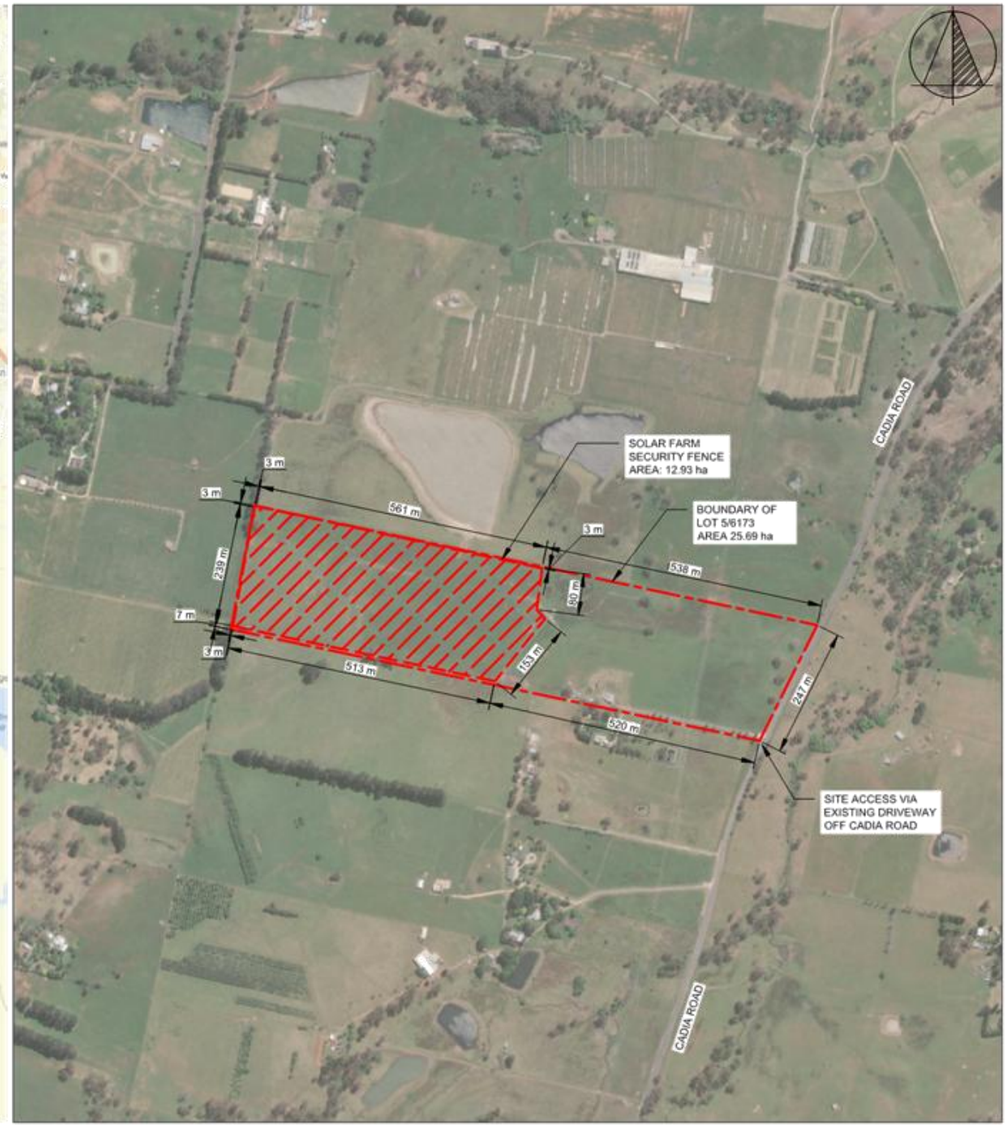
SHEET SIZE: A3
DSN: CL DWN: MJB
CHKD: ISC APPR: SD
ORIG. DATE: 18/10/2024
REV NO. 1

C:\Users\mbarrett\ITP Renewables (Australia)\Projects and proposals - 22113 - ORS8B Orange South 8B\3 System design\3.01 CAD\DWG\G-0310 PROJECT INFORMATION.dwg, Originally Plotted by MATTHEW BARRETT on 17/4/2025 3:59 PM

1 - STATE MAP
SCALE: NTS



2 - LOCATION PLAN
SCALE: NTS



3 - SITE PLAN
SCALE: 1:10000

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

REV NO.	DESCRIPTION	DSN	DWN	CHKD	APPR	DATE	NOTES
1	FENCELINE UPDATED	ISC	MJB	ISC	ISC	17/04/2025	
2							
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4							
5							
6							

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DRG TITLE: **LOCATION PLAN**

PROJECT: ORANGE SOUTH 8B & 9B 2 X 5 MW SOLAR FARMS
CLIENT: EDPR AUSTRALIA
ADDRESS: 140 CADIA ROAD
SPRINGSIDE, NSW 2800

DRG NO. **22113-G-0400**

SHEET SIZE: A3
DSN: CL DWN: MJB
CHKD: ISC APPR: SD
ORIG. DATE: 18/10/2024
REV NO. 1

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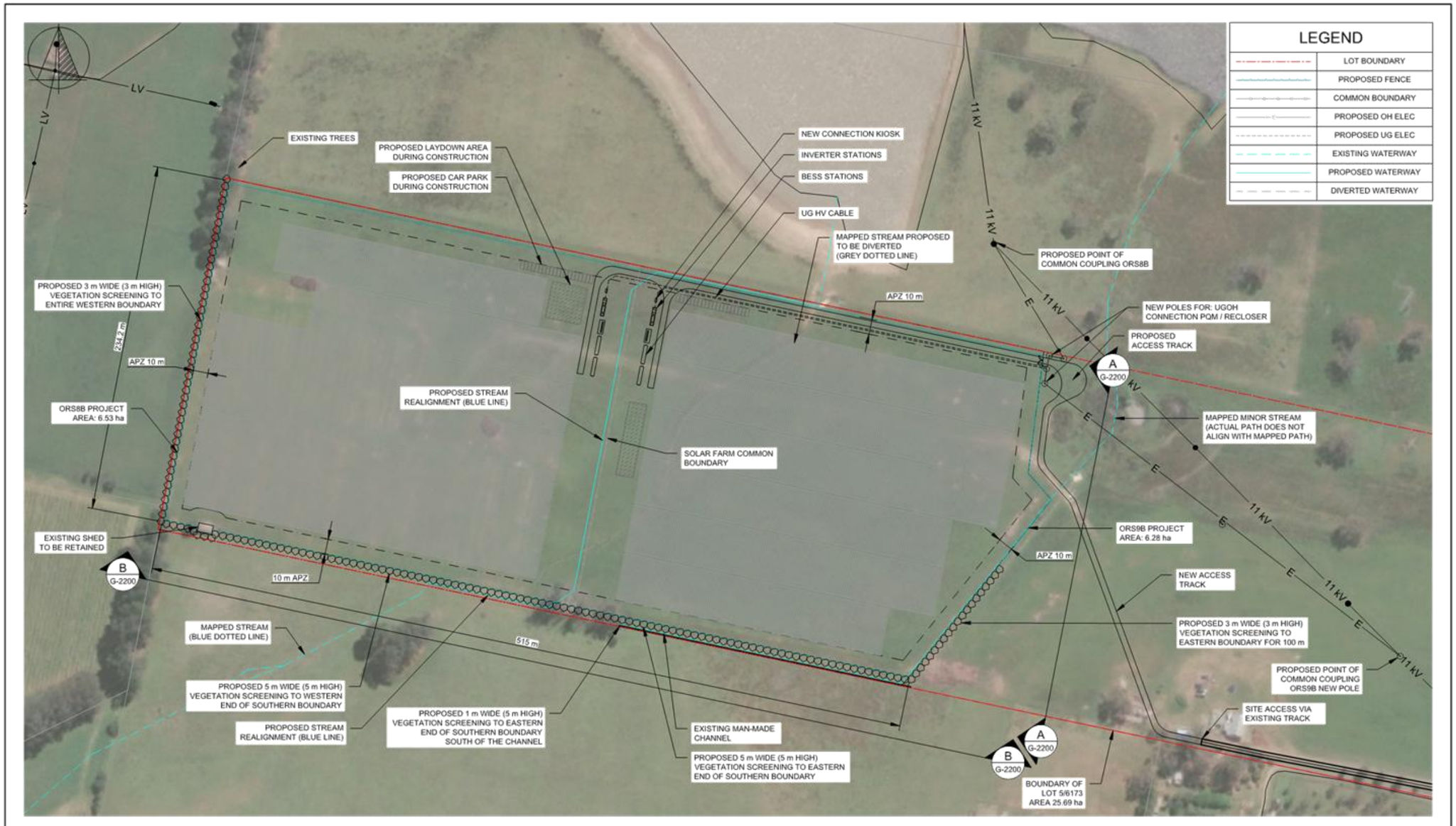

1 - GENERAL ARRANGEMENT PLAN

SCALE: 1:2500

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

REV NO.	DESCRIPTION	DSN	DWN	CHKD	APPR	DATE	NOTES
7	ANNOTATION UPDATED	ISC	MJB	ISC	SD	16/12/2024	
8	ARRAYS UPDATED & STREAM REALIGNED	ISC	MJB	ISC	ISC	17/04/2025	
3	DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION	CL	MJB	ISC	SD	09/10/2024	
4	ANNOTATION UPDATED	CL	MJB	ISC	SD	11/10/2024	
5	LAYDOWN AREA AND CAR PARKING ADDED	CL	MJB	ISC	SD	18/10/2024	
6	VEGETATION SCREENING EXTENDED	ISC	MJB	ISC	SD	12/12/2024	

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DO NOT SCALE

DRG TITLE: GENERAL ARRANGEMENT PLAN

PROJECT: ORANGE SOUTH 8B & 9B 2 X 5 MW SOLAR FARMS

CLIENT: EDPR AUSTRALIA

ADDRESS: 140 CADIA ROAD SPRINGSIDE, NSW 2800

DRG NO. 22113-G-2100

SHEET SIZE: A3 | DSN: CL | DWN: MJB | CHKD: NAL | APPR: SD | ORIG. DATE: 26/04/2022 | REV NO. 8

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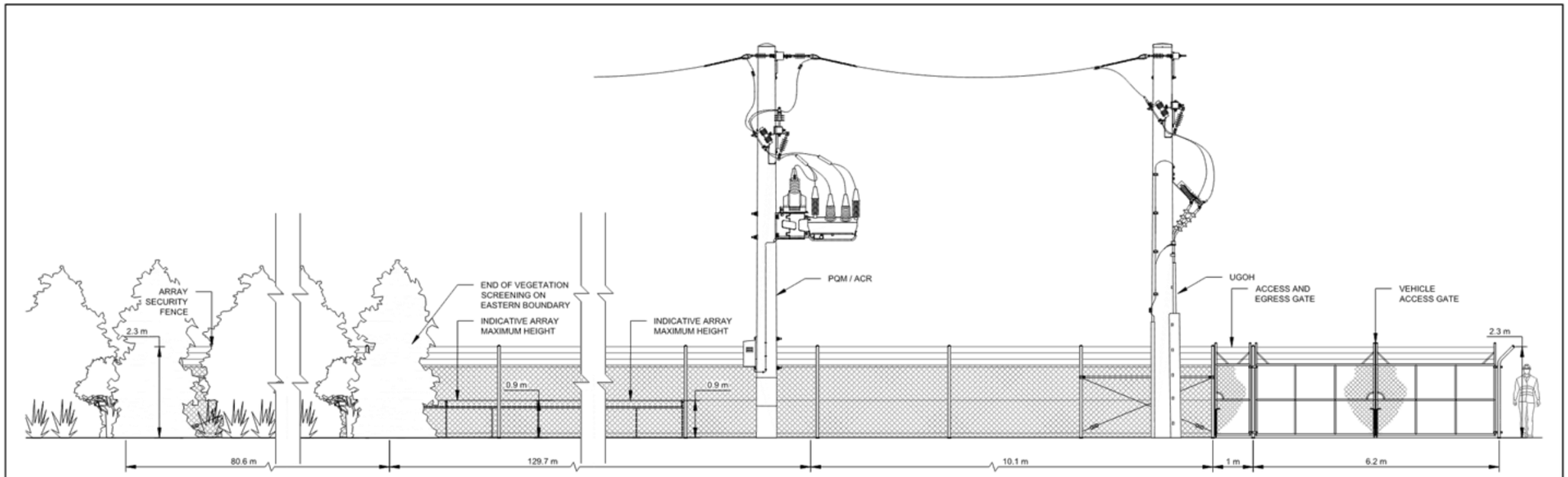
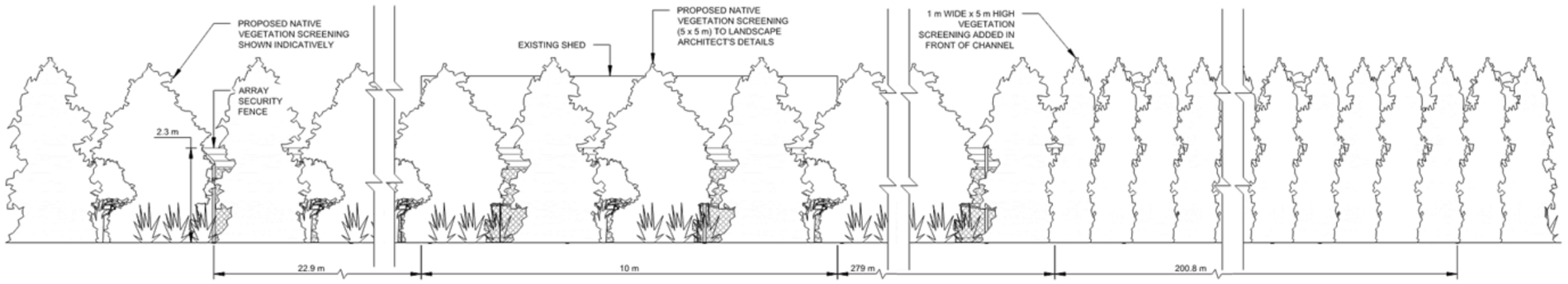


A G-2100 ELEVATION A
SCALE: 1:100



B G-2100 ELEVATION B
SCALE: 1:100

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

REV NO.	DESCRIPTION	DSN	DWN	CHKD	APPR	DATE	NOTES
1	VEGETATION SCREENING EXTENDED	ISC	MJB	ISC	SD	12/12/2024	
2	5 M WIDE VEGETATION SCREENING ADDED	ISC	MJB	ISC	ISC	17/04/2025	
3							
4							
5							
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DRG TITLE: SITE ELEVATIONS

PROJECT: ORANGE SOUTH 8B & 9B 2 X 5 MW SOLAR FARMS
CLIENT: EDPR AUSTRALIA
ADDRESS: 140 CADIA ROAD SPRINGSIDE, NSW 2800
DRG NO. 22113-G-2200
SHEET SIZE A3
DSN CL DWN MJB
CHKD ISC APPR SD
ORIG. DATE 18/10/2024
REV NO. 2

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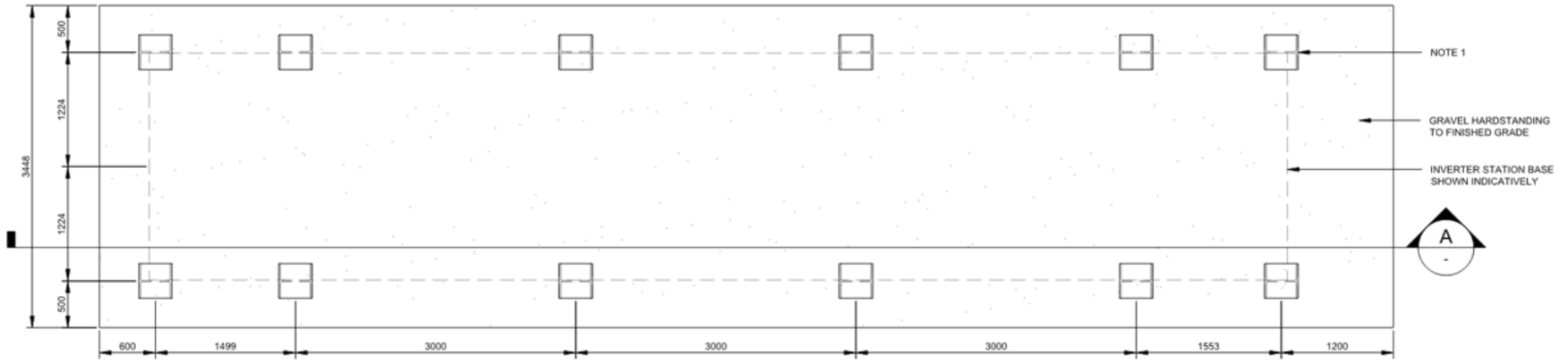
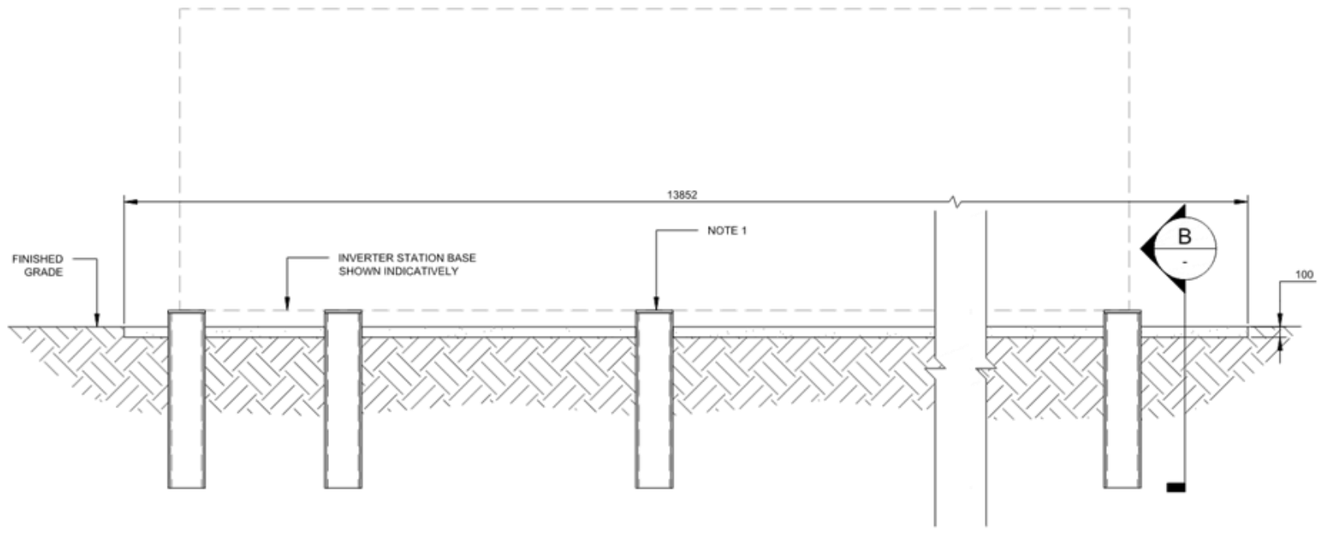


1 - INVERTER FOOTING PLAN
SCALE: 1:50



A - SIDE SECTION
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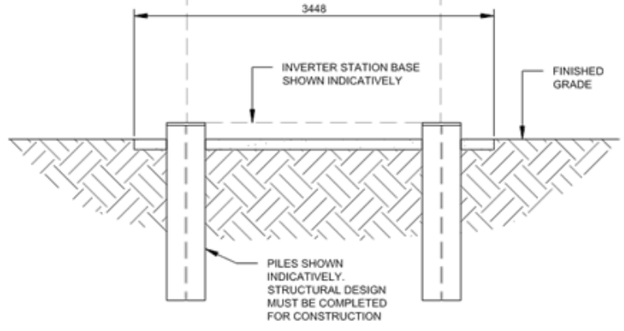

B - END SECTION
SCALE: 1:50

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

REV NO.	DESCRIPTION	DSN	DWN	CHKD	APPR	DATE
1						
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NOTES
1. STRUCTURAL DESIGN SHOULD BE COMPLETED FOR DETAILED INFORMATION REGARDING THE FOOTINGS, ACCESS STAIRS & PLATFORMS, INCLUDING DIMENSIONS, REINFORCEMENT, AND LOAD-BEARING CAPACITY.

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DRG TITLE: INVERTER FOOTING DETAILS

PROJECT: ORANGE SOUTH 8B & 9B 2 X 5 MW SOLAR FARMS
CLIENT: EDPR AUSTRALIA
ADDRESS: 140 CADIA ROAD SPRINGSIDE, NSW 2800
DRG NO. 22113-C-4300

SHEET SIZE: A3
DSN: CL DWN: MJB
CHKD: ISC APPR: SD
ORIG. DATE: 18/10/2024
REV NO. 0

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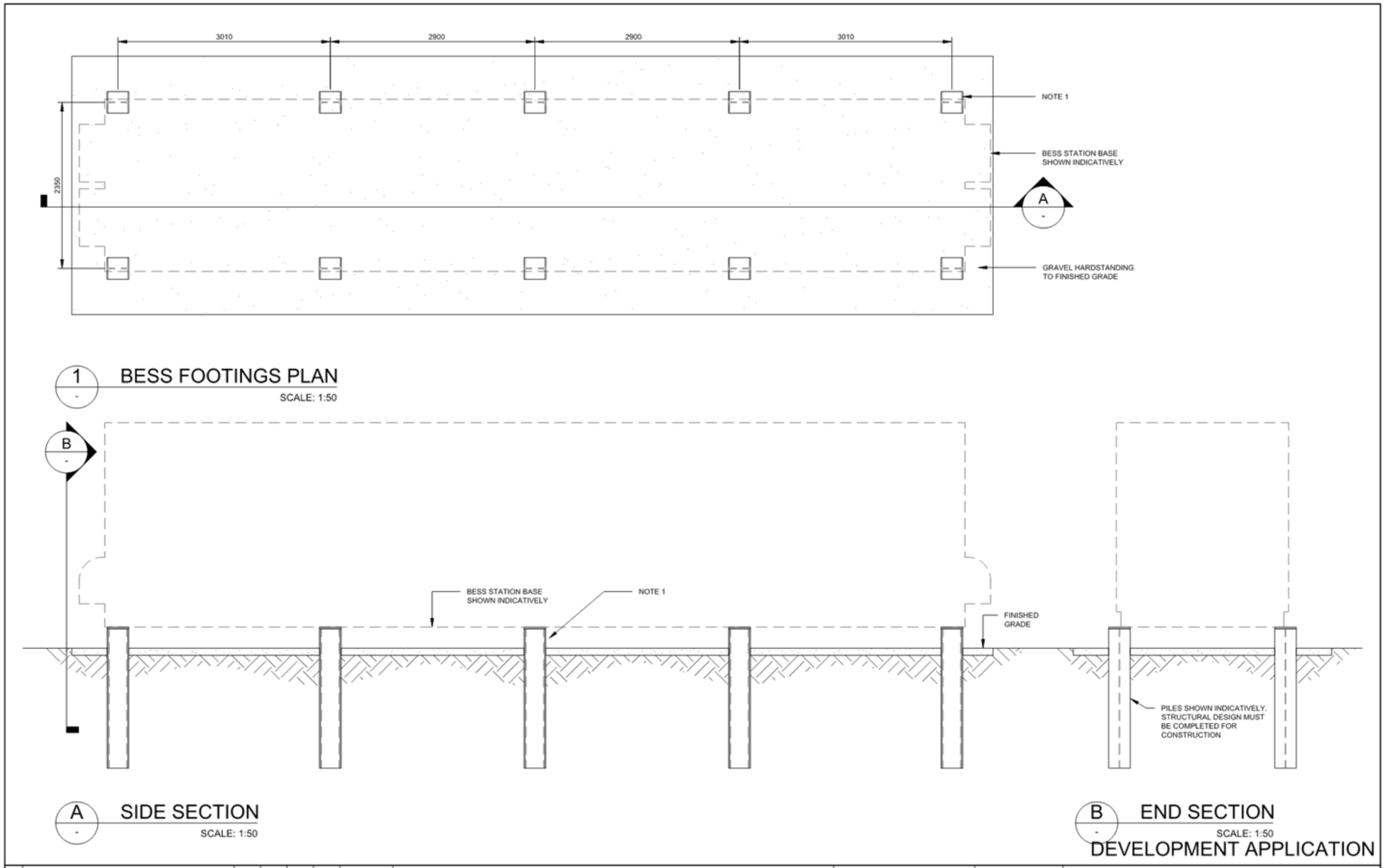

REV NO.	DESCRIPTION	DSN	DWN	CHKD	APPR	DATE
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NOTES
1. STRUCTURAL DESIGN SHOULD BE COMPLETED FOR DETAILED INFORMATION REGARDING THE FOOTINGS, ACCESS STAIRS & PLATFORMS, INCLUDING DIMENSIONS, REINFORCEMENT, AND LOAD-BEARING CAPACITY.

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DRG TITLE: BESS FOOTINGS DETAILS

PROJECT: ORANGE SOUTH 8B & 9B 2 X 5 MW SOLAR FARMS
CLIENT: EDPR AUSTRALIA
ADDRESS: 140 CADIA ROAD SPRINGSIDE, NSW 2800
DRG NO. 22113-C-4310

SHEET SIZE: A3
DSN: CL DWN: MJB
CHKD: ISC APPR: SD
ORIG. DATE: 18/10/2024
REV NO. 0

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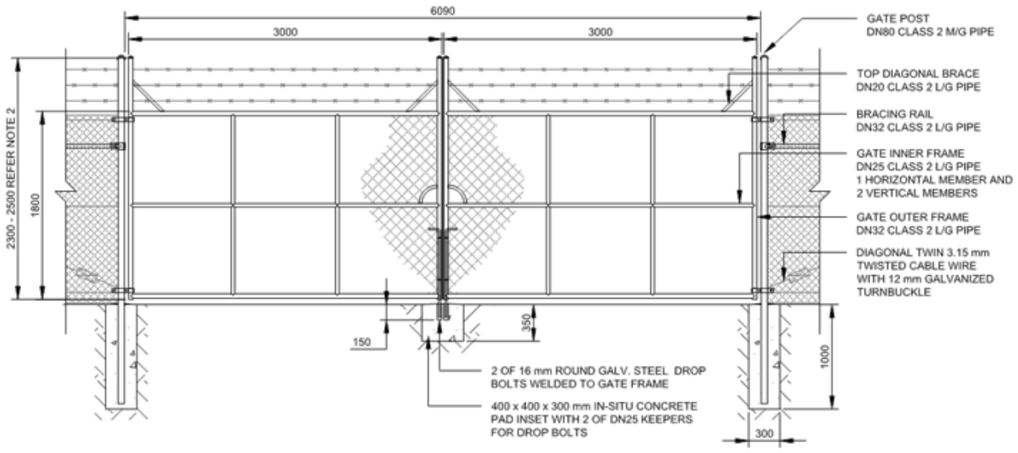
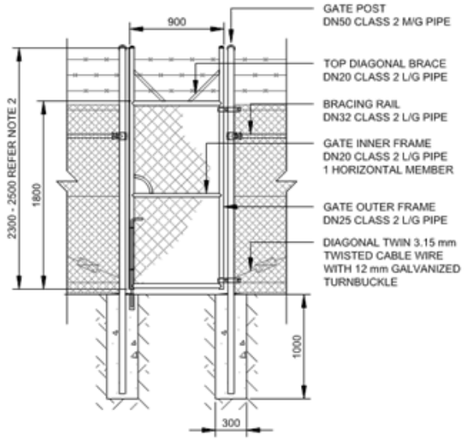


5 - DOUBLE LEAF 6 METRE GATE SECTION

SCALE: 1:50



7 - SINGLE LEAF GATE SECTION

SCALE: 1:50

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

REV NO.	DESCRIPTION	DSN	DWN	CHKD	APPR	DATE
1						
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NOTES

1. FENCE AND GATES TO BE DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED TO AS 1725 (PART 1) AND AS2067 (2016).
2. THREE ROWS OF BARBED WIRE FOR 2.3 m FENCE, FOUR ROWS OF BARBED WIRE FOR 2.5 m FENCE.
3. ALL CONCRETE FOOTINGS MOUNDED TO PREVENT WATER POOLING AROUND STEEL PILES.

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DRG TITLE: **GATE DETAILS**

PROJECT: ORANGE SOUTH 8B & 9B 2 X 5 MW SOLAR FARMS

CLIENT: EDPR AUSTRALIA

ADDRESS: 140 CADIA ROAD
SPRINGSIDE, NSW 2800

DRG NO. **22113-C-5310**

SHEET SIZE: A3 | DSN: CL | DWN: MJB | CHKD: ISC | APPR: SD | ORIG. DATE: 18/10/2024 | REV NO. 0

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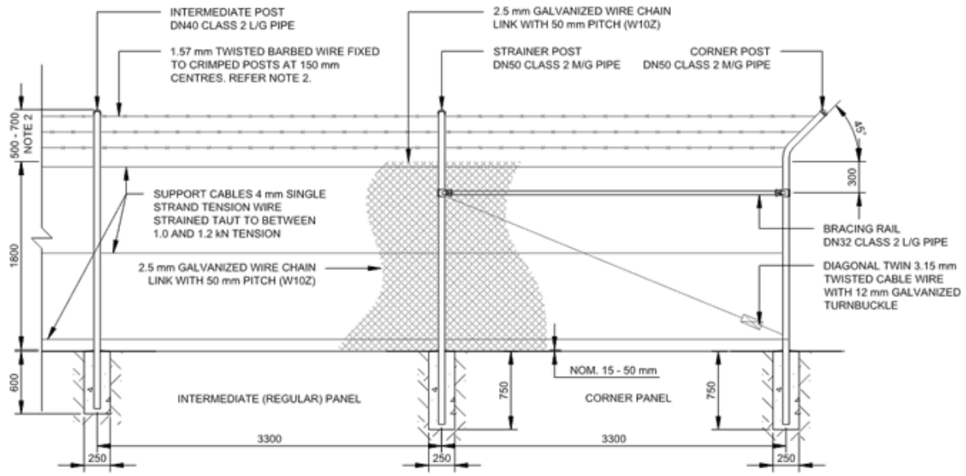
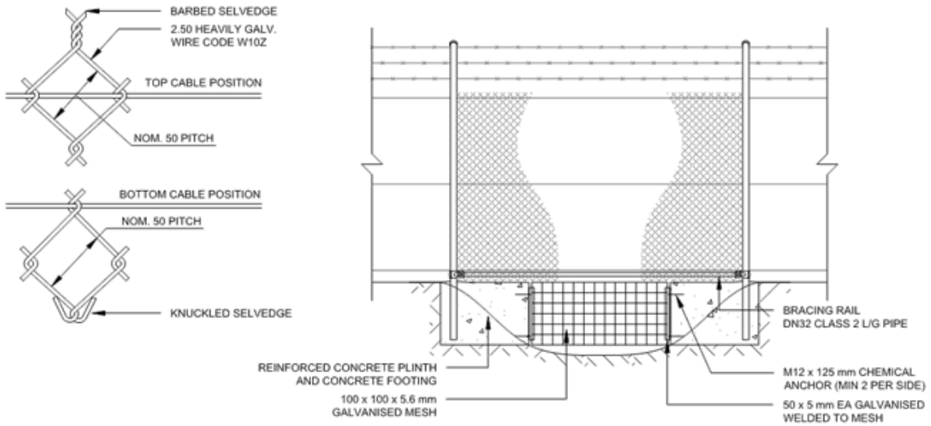
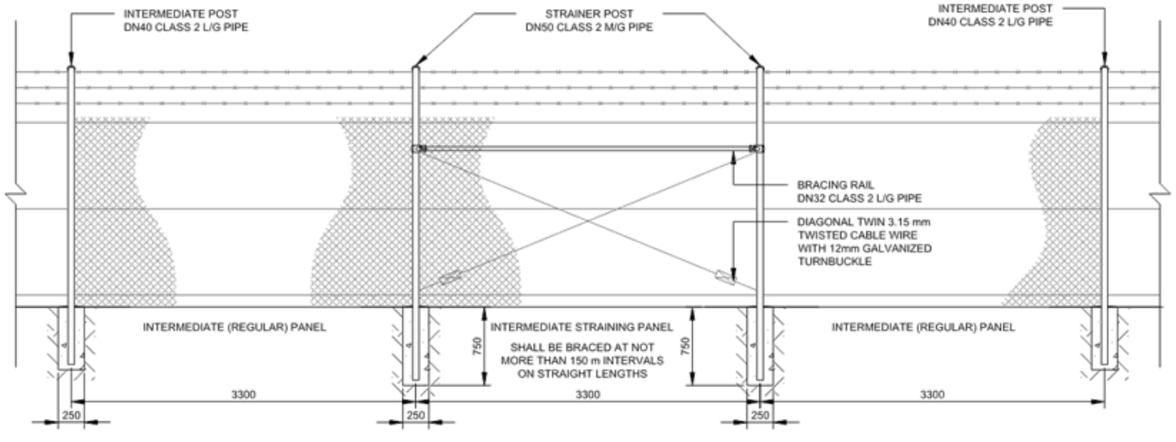


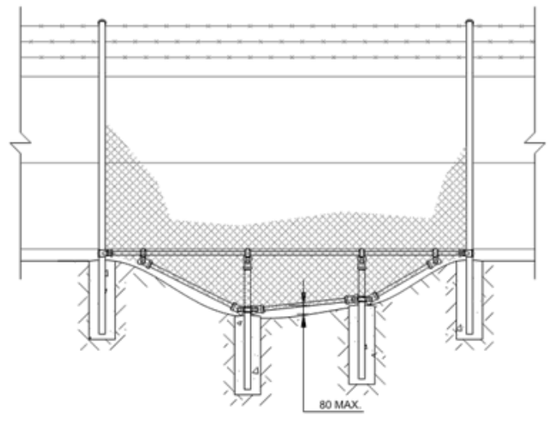
1 - TYPICAL FENCE SECTION
SCALE: 1:50



3 - TYPICAL STORMWATER CROSSING
SCALE: 1:50



2 - INTERMEDIATE STRAINING PANEL FENCE SECTION
SCALE: 1:50



4 - TYPICAL GULLY CROSSING
SCALE: 1:50

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

REV NO.	DESCRIPTION	DSN	DWN	CHKD	APPR	DATE
1						
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NOTES
1. FENCE AND GATES TO BE DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED TO AS 1725 (PART 1) AND AS2067 (2016).
2. THREE ROWS OF BARBED WIRE FOR 2.3 m FENCE, FOUR ROWS OF BARBED WIRE FOR 2.5 m FENCE.
3. ALL CONCRETE FOOTINGS MOUNDED TO PREVENT WATER POOLING AROUND STEEL PILES.

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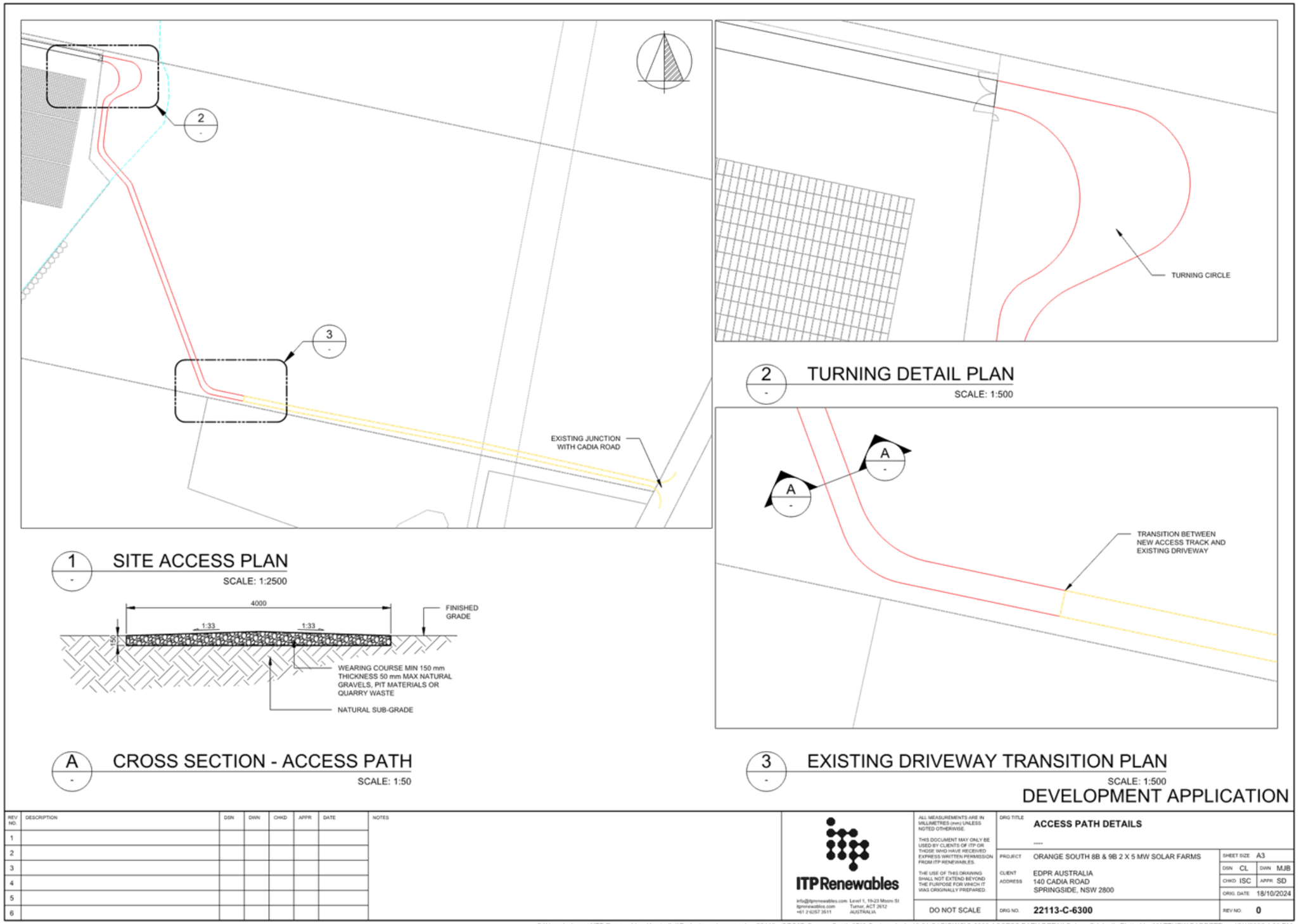
DRG TITLE: FENCING DETAILS

PROJECT: ORANGE SOUTH 8B & 9B 2 X 5 MW SOLAR FARMS
CLIENT: EDPR AUSTRALIA
ADDRESS: 140 CADIA ROAD SPRINGSIDE, NSW 2800

DRG NO. 22113-C-5300

SHEET SIZE: A3
DSN: CL DWN: MJB
CHKD: ISC APPR: SD
ORIG. DATE: 18/10/2024
REV NO. 0

C:\Users\mbarrett\ITP Renewables (Australia)\Projects and proposals - 22113 - ORS8B Orange South 8B\3 System design\3.01 CAD\DWG\C-5300 FENCING DETAILS.dwg, Originally Plotted by MATTHEW BARRETT on 17/4/2025 4:00 PM



2 - TURNING DETAIL PLAN
SCALE: 1:500

1 - SITE ACCESS PLAN
SCALE: 1:2500

A - CROSS SECTION - ACCESS PATH
SCALE: 1:50

3 - EXISTING DRIVEWAY TRANSITION PLAN
SCALE: 1:500

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

REV NO.	DESCRIPTION	DSN	DWN	CHKD	APPR	DATE	NOTES
1							
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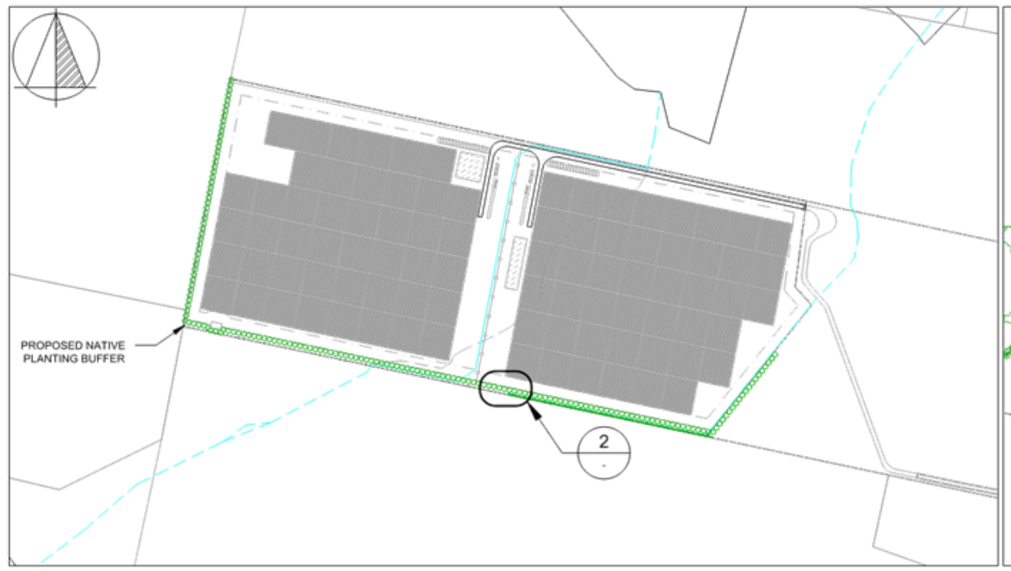
DRG TITLE: ACCESS PATH DETAILS

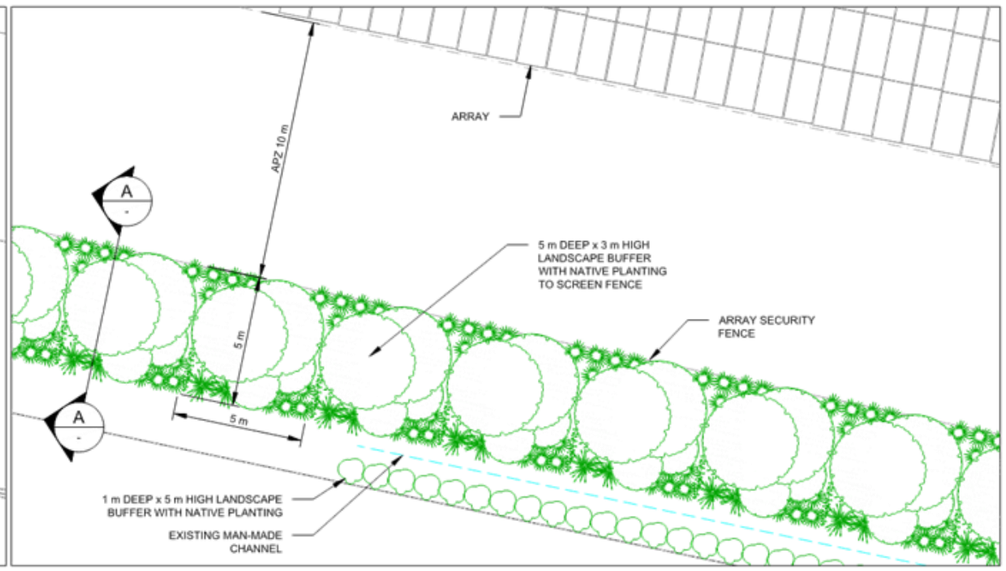
PROJECT: ORANGE SOUTH 8B & 9B 2 X 5 MW SOLAR FARMS
CLIENT: EDPR AUSTRALIA
ADDRESS: 140 CADIA ROAD SPRINGSIDE, NSW 2800
DRG NO. 22113-C-6300

SHEET SIZE A3
DSN CL DWN MJB
CHKD ISC APPR SD
ORIG. DATE 18/10/2024
REV NO. 0

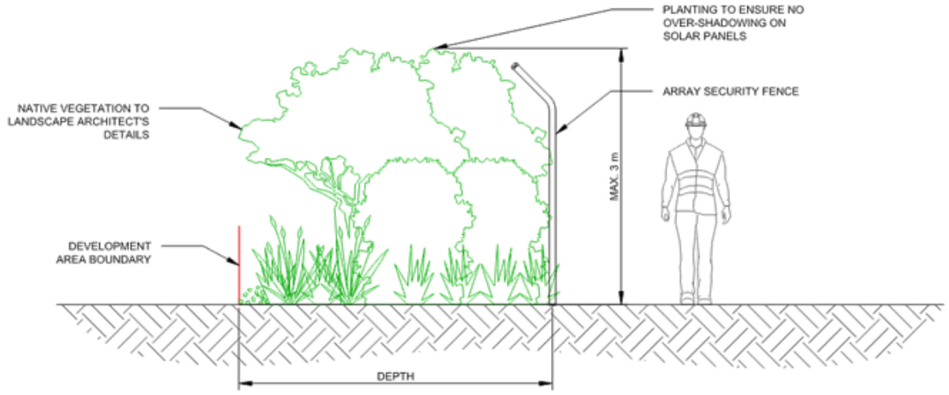
C:\Users\mbarrett\ITP Renewables (Australia)\Projects and proposals - 22113 - ORS8B Orange South 8B\3 System design\3.01 CAD\DWG\C-6300 ACCESS PATH DETAILS.dwg, Originally Plotted by MATTHEW BARRETT on 17/4/2025 4:00 PM



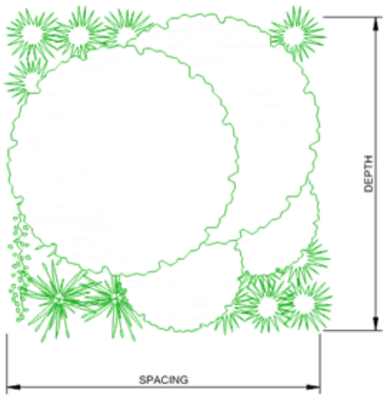
1 - KEY PLAN
SCALE: 1:5000



2 - LANDSCAPE DETAIL
SCALE: 1:200



A - SECTION A
SCALE: NTS



3 - INDICATIVE PLANTING STYLE
SCALE: NTS

PLANTING SCHEDULE

KEY PLAN SYMBOL	
VEGETATION TYPE	NATIVE VEGETATION TO LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT'S DETAILS
SPACING	1.0 m & 5.0 m
DEPTH	1.0 m & 5.0 m
MAX. HEIGHT	5.0 m

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

REV NO.	DESCRIPTION	DSN	DWN	CHKD	APPR	DATE	NOTES
1	VEGETATION SCREENING EXTENDED	ISC	MJB	ISC	SD	12/12/2024	
2	UPDATED TO INCLUDE 1M AND 5M DEPTH SCREENING	ISC	MJB	ISC	ISC	17/04/2025	
3							
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6							

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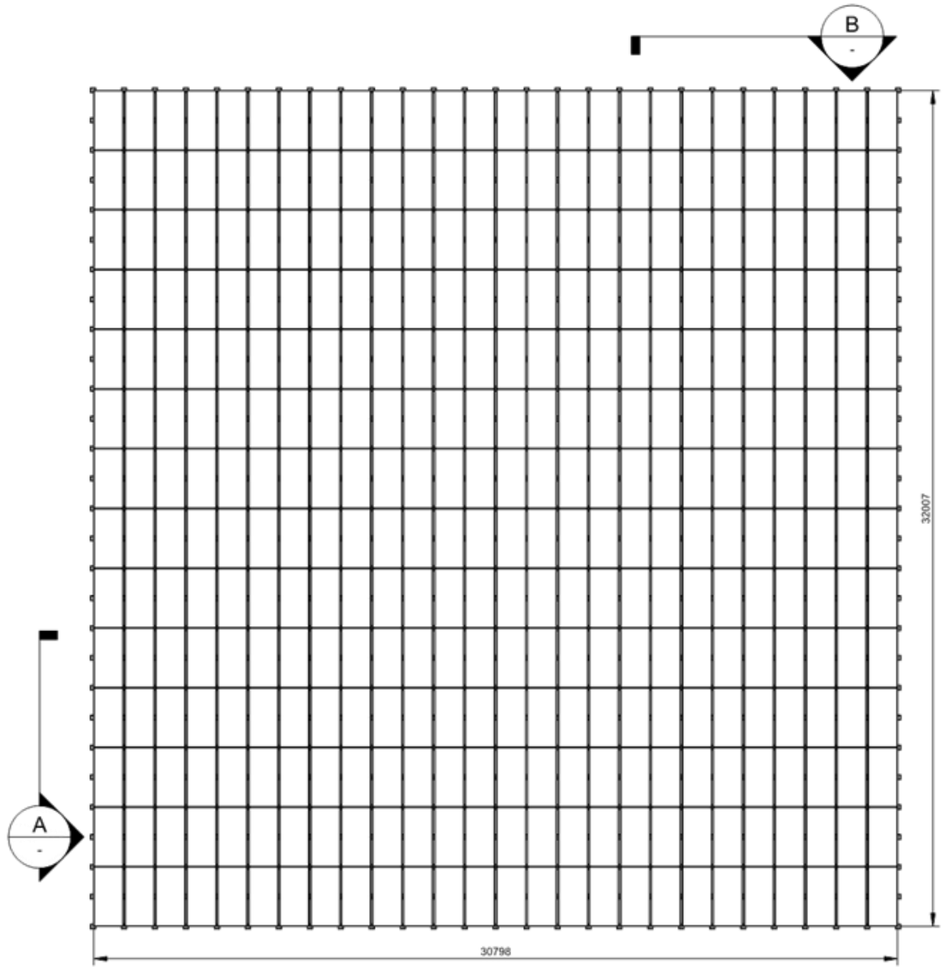
DRG TITLE: LANDSCAPE DETAILS

PROJECT: ORANGE SOUTH 8B & 9B 2 X 5 MW SOLAR FARMS
CLIENT: EDPR AUSTRALIA
ADDRESS: 140 CADIA ROAD SPRINGSIDE, NSW 2800

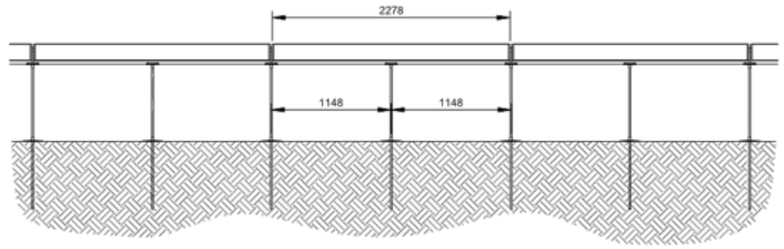
DRG NO. 22113-C-7300

SHEET SIZE: A3
DSN: CL DWN: MJB
CHKD: ISC APPR: SD
ORIG. DATE: 18/10/2024
REV NO. 2

C:\Users\mbarrett\ITP Renewables (Australia)\Projects and proposals - 22113 - ORS8B Orange South 8B\3 System design\3.01 CAD\DWG\C-7300 LANDSCAPE DETAILS.dwg, Originally Plotted by MATTHEW BARRETT on 17/4/2025 3:59 PM

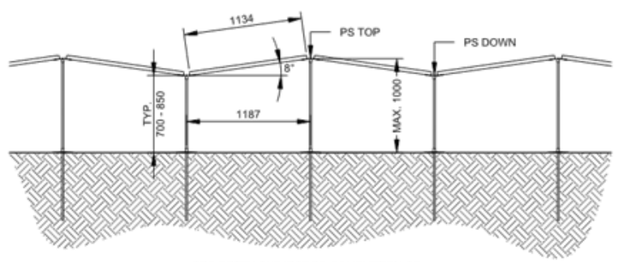


1 - ARRAY PLAN - 26 x 14 MODULES LANDSCAPE MOUNTED
SCALE: 1:200



PEG DEPTH SUBJECT TO COMPLETION OF
DESIGN BY STRUCTURAL ENGINEER
FOLLOWING GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION

A - TYPICAL ARRAY ELEVATION
SCALE: 1:50



PEG DEPTH SUBJECT TO COMPLETION OF
DESIGN BY STRUCTURAL ENGINEER
FOLLOWING GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION

B - TYPICAL ARRAY ELEVATION
SCALE: 1:50

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

REV NO.	DESCRIPTION	DSN	DWN	CHKD	APPR	DATE
1						
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NOTES
1. MOUNTING STRUCTURE AND MODULE DIMENSIONS ARE INDICATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE BY THE MANUFACTURER WITHOUT NOTICE.

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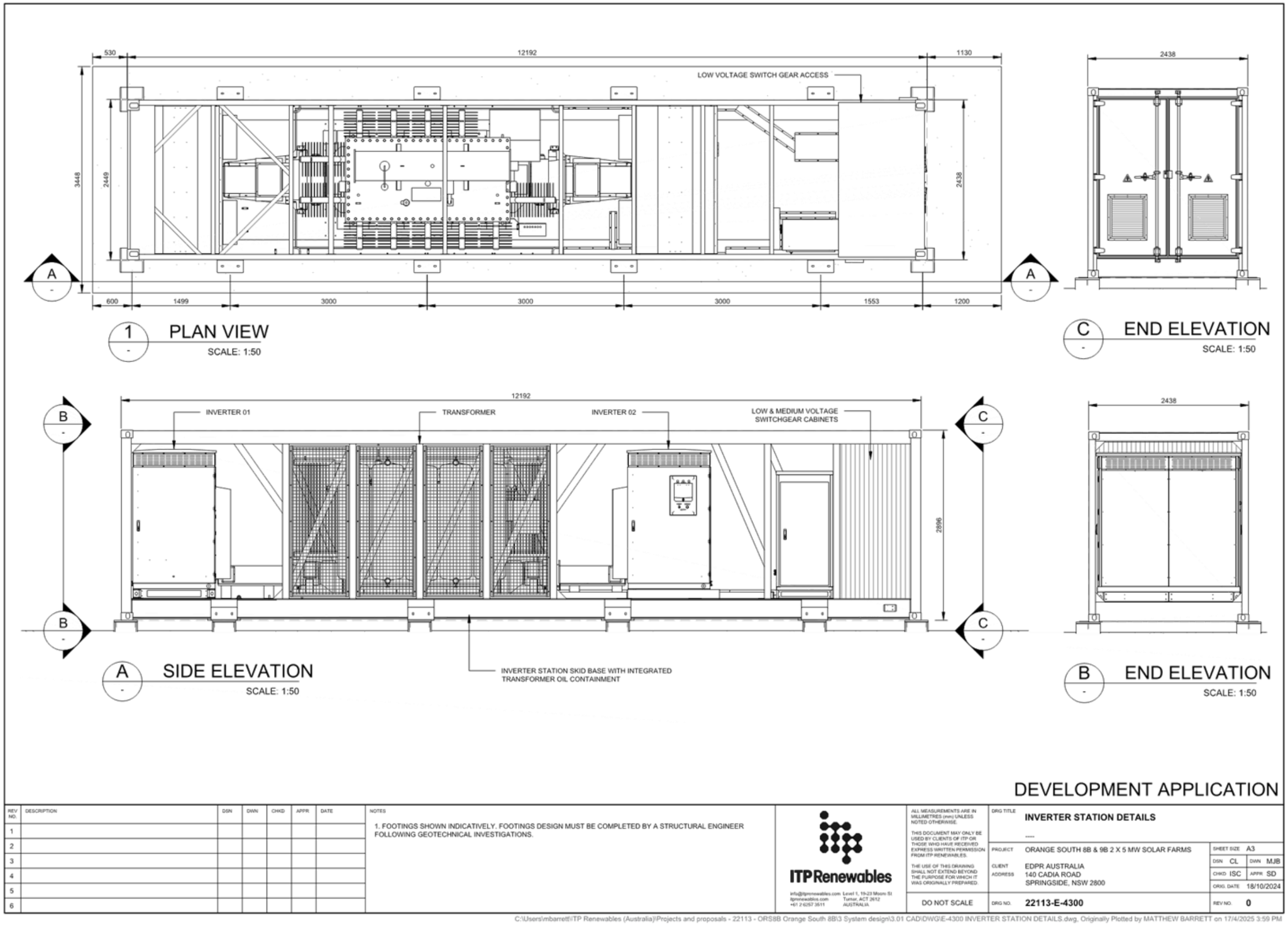
DRG TITLE: PEG ARRAY DETAILS

PROJECT: ORANGE SOUTH 8B & 9B 2 X 5 MW SOLAR FARMS
CLIENT: EDPR AUSTRALIA
ADDRESS: 140 CADIA ROAD SPRINGSIDE, NSW 2800
DRG NO. 22113-E-3400

SHEET SIZE: A3
DSN: CL DWN: MJB
CHKD: ISC APPR: SD
ORIG. DATE: 18/10/2024
REV NO. 0

C:\Users\mbarrett\ITP Renewables (Australia)\Projects and proposals - 22113 - ORS8B Orange South 8B\3 System design\3.01 CAD\DWG\E-3400 PEG ARRAY DETAILS.dwg, Originally Plotted by MATTHEW BARRETT on 17/4/2025 4:00 PM


530
12192
1130
LOW VOLTAGE SWITCH GEAR ACCESS
3448
2449
2438
A
600
1499
3000
3000
3000
1553
1200
1 PLAN VIEW
SCALE: 1:50
2438
C END ELEVATION
SCALE: 1:50
12192
INVERTER 01
TRANSFORMER
INVERTER 02
LOW & MEDIUM VOLTAGE SWITCHGEAR CABINETS
B
2896
A SIDE ELEVATION
SCALE: 1:50
INVERTER STATION SKID BASE WITH INTEGRATED TRANSFORMER OIL CONTAINMENT
2438
B END ELEVATION
SCALE: 1:50
DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION
REV NO. DESCRIPTION DSN DWN CHKD APPR DATE
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NOTES
1. FOOTINGS SHOWN INDICATIVELY. FOOTINGS DESIGN MUST BE COMPLETED BY A STRUCTURAL ENGINEER FOLLOWING GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS.
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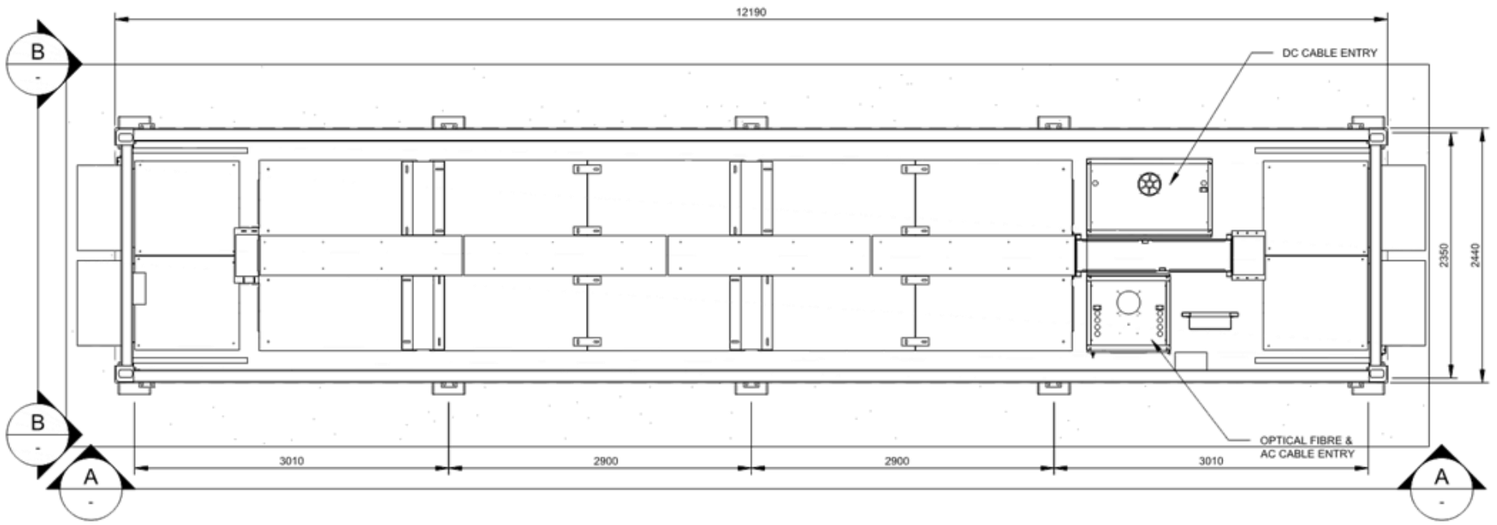
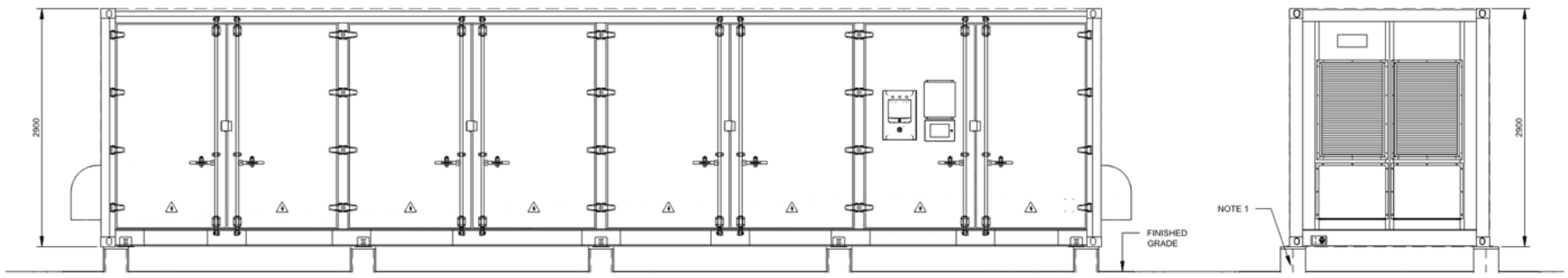
DRG TITLE INVERTER STATION DETAILS

PROJECT ORANGE SOUTH 8B & 9B 2 X 5 MW SOLAR FARMS
CLIENT EDPR AUSTRALIA
ADDRESS 140 CADIA ROAD SPRINGSIDE, NSW 2800
DRG NO. 22113-E-4300
SHEET SIZE A3
DSN CL DWN MJB
CHKD ISC APPR SD
ORIG. DATE 18/10/2024
REV NO. 0
C:\Users\mbarrett\ITP Renewables (Australia)\Projects and proposals - 22113 - ORSBB Orange South 8B\3 System design\3.01 CAD\DWG\E-4300 INVERTER STATION DETAILS.dwg, Originally Plotted by MATTHEW BARRETT on 17/4/2025 3:59 PM



1 BESS PLAN
SCALE: 1:50



A SIDE ELEVATION
SCALE: 1:50

B END ELEVATION
SCALE: 1:50

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

REV NO.	DESCRIPTION	DSN	DWN	CHKD	APPR	DATE
1						
2						
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4						
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NOTES
1. FOOTINGS SHOWN INDICATIVELY. FOOTINGS DESIGN MUST BE COMPLETED BY A STRUCTURAL ENGINEER FOLLOWING GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS.

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DO NOT SCALE

DRG TITLE: BESS STATION DETAILS

PROJECT: ORANGE SOUTH 8B & 9B 2 X 5 MW SOLAR FARMS
CLIENT: EDPR AUSTRALIA
ADDRESS: 140 CADIA ROAD SPRINGSIDE, NSW 2800
DRG NO. 22113-E-5300
SHEET SIZE A3
DSN CL DWN MJB
CHKD ISC APPR SD
ORIG. DATE 18/10/2024
REV NO. 0

C:\Users\mbarrett\ITP Renewables (Australia)\Projects and proposals - 22113 - ORS8B Orange South 8B\3 System design\3.01 CAD\DWG\E-5300 BESS STATION DETAILS.dwg, Originally Plotted by MATTHEW BARRETT on 17/4/2025 4:00 PM

Submission 1

From:
Sent: Wednesday, 12 February 2025 1:42 PM
To: Orange City Council
Subject: Development Application DA 771/2024(1) - PAN-499518

DA771/2024(1)
PAN -499518

12th February 2025

Chief Executive Officer
Orange City Council
135 Byng Street
Orange NSW 2800

Dear Mr Waddel

Development Application DA771/2024(1)

Electrical Generation Works (Solar Farm) and Battery Energy Storage System
140 Cadia Road, Springside

I object to the proposed development as there are better locations for this development in areas that are less densely populated and closer to roads with less thoroughfare.

As this development is very close to several residential properties with primary access on the busy Cadia Road I feel that it is not in the town's best interest for this development not to proceed.

kindest regards,

Submission 2

From:
Sent: Thursday, 13 February 2025 2:18 PM
To:
Cc: Orange City Council
Subject: F22 27407-40 DA assessment process - Orange City Council- Solar Installation - CASA REPLY [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good afternoon

CASA assesses solar farm / panel impact to aircraft operations by applying industry best practice which is currently the United States Federal Aviation Agency guidance.

This guidance advises that glare is not a safety hazard to aircraft operations but can have a significant negative impact on air traffic control towers.

There is no obligation for this development to be referred to CASA as there is no tower, however CASA can advise that this particular project will not present a hazard to aircraft operations, and therefore we have no objection to the proposal proceeding as planned.

Regards

Airspace Protection Team
Air Navigation, Airspace & Aerodromes Branch
CASA Air Navigation, Transformation and Risk Division

p: 131 757

Australian Government
Civil Aviation Safety Authority

Submission 3

DA771/2024(1)

PAN-499518

14 February 2025

Chief Executive Officer

Orange City Council

135 Byng Street

Orange NSW 2800

Dear Mr Waddel

Development Application DA771/2024(1). Electrical Generation Works (Solar Farm) and battery Energy Storage System 140 Cadia Road, Springside.

I object to the proposed development for the following reasons.

- Visible from incoming air traffic/flight path bad look for tourists
- Prime Agricultural land being used for non-Agricultural purpose
- Impacts on local residents with glare and unsightliness.
- Lack of community consultation
- Better locations elsewhere
- Detrimental to land values
- Allowing a development of this type would reflect badly on our community and decision makers

Yours Sincerely

Submission 4

16h February 2025

Chief Executive Officer
Orange City Council
PO Box 35
ORANGE NSW 2800
council@orange.nsw.gov.au

RE: Submission DA 771/2024 (1)
Electrical Generation Works (Solar Farm) and Battery Energy Storage System
140 Cadia Road, Springside

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to show my objection with regards the above proposed Electrical Generation Works (Solar Farm) and Battery Energy Storage System development application. I do not reside within the vicinity of the proposed development; however, I do have the following concerns if the development was to proceed

I have objection to the Electrical Generation Works (Solar Farm) and Battery Energy Storage System as I feel the development will:

- Devalue the existing properties in the Springside area.
- Have a noticeably visual impact on many of the surrounding residences, Gosling Creek and Forest Road areas. The proposed 3.0m vegetation screen will have little impact on the undulating landscape, and in fact, is inadequate.
- Produce glint and glare from the panels that may be a hazard to traffic on the very busy Cadia Road and Forest Roads.
- Change the visual amenity of Orange. The proposed site is very close to Orange, which is outside of the Renewable Energy Zone. There would be better suited locations for the development that are less densely populated and provide larger buffer zones.
- Have a hydrological change in Orange city's water supply catchment.

Once again, I object the proposed Electrical Generation Works (Solar Farm) and Battery Energy Storage System development application

Kind Regards,

DA771/2024(1)
PAN -499518

Submission 5

16th February 2025

Chief Executive Officer
Orange City Council
135 Byng Street
Orange NSW 2800

Dear Mr. Waddel,

Re: Objection to Development Application DA771/2024(1).
Electrical Generation Works (Solar Farm) & Battery Energy Storage System – 140 Cadia Road, Springside

I strongly object to the proposed solar farm for the following reasons:

1. Environmental Impact & Inappropriate Land Use.
The disruption of soil and vegetation risks erosion and water contamination, impacting Gosling Creek and the town's water supply. Additionally, the site is prime agricultural land, and converting it into an industrial energy facility sets a dangerous precedent for further encroachment into rural areas. More suitable, less populated locations should be considered.

2. Visual Intrusion & Property Value Decline.
The large-scale infrastructure will disrupt the area's rural character and diminish its scenic appeal for residents and visitors. This visual pollution, combined with the industrial nature of the project, is likely to lower nearby property values. As potential buyers of a nearby property, we are reconsidering our purchase due to this development, and others will likely be deterred as well. Furthermore, our understanding is that Orange and its surrounds are outside the Renewable Energy Zone.

3. Noise, Light Pollution & Traffic Safety Risks.
The battery storage system and solar farm operation and maintenance could generate noise, that would detract from the quiet country lifestyle currently enjoyed by near neighbours. Security lighting if fitted and reflective glare from the panels pose additional risks, especially on an already high-traffic road used by both residents and Cadia Mine workers. Any additional visual obstructions could increase the risk of traffic accidents involving vehicles and wildlife.

4. Increased Traffic & Infrastructure Strain.
The construction and maintenance of this facility will increase traffic on Cadia Road, which is already congested due to residential, mine-related and tourist traffic. Given the area's existing accident-prone nature, adding further hazards is unacceptable.

5. Lack of Community Consultation.
This project has been pushed forward with no engagement with local residents. A development of this scale demands transparency and proper consultation to address community concerns.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the Orange City Council to find this project unprovable and the Western Regional Planning Panel to reject this application.

Yours sincerely,

Submission 6

From:
Sent: Monday, 17 February 2025 3:29 PM
To: Orange City Council
Subject: Solar farm on Caida Rd

DA771/2024(1)
PAN -499518
13th February 2025
Chief Executive Officer
Orange City Council
135 Byng Street
Orange NSW 2800
Dear Sir
Development Application DA771/2024(1)
140 Cadia Road, Springside
I **object** to the proposed development for the following reasons

1. The reflection while driving to and from work in early mornings and late afternoons.

Thousands of vehicles travel this road every day at all hours.

Cadia Road is one of the busiest most dangerous roads in the area and this will add one more hazard to the drive.

2. The eye saw so close to two town. Orange is known for it beautiful city and this diminishes the of the surrounding area that thousands of people travel past and enjoy every day. This effects both Locals and visitors.
3. This proposed development is located in the Orange drinking water catchment, we only need to think back to the last dry spell we had in Orange and the water restrictions we had to endure during that period to know that we cannot allow any development that may have an adverse impact on our Cities drinking water supply to occur.

THIS PROCECT SHOULD NOT BE APPROVED

Submission 7

DA771/2024(1)
PAN -499518

17th February 2025

Chief Executive Officer
Orange City Council
135 Byng Street
Orange NSW 2800

Dear Mr Waddel

Development Application DA771/2024(1)
Electrical Generation Works (Solar Farm) and Battery Energy Storage System
140 Cadia Road, Springside

I am writing to lodge my OBJECTION to the proposal on the following grounds.

1. The proposed development joins my northern boundary fence.
2. Lack of Consultation. There has been no consultation what so ever in relation to this proposal.
3. Potential impact on property value.
4. Road Safety.

Background

My family and I moved to Orange over 20 years ago. We lived in the City of Orange for a short time before deciding to purchase our house on a 1.494ha block of land at . The purchase of this house and small block of land allowed us to enjoy a country lifestyle while still residing close to Orange and the services it has to offer.
We were later able to purchase which is a block of 19.12ha that wraps around Cadia Road. Then my daughter and son in law had the opportunity to purchase e which they did. Every mother's dream to have my daughter, husband and grand children living next door to us and also enjoy the country lifestyle.
We were then given the opportunity to purchase which is a block of 20.5ha and that wraps around my . Both and Cadia Road have a building entitlement which we hope will one day be used by one of our family members. This enabled us to have a beautiful, picturesque block close to Orange that our extending family can enjoy.

Objection 1

As stated earlier, the infrastructure of the proposed development is located directly adjacent to the Northern Boundary of . The proposed development would be very visible from the whole of this block but in particular the building envelope.

We also own and this block also has a building entitlement. Due to the higher elevation of this block the proposed development is also visible from a large portion of it. The building envelope sits in the Southwestern corner and overlooks the proposed development.

Even with the Visual Mitigation suggested for the project, ie plantings of "shrubs or trees that grow to a maximum of 3 meters" the visual impact from a lot of our property is unacceptable.

Below is a photo of and 1 with the approximate location of the building envelopes marked on it.

Photo Showing approximate location of building envelopes on our property

Photo showing view from the building envelope on lot 942, RL 950

Photo looking North from the building envelope on lot , RL990

Objection 2

Consultation: There has been absolutely no consultation with us in relation to this project even though we are the immediate neighbors to the South of the project. It is not as if the applicant is unaware of the benefits of early, effective consultation with the local community and neighboring properties. Statement of environmental effects they make reference to the Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline August 2022, this guide line has a whole section on community consultation and the benefits of early community involvement.

Objection 3

I am concerned that if for whatever reason we were to decide to sell either or that being so close to the proposed project would limit the number of potential buyers and potentially decrease the value of our property.

Objection 4

I am a regular user of Cadia Road and despite what is indicated in the Statement Of Environmental Effects, Cadia Road is a very busy road. It hosts a lot of Cadia Valley Operations traffic as well as State Forest logging trucks, local resident traffic, tourism and special interest group traffic as well as a large number of push bike riders. The Glint and Glare study indicates there are intersections and parts of both Cadia Road and Forest Road that will be effected by Yellow Glare, this creates an unacceptable safety risk for road users.

Conclusion

I am very disappointed that we were not consulted in relation to this project. It is clear that a site visit took place in 2022 and there has been ample time since then and before the lodging of the development application for consultation to have taken place. We have not been approached at any stage by the proponent to seek our input into the design and development of this project. In this day and age that is not just disappointing, it is totally unacceptable.

For the reasons listed in my submission this project **should not be approved.**

Submission 8

DA771/2024(1)
PAN -499518

16th February 2025

Chief Executive Officer
Orange City Council
135 Byng Street
Orange NSW 2800

Dear Mr Waddel

Development Application DA771/2024(1)
Electrical Generation Works (Solar Farm) and Battery Energy Storage System
140 Cadia Road, Springside

Executive Summary

I write to formalize my **OBJECTION** to the proposal on the following grounds.

1. The proposed development is within 15 meters (or less) of my boundary fence; it is approximately 200m from infrastructure on my land and it is approximately 350m from my house (receiver OP3).
2. Lack of Consultation. There has been no consultation at all in relation to this proposal.
3. Orange is known for its Vistas and its appealing landscapes. The location of the proposed Solar Farm is not appropriate. It is very close to the city of Orange and it is close to Gosling Creek Reserve, Cadia Road and Forest Road all of which are used by many visitors to our city. It is also located close to, if not under the flight path to Orange Airport.
4. Orange is outside of the NSW Renewables Energy Zone. The Bureau of Meteorology suggests that Orange is located within the bottom 25% of solar radiation in Australia.
5. The Project area is not suitable all year round for the grazing of sheep as suggested in the Statement of Environmental Effects.

Background

My family and I moved to Orange over 20 years ago. We lived in the City of Orange for a short time before deciding to purchase our property on the outskirts of Orange at . This purchase allowed us to enjoy the beautiful country lifestyle Orange has to offer while remaining near the City of Orange and the exceptional services it has to offer.
Orange is a growing city, so our decision to purchase in an area Zoned C3 (Environmental Management under Orange LEP 2011) was intentional. It meant we were not going to be subjected to any more land subdivisions.
We have also been fortunate enough to be able to purchase both and .
Both of these blocks of land have building entitlements, and these additional purchases have given us not only an exceptional location to live within proximity to Orange, but they have also given us enough land to conduct a small-scale farming operation. To add to the enjoyment of living where we do, my son-in-law, my daughter and their three children have purchased at which is located within and alongside

Our small farming operation, which comprises approximately 40 hectares is currently hosting 56 head of cattle and 60 head of sheep which demonstrates the quality of the land in this area. As with all farming operations livestock numbers do fluctuate in line with climate conditions.

Objection 1
Visual Impact
As stated earlier, the infrastructure of the proposed development is located directly adjacent to the Boundary of our property, and it sits within very close proximity to infrastructure on land owned by us at , approximately 200m, and it is close to our primary place of residence, approximately 350m, referenced as receiver in the visual impact assessment, our property received an impact rating of high.
Even with the Visual Mitigation suggested for the project, which is totally inadequate, ie plantings of "shrubs or trees that grow to a maximum of 3 meters" the visual impact from a lot of our property is unacceptable. The facility would impact on the enjoyment we get from the use of our land.
The majority of our land is higher than the proposed development so it would be very visible from the majority of our land.

See the photos taken below from the locations indicated in the first photo on our land

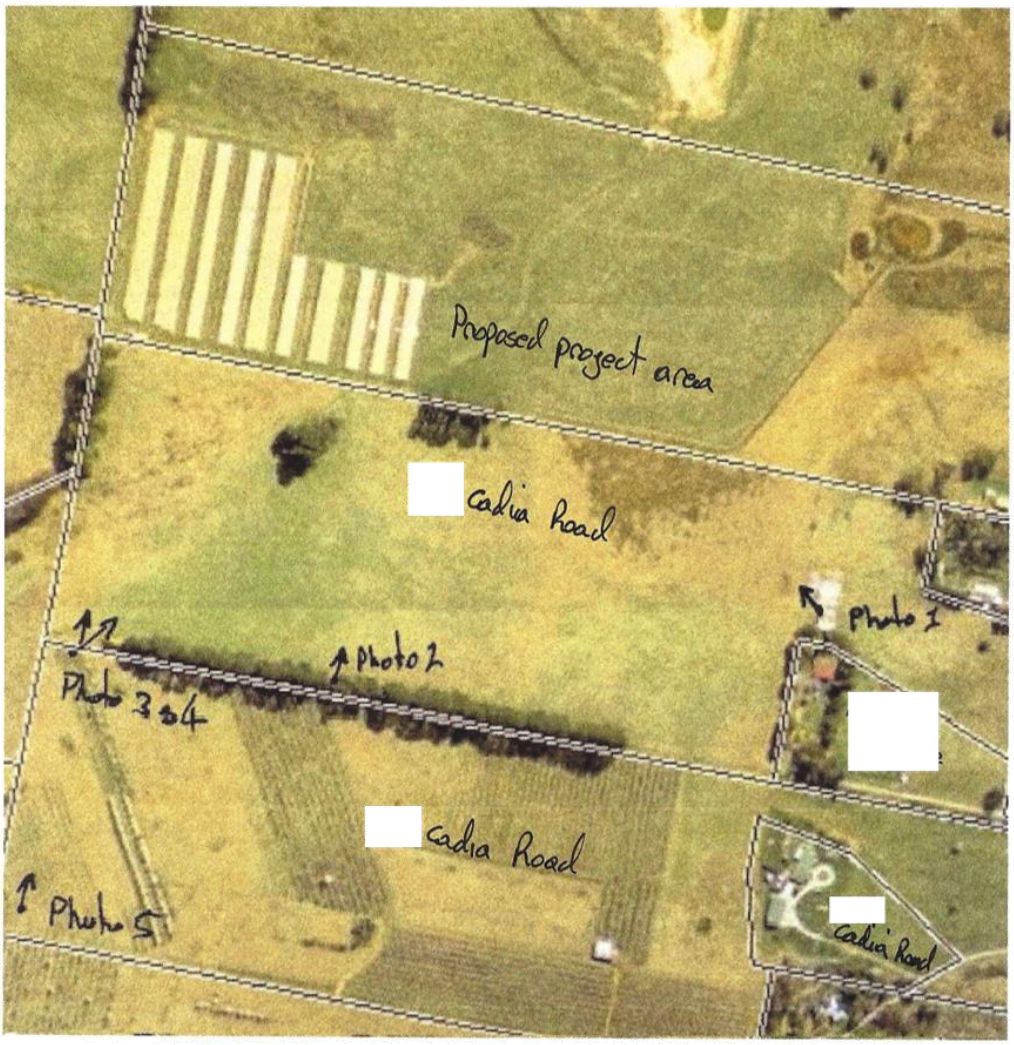
Proposed project area
[redacted] Cadia Road
Photo 1
Photo 2
Photo 3 & 4
[redacted] Cadia Road
Photo 5
[redacted] Cadia Road

Photo 1 looking North West,RL950, 175 meters to the proposed project

Photo 2 looking North, RL950. 200 meters to the proposed project

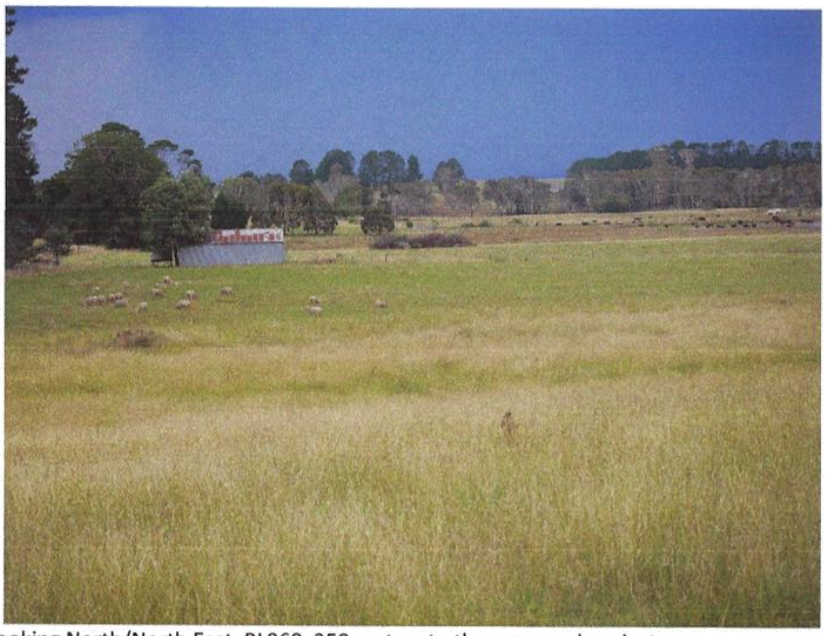

Photo 3 looking North/North East, RL960, 250 meters to the proposed project

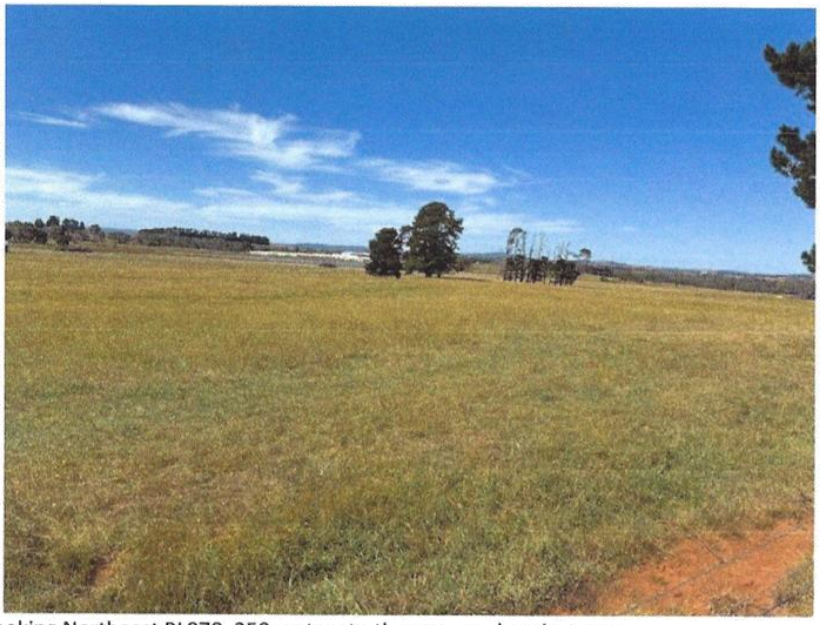

Photo 4 looking Northeast RL970, 250 meters to the proposed project area

Photo 5 looking North, RL990, 460 meters to the proposed project (building envelope 170 Cadia road)

Objection 2
Consultation
Consultation has been nonexistent in relation to this project, which is totally unacceptable given the close proximity of the proposed project to land owned by us and our place of residence.

The Statement of Environmental Effects Orange 8B & 9B Solar Farm + BESS at section 4.6 **Guidelines** at 4.6.1 Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline states, and I quote "The objectives, principles and assessment issues outlined in the guideline have been considered during preparation of this Statement of Environmental Effects and are referenced in the matters assessed in Chapter 5".

I now quote from the Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline August 2022 referenced above

. 1.1 Objectives
The objectives of this guideline are to:
. support the development of sustainable solar energy industry in NSW
. encourage the industry to select suitable sites and locations to avoid or reduce the likelihood of land use conflicts, environmental impacts and impacts on the community.
. provide clear and consistent guidance on how to measure and assess the key Environmental and social impacts of large-scale solar energy projects.
. Provide clear and consistent expectations to improve the quality of development applications and reduce delays in assessments.
. **Promote meaningful, respectful, effective and best practice community and stakeholder Engagement throughout the development assessment process.**

Although the proponent is aware of and in fact refers to the Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline, they have completely ignored it and failed on the community and stakeholder engagement front.

Further If you visit the EDP Renewable Australia website on the very first page of that website you will find what I have screen shot below.

EDP Renewables in Australia

In November 2023, EDP Renewables (EDPR) acquired ITP Development in Australia and the company became part of EDP Renewables APAC, a leading clean energy hub for the region.

The Australia team develops town-scale solar farms in Australia, undertakes solar farm landholder engagement, system design, planning approvals, financing, electrical connection approvals and commissioning.

EDP Renewables Australia maintains relationships with multiple stakeholders – communities, governments and contractors to ensure successful projects delivery.

EDPR has failed on relationships with communities as there has been absolutely no engagement or consultation with the project's immediate neighbors or the wider community.

Objection 3
Vistas
The Orange area is known for its vistas and appealing landscapes. These aspects are not just seen from the ground, they are also seen from the air. The air traffic into and out of Orange continues to grow, I have personally taken many flights in and out of Orange and I have witnessed first-hand the pleasure and excitement of travelers taking in the views from above, both on arrival into and departure out of Orange Airport.
The proposed development sits almost directly under the flight path of Orange Airport.

See fly.safe.dji.com map below:

The proposed development also has potential to visually impact on the recreational use of public land in the area, including walking and bike trails connecting Shiralee Road with Gosling Creek Reserve via BalleyKeane Lane. Cadia Road forms part of Orange's promoted "Out of Town Trails" in Ride Orange Guide for regional cycling-known as the Panuara Loop. The Guide with respect to the Panuara Loop advises as follows:

> Please be advised that the Panuara Loop experiences high traffic volumes, particularly along Cadia and Forest Roads between 5am-8am and 3pm-8pm daily.

(https://www.orange.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/orange-Ride-Guide.pdf)

These high volumes of traffic are partly caused by the major employer that sits towards the end of Cadia road. However, they are added to by the many tourists taking in the wonderful rural and agricultural views not only on push bikes but also on motor bikes and motor cars, we regularly witness groups of vintage cars and motorcycles enjoying this area.

Objection 4
Renewables Zone.
Orange sits outside of the renewables zone and for good reason. The Bureau of Meteorology suggests that Orange is located within the bottom 25% of Solar Radiation in Australia, therefore, highlighting that it is not the best place for solar infrastructure to be developed.
Power can be generated and transmitted through the huge power line network that exists in NSW, from one location to another. Doesn't it therefore make sense to locate solar farms in the locations where they will be most efficient and productive.

Objection 5
Agrivoltaics
Throughout the Statement of Environmental Facts, we are led to believe that livestock ie sheep can continue to graze and co-exist with the solar panels. While I have no doubt that this may be the case in some locations, the name Springside was given to this area for good reason. The area is low lying and very wet. Sheep do not like wet, swampy ground and I can state that from first-hand experience that wet ground leads to problems with foot abscess, particularly in sheep.
I accept that sheep will be able to graze the project area during the drier months, but it would be delusional to expect to run sheep in the project area all year round.

Objection 6
Hydrological change
The facility would significantly change the hydrological conditions of the land and downstream to Gosling Creek Reserve with over 50% of the land area changing from pasture to hard surfaces with a commensurate increase in run-off rates which in turn can cause erosion of streams and sedimentation. As a consequence, there are potential effects on water quality at nearby Gosling Creek Dam, which falls within the city of Orange's drinking water catchment. The application proposes that mitigation of drainage impacts be considered at construction stage. The approving authority must be certain what mitigation measures will be required upfront as part of the Development Application and how effective these can be within the site.

Objection 7
Vegetation screening
Vegetation screening of part of the site, which is frankly in-adequate, will take time to establish and in the interim period adjoining residents will be exposed to the introduction of industrial scale structures that have a major impact on the visual aspects of the landscape, for a number of years. The screens will require intensive management including weed control and irrigation to facilitate effective establishment. It is hard for me to imagine how this is going to be facilitated given the wet and swampy nature of most of the land in the project area.

In the event that despite objections to the development that the application was to be approved then the development must, at the very least, be conditional upon the effective establishment of screening prior to commencement of establishment of structures associated with the development.

Objection 8

Site selection
I do not recall seeing an advertisement asking landowners for expressions of interest to host this project.
There must be a more suitable location on a larger block of land that is more obscured from view and offers an acceptable buffer zone while still benefiting from proximity to the power network for connectivity.
The development should be reconsidered within an area comprising large scale rural lands obscured from public areas, not near small rural lifestyle lots and significant public recreational areas and roads.

Conclusion

I am not anti-renewable energy, and I am certainly not anti-development. I am, however opposed to development that could be in a much better and more productive location, and I am anti applicants that fail to engage with the close neighbours and the general community about their proposed development. I note that a similar sized solar project The Burrundulla project near Mudgee was knocked back by both the planning panel and the land and environment court because it was too close to homes and the mitigation factors failed to hide the solar panels. Furthermore, the senior commissioner in the case latched on to the fact that the community consultation undertaken by the developer who had relied on planning controls and experts understanding of what the community appreciated in the landscape as a proxy for talking to people in the community about their concerns. It is clear that this is the same for this proposed development here at 140 Cadia Road Springside rather than engage directly with the local community and the neighbours who are the ones most affected by the project, the applicant and their consultants have relied upon a generic assessment.

For the reasons outlined in my submission this project **should not be approved.**

Attachment 5 Submissions x 42 (redacted)

Submission 9 (email cover page)

From:
Sent: Wednesday, 19 February 2025 3:40 PM
To: Orange City Council
Cc:
Subject: Submission- solar site DA 771/2024(1)
Attachments: Submission template solar site DA.docx

Dear Mr Waddel –
Please find attached a submission re DA 771/2024(1)
140 Cadia rd. Springside nsw 2800

Whilst now resides in Orange having recently retired from farm at springside –our family has long association with the district and its environs,
This leads us to create a submission that identifies some positives but in the main this development, if approved, flies in the face of historical development from orchards (small) to hobby blocks and closer settlement
As such we have outlined these points in the attached submission for consideration by the consent authority
Kind regards

Submission 9

DA771/2024(1)
PAN -499518

19th February 2025

Chief Executive Officer
Orange City Council
135 Byng Street
Orange NSW 2800

Dear Mr Waddel

Development Application DA771/2024(1)
Electrical Generation Works (Solar Farm) and Battery Energy Storage System
140 Cadia Road, Springside nsw 2800

Exec summary:
This submission outlines positives and negatives and concludes -this development is not in the best interests of the social fabric of the community in which it is proposed -so we do not support this development.

Pros-
land ownership title should allow individuals reasonable opportunities to value add or develop said land utilizing appropriate protocols so to do -thus allowing public comment in formal submissions

Cons-Objections->
The said land has for generations been classed as prime agr land –fit for agr/horticultural practices – solar panels do NOT fit this description and removes said land from its designated classification'

Prior to public notification of said DA -No public or local consultation

Visual amenity to surrounding land holders will be compromised-including historical visual amenity

Potential impact on adjoining land holders land value -adjacent to an industrial operation.

The loss of life style units of land that this industrial development will impact upon—small lifestyle units of land being in high demand as Orange and district grows

This DA development is close to and within the water catchment of Orange city which questions the impact on the hydrological changes the said Development may create—toxicity of water into surrounding land and catchment.

Orange being outside the state REZ area suggests an opportunist application close to a major transmission line—to (CVO) -smacks in the face of community for a commercial opportunity.

Submission 10

20th February 2025

Chief Executive Officer
Orange City Council
135 Byng Street
Orange NSW 2800

Dear Mr Waddel,

Development Application DA771/2024(1)
Electrical Generation Works (Solar Farm) and Battery Energy Storage System
140 Cadia Road, Springside

We wish to submit an objection to the above proposed development for the following reasons:-

1. The close proximity to the city of Orange – I believe this will affect and restrict future development and the growth of our city - surely there are less populated areas that would be more suited to a solar farm.
2. The lack of community consultation from EDPR Australia Pty Ltd – the community as a whole has not been made aware of the development and the long-term implications of a solar farm on the outskirts of residential areas. We live within 2 kms of this proposed Solar farm and have had no consultation with regards to the effect it will have on health or impact on the value of property in the area.
3. Orange is not in a Renewable Energy Zone. These zones have been mapped out for a reason as they are considered suitable for renewable energy - Orange is not included.
4. Will the development effect the long term water catchment of Orange or contaminate the city's water over time if this happens will EDPR Australia Pty Ltd compensate residents?
5. How productive will a solar farm be in this area knowing the local climate and our long grey/cloudy winters.

As a concerned resident and rate payer living less then 2kms from this proposed development it would be appreciated if we could be included in any further correspondence in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Submission 11

From:
Sent: Thursday, 20 February 2025 9:03 AM
To: Orange City Council
Subject: DA 771/2024(1) - PAN 499518

I hereby submit my objection to the above mentioned DA application.

I object on the following grounds.

The locale of this proposed Solar Installation has been traditionally used for fruit agriculture , and small hobby farms , and is so close to Orange city to be regarded as residential.
The approved usage is evident on surrounding farms.

The farms in the locale are small in size and are not appropriate for Large Scale solar installations.

Construction of a 13 hectare solar installation on the 25 hectare farm would be tantamount to the construction of a large factory on a small parcel semi rural land and would be detrimental both financially and environmentally to the neighbours and surrounding locale. These impacts are paramount when considering the appropriateness of such a solar installation.

Signed

Submission 12 (email cover page)

From:
Sent: Thursday, 20 February 2025 9:20 AM
To: Orange City Council
Subject: 140 Cadia Road, Springside - Solar Farm Objection
Attachments: 140 Cadia Road, Springside - Solar Farm Objection.pdf

Dear Mr Waddel,

Please see attached my Objection Submission for the above noted development.

Please note that this object in no way, forms a position of , and is not to be construed in such a manner. I am objecting as a concerned local, and any of the views contained within my objection in no way forms an option from my employer, Acumentis.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Many thanks

Submission 12

DA771/2024(1)
PAN -499518

20th February 2025

Chief Executive Officer
Orange City Council
135 Byng Street
Orange NSW 2800

Dear Mr Waddel

Development Application DA771/2024(1)
Electrical Generation Works (Solar Farm) and Battery Energy Storage System
140 Cadia Road, Springside NSW 2800

I **object** to the proposed development for the following reasons.

- I live within proximity to the solar farm and note that Cadia Road is already an extremely busy arterial road, as a result of many hundreds of vehicle movements per day (24/7), as a result of Cadia Mine traffic movements. Impacts with regard to traffic congestion/safety will be amplified by the project, with safety concerns noted.
- Visual impacts via glare and visual impediment on the surrounding landscape will be amplified as a result of the project.
- Visual impact on recreational users of Gosling Creek and Forest Road are noted.
- The proposed visual mitigation is inadequate.
- There has been a distinct **lack community consultation** in relation to the development. A 32,000 panel development with battery storage, and associated infrastructure within 6km form the Orange CBD, should have been better addressed within the local community. To date, so far as the local population is concerned, has been zero consultation. This shows a lack of pre-planning on behalf of both the development proponent and Orange City Council.
- Orange City Council does not form part of the Central West Renewable Energy Zone, so why is a development of this scale being proposed in the first instance.
- We have environmental concerns, noting that the development lies within the Orange city's water supply catchment, being noted as Environmentally sensitive land, which includes a Bushfire overlay.

- The underlying zoning of C3 - Environmental Management, is designed to protect the local landscape, with the following zoning objectives.

- • To protect, manage and restore areas with special ecological, scientific, cultural or aesthetic values.
- • To provide for a limited range of development that does not have an adverse effect on those values.
- • To manage development within water supply catchment lands to conserve and enhance the city and district's water resources.
- • To maintain the rural function and primary production values of the area.
- • To ensure development along the Southern Link Road has alternative access.

The proposal seems to be at odds with regard to the zoning objectives.

- It is difficult enough getting approval for a dwelling, farm shed, or any basic infrastructure within this zoning, so how a proposal of this scale fits into the planning objectives within the locality is beyond me.

Submission 13

DA771/2024(1)
PAN -499518

15th February 2025

Chief Executive Officer
Orange City Council
135 Byng Street
Orange NSW 2800

Dear Mr Waddel

Development Application DA771/2024(1)
Electrical Generation Works (Solar Farm) and Battery Energy Storage System
140 Cadia Road, Springside

I **object** to the proposed development for the following reasons

1)Lack of Community Consultation

- we are directly affected by this proposed project as it is in the line of site from our house. We had no notification of the proposal. We were alerted to it by a neighbour.

2) Visual Impact

- there will be significant visual impact for many surrounding properties. The proposed visual screen of 3 metres in height and width is inadequate. The proposed plan shows the panels very close to the boundary fence. This may have determined the height of the screen to avoid shading the panels. Moving the edge of the panels would allow for a much more adequate screen.

3) Glare

- there is potential for significant glare from the panels. We renovated our house 5 years ago and we were not permitted to use zincalume on the roof because of the potential for glare and reflection. It would seem the glare from the panels is deemed acceptable despite being on the helicopter flight path to the hospital and for fixed wing planes to Orange airport.

Submission 14

DA771/2024(1)

PAN -499518

17th February 2025

Chief Executive Office

Orange City Council

135 Byng Street

Orange NSW 2800

Dear Mr Waddel

Development Application DA771/2024(1)

Electrical Generation Works (Solar Farm) and Battery Energy Storage System

140 Cadia Road, Springside

I object to the proposed development for the following reasons:

LACK OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The council did not communicate with near neighbours other than direct neighbours

GLARE

The development is not adequately screened. A renovation we completed four years ago, we were required to change our roof type from zinvalume because it was considered glare and reflection would be too high.

VISUAL IMPACT

I feel the screening height of 3m high visual screening is inadequate when viewing the development from our house on Forest Road side of Cadia Road.

Submission 15

21st February 2025

DA771/2024(1)
PAN -499518

To Whom It May Concern,

Development Application DA771/2024(1)
Electrical Generation Works (Solar Farm) and Battery Energy Storage System
140 Cadia Road, Springside

I write to OBJECT to the above proposal on the following grounds.

1. The visual impact on our house is unacceptably high.
2. Lack of Consultation. There has been no consultation with us in relation to this proposal.
3. Traffic impacts of the project.
4. The Glint and Glare impacts on our property and surroundings.
5. Potential impact on property value.

Background

My family and I were lucky enough to purchase which is located at at in . This allowed us to move from our existing house which was in Orange to the outskirts of Orange to enjoy the country lifestyle, while still benefiting from being close to the city of Orange and the wonderful services that it provides. We are 7.7kms from the Orange Post office by car, 5.6kms to our son's high school, 8.5kms from our other children's primary school. The location of our property is amazing being so close to Orange but providing us with the country / rural lifestyle we wanted so dearly for our family. Another attraction for us purchasing was that it is located very close to where my and and in fact is surrounded by which my have been fortunate enough to purchase since we moved into our house.

We have really enjoyed the country lifestyle since moving out of Orange and in particular the privacy and the views from almost every angle of our property not just from outside but also from inside our home. When I stand at my kitchen window which is located on the northern side of my house, which I do multiple times every day and lookout the window I can see for a very long way and I have a very good rural outlook, the proposed development which identifies our property as OP2 in the Visual Impact Assessment and R01 in the Noise Impact Assessment would be located approximately 200 metres from that particular position in my house and it will absolutely ruin those views.

We purchased with the intention of extending and modernising the cottage while keeping the heritage appearance of the cottage on the outside. Since making the purchase we have spent a lot of time in the garden clearing overgrown gardens and removing small sheds that obscured the views from inside and around our home, this has enhanced the rural landscape and beautiful views our property has. The proposed development if approved is going to occupy the majority of the northwestern views of our property and completely destroy the beautiful rural landscape and scenery we currently enjoy, turning what is currently picturise rural landscape into an industrial eye saw to our property and other adjoining properties and the larger Orange community.

Objection 1

Visual Impact
As stated earlier our property is identified as in the visual impact assessment in table 4, we are rated high for magnitude, high for sensitivity and high for impact. Our property is located approximately 200 metres from the nearest proposed solar panel, and the views from not only outside our house but also from inside our house, which has been built with large windows in most walls so the rural scenic view can be enjoyed will be absolutely destroy if this project goes ahead. Our kitchen, main living area and our lounge room all face North which is where the proposed development is in relation to our house, so every time we look out the windows in these rooms, we will see this proposed development. The main entrance to our house is west facing, from this location the view is of the proposed development also, having us see the proposed development site every time we enter or leave our home. Our private open space to the north is going to be completely consumed by this proposed development – removing the current rural outlook.

The mitigation suggested in the Visual Impact Assessment of three metre high plantings is not sufficient to do anything more than potentially soften the effect of the security fence that is required to be placed around the solar panels. The southern boundary of the proposed development is lower than our house and lower than the middle point of the development, therefore the proposed plantings are not going to provide an adequate screening for our property.

I note the Large – Scale Solar Energy Guideline August 2022, which is referred to and ignored in the Statement of Environmental Effects, (prepared by Zenith Town Planning) on page 7, paragraph four says "Although large-scale solar energy projects are the focus of this guideline, applicants, councils and planning panels are encouraged to consider the objectives and principles when preparing, assessing and determining solar energy development applications (DAs) for regionally significant development. The assessment process and level of detail required in a statement of environmental effects should be proportionate to the scale of the development and the likely impacts". Then on page 24 the second last paragraph of the same Guideline states "Visual impacts must be assigned a rating from very low to high having regard to these considerations. Applicants must seek to avoid high impacts (unless the impacts can be justified) and ensure effective mitigation is provided for moderate impacts such as vegetation screening". Our property and a number of other properties are assigned a visual impact rating of high which according to the Guideline the applicants must seek to avoid (unless the impacts can be justified), I fail to see how the impacts can be justified, so they must be avoided.

Orange is known for its very pleasing views that consists of not only rural landscape but also vineyards, large dams, established trees and for a fair portion of the year nice green pastures are present, visitors from outside the area flock to Orange to enjoy these views. As I travel into Orange, I often see many of these visitors and Orange locals enjoying the recreational areas around Gosling Creek and Jack Brabham Park. There are numerous events held each year which start at Gosling Creek and travel out either Cadia Road or Forest Road this proposed project will be highly visible from both of those roadways and will detract from the views and outlook currently in and around the development site.

As outlined above the visual impact of this project to our home, other neighbouring properties and to Orange locals and visitors means it should not be approved.

Below are photos of the project area taken from three locations inside my property and from our deck to highlight the visual impact that the project is going to have on our home.

Picture 1: View from the entrance of our house - proposed site marked in red

Picture 2: View from kitchen window – proposed site marked in red

Picture 3: View from Lounge Room Window - proposed site marked in red

Picture 4: View from our deck - proposed site marked in red

Objection 2

Consultation.
There has been absolutely no consultation in relation to this project even though we are I believe one of the closest neighbors to the project and our residence, identified as in the Visual Impact Assessment received Magnitude, Sensitivity and Impact ratings of high we have not been consulted by anyone involved in this project.

It is not as if the applicant is not aware of the benefits of early effective consultation with the local community. In the Statement of Environmental Effects, they make reference to the Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline August 2022, this guideline has a whole section, (section 3) on community and stakeholder engagement. The guidelines include requirements for the applicant to:

- *provide clear and concise information to the community and stakeholders about projects and their impacts*
- *implement activities that encourage and facilitate public participation*
- *report on what was heard and what changes were made in response to feedback and why.*

Engagement with the community as early as possible to identify potential opportunities and constraints, these could relate to project design for example:

- *the positioning and siting of the project*
- *characterisation of the scenic quality and sensitivity of the landscape and viewpoints*
- *visual impacts including mitigation measures.*

The applicant has not given stakeholders any opportunity to meaningfully participate in the engagement process, there has been no engagement process. I urge those reviewing this application to strongly consider the lack of consultation and complete disregard of the guideline when making your decision regarding this project.

Objection 3

Traffic impacts of the project.

The traffic and parking impact statement lists Cadia Road as an unclassified LOCAL road. Has the applicant considered that this local road is used by:

- the residence of Cadia Road and surrounding district
- is a local school bus route
- is used by workers of Newmont's Cadia Valley Operations, one of the biggest employers in the area, 365 days of the year.
- is used by State Forest logging trucks.
- forms part of Orange's promoted "Out of Town trails" in the Ride Orange Guide for regional cycling – known as the Panuara Loop

Cadia Road is a busy road with several different types of vehicles and road users on it each and every day. From approx. 5am – 8am and 3.30pm to 8pm Cadia Mine workers travel the road, which sees a large volume of traffic on Cadia Road. The mine also has freight deliveries, oversize loads and cranes that travel the road daily. During the school year there are 2 school buses that travel Cadia Road currently stopping at 166 Cadia Road and 140 Cadia Road to pick up and drop off children. The logging trucks travel the road doing several trips per day. Along with all the above-mentioned traffic there are also social users of the

road including cyclists, motor bike riders, recreational users and tourists. The additional traffic added to Cadia road by the proposed project increases interactions that are unnecessary and increases the risk of motor vehicle accidents.

In the traffic and parking impact statement drawing title: 02 – B-Double Turn in From Cadia Road it is showing a B-Double entering the driveway of the project area, the B – Double is shown to leave the road pavement to have adequate turning circle, as there is no turning lane, I fail to see haw this is going to be possible. Has this been properly considered and reviewed with the current road users considered?

Objection 4

Glint and Glare

Our property is identified as OP02 in the Glint and Glare study, the study states that our property will receive "up to 15 minutes of yellow glare between 3.15pm and 4.30 pm, from 2 May to 9 August", the study describes Yellow glare as follows "Yellow glare, which has potential to cause temporary afterimage" Using the Large-Scale Solar Farm Guideline, section 5.6 Glint and Glare, Table 2 this gives my primary place of residence High glare impact. The same table states "Significant amount of glare that should be avoided."

The Statement of Environmental Effects suggested that glare effects for road traffic would only be minimal due to low traffic use on Cadia Road. Obviously, this is incorrect, as detailed above in objection 3 Cadia Road experiences a high volume of traffic every day, cyclists, school buses, workers travelling to and from Cadia, heavy and oversize vehicles travelling to Cadia and the Pine Plantation as well as tourists and recreational users. From the results published in the Glint and Glare Study section 3.4, Results table 4, the affected times are from approx. 3.15pm – 5.30pm and 7.45am – 9am depending on location in relation to the project site, both of these times are times of high traffic movements on Cadia Road. No amount of Glint and Glare or in fact any other distractions for road users are acceptable as they have the potential to cause a serious traffic incident.

This project is in the wrong location and cannot be approved.

Image taken from 140 Cadia Road

Image taken from Forest Road

Objection 5

Impact on Property Value

I am concerned about the Potential impact the proposed project will have on our properties value.
The Visual Impact Assessment on page 10 in the second last paragraph states "visual impacts on the dwelling on lot 5 DP6173 which is project associated are not assessed. Should the property be sold at some point in the future then any impacts on this dwelling would be factored into the decision to purchase".

Is this indicating that the sale price for Lot 5 DP6173 may be impacted by the proposed project? If so, the same would apply if we decided to sell sometime in the future. On this alone I feel this project could negatively affect a number of property owners around the proposed project site. The proposed project site is simply in the wrong place and should be reconsidered within an area comprising large scale rural lands obscured from public areas, not near rural lifestyle blocks and local recreational areas and public road.

Conclusion

I am very disappointed that we were not consulted in relation to this project given the close proximity of our land and our home. It is clear that a site visit took place in 2022 and there has been ample time since that time and before the lodging of the development application for consultation to have occurred. We have not been approached at any stage by the proponent to seek our input into any of the design or mitigation measures in relation to this proposed development. In this day and age that is not just disappointing, it is totally unacceptable.

For the reasons listed in my submission this project **should not be approved.**

Regards

Submission 16

From:
Sent: Saturday, 22 February 2025 9:16 PM
To: Orange City Council
Subject: Objection to solar farm at 140 Cadia Road, Orange

My wife and I are land owners at (Orange), less than 0.5 km from the Cadia Rd and we wish to lodge an objection to the abovementioned development.
This development is on the doorstep of Orange in a rural area comprising many small farms and lifestyle blocks. When we purchased this farm we had no idea that it was to be centred in a renewable energy zone and thereby may have not been prepared to pay so much. The rural vistas of nearby residents and passersby will be irrevocably changed and land values decreased but I'm sure someone else will be able to put an accurate figure on this.
This area of Orange boasts very fertile soils and high stock carrying rates and to lose further agricultural land to something as aesthetically unappealing and economically inefficient, as a solar farm, is both foolish and environmentally embarrassing.Even though I reside in my son, , who lives in Orange manages and develops the property and so we have a strong family connection to the area.
It appears that the proposed development is within the catchment of Gosling Creek, which flows into Gosling Ck Dam then to Spring Ck Dam then to Suma Park Dam which supplies Orange with drinking water.
Photovoltaic modules which comprise the electricity generating panels of a solar farm contain an array of toxic chemicals including cadmium, lead and also zinc, tellurium, indium, gallium. selenium,aluminium, molybdenum and copper. A paper published by the University of Stuttgart demonstrated how these chemicals can be leached into the environment and contaminate ground water and enter drinking water.The leaching is dependent on the quality of the panels, their care of manufacture,age and environmental factors but it poses a very significant health risk.
In March 2024 a hailstorm destroyed a massive solar farm in Texas USA. The impact reduced the panels to small glass pellets and the toxin release was massive.Such an incident could occur on the Cadia Rd. resulting in a chemical spill into Gosling Ck.and subsequently contaminating Suma Park Dam. As well as a serious human health problem it could lead to heavy metal levels in the fish stocks of the associated streams.
There is no way that large arrays of solar panels containing a plethora of toxic chemicals should be permitted in a drinking water catchment especially one such as Orange's which has a small capacity water storage facility allowing for greater concentration of the toxins.The recent and ongoing problem in the Blue Mountains

with contamination of the Medlow Bath Dam (also a small dam) with firefighting retardant provides a salutary lesson.
The fact that this proposed facility is to be built in the water catchment area of Orange is enough to halt its development.
The Land Newspaper recently reported a fire at the Cohuna Solar Farm at Raywood near Bendigo. This was a significant fire as ten CFA units attended and the town's residents were warned of the black toxic smoke that was drifting towards the town. This facility had another fire in 2023.The Land also reported another fire at a solar farm at Walla Walla, just north of Albury, in early January. It appears that fires in solar farms are not uncommon.
As with all renewable systems, solar farms have a finite life,and must be renewed.Estimates of their usefulness vary from 25 to 30 years, which is not very long and at the end of their life there are substantial decommissioning costs.
Based on the Draft Solar Decommissioning Calculator (Draft Energy Policy Framework- NSW Dept. of Planning) the cost of decommissioning a solar electricity generating facility is $A 145,000 per MW. For a 5MW farm at today's prices this would amount to $725,000. For 13.01 ha (the area of the proposed farm) this would be valued at $416,320 at a current price of $32,000/ha (I know as I'm speaking from personal experience). This cost is much greater than the value of the land hosting the solar factory.
Conditions of approval for solar factories that have been approved state that the Applicant (Developer/ Lessee) is responsible for demolition of infrastructure and rehabilitation of the land.However there is a catch. The Applicant Company has no assets and is beneficially owned by share holding by another company. During the operational life of the project the income earned by the Applicant company is paid as dividends to the holding company which is the beneficial owner of the shares in the Applicant company. At the end of life of the project the Applicant company has no assets and is put into administration by the Holding company. The host landowner therefore has to pick up the costs for the demolition of the infrastructure and rehabilitation of the land.
The implication here is that no private landowner could ever bear the costs of decommissioning and remediation. It is likely that the land would be abandoned by the landowner and therefore local government (Orange City Council) under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEOAct) and therefore ratepayers would be required to fund the clean up costs.
The proposal is under the flight path of Orange Regional Airport and glare could also contribute to helicopter access to nearby Orange Hospital.
Ignoring the fact that solar farms are a very inefficient means of generating electricity, which should be sufficient evidence to halt the project, the other overriding arguments against it are
1, It is sited in the water catchment area of Orange with all its attendant health implications
2. Potential damage to the facility from hail and wind leading to leaching of toxic chemicals.
3.The ever present threat of fire from the plant itself or bushfires'
4. The release of toxic fumes from fire that would impact the nearby Orange Hospital and the Gosling Ck Aged Care facility.

5. Potential burden to ratepayers if forced to pay remediation costs.(25 years is not far away)
6. Visual and environmental pollution from the facility.By the time the trees grow the facility will have had its use by date.
7. The loss of highly fertile and productive land
8. EDPR Aust Pty. Ltd. is a foreign company and has no interest in the welfare of Australians.

I earnestly hope that you do not approve this project.

Submission 17

From:
Sent: Sunday, 23 February 2025 4:33 PM
To: Orange City Council
Subject: Development Application DA771/2024 (1)

Importance: High

Dear Mr Wadell,

I am writing to **formally object** to the proposed construction of a solar farm at 140 Cadia Road, Orange NSW under **DA771/2024(1).** As a property owner on , I have significant concerns regarding the impact this development may have on the local environment, community, and quality of life.

1. **Visual Impact**: The proposed solar farm is likely to disrupt the natural landscape and scenic views that are characteristic of our area. The installation of large-scale solar panels and associated infrastructure could diminish the rural aesthetic and potentially affect property values in the surrounding community.
2. **Property Value Impact:** There is a valid concern that the proximity to a large solar installation could reduce property values in the area. Many property owners, including myself, have invested in this region for its natural beauty, tranquility and agricultural viability, which could be compromised by this development.
3. **Agricultural concerns:** The use of prime agricultural land for industrial purposes may not align with regional planning objectives focused on preserving agricultural productivity. Orange is outside of the Renewable Energy Zone and other areas on less fertile ground would be more appropriate.
4. **Alternative Locations and Solutions**: While I support the transition to renewable energy, I believe alternative locations with less impact on residential and agricultural areas should be considered. Utilizing degraded or less sensitive land could achieve sustainability goals without compromising our community's lifestyle and property values.

I respectfully request that these concerns be thoroughly considered in the evaluation process for this proposal. I would appreciate the opportunity for further consultation and to be informed of any developments related to this project.

Best Regards,

Submission 18

Ref: DA771/2024(1) – PAN-499518

23 February 2025

Mr David Waddell
Chief Executive Officer
Orange City Council
135 Byng Street
Orange NSW 2800

Dear Mr Waddell

Re: Objection to DA771/2024(1) – Electricity Generating Works (solar farm) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) proposed at 140 Cadia Road Orange.

We reside at , approximately from the proposed development (only one property between us and the site). Despite living in such close proximity, we were not officially notified regarding this development proposal. This lack of notification and consultation is unacceptable and makes us think the proponent is trying to sneak the development in to deny us the opportunity to raise concerns regarding the potential detrimental impacts on our family, our property and the wider neighbourhood.

We **object** to the proposal on the following grounds:

- The proposed development would devalue our property and all land in the area. No-one wants to live near or see an industrial site near their home.
- The proposed development is on prime agricultural land. There is no logical reason to utilise productive soil for an unattractive solar 'farm' with its proposed 2.3 metre fence (inclusive of three rows of barbed wire similar to a prison fence) which would change the fabric of the area.
- Orange, as you well know, is a renowned food and wine region, known for its clean air and sustainable production, and the proposed development on the border of the city would detract from this and negatively impact tourism.
- The proposed development is on a flight path to Orange Airport which is important for two reasons: 1) The development site adjoins a vineyard. The visual impact to visitors viewing this as they are flying to Orange is the opposite of what we try to promote as a food and wine region. It promotes ugly development in an otherwise agricultural area. 2) Potential glare from the panels could also impact safe approach to landing of planes at the airport.
- Cadia Road is a very busy road with significant traffic during the morning and afternoon – especially in line with shift times at Cadia. Any potential glare from the proposed panels presents an unacceptable risk to users of both Cadia Road and further east to Forest Road – even with the proposed plantings. Further to this, adding a solar farm on Cadia road would add to this traffic flow especially during construction but also through production and maintenance.
- The proposed development is in a hydrologically sensitive area. The site is located in a Conservation Management Zone which would have water runoff and groundwater feeding

immediately into the Environmental Conservation Zone and Heritage zoned Gosling Creek Reservoir to the Northeast. Solar panels degrade over time due to UV and other factors and there is potential for unacceptable leaching of heavy metals and PFAS into the soil. This poses an unacceptable risk to the water quality of this area and Orange's water catchment.

- Orange is outside the Renewable Energy Zone – these developments should remain within designated areas.
- Being so close to existing residents, this proposal would also present real health risks, both physical and mental. Glare, noise, reduction in property values and visual amenity would lead to mental anguish and health concerns of residents. Solar farms are also known to produce EMF radiation which given the proximity to surrounding residents could impact on residents' physical health with long-term exposure.
- The proposed site is in the middle of a number of small agricultural holdings on the edge of an expanding Orange which has been heading down Pinnacle Road. This site will be right on the edge of Orange impacting on a greater number of residents.
- Households have already heavily invested in solar infrastructure doing government's job for them. In return we are now receiving little or no feed-in tariffs from energy providers for this outlay. There is also the potential for penalties to households during times of excess load feeding into the electricity network. Instead of allowing this development, we would like Council to initiate discussions and represent its constituents to reduce this financial impact and promote improved battery storage and battery installations for households. This would be a smarter way of utilising infrastructure that has already been installed and invested in, supporting your rate payers, and would give a better outcome for all.

We implore Council to oppose any progression of this proposed development. There are many alternatives for the site away from our beautiful town which would not have such a detrimental impact. Please continue to care for your constituents and keep this development away from the edge of Orange.

Yours sincerely

Submission 19

SUBMISSION Re: DA771/2024(1) – PAN-499518 – 140 CADIA ROAD, SPRINGSIDE (Lot 5 DP 6173)

23 February 2025
To: The Chief Executive Officer
Orange City Council
135 Byng Street
Orange NSW 2800

Dear Mr Waddel

Re Development Application DA771/2024(1)
Electrical generation Works (solar Farm) and Battery Energy Storage System
140 Cadia Road, Springside

I am writing to submit the following objections to the proposed development:

- In the DA there is a lack of documentation around any consultation with the local community and broader potentially impacted stakeholders in relation the development – the DA application presents no evidence of any consultations with Orange 360, ORVA, The Orange Aboriginal Land Council and others to evaluate the range of perspectives on any potential impacts on tourism and culture.
- The Environmental impact statement presented in the proposal, the impacts on 'scenic quality and landscape character' have been evaluated as 'low-moderate' (page 61) based on immediate visual/scenic impacts (which it is argued can be mitigated by screening), but there has been no *landscape character impact assessment*, which has been defined in more *holistic* terms in various NSW Government Guidelines as:

  "An area or sense of place definable by the quality of its built, natural and cultural elements" (Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure's Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline, Glossary, page 5); or

  The assessment of impact on the aggregate of an area's built, natural and cultural character or sense of place" (Guideline for landscape character and visual impact assessment Environmental impact assessment practice note EIA-N04, 1.4)

- 'Landscape character' and 'visual amenity' impacts on recreational users of Gosling Creek and other designated recreational areas could well be underestimated, given there has been no surveying of such users' perspectives.
- Given that South Orange includes a range of scenic drives, recreational and viticultural opportunities, which have attracted many to relocate to Orange and settle on lifestyle blocks in this region, the potential for the devaluation of properties in the Springside area and along Pinnacle Road is significant.
- There are growing concerns in the community that large-scale renewable energy projects are being proposed or determined in South Orange, which is outside the Central-West-Orana REZ. These projects do not align with the Orange Local Environmental Plan 2011 (2012 EPI 55,) which includes zoning objectives such as the promotion of "the unique agricultural character of Orange" and the facilitation of "a variety of tourist and visitor accommodation land uses that are compatible with agriculture" and viticulture.

- Orange is a regional city with a growing reputation in sustainable and value-adding employment sectors such as health, tourism, hospitality and viticulture and tertiary education. There has also been significant residential growth in South Orange, so it seems a high-risk strategy to prioritise short-term construction projects here, when there are so many less-densely populated areas in NSW which renewable energy projects, so essential to NSW and Australia, can be sited. The aim should be to make regional centres more attractive to relocate to, not the opposite.

Submission 20

DA 771/2024(1)
PAN – 499518

23 February 2025

Chief Executive Officer
Orange City Council
135 Byng Street
Orange NSW 2800

Dear Mr Waddell,

Development Application DA771/2024(1)`1
Electrical Generation Works (Solar Farm) and Battery Energy Storage System
140 Cadia Road, Springside

strongly objects to the proposed location of a new solar farm at 140 Cadia Road and described in the DA submitted to Orange City Council by EDPR Australia Pty Ltd. We are not against renewable energy or solar power however we believe the location proposed is too close to the edge of an expanding city and will make use of some of the best agricultural land in the country. There are more suitable locations for such a solar farm. We believe that the developer has not considered the impact of this location on the community but is instead quite opportunistically submitting DAs for solar farms on any land available, as close to the city as possible.

operates a vineyard and cellar door at Our property adjoins the proposed solar farm property at our northeast corner. We have views of the proposed solar farm area from many viewpoints on our land, but more importantly we have an extensive view of it from our cellar door. We run a cellar door on the property. The view that customers see on arrival will also be spoiled. The cellar door is situated to the southwest of the proposed solar farm and at a higher elevation that overlooks the proposed site.

The establishment of the proposed solar farm will have an immediate negative impact on the real estate value of our property. This will occur because many potential buyers will not want to purchase land neighbouring a solar farm, whether it be for investment, lifestyle or agricultural use. Potential buyers do not want to look at it. In particular, a potential buyer looking at purchasing our vineyard and cellar door will see it as an unattractive feature for future cellar door customers to look at.

Proximity to edge of town - Further subdevelopment to the south of Orange will not be encouraged if potential residents have to build a house next to a solar farm. The proposed site is only 1.85km from the (Hawkes Lane) edge of the current development on Shiralee Road.

Land usage – The proposed solar farm is to be located on high quality agricultural land. Its soil is volcanic basalt and is some of the best farming land available anywhere in the country. This land is too good to cover with solar panels and too good for sheep.

We are concerned that glare from the solar panels will be distracting and possibly dangerous to road users, especially on Cadia Road.

We are concerned that the proponents of the solar farm have not considered the potentially dangerous distraction from glare for pilots of planes landing and taking off at Orange airport. One of the flight paths to the west of the airport goes right above our property, which adjoins the proposed site. There is no mention of the flight path in the glare report provided by the proponents.

Submission 21

From:

Sent: Sunday, 23 February 2025 8:51 PM

To: Orange City Council

Cc:

Subject: Objection- DA 771/2024(1) - 140 Cadia Road, Orange.

Attachments: Solar Farm Objection OCC Feb 2025.docx

Att'n **Chief Executive Officer**
Orange City Council,
135 Byng Street,
Orange, NSW, 2800.

Dear Mr Waddel,

RE: DA 771/2024(1) – 140 Cadia Road, Orange.
Electrical Generation Works (Solar Farm) and Battery Energy Storage System.

I wish to object to the proposed solar farm at 140 Cadia Road, Orange, NSW, 2800 (DA 771/2024(1) – 140 Cadia Road, Orange).

I am rather concerned and most disappointed that there was no formal community consultation and was only recently informed of the Development application. I find that such a proposal being submitted without community consultation to be quite an affront. Although I have been told that the developer was advised to do so.

- My wife and I frequently are at the eastern end of our property undertaking farming tasks and we have always considered it to be such a privilege to look across our beautiful valley that encompasses our city of Orange. We are aware that that eventually Orange will expand further to the South (some of this has already started with the developments along Shiralee Road). How will this monstrosity affect the future desires for homes in that area?

- We feel that the proposed industrial solar farm, would in many parts infringe upon the pleasure we have upon our property as we have no desire to look over an Industrial site (Such a large Photo Voltaic (PV) array would in my opinion, be industrial).

- We feel that if in the future we had to sell our property, such an industrial eyesore would significantly affect the future value of our property which in many parts we understand to be a highly prized location. Should the future potential sale price of our property be hindered by the proposed eyesore?

- Although we understand the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) have no initial objections to the proposed Solar array, we are extremely concerned that in the future, the flight path is likely to be altered, due to the impact to aircraft of reflected sunlight glare from the panels. This would likely result in more aircraft flying directly over our property, impacting the noise pollution and once again the value of our property.

- Brandy Creek and any other smaller waterways (including the creek that starts near Berrilee Lane) carry large volumes of water during the rainy seasons. We are approximately 800-900m away from the creek near Berrilee Lane and during the spring we can hear the torrent of water that flows from there which directly feeds into Gosling Creek. The area and locations further West and South of the proposed industrial solar array are significant contributors to the Orange water supply.
- From my understanding the creek (Its name I am unable to clarify) that runs through the proposed industrial solar farm is regarded as " ***.... an intermittent watercourse, which in some sections does not exhibit the typical features of a defined channel***". Having lived on Pinnacle Road for over 50 years I can attest that this creek that starts at the northern boundary of Brangayne Vineyard and has a significant catchment area from properties further west. Although this water course does not run continually, it is however a significant contributor to the Gosling creek reservoir.
  If the creek is regarded to be "***an intermittent watercourse"*** one would question why dams supplied by the creek are always full?

- In a time of "Climate Change" we feel that any affect upon the harvesting of valuable rainwater for Orange is of vital importance.

- The solar arrays will channel water coming off them to run off under the line the panels which unless significant permanent drainage is installed could cause erosion. Currently, when rain falls it is evenly distributed over an even grassed/vegetative area.

- The proposed area for the industrial solar array is moderately topographically level. Quite a significant amount of water lies across the land during the wetter seasons. This water, from what I have observed in my lifetime, eventually gradually flows into Gosling Creek and no doubt is also is absorbed into underground aquifers. I believe this proposed industrial solar array will adversely affect the distribution of water runoff.

- The area around Gosling creek apart from being one of the major water storage locations for Orange is also part of a significant recreational area. This Industrial eyesore will infringe upon the visual pleasures desired and experienced by the local and visiting community, regardless of how tall a tree barrier or industrial fence may be.

- The desired location for the industrial solar farm is not in an industrial area and as such other industries are omitted from being able to build in this area. Can and would this proposal be an opening to other industrial developments which might in some ways pollute our valuable water catchment area?

- We are concerned also that such an industrial solar array could affect some of our local and some already endangered species. This area is now home to at least two Wedge Tailed Eagles that I have sighted soaring over the southern parts of Orange in the last twelve months.

Orange is my home and I am proud to live here, I understand that progress will occur, but I do question the appropriateness of this proposed industrial Solar Farm being located so close to Orange and future homes and future housing developments.

We would formerly request that our objection to such a large industrial solar array be lodged.

Submission 22

ECCO orange
environmentally concerned citizens of orange
PO Box 1582 Orange NSW 2800
ecco.orange@gmail.com
www.eccoorange.org.au

Mr David Waddell
Chief Executive Officer
Orange City Council
February 20, 2025

Re: DA 771/2024 (1) -140 Cadia Rd. Orange 2800

Dear Mr Waddell

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed development at the above address. ECCO is writing in support of the project.

In 2024 for the first time, our planet reached a climate change milestone that should concern us all - 1.5 degrees above preindustrial levels. This is yet another wakeup call for our need to transition away from fossil fuels and move rapidly towards renewable energy as quickly as possible. To do so requires the installation of more renewable energy projects such as this one.

However, ECCO's ongoing support for projects such as these is contingent on the application of appropriate conditions to minimise environmental damage to air, water and biodiversity. We are reassured in this regard that the EIS conducted for this development does not indicate any significant environmental issues of concern.

The site in question is land that has been used for agricultural purposes and does not present any issues relating to biodiversity or endangered or threatened flora and fauna. The installation of solar panels will not impede the continued use of the site for grazing sheep, so it can continue to be used for that purpose. The stated inclusion of vegetation screening is important. It is also important that the species selected should contribute to habitat that will increase the biodiversity value of the site.

Our only concern about this proposed project is that its boundary is only 70 metres from Gosling Creek, which forms part of Orange's water catchment. It is imperative that all measures be taken to prevent any contamination of the creek, from site runoff or otherwise, during the construction phase of the solar farm and its subsequent operation. Otherwise, we are reassured that the proposed solar farm should proceed without significant environmental threat.

ECCO is also supportive of the proposal as it will help provide locally-generated cheaper energy to the grid and thereby directly benefit Orange's residents. Developments such as this are an important part of the transformation of our energy system and can act as

a catalyst for local residents and businesses to move away from fossil-fuelled electricity generation, and in that way make a significant contribution to reducing Orange's carbon footprint.

Yours sincerely

Submission 23

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to raise my objection to the proposed DA 771/2024(1) for 140 Cadia Road, Orange 2800.

As a local rate payer, father to the next generation of Orange citizens and a farmer in the district I strongly oppose the development of a solar farm within the water catchment of Orange. I find it completely ludicrous that this would even be contemplated. There are numerous studies available which show the leaching of elements from photovoltaic modules from solar panels as the result of damaged and abandoned panels. One hailstorm could destroy the proposed solar farm and have grave environmental impacts to the water catchment of Orange which is vital to the sustainability of this great region. A simple internet search will uncover the chemicals enclosed in solar panels are not limited to such toxic chemicals as cadmium, lead and also zinc, tellurium, indium, gallium, selenium, aluminium, molybdenum and copper.

Orange is a unique geographic hub featuring diverse geography, including rolling hills, fertile farmland, and rugged bushland. To erect solar panels at the expense of its natural beauty is an embarrassment and needs to be stopped. Having spent a lot of time in the Wellington (Dubbo Council) region over the last 10 years the natural vista has been destroyed by environmental vandals polluting what was beautiful productive farming country with solar panels.

Orange has become a major health and transport hub. The glare report appears to fail to have any investigation into the Flight path for both Orange Regional Airport or the Base Hospital and the impact it could have to the services offered from these depots.

In addition Cadia Road is a major arterial road servicing both mining, residential, cyclists and agriculture. To add up to 30 work vehicles plus inbound products during construction would stretch an already over subscribed road.

Finally, EDPR Aust Pty Ltd is a foreign owned company, headquartered in Singapore with little to no interest in Australia's prosperity. To risk our natural beauty to a company with no interest in our welfare is crazy.

Submission 24

From:
Sent: Monday, 24 February 2025 10:31 AM
To: Orange City Council
Subject: DA771/2024(1) PAN -499518

Dear Officer

Development Application DA771/2024(1)
Electrical Generation Works (Solar Farm) and Battery Energy Storage System
140 Cadia Road, Springside
I object to the proposed development for the following reasons:

1, Visul Impact. The proposed project is too close to neighbours boundary which only about 3 meters, the solar panels may disrupt natural scenery and affect visual aesthetics. So we might consider to plant tall trees along the boundary, by doing this not only block the view but also the sun light for the solar panels, therefore the solar panels should away from the boundary at least 30 meters.

2, Water resource impact: Cleaning solar panels may consume significant amounts of water, the subject land has no dam water which might need to use the town water to do so. And it's very close to the neighbour's dam, it will be a challenging to regulate the illegal use of a neighbour's water in future.

3, This farmland is too small to build such a big capacity solar farm, I highly recommend to reduce the solar farm capacity to half of the proposal.

Submission 25

DA771/2024(1)
PAN -499518

20TH February 2025

Chief Executive officer
Orange City Council
135 Byng Street
Orange NSW 2800

Dear Mr Waddel

Development Application DA771/2024(1)
Electrical Generation Works (Solar Farm) and Battery Storage System
140 Cadia Road Springside

With myself been an electrician of 50 years in Orange and district, I totally agree with the concept of solar and the future of renewables, but I object to the proposed development for the following reasons.

Having installed solar panels to our place eight years ago, I have records of our solar production, usage in the house and what we have exported back to the grid.
With my wife having retired six years ago, we have tried to use as much as possible from the solar panels by using appliances such as washing machine, dishwasher, hot water and air conditioning between the hours of 9am to 4pm. Even with this consumption from our 7kw solar system we still send 50% of our production back to the grid. This would be the same or if not more going back to the grid from the whole of the 2800 postcode.

As of July 2024 in the 2800 postcode there was 57,000 kilowatts of solar panels on 8,000 roofs producing approx. 235 M/WH of electricity each day. This proposed solar farm is 10 M/WH of solar production which is only 4.25% of the existing production in the 2800 postcode.

With an average of 4.8 hours of sunlight per day of usable sunlight in the Orange area and with the Dubbo area having nearly 9 hours of usable sunlight, solar farms need to be located in areas of maximum solar gain for the panels.

What we need instead of solar farms, are companies willing to work to install battery storage systems in various locations around the city and the state to store all the excess solar from the existing solar panels on the roofs of all the houses for the day and night time usage.

We need to get smarter in our usage of our existing excess solar production and plan more for the future of our excess solar production. People are more accepting of roof top solar panels which are up high on the roofs than large solar farms on the edge of town in amongst rural houses.

This proposed solar farm would have a negative visual impact on the rural landscape on the edge of Orange that would impact locals and visitors to our city.

Information in the above submission was obtained from NSW Country Solar web site and from my personal Fronius app for my solar system.

Submission 26

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL - DA 771/2024(1) – 140 CADIA ROAD, ORANGE
DA771/2024(1) – PAN- 499518

Arguments against widespread solar panels and wind turbines in Australia often center around concerns about their visual impact on the landscape, potential disruption to wildlife, inconsistency in power generation due to weather dependence, the cost of installation and maintenance, and concerns about land use, particularly in areas with high agricultural value. Also of concern is the issue in regard to recycling and disposal of solar panels, when damaged and/or at the end of their lifespan.

DA 761/(2024(1) 25 Lone Pine Avenue, 15,600 panels is to be considered by Orange Council. This is to be followed by DA771/2024(1) – 140 Cadia Road, Orange South 8B and 9B 2x5MW Solar Farms, development application for the area near Spring Creek Dam and Gosling Creek; a further 16,000 solar panels per site

This objection is regarding Solar Farms DA771/2024(1) – 140 Cadia Road. I wish to voice my objection to the development applications of ALL 3 Solar Farms and would ask Orange Council to consider the following before coming to a decision.

In 1970 singer/songwriter Joni Mitchell wrote "Big Yellow Taxi". The song is known for its environmental concern –

> "*They paved paradise to put up a parking lot –*
> *Don't it always seem to go,*
> *That you don't know what you got 'til it's gone?*
> *They paved paradise and put up a parking lot ".*

When asked about writing the song Mitchell said .. .. I wrote "Big Yellow Taxi" on my first trip to Hawaii. I took a taxi to the hotel and when I woke up the next morning, I threw back the curtains and saw these beautiful green mountains in the distance. Then, I looked down and there was a parking lot as far as the eye could see, and it broke my heart .. .. this blight on paradise.

It seems to me that DA771/(2024) 140 Cadia Road, Orange South 8B and 9B 2x5MW Solar Farms, development application for the area near Spring Creek Dam and Gosling Creek; a further 16,000 solar panels per site is about to do the same thing, to turn scenic farmland, productive agricultural pastures into vast expanses of dark metallic panels, which are visually unappealing to residents and visitors to our city of Orange.

The conversion of fertile agricultural land into solar farms has serious consequences for soil health, food security and biodiversity. I wish to put forward the following arguments AGAINST granting permission to build these Solar Farms DA

1

771/2024(1) – 140 Cadia Road; for Orange City councillors to seriously consider and debate before making a final decision.

1 Visual and Social Impact on Rural Communities

There are many concerns regarding the changing landscape. Rural communities often take pride in their farming communities, open fields and traditional agricultural heritage. Solar farms which consist of rows of reflective panels, fencing (1.8m high security fence topped with three rows of barbed wire to give a total height of 2.3m) and transformer stations, can significantly alter our Orange landscape. This transformation of green fields into expanses of dark, metallic panels can be visually unappealing to residents and visitors. DA771/2024(1) – 140 Cadia Road, Orange South 8B and 9B 2x5MW Solar Farms – a total of 32,000 solar panels, this development application is for the area near Spring Creek Dam and Gosling Creek.

Regional areas such as ours are bearing the brunt in the destruction of valuable agricultural land for the sake of Solar and Wind Farms, which in the case of Solar Panels have only a life span of between 25 and 30years. Many in our community feel that these projects are to be imposed on them without proper consultation.

There could also be a rise in community tensions between farmers who sell their land for solar development and neighbours who want to preserve the agricultural landscape. A reason for this is that solar farms will reduce the attractiveness of their properties, leading to lower real estate values. Potential homebuyers will possibly be discouraged by the sight of these solar facilities in what once was green pastures as shown by *Image Plates 1 – 10 of Zenith Town Planning proposal.*
Council may dispute this as studies on property value impact are mixed, but it has been shown in some cases that properties adjacent to solar farms have seen depreciation in the value of their property.

There is also concern over the amount of glare and reflection of these solar panels; and also the amount of light pollution. While modern solar panels are designed to minimize glare, solar farms still create reflective surfaces that can cause discomfort for nearby residents, drivers and even pilots in low-flying aircraft. Solar farms require security fencing and often have motion-activated lighting or small substations that emit artificial light at night. This can disturb the dark sky environment that rural regional areas such as ours enjoy, which could possibly affect wildlife and residents in surrounding properties.

Tourism and rural/regional appeal should also come under this heading of Visual and Social impact as our region relies on agritourism, local produced food and wine; and outdoor activities to attract visitors (Orange360.com.au/Our-region/Orange). A shift from picturesque farmland, green pastures to land dominated by solar panels and batteries may make the area less appealing to tourists and reduce local economic opportunities which come with tourism.

2 **Soil Degradation and Land Irreversibility**

The installation of solar farms often involves heavy machinery, which can compact the soil, reducing its ability to absorb water and nutrients. Compacted soil leads to increased surface runoff and erosion, making the land less fertile and harder to restore when the time comes to decommission. There is also the question of Topsoil removal and grading. Solar farms require the land to be level to ensure stability for the installation of the solar panels. This can and will remove the nutrient-rich topsoil layer. Once topsoil is lost it will take years to regenerate naturally, making it difficult to return the land to its once productive stage. Healthy soil is home to beneficial bacteria, fungi and earthworms that contribute to soil fertility, Disrupting the soil structure through grading and panel installation can reduce microbial activity, negatively impacting long-term land health.

It is a fact that some solar panels contain hazardous materials like cadmium and lead. Improper disposal or damage to panels can lead to leaching into the soil and potentially contaminating groundwater sources. Even with the best intentions, accidents do happen, and accidental spills of chemicals used for cleaning solar panels should be also taken into consideration.

Regarding the maintenance of these solar panels the question of water usage arises. Solar panels require periodic cleaning to maintain efficiency. Even though Orange would not be considered an arid region where dust and dirt accumulates, my car which is housed under a carport frequently needs a visit to the carwash due to the amount of pollen and dust particles that accumulate on the car's windows. To maintain efficiency these 47,600 solar panels will need to be cleaned. This can put a strain on local water supplies, particularly in areas already facing water scarcity, which the City of Orange has done in the past. Orange has experienced years of drought and has issued water restrictions to safeguard the city's water supply. Residents of Orange are and have been encouraged to use water efficiently in daily activities, including gardening, cleaning and other household uses. Question: Will these Solar Farms – combined total of 47,600 solar panels put a strain on the community water security?

Still under the heading of Soil Degradation and Land Irreversibility is the question of Drainage and Flood Risks and Land restoration. The installation of solar farms can change natural drainage patterns, leading to water pooling in some areas and excessive dryness in others. Solar Farms may increase local flood risks by reducing the land's ability to absorb rainfall effectively.
As DA771/2024(1) – 140 Cadia Road, Orange South 8B and 9B 2x5MW Solar Farms, development application for the area near Spring Creek Dam and Gosling Creek. If the land has lost its ability to absorb rainfall effectively and "runoff" from these solar farms occurs, can we not assume that the "runoff" could contain potential hazardous metals, chemicals, herbicides into the city's water supply?

When the time comes to decommission after 25 – 30 years i.e. when solar panels reach the end of their lifespan, restoring the land to agricultural use can be costly and challenging. Subsurface infrastructure such as concrete footings and underground cables may remain in place, thus further complicating land

3

rehabilitation. Currently the cost of recycling solar panels in Australia is approximately $28 per panel (www.3denergy.com.au) Without proper decommissioning plans, former solar farms could become abandoned brownfields as it would become too costly to return the land to its previous use as agricultural land. Question: Will the land be returned to what was once agricultural land – removing all structures as well as removal of all subsurface infrastructures? If this is not the case, then it will become an abandoned brownfield, a scar on the once green landscape.

3. Food Security Concerns

Reaching Net Zero emissions in Australia by 2050 requires a massive expansion of renewable energy. Solar farms require more land (2 – 5 hectares per MW) meaning large scare solar expansion could impact on agricultural land. Solar Farms represent a massive footprint and eventually could impact our ability to produce food. High-quality farmland is a limited resource and using it for solar farms reduces the amount of land available for food production. Agricultural land that is converted into solar farms may never return to full agricultural productivity, especially if the soil quality is degraded. This eventual loss of fertile land may limit future generations' ability to grow food, creating long-term food security risks. DA771/2024(1) development proposal states that the subject land has an area of approximately 25.75 hectares. This cannot be seen in isolation as the "patchwork" of solar farms slowly and progressively invade Australia's rich agricultural land, as the opening sentence states fact – that reaching Net Zero emissions in Australia requires a MASSIVE expansion of Solar and Wind Farms.

If too much agricultural land is repurposed for energy production, it can lead to lower crop yields and higher food prices. You may say .. .. "could never happen", but are we not forever being told that renewables are the cheapest form of energy and that our electricity bill would be reduced by $275. If only that was true, if only there was a direct correlation between the number of solar farms and lower electricity bills. While solar panel prices have decreased, the initial cost of land acquisition, installation and infrastructure remains high. These costs will forever be passed on to the consumer dashing any lowering of our electricity bills.

Many farms and gardens in Orange rely on bees, butterflies and other pollinators to support crop growth. If solar farms replace flowering crops or natural vegetation, pollinators populations can decline, negatively impacting nearby farms.

In conclusion I present the following arguments for Orange Council to consider:

1. **Land Use and Environmental Impact** – Solar farms require vast amounts of land, potentially leading in this case to the loss of agricultural land. For Australia to reach its Net Zero targets our rural and regional areas will bear the brunt of this Renewable Transition with the construction of many Solar and Wind Farms "blanketing" our regions.
2. **Intermittency and Reliability** – We all understand that solar energy depends on sunlight meaning it is unreliable at night or during cloudy weather; but it must be pointed out that energy storage solutions e.g.

batteries can only store energy for hours, not days or weeks, limiting their ability to provide backup during extended cloudy periods. A case in point is Broken Hill – *A storm on October 17th 2024 brought down seven supporting transmission towers leaving 20,000 people in Broken Hill and its surrounds without power for days. Businesses lost thousands of dollars.*

3. **Soil Degradation and Land Reversibility**
4. **Loss of Agricultural Economy and Rural Livelihoods**
5. **Impact on Local Water Resources**
6. **Visual and Social Impact on Rural Communities**

In conclusion the conversion of rich prime fertile agricultural land into solar farms such as DA771/2024(1) – 140 Cadia Road, Orange I believe will have serious consequences for tourism and the ability to generate economic opportunities by visitors wanting to come to the Orange Region, gone will be the scenic views of rolling farmland and picture perfect reserves, also in question is the security and health of our water supply from said Solar Farm and lastly the question of endangering the soil health, food security and biodiversity if this Development Proposal DA771/2024(1) – 140 Cadia Road gets permission from Orange Council to proceed.

Our "slice" of paradise is being paved with Solar Panels

Submission 27

From:
Sent: Monday, 24 February 2025 1:08 PM
To: Orange City Council
Subject: Submission regarding DA771/2024(1)

DA 771/2024(1) - PAN-499518

Chief Executive Officer
Orange City Council
135 Byng Street
Orange NSW 2800

Dear Mr Waddell,

Development Application DA771/2024(1)
Electrical Generation Works (Solar Farm) and Battery Energy Storage System
140 Cadia Road, Springside

I write today to object to the proposed development mentioned above for numerous reason. Firstly to comment on the lack of community consultation which a development of this size and purpose requires. Extensive community consultation certainly should have been a part of the initial process.

Most importantly though - I write as one of the closest inhabitants of the tenanted buildings to this proposed development. And even more importantly - when viewed on any of the maps attached to the development, in fact, when standing at my front door - I am far closer to this proposed development than any of the locations that any of the assessments have been undertaken from. For example in the Noise Assessment document and the Glint and Glare Assessment Documents- my tenanted home has been completely overlooked and the sites that they have taken the sound and 'view impact" locations from are from much further than my house! This is not acceptable at all in the assessments required for this DA - the impact on my house in regards to sound, glint, glare, view impact amongst other things have not been taken into account at all!

I urge you to take notice of this objection in this regard. My home and my daily life are to be impacted with NO assessment in any assessments attached to the DA, of how close this proposed development is to my home. This development is 130m from my front door, from my kitchen window. It will completely take up my view from one direction of my home, not to mention the paddocks my livestock are in which are mere metres from this proposed facility. The impact of the view into my home has not been assessed. The noise impact on my home has not been undertaken. Let alone the proximity of wastes and hazards, fire hazards etc. If the noise assessment has been taken from further locations - it will be far noisier at a location closer to the site like my house and this has not been assessed.

None of these assessments have included a house 130m from it. If it is proven that the noise, glint and glare, view impact etc are not to impact me (I do not foresee how they won't) then the view of a 2m high chain link fence with barb wire will indeed impact my view - from a beautiful rural part of Orange that we know and love.

I am able to forward a map showing distance from the development to my house, and can also forward photographic proof of how my house and the windows on my eastern side look completely into the western boundary of this development, and how close this location is to my home physically and to the eye.

I am not opposed to solar energy nor the planning of solar farms, but do feel that the correct assessments should be undertaken for any proposals that include tenanted buildings within the proximity of this facility for example to our house.

Yours sincerely,

Submission 28

From:
Sent: Monday, 24 February 2025 1:26 PM
To: Orange City Council
Subject: Objection to Proposed Development Application for Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System DA771/2024 (1) PAN -499518

Chief Executive Officer

Orange City Council

135 Byng St, Orange NSW 2800

Objection to Proposed Development Application for Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System DA771/2024 (1) PAN -499518

Dear Mr Waddell,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed development application for the solar farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) located at 140 Cadia Road, Springside, which is situated approximately 130 metres from my residence

My primary concern is that the development application does not seem to have properly assessed or considered the impact of the proximity of my property to the proposed site. At a distance of just 130 metres, my home will be directly affected by potential noise, light reflection and glare, visual impacts, and possible safety hazards associated with both the solar farm and the BESS.

1. **Noise and Visual Impacts**: Solar farms, especially when paired with BESS, can generate significant operational noise, both from the inverters and the battery storage systems. Given the proximity to my home, I am concerned that this noise could negatively affect the quality of life at my residence. Furthermore, the large scale of such developments, including the installation of large solar panels and associated infrastructure, could lead to visual disturbances that would detract from the natural surroundings and harm the aesthetic value of the closest property.
2. **Safety Concerns**: Battery Energy Storage Systems carry inherent risks, particularly concerning fires, and hazardous materials. With my home located so close to the proposed development, I am deeply concerned about the safety risks posed by the operation of the BESS.
3. **Lack of Consideration for Residential Impact**: It appears that the development application does not adequately address the social and residential impacts of the proposed development. The potential disruption to daily life, including traffic disruptions during construction, noise, glare and view impact, and impacts on property

values, have not been sufficiently considered from the closest points of tenanted buildings. These are critical factors.

Given the proximity of my home to the proposed solar farm and BESS site, I urge the planning authorities to revisit the application and ensure that all potential impacts on my property, and other nearby residential properties, are fully assessed and mitigated. A comprehensive review of the development's potential effects on health, safety, noise, view impact, and the environment is essential before any approval is granted.

I respectfully request that my objection be taken into account during the review of this application. I also request to be notified of any updates or further steps in the approval process.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

DA 771/2024(1)

Submission 29

1 email in thread.

Email 1 of 1
Date: February 24, 2025 11:21 AM +11:00
From:
To:

Chief Executive Officer
Orange City Council
Dear Mr Waddel.

Electrical Generation Works and Battery.
140 Cadia Road
We want to submit an objection to the proposed plan

The Lack of community consultation from EDPR.

Orange is not in a Renewable Energy Zone.

If they see fit they will continue with solar farms inside town limits and effect the growth of the city.

As I have solar panels the efficiency of them in winter are negligible

Submission 30 (1 of 2 submissions)

From:
Sent: Monday, 24 February 2025 2:45 PM
To: Orange City Council
Subject: Objection to proposed industrial solar factory at 140 Cadia Road Orange
Attachments: Leaching_via_Weak_Spots_in_Photovoltaic_Modules.pdf; Final SA-15-23 Incident response to industrial solar farm fires-1.pdf

Objection to proposed industrial solar factory at 140 Cadia Road Orange
Submission to Orange Council - council@orange.nsw.gov.au
Name:
Phone:
Post:
Email:
Reportable political donations and/or gifts: NIL
DA number: DA 771/2024 (1) – PAN - 499518
Site address: 140 Cadia Road, Springside, ORANGE NSW

Background:
ITP (IT Power) was a Canberra based consultancy. In November 2023 ITP was "acquired" by EDPR APAC (Asia Pacific) based in Singapore. This acquisition by EDPR APAC lead to the establishment of EDPR Australia and via EDPR APAC is part of the EDP group majority owned and controlled by EDP (Energy de Portugal) – www.edp.com
IT Power (now EDPR Australia) was the developer who was determined to destroy the entrance to Mudgee NSW. The Mid-Western Regional Council refused the IT Power DA. IT Power appealed this decision to the Land and Environment Court in NSW – IT Power (Australia) Pty Ltd v Mid-Western Regional Council – NSW (2023) NSWLEC 1800, 28 December 2023. This appeal by IT Power (now EDPR Australia) was dismissed.
EDPR Australia is the developer of the proposed 10MW, 16,000 solar panels and a Grid Scale Lithium Battery (an industrial scale solar energy factory (not a farm)) and with a 2.3M high security surrounding the site/s at 140 Acadia Road, Springside, Orange.
The site is adjacent to a tributary to Gosling Creek Reservoir.
The site is in a rural lifestyle area with largely small area properties and close to the Regional City of Orange.

Grounds of Objection
There are numerous reasons that this proposal should not be approved.
1. Risk of contamination and pollution

a. Solar panels leach their heavy metals and carcinogens. Expect the developer to deny this occurs as they will most likely rely on a 24 solar panel leaching study that show solar panels do not leach.
The Institute for Photovoltaics and Research Centre, University of Stuttgart, Germany

study that was conducted over 1.5 years found leaching of solar panels occurs.
Extract from their research findings:
Our long-term experiments clearly demonstrate that it is possible to leach out all, or at least a large amount, of the (toxic) elements from the photovoltaic modules. It is therefore not sufficient to carry out experiments just over 24 h and to conclude on the stability and environmental impact of photovoltaic modules.
Gosling Creek needs to be protected from any contamination.

A copy of the Institute of Photovoltaics and Research Centre, Stuttgart is attached.

b. Grid scale battery, solar panel, inverters and transformer fires, apart from the fire risk to neighbours and fire fighters poses a very large risk as they emit toxic compounds as well as contaminating the sites, neighbours and soil and water.
The recent major fire of a grid scale lithium battery occurred at Moss Landing California (there have been 4 battery fires in 4 years at Moss Landing). There have also been large grid scale lithium battery fires in Victoria and only last week, there was an inverter at Raywood near Bendigo.
Large grid scale lithium battery fires pose a particularly high risk. These batteries contain Lithium ion Phosphate (Lithium Hexafluoro Phosphate (LiPF6)) and other Li-salts containing fluorine.
When a Lithium Hexafluoro Phosphate battery burns heavy metals get distributed along with Lithium Hexafluoro Phosphate released into the atmosphere. On exposure to air Lithium Hexafluoro Phosphate (has a high elemental content of Fluorine (F)) disassociates and becomes Hydro fluoric acid (HF).
Hydro fluoric acid is a contact poison and causes irritation to eyes, mouth, throat, lungs and nose (mucous membranes) and can be deadly. It differs from other acids because the fluoride ion readily penetrates the skin, causing destruction of deep tissue layers, including bone. Systemic effects can occur from all routes of exposure and include pulmonary edema, nausea, vomiting, gastric pain, and cardiac arrhythmia.

Additionally, if LiPF6 is inhaled it will disassociate in the human body and become Hydro fluoric acid causing significant health impacts.

There is no antidote for hydrofluoric acid (HF) toxicity.

2. FIRE risk
Electrical and battery fires do happen on industrial scale solar energy factories (SF). Rural Fires Services are not equipped to attend a SF fire as breathing apparatus is essential.

Any fire fighting on a SF site runs the risk of entrapment of the fire crew as they are not designed to move fire vehicles over and around the fire ground.

The toxic nature of a lithium battery fire and the risk to human health will require residents in the smoke fall-out area to be evacuated or be provided mwith breathing apparatus.

A copy of the Queensland incident response to industrial solar factories is attached.

3. Visual amenity and rural landscape
The installation of 16,000 panels cannot be satisfactorily mitigated. Installation of an industrial factory will result in the loss of the rural landscape and destruction of visual amenity for surrounding neighbours, tourists and the City of Orange.

4. Decommissioning

Will this developer own this large scale industrial solar factory (SF) when it comes time to decommission and remediate the site?

The current cost to decommission alone according to NSW Planning will be of the order of $1.5 million. Remediation will be on top of this.

Not specifically this developer, but the industry practice is to develop these SFs and then sell them off as part of their “asset recycling”. Who will be the owner of the SF and will they be around to decommission and clean up?

It is likely the last owner will be a shelf company that goes into liquidation and will have no funds to decommission, leaving the landowner to foot the bill and when the land owner walks away the clean up will rest with the Orange Council under the POEO Act (NSW).

5. Waste and Recycling

Should this proposal be approved, then a condition of approval should require that all construction waste including broken and faulty solar panels be recycled and not placed in landfill, and damaged panels during operation, for instance hail damaged panels, be recycled and not placed in landfill, and all materials brought onto the site are to be removed when decommissioning occurs including all underground cables and concrete and these materials are required to be recycled and not placed in landfill.

6. Performance Bonds

Council should require the developer to lodge a financial bond with the Council for the future cost of decommissioning and any site contamination cleanup.

END.

Submission 30 - Attachment 1

energies

MDPI

Article

Leaching via Weak Spots in Photovoltaic Modules

Jessica Nover [1], Renate Zapf-Gottwick [1,*], Carolin Feifel [2], Michael Koch [2] and Juergen Heinz Werner [1]

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[2] Institute for Sanitary Engineering, Water Quality, and Solid Waste Management, University of Stuttgart, 70569 Stuttgart, Germany; carolin.feifel@iswa.uni-stuttgart.de (C.F.); Michael.Koch@iswa.uni-stuttgart.de (M.K.)
* Correspondence: renate.zapf-gottwick@ipv.uni-stuttgart.de

Abstract: This study identifies unstable and soluble layers in commercial photovoltaic modules during 1.5 year long-term leaching. Our experiments cover modules from all major photovoltaic technologies containing solar cells from crystalline silicon (c-Si), amorphous silicon (a-Si), cadmium telluride (CdTe), and copper indium gallium diselenide (CIGS). These technologies cover more than 99.9% of the world market. We cut out module pieces of 5 × 5 cm^2 in size from these modules and leached them in water-based solutions with pH 4, pH 7, and pH 11, in order to simulate different environmental conditions. Unstable layers open penetration paths for water-based solutions; finally, the leaching results in delamination. In CdTe containing module pieces, the CdTe itself and the back contact are unstable and highly soluble. In CIGS containing module pieces, all of the module layers are more or less soluble. In the case of c-Si module pieces, the cells' aluminum back contact is unstable. Module pieces from a-Si technology also show a soluble back contact. Long-term leaching leads to delamination in all kinds of module pieces; delamination depends strongly on the pH value of the solutions. For low pH-values, the time dependent leaching is well described by an exponential saturation behavior and a leaching time constant. The time constant depends on the pH, as well as on accelerating conditions such as increased temperature and/or agitation. Our long-term experiments clearly demonstrate that it is possible to leach out all, or at least a large amount, of the (toxic) elements from the photovoltaic modules. It is therefore not sufficient to carry out experiments just over 24 h and to conclude on the stability and environmental impact of photovoltaic modules.

Keywords: leaching; long term; photovoltaic modules; delamination; solubility

check for updates

Citation: Nover, J.; Zapf-Gottwick, R.; Feifel, C.; Koch, M.; Werner, J.H. Leaching via Weak Spots in Photovoltaic Modules. *Energies* **2021**, *14*, 692. https://doi.org/10.3390/en14030692

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1. Introduction

Photovoltaic (PV) modules are not a niche product anymore. The market started with an installed capacity of 20 MW in the early 1990s and increased up to 635 GW of total installed PV modules worldwide at the end of 2019 [1]. By assuming an average lifetime of 30 years, we have to deal with an increasing amount of waste from PV modules of up to 1.7 million tonnes until 2030 [2].

In principle, photovoltaics are a green technology; however, some PV modules contain toxic elements such as lead in the solder ribbons and metalization pastes, or even worse, such as in CdTe technology, the toxic elements Cd and Te in the photoactive layer itself. Many modules using copper indium gallium diselenide (CIGS) also contain cadmium in the so-called CdS buffer layer of the CIGS cells. This situation is mainly possible because PV modules are still excluded from the EU Directive on the restriction of hazardous substances (ROHS 2) in electrical and electronic equipment. This exclusion will remain until the next review of the RoHS 2, which is planned for 2021 [3]. For all other electric and electronic equipment (EEE) on the EU market, the tolerated maximum concentrations by weight in homogeneous materials for lead (Pb) and cadmium (Cd) are 0.1% and 0.01%, respectively. Clearly, in the case of the compounds CdS or CdTe, with 50% of the mass being Cd,

the RoHS is not obeyed. However, also the technology of modules with crystalline Si cells has a problem with RoHS, although it could easily be overcome by using cell connectors without lead (usually, the solder contains about 40% lead) in the solder. The tiny amount of Pb in the metallization pastes could be kept below the RoHS limits. In 2019, the amount of lead-free metalization pastes in the case of silicon (Si) solar cells was only 30% [4]. At the same time, the world market share of lead-containing solder for cell connectors was over 90% [4].

Most probably, photovoltaic modules, which contain toxic substances, are safe for the users and the environment, at least as long as the modules are not damaged. Nevertheless, what happens if modules are damaged? What happens at the end of their use? Are they "donated" or "exported" like old cars, other old electronic equipment, and waste to countries outside the EU? In the worst case, finally, wherever it may be, the modules are crushed and/or discarded in landfills. What could happen with the toxic elements? In fact, it is no longer a question if these substances are released into in the environment: several studies proved they do and that the release depends on the pH-value of the leaching solvents, as well as on the redox conditions [5–10]. A literature review can be found in [11].

Despite of all these studies [5–11], several questions are open: How are the toxic substances released? What are the weak spots in the modules? Does leaching only occur in the case of delaminated modules, i.e., in modules, that have lost the front glass? In this case, in particular for thin film modules, it would be understandable that the toxic substances are leached from, for example, the CdTe layers, which are no longer protected by the front glass. Does it work the other way around: Are the thin layers leached from the edges of the module (pieces) leading, finally, to delamination? Clearly, after delamination, the leaching would then be accelerated even more, because the leaching solution is now able to attack the thin layers not only from the edges, but also from the surface. Are there any potentially accelerating parameters, like agitation or temperature, regarding the leaching?

The present contribution gives answers to most of these questions via a long-term study. In contrast to previous work, our leaching tests are not only conducted over 24 h as requested by standard leaching tests [12–15], but for more than 1.5 year; some of our results are even taken after almost two years. Furthermore, we analyze not only eluted amounts of toxic substances like cadmium (Cd) and lead (Pb), but also other elements present in the module layers such as zinc (Zn), tellurium (Te), indium (In), gallium (Ga), selenium (Se), aluminum (Al), molybdenum (Mo), and copper (Cu), to identify soluble and, therefore, weak layers in PV modules. Parts of the experimental details were published earlier in German [16]; some results about the leaching of Cd, Te, and Pb up to day 360 were published earlier by us [10]. We find, that, finally, the modules delaminate because of the leaching from the edges of the module pieces. In all kinds of modules, at least one of the layers of the different cell types represents a weak path for the leaching. In the case of CdTe module pieces, the CdTe layer itself and the Mo contact are soluble. In the case of CIGS module pieces, the Zn front contact, the Mo back contact, and the Cd-containing buffer layer are susceptible to strong leaching. For crystalline silicon module pieces, the Al back contact is a weak spot; for amorphous silicon (a-Si) module pieces, also the back contact (Ni) and the intermediate layer containing Zn are identified as weak spots.

Section 2 of the present contribution describes the sample preparation and the leaching conditions and shows how we determine the total amount of elements within each type of our investigated solar modules. Section 3 presents our leaching results. We measured for more than 1.5 years, not only at room temperature, but also at increased temperature, as well as under accelerated leaching conditions. The leaching time constant depends on the module type, as well as on the leaching conditions. Section 4 identifies the weak spots for each particular module type. Section 5, finally, concludes that the amount of leached out elements after 1.5 years in some cases exceeds the value after one day by more than two orders of magnitude. Thus, leaching experiments, which are just carried out over one day, are valuable. However, statements about the stability and environmental noxiousness of photovoltaic layers are highly questionable when based on such short-term measurements.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Sample Preparation and Experimental Conditions

For cutting the module pieces with well-defined sizes and edges, we applied water jet cutting to get samples from the four major commercial PV technologies: crystalline silicon (c-Si), amorphous silicon (a-Si), cadmium telluride (CdTe), and copper indium gallium diselenide (CIGS). The module pieces are cut in a way that all module pieces contained at least one solder ribbon, but no parts of the frame, module boxes, or cables. The sample size of the module pieces for the leaching experiments was $5 \times 5\ cm^2$.

The leaching experiments were carried out under three different conditions, in order to identify potential accelerating conditions:

- Room temperature $T_{RT} = 25\,^{\circ}C$, no agitation;
- Room temperature $T_{RT} = 25\,^{\circ}C$, with agitation (orbital shaking with rotational speed $n = 100\,min^{-1}$);
- Increased temperature $T_{IT} = 40\,^{\circ}C$, with agitation (orbital shaking with rotational speed $n = 100\,min^{-1}$).

For all experiments, we used high-density polyethylene (HDPE) bottles supplied with the leaching solution with a 1000 mL volume and two pieces from the very same module; see also [10]. The samples were not fixed in the bottles, and the bottles were lightproof. From earlier experiments (not presented here), we know that light accelerates leaching. However, light leads also to the production of alga, in particular for the long leaching times we are using. Alga production changes the experimental conditions and makes the leaching experiments less reproducible. Therefore, for the experiments presented here, we decided to use lightproof bottles. In order to increase the significance and validity of our experiments even more, each experiment was conducted in triplicate (this means three bottles, each one filled with two samples) for every condition. The leaching data, i.e., the concentration of a particular element in the solutions, are given as the mean value of the probes taken from the three bottles.

The leaching solutions with three different pHs covered the pH range of different environmental conditions that might occur in rain, groundwater, or waste disposal sites; their exact chemical composition and pH are shown in Table 1. All leaching solutions were base on deionized (DI) water. Over the whole 1.5 years of the experiments, the pH and the oxidation/reduction-potential E_H remained almost constant. Data for E_H, following DIN38404-6, stemmed from measurements with a platinum electrode against a silver/silver chloride reference (Ag/AgCl). The concentration of potassium chloride $c_{KCl} = 3$ mol/L was $T = 25\,^{\circ}C$; we converted the data to a potential against a standard hydrogen electrode [17].

Throughout the leaching experiments, starting after 0.5 days, we periodically took 15 mL samples from the leaching solutions in the bottles and analyzed them for the leached out elements. After taking the probe, we pored in again fresh solution of 15 mL to keep the 1000 mL volume. All data were corrected for the amount of elements that were taken out from the solution due to sampling.

Table 1. Composition of leaching solutions with pH-values of 3, 7, and 11 used in the experiments and the measured reduction potential E_H ; the same conditions as in [10]. (Copyright (2017) The Japan Society of Applied Physics, reproduced with permission).

pH	E_H (V)	Chemical Composition
3	0.62	15.4 g/L $C_6H_8O_7$, 2.8 g/L Na_2HPO_4, DI water
7	0.56	3.7 g/L KH_2PO_4, 5 g/L Na_2HPO_4, DI water
11	0.33	0.04 g/L NaOH, DI water

2.2. Heavy Metal Analysis and Determination of Initial Metal Content in Module Pieces

We characterized the samples that were taken from the leaching solutions with inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) and give the data for the leached elements according to ISO 17294-2 [18]. This method is only able to measure dissolved substances; it cannot detect precipitations in the solution. Therefore, the elements in the precipitates were not counted as leached.

Here, we always give the amount of leached out elements as a percentage with respect to the total amount of elements that were in the original module pieces. Therefore, we had to measure the total mass of those elements in the module pieces before the experiment. For that purpose, similar module pieces as those for the experiments were milled to a powder. Then, the powder was digested by adding acid and oxidizing agents and, finally, using microwave irradiation. After that, the digested samples underwent the ICP-MS analysis, similar to our earlier experiment [10]. For each PV technology, and for all the elements analyzed, Table 2 shows their mass M_{total} that was contained in the original reference module pieces.

Table 2. Elemental mass M_{total} in the 5×5 cm^2 module pieces for crystalline silicon (c-Si), amorphous silicon (a-Si), cadmium telluride (CdTe), and copper indium gallium diselenide (CIGS). The data represent mean values and the standard deviation from three measurements.

Element	c-Si (mg)	a-Si (mg)	CdTe (mg)	CIGS (mg)
Zn		0.9 ± 0.4		16.1 ± 3.1
Cd			13.9 ± 0.9	0.2 ± 0.002
Te			15.6 ± 1.1	
In				14.1 ± 4.3
Ga				0.7 ± 0.1
Se				6.7 ± 1.3
Al	167 ± 40	196 ± 27	289 ± 63	280 ± 190
Mo			12.7 ± 1.7	5.0 ± 0.2
Cu	254 ± 15	130 ± 14	80 ± 11	146 ± 5.7
Ni		1.0 ± 0.1		
Pb	16.7 ± 0.8		2.4 ± 0.3	

2.3. Mass Balancing at the End of the Leaching Experiments

During the leaching experiments, the total mass:

$$M_{total} = M_{diss} + M_{MP} + M_{FR} \quad (1)$$

of a particular element is the sum of the following masses: the amount M_{diss} dissolved in the solution, the remaining mass M_{MP} within the module pieces, and the mass M_{FR} that precipitated in the bottles of the solution. Clearly, at the end of the leaching experiment, the total mass, determined by Equation (1) should equal the masses in Table 1. We measured the mass M_{FR} in the following way: First, the module pieces were removed from the bottles, and then, the solution was filtered using vacuum filtration with a cellulose nitrate membrane filter with a pore size of 0.45 µm. The mass M_{MP} was measured in the same way as the total mass of the elements in one module piece, as described previously. To measure the mass of the filter residue M_{FR}, we digested the filter residue together with the filter by applying a microwave enhanced oxidative digestion. Again, ICP-MS measured these samples, and the measurement of the cellulose nitrate membrane filter itself (blank value) ran in parallel. Subtracting the blank values for the filter, we calculated the amount of each element in the filter residue.

3. Results

3.1. Delamination of Module Pieces

One focus during long-term leaching in water-based solutions lies in the occurrence of delamination. In order to simulate field conditions, in a first series of experiments, we did not use any accelerating leaching parameters for the module pieces for analyzing the delamination (Figure 1a). Delamination, in this study, is defined as a separation between all kinds of module layers, not only between the encapsulation layer, often ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA) foil, and the glass. The delamination was determined by visual examination.

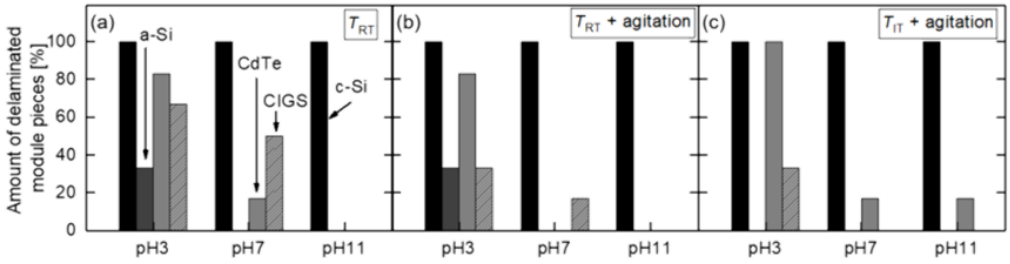

Figure 1. Amount of delaminated module pieces from crystalline silicon (c-Si), amorphous silicon (a-Si), cadmium telluride (CdTe), and copper indium gallium diselenide (CIGS) depending on the pH value of the water-based solution after 1.5 years for the three different experimental conditions: (**a**) $T_{RT} = 25\,^{\circ}C$, no agitation, (**b**) $T_{RT} = 25\,^{\circ}C$, with agitation, and (**c**) $T_{IT} = 40\,^{\circ}C$, with agitation.

After 1.5 years of leaching, we observed delamination in all kinds of PV module pieces: c-Si, a-Si, CdTe, and CIGS. The probability of delamination depends on the pH value of the solutions and the experimental conditions. In the case of c-Si module pieces, we always observed 100% delamination, independent of the pH-value, temperature, and agitation: in all aqueous solutions and for all module pieces, delamination occurred. However, in this case, delamination occurred via the EVA layer, and the type differed from the delamination type of thin film module pieces (via thin layers), as discussed later. Delamination of a-Si module pieces only happened in aqueous solutions with pH 3, and only 30% of the module pieces were affected. The agitation (Figure 1b) and also the temperature (Figure 1c) had no accelerating effect on the delamination. In fact, during the leaching experiments with $T_{IT} = 40\,^{\circ}C$ plus agitation, no delamination of a-Si module pieces was found. The highest amount of delamination in the case of CdTe module pieces occurred in acidic water-based solutions. For this type of module, the increased temperature weakly affected the delamination, as shown in Figure 1c. At room temperature, no delaminated CdTe module pieces were observed in the solutions with pH 11, whereas in neutral solutions, only 17% of the module pieces showed delamination. The pH dependence held also for the CIGS module pieces. In pH 3 solutions, the highest amount of delamination occurred with 67% of the module pieces. In pH 7 solutions, the amount of delaminated module pieces was still 50%. In alkaline solutions with pH 11, no delamination was observed with agitation or with increased temperature.

We classified all these delaminations into three different types: (i) Total separation: Here, the front side is clearly separated from the rear side. This delamination occurs in case of CdTe and a-Si module pieces. Figure 2a shows a scheme of this delamination type. (ii) Fractional separation: Here, only parts of the rear or front side are separated. The major part of the module compound is still intact. This type of delamination takes place for CIGS module pieces and for c-Si module pieces when leached in solutions with pH 11. The scheme is shown in Figure 2b. (iii) Blistering: Figure 2c shows this third type of delamination. Blistering occurs between either the front glass and the EVA foil, or between the EVA foil and the solar cell, but there is no complete separation. This type only occurs in c-Si module pieces.

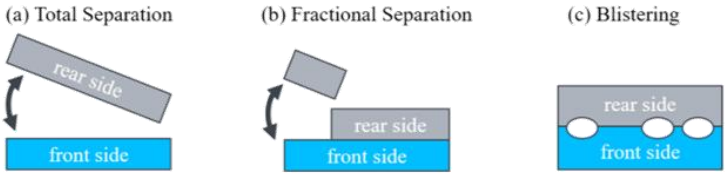

Figure 2. Different types of delamination during the leaching process: (**a**) Total separation (observed for CdTe and a-Si module pieces). The front side is completely separated from the rear side. (**b**) Fractional separation (observed for CIGS and c-Si module pieces). Only small parts of the rear side are separated; the major part of the module structure is still intact. (**c**) Blistering (only observed for c-Si module pieces). Bubble formation emerges locally on the front side of c-Si module pieces, either between glass and EVA or between EVA and solar cell depending on the pH. In this case, no separation occurs between the front and the rear side.

Total separation: Figure 3a–d shows photographs of the front and the rear side of a 5 × 5 cm^2 CdTe module piece before and after 1.5 years of leaching. Before leaching the CdTe module piece, the integrated series connection of the cells is visible (see the horizontal lines) on the front side (Figure 3a) and also on the rear side (Figure 3b). On the rear side, one sees also the solder ribbon. Only the rear side glass of the module piece shows cracks caused by the water jet cutting. The breakage pattern of this glass indicates that heat-strengthened glass is used as the rear side glass. Figure 3c,d shows the front and the rear side of a CdTe module piece after the leaching process of 1.5 years in solutions with pH 3. Apart from a few parts, the module material disappeared completely. The solder ribbon is still attached to the rear side glass by an insulating tape. After this long-term leaching, the front and the rear side glasses are no longer connected to each other, but totally separated. For a-Si module pieces, the same type of delamination is observed.

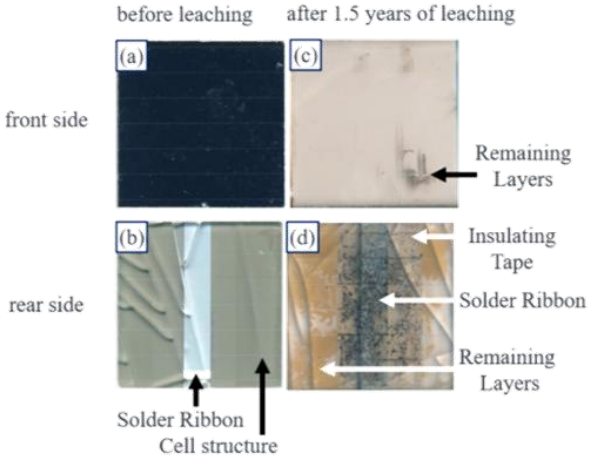

Figure 3. Photographs of (**a**) the front and (**b**) the rear side of a 5 × 5 cm^2 CdTe module piece before leaching. On the rear side, the solder ribbon and the interconnection of cells are visible. (**c**) Front side of the module piece after leaching over 1.5 years in solutions with pH 3. Apart from a few visible remaining parts, the module material disappeared. (**d**) Rear side of the module piece after the leaching. The solder ribbon with the insulating tape is visible and also some parts of remaining layers. After 1.5 years of leaching, the front and the rear side glasses are no longer attached to each other; total separation occurs.

Fractional separation: Figure 4a–d shows photographs of the front and the rear side of a 5 × 5 cm^2 CIGS module piece before and after 1.5 years of leaching: parts of the rear side are separated. Both glasses, the front and the rear side glass, show cracks due to the water jet cutting. Figure 4c shows a photograph of the front side after 1.5 years of leaching in solutions with pH 3. From the front side, a few transparent spots around the edges are visible. From a more detailed look at the back side of the module piece (Figure 4d), it becomes clear that at the transparent spots, parts of the rear side glass are missing, together with the back contact and the active module layers. Therefore, only the transparent front glass remains.

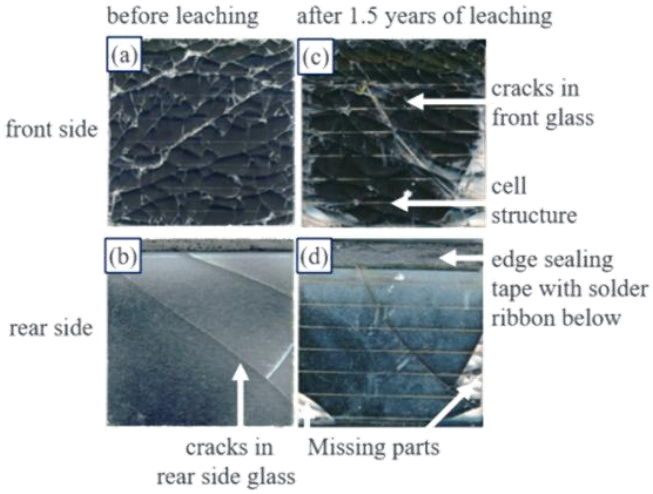

Figure 4. Photographs of (**a**) the front and (**b**) the rear side of a 5 × 5 cm^2 CIGS module piece before leaching. On the rear side, the edge sealing tape with the solder ribbon below is visible. In the front glass, as well as in the rear side glass, cracks are recognizable; they stem from the water jet cutting. (**c**) Front side after leaching for 1.5 years in pH 3 solution. (**d**) Rear side after leaching. Parts of the rear glass are missing, together with the back contact and the active layers. Only the transparent front glass remains.

Blistering: Figure 5a shows a photograph of a c-Si module piece of 5 × 5 cm^2 in size after 1.5 years of leaching in pH 3 solution. In this case, local bubble formation takes place between the solar cell and the EVA foil, especially around the solder ribbon, but no total separation is observed. In solutions with pH 11, delamination between the EVA foil and the front glass appears across extended areas (Figure 5b). A few parts of the glass are separated, and the exposed EVA foil with the solar cell below remains. Due to delamination, the textured structure of the front glass becomes visible. The breakage pattern of the glass matches the pattern known for tempered glass. The rear side of the c-Si module pieces (white backsheet) shows no changes caused by leaching. Only for this PV technology, the occurrence of delamination, i.e., blistering, does not depend on the pH value of the leaching solution. Module pieces leached in pH 7 solutions also show blistering. Blistering takes place at both locations: between the solar cell and the EVA foil, as well as between the EVA foil and the front glass.

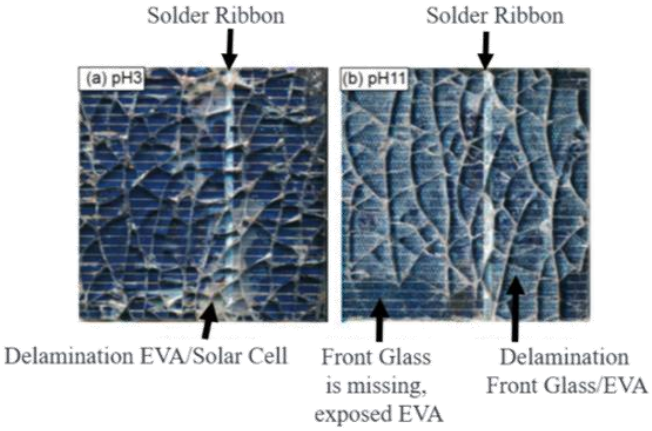

Figure 5. Photographs of c-Si module pieces with 5 × 5 cm^2 after 1.5 years of leaching in solutions with (**a**) pH 3 and (**b**) pH 11. In solutions with pH 3, a local bubble formation occurs between the solar cell and the EVA foil, preferably around the solder ribbon. In solutions with pH 11, a delamination between the EVA foil and the front glass appears across extended areas. A few parts of the glass are separated, and the exposed EVA foil with the solar cell below remains.

3.2. Leaching Results

The previous figures, as well as our previous experiments on milled module pieces [8] give the proof for severe leaching for all module technologies. In the following, we present detailed results on the elements that were leached out from module pieces of 5 × 5 cm^2 in size. In a first publication [10], we presented preliminary leaching data for Cd, Te, and Pb only and until Day 360, i.e., about one year. In contrast, here, we extend our study to 1.5 years and include many more other elements. This gives us the chance to identify possible weak spots and the leaching paths in the modules. In detail, we measure the amount of the following elements in our water-based solutions of Table 1 with different pH-values: Zn, Te, In, Ga, Se, Al, Mo, Cu, Cd, and Pb. The non-toxic element Si, which is contained in the modules' cells from crystalline, as well as from amorphous silicon, is not measured, simply because the module glass itself also contains high amounts of Si. Our measurement conducted by ICP-MS cannot distinguish between Si from the cells and from the glass of the modules.

3.2.1. CdTe Module Pieces

Figure 6a shows the common structure of a CdTe module including the front glass and front contact (usually tin oxide (SnO_2)), the buffer layer cadmium sulfide (CdS), the photoactive layer CdTe, the Mo back contact, the encapsulant EVA, and finally, the rear side glass. The typical thickness of each layer is also given [19–21]. CdTe modules are mostly fabricated in a superstrate configuration: the production process starts with the front glass, on which the transparent front contact SnO_2 is deposited. We used commercial CdTe-modules for the preparation of the module pieces and measured the amount of eluted elements with the above discussed ICP-MS method. Therefore, we are not able to distinguish between the Cd from the CdS buffer layer and the Cd from the photoactive CdTe film.

Figure 6b–d shows the time-dependent leaching of the elements Cd, Te, and Mo in water-based solutions with pH 3, pH 7, and pH 11; see also [10] for the leaching results of Cd and Te until Day 360. These results stemmed from experiments at T_{RT} = 25 °C without agitation. In all solutions, the amount of leached elements increases with time, but with different leaching rates for different pHs of the solutions. At the early beginning of leaching, Mo from the back contact leaches out with the highest amount, followed by Cd.

Tellurium leaches the least. Thus, already from this observation, it becomes clear that the Mo layer is a weak spot in the case of the CdTe module. After approximately 300 days of leaching, the concentration of Te increases dramatically and approaches the eluted amount of Cd and Mo. Around this time of leaching, delaminations are observed. After 1.5 years, the concentrations of eluted Cd and Mo related to the total amount in the module piece in acidic solutions (pH 3) reach $c_{Cd} \approx 92\%$ and $c_{Mo} \approx 88\%$. The amount of eluted Te is $c_{Te} \approx 54\%$.

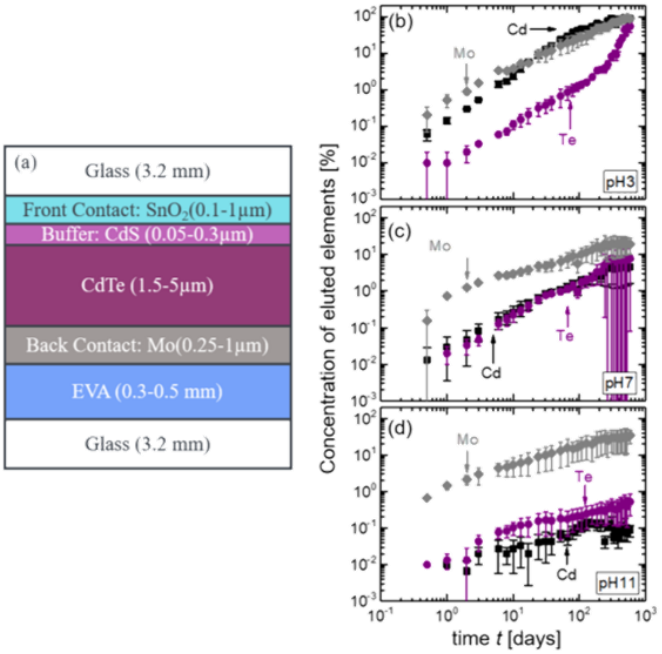

Figure 6. (**a**) Schematic structure of a typical CdTe module (not drawn to scale) and (**b**) time-dependent leaching results of the elements Cd, Te, and Mo from CdTe module pieces in acidic aqueous solutions with pH 3 and (**c**) in solutions with pH 7 and (**d**) pH 11.

Figure 6c shows the leaching in water-based solutions with pH 7. Here, the concentrations of eluted Cd, Mo, and Te, finally, after 1.5 years, reach $c_{Cd} \approx 4,5\%$, $c_{Mo} \approx 19\%$, and $c_{Te} \approx 7.8\%$, respectively. In this case, the leaching of Cd and Te shows the same time-dependent leaching behavior. The large standard deviations for Te appearing after approximately 300 days of leaching are due to the delamination of one module piece out of three experimental runs. Clearly, after delamination of this particular module piece, substantially higher amounts are leached out, because the leaching solution is able to directly attack the CdTe layers from the surface. Therefore, we observe substantially higher amounts of eluted Te and slightly higher amounts of Cd for this one out of the three experimental runs. The leaching of Mo is highest from the beginning to the end and comparable to the leaching amounts of Cd and Te.

Figure 6d presents the leaching data for pH 11. Here, at the end of the experiment, the amount of eluted Mo is still high with $c_{Mo} \approx 34\%$. The measured concentration of Te is below 1% after 1.5 years, and the amount of leached Cd is the lowest. In solutions with pH 11, the time-dependent leaching rates of Cd and Te are much lower compared to the leaching rates in solutions with pH 7 and pH 3. For all conditions, the leaching rate of Mo is always higher than the one of Cd and Te. This indicates again that, in the case of CdTe modules, the Mo back contact is a weak spot.

The leaching results in Figure 6b–d clearly demonstrate an enormous difference between the leaching concentrations after one day and after the 1.5 years. For example, the Cd-elution in pH 3 at the end of the experiment reaches almost 100%, whereas it is only about 1 % after one day. For pH 3 and pH 7, the eluted concentrations increase approximately linearly with time: a one order of magnitude increase (on the log-scale) of the time leads to a one order of magnitude higher concentration (on the log scale) of the concentration. For pH 11, the data approach a square root dependence with time: it needs a two orders of magnitude increase on the time scale for a one order of magnitude increase on the concentration scale.

Figure 7 shows the ratio $R_{Cd:Te}$ of dissolved Cd to dissolved Te from leaching CdTe module pieces in solutions with pH 3, pH 7, and pH 11. For leaching solutions with pH 3, the value of $R_{Cd:Te}$ is not constant over the leaching time. At the beginning of leaching, $R_{Cd:Te}$ is highest with 35:1, but with time, it approaches $R_{Cd:Te} \approx 1$. For neutral solutions with pH 7, $R_{Cd:Te} \approx 1$ and is almost constant over time. The same behavior applies for leaching in alkaline solutions, but with $R_{Cd:Te} \approx 0.1$. This means that more Te is dissolved in the solutions.

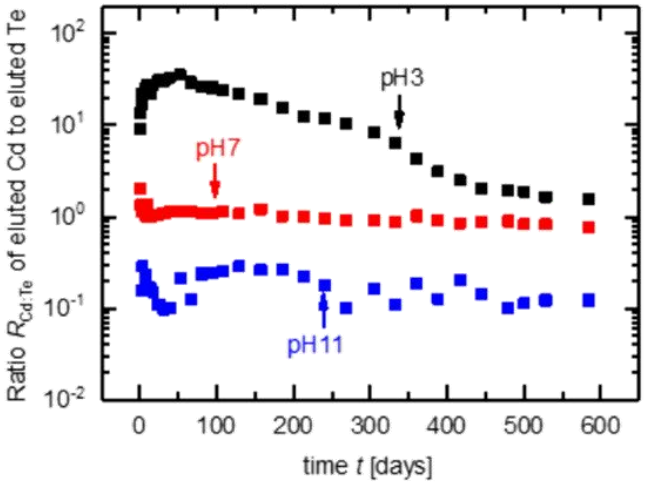

Figure 7. Ratio $R_{Cd:Te}$ of dissolved Cd to dissolved Te from leaching CdTe module pieces in solutions with pH 3, pH 7, and pH 11.

3.2.2. CIGS Module Pieces

Figure 8a shows a schematic cross-section through a CIGS module, composed of the front glass with EVA, the front contact (usually consisting of aluminum-doped zinc oxide, ZnO:Al), a buffer layer of CdS, the absorber layer Cu(In, Ga)Se_2, and a thin interfacial layer of $MoSe_2$ between the substrate glass and the CIGS. The $MoSe_2$ is formed by a reaction between the Mo and the Se atmosphere during the deposition of the Cu, In, and Ga [22]. CIGS modules are built in a substrate configuration. The fabrication starts with the deposition (sputtering or evaporation) of Mo on the rear glass. Then, the CIGS is deposited, mostly by co-sputtering or thermal evaporation of the constituent elements, Cu, In, and Ga in a Se atmosphere.

Figure 8b shows the leaching data for Zn, Cd, Mo, Cu, Ga, and In in pH 3 solutions. At the beginning of leaching, Zn from the front contact shows the highest amount with $c_{Zn} \approx 1\%$ already after one day; finally, we observe $c_{Zn} \approx 62\%$ after 1.5 years. Furthermore, already after one day, certain amounts of Mo from the back contact and In from the absorber layer are measurable in the solutions. Other elements, like Cd, Cu, and Ga, are detected later on. The leaching rates of each element differ in absolute values, but show a similar

time dependence. The leaching of the Mo from the CIGS module pieces differs from the data for Mo from CdTe module pieces (see Figure 6b). The Mo from CdTe module pieces seems to be more soluble, in particular for acidic solutions. The difference probably results from the formation of $MoSe_2$ at the back side of the CIGS films.

Figure 8c shows the leaching of Zn, Cd, Mo, Cu, Ga, and Se in pH 7 solutions. Indium is not detected in the solution with pH 7. The leaching of Zn for this pH is lower than that for pH 3, and so is the concentration after 1.5 years. In solutions with pH 11, we only find Mo, Ga, and Se with low concentrations in the solutions, as shown in Figure 8d. The leached Mo is lowest for pH 11 compared to the data from solutions with pH 3 and pH 7. In the case of CIGS module pieces, comparable to CdTe, the Mo back contact is a weak spot, but also the front contact Zn and the buffer layer Cd.

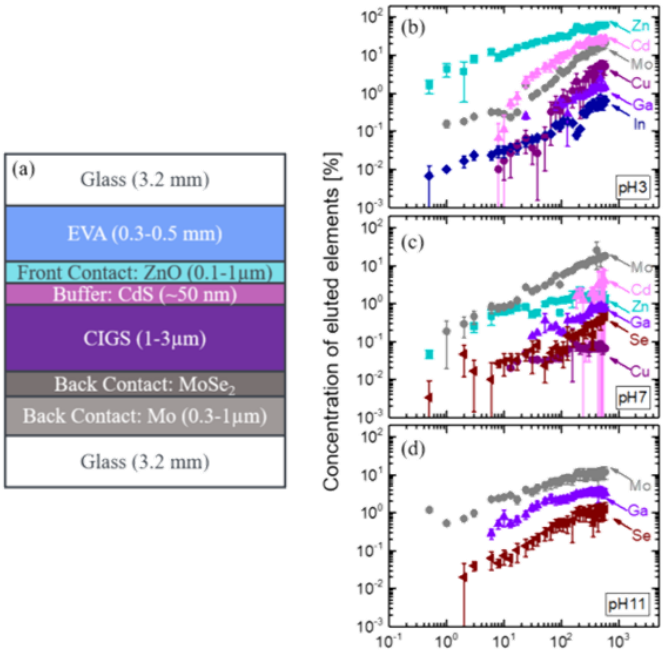

Figure 8. (**a**) Schematic structure of a typical CIGS module (not drawn to scale) and (**b**) time-dependent leaching results of the elements Zn, Cd, Mo, Cu, Ga, and In from CIGS module pieces in acidic aqueous solutions with pH 3 and (**c**) in solutions with pH 7 and (**d**) pH 11. In leaching solutions with pH 11, the concentrations of the elements Cd, Zn, Cu, and In are below the detection limit.

3.2.3. c-Si Module Pieces

Figure 9a shows a schematic cross-section through a classic c-Si module, consisting of a front glass with EVA, a silver front contact grid with contact fingers and busbars, and the silicon solar cell with a screen printed aluminum back contact and screen printed Ag contact pads (not drawn in the scheme). In contrast to thin film modules, instead of a rear glass, most c-Si modules have a backsheet and a second EVA sheet at the rear side. Figure 9b,c shows the leaching data for Al and Pb for pH 3 and pH 11 (see also [10] for the leaching results of Pb until Day 360). In the case of pH 7, the concentrations of Al and Pb are below the detection limit, which is 500 µg/L for Al and 20 µg/L for Pb. The eluted Pb stems either from the solder ribbon, which is not shown in the schematic cross-section, or from the screen printed metallization. For pH 3, the amount of leached Pb remains constant and below 0.1% until Day 241. After this time, the concentration increases dramatically up to $c_{Pb} \approx 3.7\%$ after 1.5 years. The concentration of Al reaches $c_{Al} \approx 27\%$ after 1.5 years in

the acidic solution. In contrast, for the alkaline solution with pH 11, the concentrations of Al and Pb are significantly lower, as shown in Figure 9c. In both cases, the leaching rates of Al are orders of magnitude higher than the ones for Pb. Thus, in the case of c-Si module pieces, the Al contact, which is screen printed and fired into the back side, makes up the weak spot and opens the path for leaching.

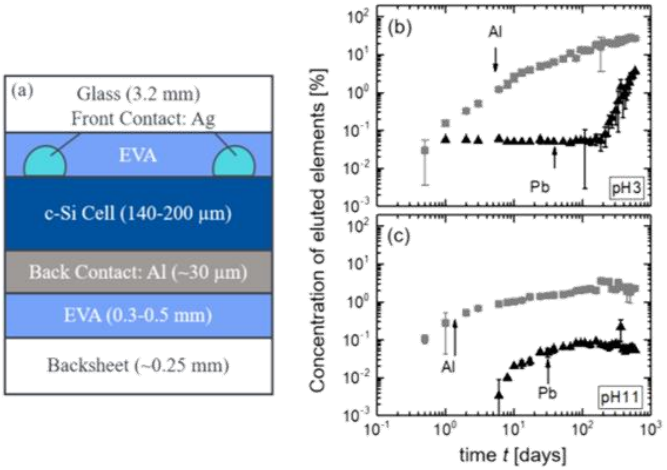

Figure 9. (**a**) Schematic structure of a typical c-Si module (not drawn to scale) and (**b**) time-dependent leaching results of Al and Pb from c-Si module pieces in acidic aqueous solutions with pH 3 and (**c**) in solutions with pH 11. In leaching solutions with pH 7, the concentrations of Al and Pb are below the detection limit.

3.2.4. a-Si Module Pieces

The common structure of an a-Si module is shown in Figure 10a. Amorphous silicon modules typically consist of a front glass with the front contact layer (SnO_2 is mostly used), the photoactive p-i-n layer from a-Si, followed by an intermediate layer consisting of ZnO and Ag, the back contact with a combination of Ni and Cu, and the encapsulant with the rear glass [23]. Similar to the production of CdTe modules, a-Si modules are built in a superstrate configuration, starting with the deposition of the front contact directly on the front glass. Figure 10b,c shows the concentrations of eluted Zn, Cu, and Ni in the solutions with pH 3 and pH 7. Unfortunately, we do not have any data about Ni before Day 388 of leaching. In leaching solutions with pH 11, the concentrations of Zn, Cu, and Ni are below the detection limits. For the other pH-values, we are able to present data: Zn, which stems from the intermediate layer, shows strong leaching with concentrations up to $c_{Zn} \approx 90\%$ after 1.5 years of leaching in the acidic pH 3 solution. The concentration of eluted Ni lies in the same range, whereas the concentration of Cu is $c_{Cu} \approx 7.5\%$. In aqueous solutions with pH 7, the elements Zn, Ni, and Cu leach only in minor amounts. The elements Zn, Cu, and Ni are leached out linearly with time, but with different rates depending on the element itself, as well as on the pH of the solution. In all cases, the leaching of the Zn is highest, and therefore, we identify the ZnO layer as a weak spot in a-Si module pieces.

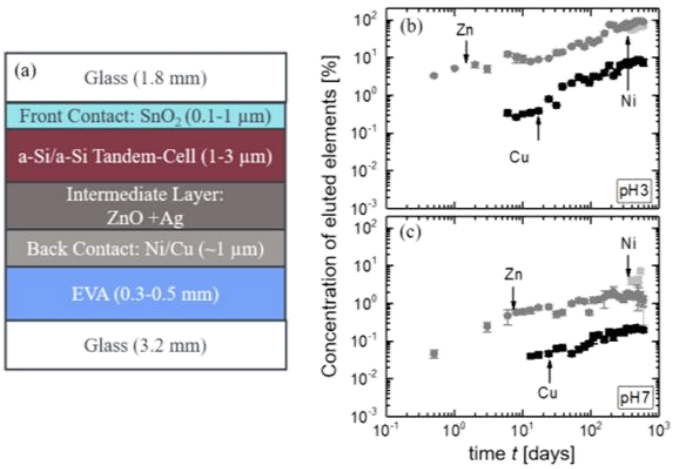

Figure 10. (**a**) Schematic structure of a typical a-Si module (not drawn to scale) and (**b**) time-dependent leaching results of Zn, Cu, and Ni from a-Si module pieces in acidic aqueous solutions with pH 3 and (**c**) in solutions with pH 7. In leaching solutions with pH 11, the concentrations of Zn, Cu, and Ni are not measurable according to the detection limit.

3.3. Accelerating Leaching Parameters for Cd from CdTe Module Pieces

All of the experiments considered so far were performed without any acceleration, for example, by elevated temperatures or stirring/agitation. Figure 11a,b compares the data for Cd, leached out from CdTe module pieces, for the three different pH-values and with/without agitation. Apart from the tests at $T_{RT} = 25\,^{\circ}\mathrm{C}$, we also used additional agitation and solutions at an elevated temperature $T_{IT} = 40\,^{\circ}\mathrm{C}$. All test series ran in parallel. Figure 11a shows the results after $t = 1$ day and Figure 11b after $t = 416$ days. The comparison of the two figures again underlines the dramatic difference in the leaching results after one day and after more than a year. Therefore, standard leaching experiments, which are only carried out over one day, are more or less meaningless, when one aims at judging the toxicity of CdTe modules. Furthermore, after just one day (see Figure 11a), additional agitation and/or elevated temperatures only slightly increase the amount of eluted Cd, even if for pH 3 solutions. In contrast, in particular for pH 7, increasing the temperature from $T_{RT} = 25\,^{\circ}\mathrm{C}$ to $T_{RI} = 40\,^{\circ}\mathrm{C}$ results in five times stronger leaching. Leaching in pH 11 solution triples the leaching of Cd for the same temperature increase. In contrast, in the case of agitation, we are not able to detect any Cd in the alkaline solutions after one day. In the case of pH 3, for all experimental conditions, after $t = 416$ days, the amount of eluted Cd in acidic solutions reaches almost 100%. In the case of the neutral pH 7 solutions, the final data all lie in the same range of $2\% < c_{Cd} < 4\%$. After 416 days, the eluted Cd reaches saturated values. Therefore, as shown in Figure 11b, there is almost no or only minor differences between the data with and without additional accelerating parameters.

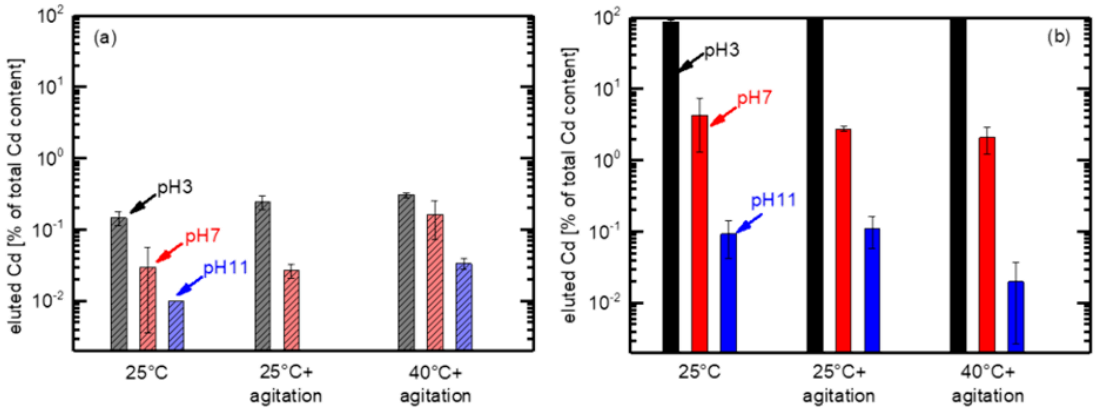

Figure 11. Dramatic difference between the leaching data after one day and more than a year of Cd out of CdTe module pieces. (**a**) Amount of eluted Cd from CdTe module pieces after $t = 1$ day in solutions of pH 3, 7, and 11 and different leaching conditions: with/without agitation and increased temperature $T_{IT} = 40\,^{\circ}$C plus agitation. For all conditions, after one day, the Cd concentration ranges below 1%. (**b**) Amount of eluted Cd from CdTe module pieces after $t = 416$ days. For pH 3, almost 100% of the Cd is leached out. For pH 7, still several percent are leached out. This finding raises the question of the meaningfulness of judging the toxicity of CdTe containing modules with tests that are carried out for one day only.

3.4. Analysis of Time Dependence

To get a better understanding of how the different leaching conditions affect the time-dependent leaching, we fit the measured concentration $C(t)$ at the time t to an exponential model according to:

$$C(t) = C_{max}(1 - e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}), \quad (2)$$

where C_{max} is the maximum, final concentration dissolved in the solution and τ is the leaching time constant. The leaching time constant represents the time for the concentration to reach 63% of its final value as a measure of leaching velocity. For times $t \ll \tau$, the Taylor expansion of Equation (2) yields a linear behavior according to:

$$C(t) = C_{max}\frac{t}{\tau}. \quad (3)$$

Indeed, in almost all of our experiments, if not disturbed by delamination effects, we see the linear time dependence predicted by Equation (3) and the saturation predicted by Equation (2). Equation (3) is the direct consequence of the number of atoms (Cd)that are leached per unit time, being directly proportional to the number of atoms that are still available for etching. Such an approach always leads to an exponential function such as Equation (2). However, not only delamination (which is expected to accelerate the leaching), but also other effects such as the formation of surface layers (see our work [24]), diffusion limitations, and/or the formation of precipitates could result in deviations from a behavior following Equations (2) and (3). For a diffusion limited leaching on a thin layer, one would observe a square root dependence, as discussed in [24]. This might be the case for some of the data here, in particular for pH 11.

Most of experimental data, in particular for pH 3 and pH 7, show an excellent agreement with the linear behavior, predicted by Equation (3) for time $t \ll \tau$, as well as for the saturation behavior, Equation (2). As an example, Figure 12a–c shows the time-dependent leaching of Cd from CdTe module pieces in solutions with pH 3 for the three different leaching conditions. The data are excellently fit with coefficients of determination $R^2 \geq 0.96$. Figure 12d–f shows the leaching data of Cd in solutions with pH 7. The dotted lines

represent the calculated fit according to Equation (2). The dashed lines show the calculated maximum Cd concentration C_{max} in the solutions; the time constants τ are also given. Modifications to the leaching conditions lead to accelerated leaching with a shorter time constant τ: For example, increasing the temperature to $T_{IT} = 40\,^{\circ}$C, as shown in Figure 12c, leads to a time constant that is only a third of the value at $T_{RT} = 25\,^{\circ}$C. In contrast to the time constant, the C_{max}-value is almost independent of the leaching conditions in pH 3 solution; it holds $C_{max} \approx 100\%$. Figure 12d shows the leaching data for pH 7 at $T_{RT} = 25\,^{\circ}$C without agitation; we find $\tau = 210$ days. After this time $t = \tau$, a value of 63% of the maximum Cd concentration is reached, which is estimated to be $C_{max} = 4.8\%$. Modified experiments slightly decrease the maximum concentration, which we explain by the large standard deviations at the end of leaching, caused by the delamination of module pieces. Additional agitation decreases the time constant to $\tau = 80$ days (Figure 12e); increased temperature yields $\tau = 20$ days (Figure 12f), i.e., four-times faster leaching.

The excellent fits of our leaching data for pH 3 and pH 7 to Equations (2) and (3) show also that in this case, the leaching is not limited by any diffusion processes, which might take place inside or on the surface of the CdTe layers (this statement holds also for the experiments on all other cell technologies). This behavior is in contrast to our results on the leaching of milled module pieces, which were reported in a separate publication [24]. There, the model for the small spherical CdTe particles, with sizes below one millimeter, predicts a power law, with leaching data following a dependence on time t according to $t^{0.43}$. Indeed, in [24] we observed this behavior for the small particles also experimentally. Due to the different size and geometry of the samples, the leaching from the flat plates of module pieces as presented here, at least for pH 3 and pH 7, follows a different time dependence, which, for short times compared to the leaching time constant, is $t^{1.0}$, as, for example, shown in Figure 6b,c.

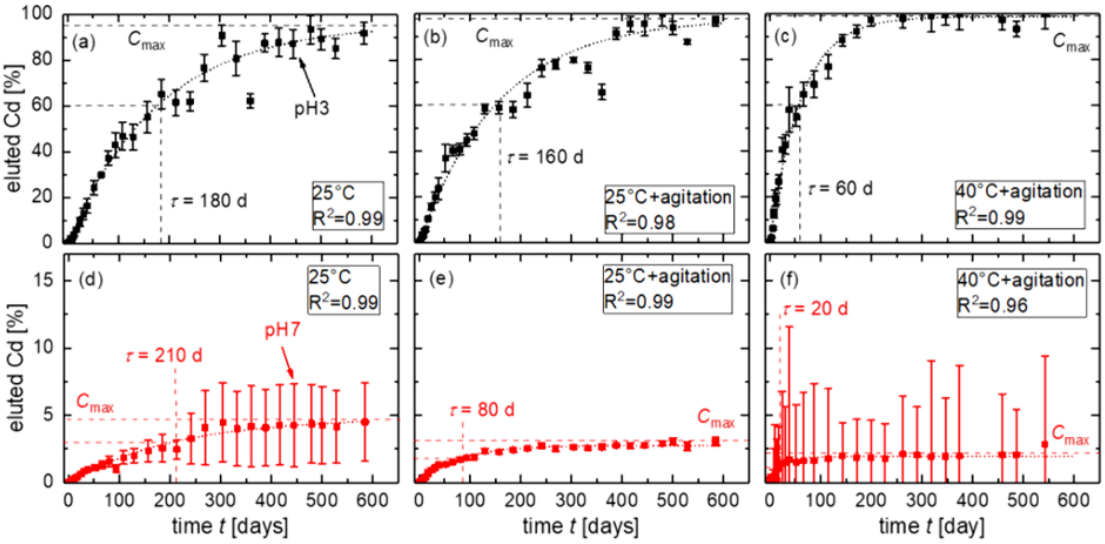

Figure 12. Leaching of Cd from CdTe module pieces in solutions with pH 3 at (**a**) $T_{RT} = 25\,^{\circ}$C, (**b**) at $T_{RT} = 25\,^{\circ}$C with agitation, and (**c**) at $T_{IT} = 40\,^{\circ}$C with agitation. Eluted Cd in solutions with pH 7 at (**d**) $T_{RT} = 25\,^{\circ}$C, (**e**) at $T_{RT} = 25\,^{\circ}$C with agitation, and (**f**) at $T_{IT} = 40\,^{\circ}$C with agitation. The dotted lines represent the calculated fit according to Equation (2) with high coefficients of determination R^2. The dashed lines show the calculated maximum concentration C_{max} in the solutions.

Figure 13a shows the leaching time constant τ for pH 3 and pH 7: A higher temperature results in faster leaching. In our study, $T_{IT} = 40\,^{\circ}$C is used, which is a common temperature PV modules reach when exposed to sunlight; on hot summer days, the temperatures are

even higher. In solutions with pH 7, the change in the leaching time constant due to varied conditions is even stronger. In contrast to a different τ, Figure 13b shows that the maximum concentration C_{max} of eluted Cd remains nearly constant and independent of modifications to the leaching conditions. However, the value C_{max} highly depends on the pH of the leaching solution: it holds $C_{max} \approx 100\%$ for pH 3 and $C_{max} \leq 4.8\%$ for pH 7. The lower C_{max} for pH 7 is explained by the formation of cadmium hydroxide in neutral solutions. This compound is not soluble and therefore not detected by our measurement method ICP-MS.

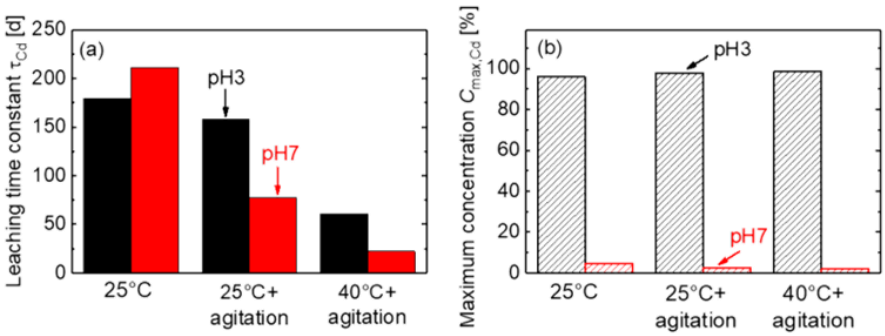

Figure 13. Calculated fit parameters for the leaching of Cd from CdTe module pieces under different conditions. (**a**) Leaching time constant τ_{Cd} for solutions with pH 3 and pH 7. (**b**) Maximum concentration C_{max} for the same conditions as in (**a**).

3.5. Mass Balance for CdTe Module Pieces

Figure 14 shows the distribution of the mass fractions for the elements Cd, Te, and Mo from CdTe module pieces leached for 700 days at $T_{RT} = 25\,^{\circ}C$ without agitation: the dissolved amount in the solution M_{diss}, the remaining mass in the module piece M_{MP} after the leaching process, and the mass of the filter residue M_{FR} with particles bigger than 0.45 mm. There are strong differences between the leaching behavior for pH 3 and pH 11:

pH 3: Almost all Cd, Te, and Mo from the module pieces is found in the mass M_{diss} of dissolved elements. In particular, for Cd, almost nothing remains in the module piece (mass M_{MP}) or is found in the mass M_{FR} of precipitates.

pH 11: Almost all Cd and Te still remain in the module pieces and are represented by the mass M_{MP}. Only in the case of Mo, a part of the Mo is measured in the solution as M_{diss}.

Mass loss for Te and Mo: The sum of the masses in the solution, filter, and module pieces measured after the leaching should reach 100% of the value before the leaching. However, for Te and Mo, the sum of the measured values after leaching is below 100%. The relatively small amount of missing mass is termed M_{Rest} in Figure 14. We explain the difference by the milling process for the determination of the remaining mass M_{MP} in the module piece. For a few samples, the milling process did not completely crush the encapsulation. The Mo back contact has a strong adhesion to the encapsulant. Therefore, it seems possible that not all Mo material was digested. There might also be a material loss during the filtration process, either when drying the filter afterwards, or due to particles remaining in the HDPE bottles despite carefully repeated rinsing.

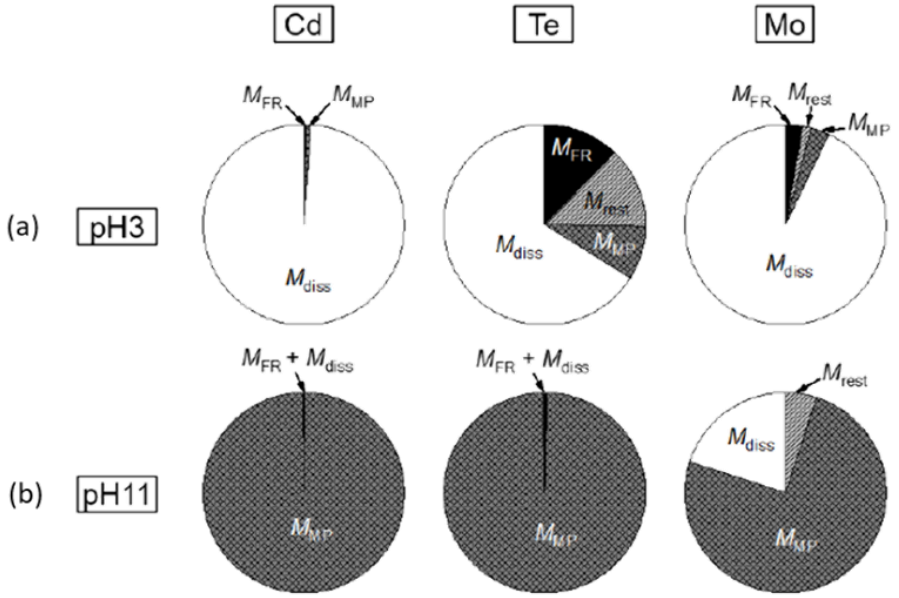

Figure 14. Mass balance of the CdTe module piece after 700 days in leaching solutions with (**a**) pH 3 and (**b**) pH 11 at $T_{RT} = 25\,^{\circ}C$ without agitation. In solutions with pH 3, the largest fraction of Cd, Te, and Mo is dissolved and found as M_{diss}; only a small fraction M_{MP} remains in the module pieces. No Cd-particles (mass M_{FR}) are measured within the filter residue, whereas for Te and Mo, a small part is found in the residue. In solutions with pH 11, the major part of the elements Cd and Te remains in the module piece and is not leached out. Molybdenum is also measured in the solution.

4. Discussion

The combination of leaching experiments and the observation of delamination yields the following major insight: In the case of thin film modules (CdTe, CIGS, and a-Si), the delamination is the consequence of the high solubility of one or more thin layers of the modules' cells. They form a path for the attack of the water-based solutions. In contrast, in the case of modules containing cells from crystalline silicon, the cell's Al back contact is highly soluble, but not responsible for delamination. Instead, blistering occurs: delamination of c-Si modules is not visible on the back side, but on the front side, either between the front glass and EVA or between the EVA and the Si cell, depending on the pH of the leaching solution. Delamination between the front EVA and solar cell preferentially occurs around the solder ribbon on the front side of the cell and is therefore correlated with the leaching of Pb out of the solder ribbon. The backsheet on the rear side of the c-Si module piece shows no changes after the leaching. Unfortunately, the backsheet is not transparent; therefore, we do not have information about the condition of the solder ribbon on the back side and how the leaching of the Al back contact affects the leaching of the solder ribbon on the back. In solutions with pH 3, a local delamination takes place between the solar cell and the EVA foil, whereas in pH 11 solutions, the delamination occurs between front glass and EVA. In pH 7 solutions, we observe both kinds of delamination. The solution probably attacks the coupling agent. Therefore, in this case, we assume adhesion problems to be the main reason for blistering.

In the case of CdTe module pieces, the photoactive CdTe, as well as the Mo back contact are highly soluble in acidic, aqueous solutions with pH 3. The severe leaching correlates with the frequent total separation, i.e., delamination of the module pieces. For this type of module and under acidic conditions, frequently, the front side is clearly separated from the rear. As a consequence, this delamination enhances the leaching, especially of Te, which is

observed in all leaching solutions, independent of pH. For short times, leaching for Cd, Te, and Mo increases linearly with time, but at different rates; the rates depend on the pH. The ratio $R_{Cd:Te}$ of eluted Cd to eluted Te Cd:Te also depends on the pH. This behavior is in accordance with the Pourbaix (potential-pH) diagram for CdTe in aqueous solutions showing the possible species of Cd and Te depending on the pH and the redox potential E_H [9]. In solutions with pH 3, the Te species have a lower solubility compared to the Cd species, which are present as Cd^{2+} ions. The solubility of predominant species of Cd and Te for pH 7 is the same, which explains the ratio $R_{Cd:Te} = 1$. In solutions with pH 11, probably, Te species form with a solubility that exceeds that of Cd. This assumption explains the estimated $R_{Cd:Te} \approx 0.1$. It is notable that only in solutions with pH 3, the ratio $R_{Cd:Te}$ is strongly time dependent, whereas it is almost constant for solutions with pH 7 and pH 11.

Increasing the temperature results in accelerated leaching of Cd from CdTe module pieces. The same behavior was earlier reported by Collins and Anctil [25] for the leaching of Cd from CIGS modules and Pb from c-Si modules, by increasing the leaching temperature to $T = 50\,^{\circ}C$. All of our leaching data for Cd are well described by Equation (2) and the C_{max}-value for Cd, which decreases with increasing pH. This finding is in accordance with the data reported by Ramos-Ruiz [5] on leaching of Cd and Te out of CdTe modules in solutions with different pH values under simulated landfill conditions. This pH-dependent leaching is understood on the basis of known leaching patterns, not only for Cd, but for all measured elements in this study.

In contrast to CdTe modules, with total delamination, for CIGS module pieces, fractional separation occurs in solutions with pH 3, as well as with pH 7: only parts of the rear side are separated. Our leaching experiments point out all CIGS module layers to be more or less soluble in aqueous solutions. The highest solubility is found for Zn from the front contact in pH 3 solutions, and at this location, we observe the fractional separation. With the Zn eluted, there is no longer a stable bond between the front glass/EVA and the rear side consisting of the photoactive layers (CdS, CIGS) and the back contact on top of the rear glass.

The leaching concentrations of Cd out of CIGS module pieces are lower than from CdTe module pieces. This lower leaching of Cd indicates that CdS in the CIGS cells is more stable against the solutions than CdTe. The Mo back contact of CIGS module pieces also seems to be more stable than the Mo back contact of CdTe module pieces. Between these two module types, the amounts of leached Mo differ especially in solutions with pH 3 and pH 11: in these solutions, Mo from CIGS shows lower leaching than Mo from CdTe module pieces. This difference probably arises from the formation of the $MoSe_2$ layer during the deposition of the CIGS layer in module fabrication. Theelen et al. [26] proposed that $MoSe_2$ prevents the formation of molybdenum oxide, MoO_x, which is the main reason for the degradation of Mo when it comes in contact with water or moisture. Modules from CdTe do not contain a protecting $MoSe_2$ layer. Therefore, during leaching, MoO_x is probably formed. The formation of MoO_x results in a large volume expansion [26]. This could explain the observed delaminations for CdTe module pieces.

Amorphous silicon module pieces show also highly time-dependent leaching, in particular the front layer of ZnO in combination with the Ni/Cu back contact. After 1.5 years of leaching, the elements Zn and Ni reach almost 100% in solutions with pH 3. The time-dependent leaching behavior of Zn from a-Si module pieces is similar to the leaching behavior of Zn from CIGS module pieces in both solutions of pH 3 and pH 7. The leaching rates are also comparable. Therefore, in the case of a-Si modules, ZnO is a weak spot. This finding is in line with the experiments of Pern et al. [27]: These authors studied the stability of various transparent conducting oxides (TCO), including ZnO. In their experiments, ZnO showed the highest degradation rates (of all studied TCOs) when it comes in contact with moisture.

5. Conclusions

Our leaching experiments on PV modules pieces from CdTe, CIGS, c-Si, and a-Si in water-based solutions with pH 3, pH 7, and pH 11 simulate different environmental conditions. Due to the wide span of pH-values, it seems also possible to predict from our experiments the behavior for other pH-values. During the leaching over 1.5 years, we observe different types of delamination. In the case of thin film modules (CdTe, CIGS, a-Si), the thin film layers themselves or the contact materials (e.g., Mo, ZnO) are the weak spots. Finally, their leaching leads to delamination. In contrast, in the case of modules with c-Si, the Al back contact shows the strongest leaching. However, this leaching is not responsible for the delamination. Instead, problems with the EVA causes blistering, which leads to the delamination of the module pieces with c-Si.

The time-dependent leaching is well described by an exponential saturation behavior with a leaching time constant, at least for low pH-values. The leaching time constant differs from element-to-element and changes under agitation and/or a temperature increase. For times small compared to this time constant, the amount of leached out elements increases linearly with time. It is therefore understandable that, roughly speaking, the concentrations of many leached out elements after 500 days are also more than two orders of magnitude higher than after one day. However, we observe also ratios of the concentrations after one 500 days and after one day that are higher or lower than two orders of magnitude: Higher values are obtained, when delamination occurs during leaching. Lower values are obtained when, for example, the ratio of eluted to precipitating elements changes during the experiment.

In the case of Cd leaching from CdTe module pieces, increased temperature leads to substantially accelerated leaching. In contrast, the maximal concentration of leached Cd only depends on the pH of the solution. A mass balance method shows that Cd, which is not measured in the solutions as dissolved, remains in the module pieces themselves and is not, as expected, leached out and then precipitated in the solutions.

In any case and under all experimental conditions, it is possible to either leach out all or a substantial amount of most elements from the module pieces. Clearly, in the case of our module pieces, leaching starts from the unprotected edges of the pieces of 5×5 cm^2 in size, cut out from large area modules. During the manufacturing of commercial modules, they are provided with an edge sealing, which should prevent any leaching under normal operating conditions of the (undamaged) modules. However, if the edge sealing of the modules is not carefully done, or if it is damaged, or even worse, if the (front) module glass is broken, leaching is unavoidable. Rain water with pH values always below pH 7 will suffice to leach out the (toxic) elements. Even worse, if modules are cracked, crushed, or even milled and end up in landfills, the module constituents will also be leached out. Therefore, if toxic materials are not completely avoided in photovoltaic modules, it is of utmost importance to (i) replace damaged modules as fast as possible and to (ii) recollect and recycle them completely. In all other cases, in view of the huge amount of installed PV modules, most of them still containing Pb (mostly in the solder of the cell connectors) and/or Cd, they may impose a severe danger to the environment.

Compared to other, earlier studies, our experiments were carried out over more than a year. As one of the key results, we found huge differences between the amount of elements found in the solutions after one day and more than a year. In our opinion, tests for just one day are inappropriate to judge module technologies, in particular if conclusions and political decisions on the toxicity and environmental issues of photovoltaic module technologies are based on such short-term measurements.

Author Contributions: Conceptualization amd project administration, R.Z.-G. and J.H.W.; methodology, R.Z.-G., M.K., J.N.; validation and investigation, J.N., R.Z.-G., M.K., C.F.; analysis, writing, editing, and reviewing J.N., R.Z.-G., M.K., J.H.W. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

Safety Alert

Safety Alert No. SA-15-23

Effective Date: 21/11/2023
Version: 2.0

Submission 30 - Attachment 2

Incident response to Industrial Solar Farms Fires

Purpose

To advise all operational Rural Fire Service (RFS) and Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) staff and volunteers of the potential risks associated with responding to an incident at industrial solar farms and large scale Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and the mandatory actions that must be taken to ensure health and safety.

Issues

There are currently about 43 operational Industrial Solar Farms located in Queensland with another 88 proposed or under construction. A number of these industrial solar farms are located in areas where RFS are the primary responder.

Significant incidents on large scale industrial solar farms include catastrophic inverter failures which can result in doors being blown off and fires external to the inverters.

When responding to incidents (i.e. fires, including bushfires and disaster recovery efforts etc) at solar farms, there are several factors contributing to electrical contact risks which must be kept in mind:

- There are various components at each stage of solar energy production which have potential to be live such as:
  - Inverters (converting direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC)
  - Switch boards
  - Electrical wiring and connection terminals
  - Battery energy storage systems (BESS)
- Solar electricity will still be produced at dangerous voltages in low light conditions
- Typically, DC voltages exceed 1000 Volts which presents a risk of arcing in fault conditions
- Electrical faults can result in electrical fires
- DC electrical faults may not be automatically isolated by protection systems and may continue to arc/burn until input power is switched off or burnt to open circuit
- Wiring is live/energised as soon as it is connected to the solar system
- DC arcing can be caused when disconnecting DC connectors whilst under load (to be undertaken by authorised person for the Solar Farm site).
- Insulation faults or contact with live circuits can cause a rapid release of energy resulting in electrical arcing
- Solar electricity production includes both DC and AC electrical currents.
- Multiple sources of electricity (eg high voltage electricity from the transmission or distribution network and the solar array that is absorbing light)

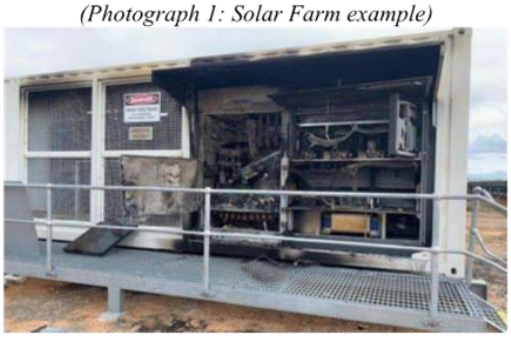
Electrical and other safety hazards associated with solar Photovoltaic (PV) systems include:

- PV array and PV modules being live (energised) as soon as they are exposed to light
- Power Conversion Equipment (PCE), e.g. inverters, having hazardous voltages once connected to the PV array
- wiring being live (energised) once connected
- the risk of electrical faults causing explosion, arcing and fires

Queensland Government

- DC voltages and current sources of PV modules causing series arcing that may not be identified by automatic protection devices and so remain in place unless physical action to remove the fault occurs
- DC arcing caused by disconnection of DC connectors under load
- rapid energy release from energy storage (if used) if an insulation fault occurs or contact is made between live (energised) circuits, resulting in arc flash hazards
- toxic gases
- flammable gases
- hazardous chemicals.

(Photograph 1: Solar Farm example)



(Photograph 2: Fire damaged Inverter post fire event)

MANAGEMENT

Planning and Preparedness:

- Under the Construction and Operation of Solar Farms Code of Practice 2019, Industrial Solar Farms will have an **Emergency Management Plan** to outline the procedures for access by emergency responders, evacuation of people on the site and site control measures during an incident. The emergency plan should also identify the hazards (e.g. electric shock, contact with hazardous substances, toxic gases) that may occur and how to safely manage those hazards during the emergency. It should also include information on safe remediation procedures or clean-up work after the emergency. RFS and FRS should engage with Solar Farms in their local area and obtain a copy of the Emergency Plan for station/brigade reference. RFS and FRS officers to ensure that they are aware of the contact details for the Solar Farm if unstaffed. The Code of Practice states that emergency contact details should be displayed at the site entrance.
- It is important to be aware of the level of acceptable loss that your local Solar Farm is willing to accept as this will impact the level of response required from QFES.

This document is maintained in electronic form. The approved version of this document is located on the QFES Gateway and is uncontrolled when printed. It is the responsibility of the user to verify this copy is the latest version.

Response:

- Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) **must** be worn when working around burning solar panels and BESS due to the highly toxic gases. Under no circumstances should an officer go into the smoke or approach a fire without the correct respiratory protection.
- As RFS do not carry SCBA, RFS officers must not undertake a direct attack of solar panels that are burning, or operations that require crews to work in smoke from burning solar panels. RFS officers will be restricted to fighting exposure fires where the Solar Farm is not burning.
- Isolation of electricity production on solar farms must only be undertaken by an authorised person for the Solar Farm site.
- QFES Staff and volunteers are **not to enter** the solar farm property until an appropriately qualified electricity representative from the Solar Farm is onsite and deems the area safe to enter, and safe to investigate smoke or undertake fire response activities.
- Do not put water on Solar Panels. Emergency responders are to treat all wiring and solar module components as though they are electrically energised.
- Bush Fire Air Operations should operate upwind from the smoke plume of Solar Farm Fires due to the toxicity of the gases and visibility for the aircraft. The aircraft will also attempt to avoid hitting solar panel arrays with firebombing loads due to possible damage to structures and panels.
- When fighting wildfires in the vicinity of a Solar Farm, officers will need to, as per doctrine, wear negative pressure masks with MPC canisters.

Post-Response:

- Responding crews to ensure that all PPC are laundered correctly due to the contaminants.

References

Electrical Safety Act 2002
Electrical Safety Regulations 2013
Qld Work Health and Safety Act and Regulation 2011
How to manage work health and safety risks code of practice 2021
Construction and Operation of Solar Farms Code of Practice 2019
A Review on Safety Practices for Firefighters During Photovoltaic (PV) Fires Section 4.3.6
TacG-02-11-00-Hazardous-Materials-Large-Battery-Energy-Storage-Systems-Incidents.pdf (sharepoint.com)
TacG-02-07-00-Electricity-Supply-and-Distribution-Infrastructure.pdf (sharepoint.com)
Tactical Directive (TacD) 14.03.00 – Hazardous Material Incidents – Decontamination of QFES Staff and Volunteers and Members of the Community; (sharepoint.com)

Assistant Commissioner, QFES People

Relevancy Matrix									
	Fire and Rescue		Emergency Management	Rural Fire Service		State Emergency Service		QFES Support	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Full-time	Volunteers	Full-time	Volunteers	Full-time	Part-time
Applicable:	✓	✓		✓	✓				
Not applicable:			X			X	X	X	X
Contact: Manager, Safety and Wellbeing 0477 985 925			Issue Date:	Removal Date:					
			21/11/2023						

Submission 31

From:
Sent: Monday, 24 February 2025 2:55 PM
To: Orange City Council
Cc:
Subject: Development Application DA771/2024(1)-PAN-499518

24 February 2025

Chief Executive Officer
Orange city Council
135 Bing Street
Orange NSW 2800

Dear Mr Waddel

Development Application DA771/2024(1)
Electrical Generation Works (Solar farm) Energy Storage System
140 Cadia Road, Springside

I **Object** to the proposed development for the following reasons:

This project has provided citizens of Orange with little or no consultation on Solar Farm or wind Turbine Projects in the district.
What is the long term plan for renewables in Orange?
Is this just the start of things to come?
If it is approved in that location, there is nothing stopping more developments in other areas on Oranges outskirts

- The development is in the catchment for Gosling Creek and ultimately Suma Park Dam, the Orange water supply.
- The industrial appearance of the solar farm and the reduction in the appeal to tourists of the region.
- Loss of wildlife during the construction phase.
- Loss of productive land and the unknown long-term damage to soils and pastures.
- Drop in land value in the immediate district to Springside.
- Refection from panels to locals of Springside and Cadia Road users.
- Damage to the environment and disruption to the local community during the construction phase and the

ongoing maintenance of site……if this happens.

Please feel free to contact me for clarification or any concerns

Regards

23 February 2025 Submission 32

CEO Orange City Council

135 Bynge St

Orange NSW 2800

Dear Mr Wadell

DA DA771?2024(1)

I object to the above notified development because I do not think a large solar farm is appropriate adjacent to a major wine industry and cycling tourist route

This area is also considered to be prime horticultural land and with increasing impact of climate change it is particularly important for future vineyard development

Your sincerely

Submission 33

24th February 2025

Chief Executive Officer
Orange City Council
135 Byng Street
ORANGE NSW 2800

Dear Mr Waddel

Development Application DA771/2024(1)
Electrical Generation Works (Solar Farm) and Battery Energy Storage System
140 Cadia Road Orange NSW

My name is and I write on behalf of myself and my Husband we reside at on a 60 acre property with picturesque views to the North over Orange and the surrounding countryside. We have developed our property over the last 20 years to take advantage of the views our property provides and the Northern sun into our living areas.

I am writing to formally object to the proposed development of a solar farm in our residential rural community. While I acknowledge the importance of renewable energy, I strongly believe that this project is unsuitable for the proposed location due to the following reasons:

1. **Negative Impact on Real Estate Values**
   The placement of an industrial-scale solar farm in close proximity to rural residential properties will significantly reduce property values. Prospective buyers are often deterred by such developments, leading to depreciation in home values and financial loss for existing homeowners.
2. **Proximity to Urban Areas and Airports**
   The proposed site is situated too close to urban areas and an airport, raising concerns regarding potential glare hazards for aviation and disrupting planned urban growth. Such projects should be located in less sensitive and more remote locations to minimize these risks.
3. **Direct Boundaries with Rural Residential Homes**
   The proposed solar farm directly borders rural residential properties, disrupting the peace and lifestyle of residents who chose to live in this area for its natural surroundings and rural character. The industrial nature of the project is wholly incompatible with the existing residential setting.
4. **Loss of Prime Volcanic Soils Suitable for Intensive Agriculture**
   The land designated for the solar farm consists of fertile volcanic soils capable of sustaining high-value agricultural activities, including horticulture, cattle farming, and fat lamb production. The displacement of productive farmland for industrial energy production is a short-sighted decision that disregards the long-term economic and food security benefits that agriculture provides.
5. **Visual Impact on Walking Trails and Recreation Areas**
   The scenic beauty of our community, including walking trails and recreational facilities around Gosling Creek, is a crucial asset that attracts tourism, supports local businesses, and provides mental respite for residents and hospital visitors. The

installation of large-scale solar panels will significantly degrade the visual amenity of these spaces, reducing their appeal and impacting tourism-driven economic activity.

6. **Disruption to Community and Local Well-being**
   The proposed solar farm is in close proximity to a medical hospital, which serves as a critical healthcare facility for our community. The disruption caused by construction, increased traffic, and changes to the environment will have a negative effect on patients, staff, and visitors seeking peace and recovery in the area.
7. **Lack of Community Consultation**
   There has been little to no meaningful consultation with the local community regarding this development. Such a significant project should involve thorough discussions with residents, ensuring their voices and concerns are considered before proceeding.
8. **Unsuitability of the Climate for Solar Power**
   The region of Orange experiences severe and long winters, which are not conducive to consistent and reliable solar power production. The inefficiency of solar generation in this climate raises concerns about the project's viability and sustainability.
9. **Location in a Water Catchment Area**
   The proposed site falls within a designated water catchment area. Historically, residents have faced restrictions on their own development proposals due to water catchment regulations. Allowing this large-scale industrial project to proceed despite such regulations would be inconsistent and unfair.
10. **Significant Visual and Property Value Impact on Nearby Homes**
    The proposed development is less than two kilometers from my property, and the visual impact will be substantial. As my property overlooks the site, the solar farm will ruin previously unobstructed views, negatively impacting the enjoyment and value of my home.
11. **Safety Concerns Due to Glare on a Busy Road**
    The proposal site runs adjacent to a very busy road with consistent traffic. The glare from the solar panels at certain times of the day will create hazardous driving conditions, posing a serious risk to commuter safety.

For these reasons, I urge the planning authority to reject the proposal and consider alternative locations that do not jeopardise residential well-being, agricultural productivity, or the natural beauty of our community. I appreciate your time and consideration of this objection and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Submission 34

DA771/2024(1)

PAN -499518

24th February 2025

Chief Executive Officer

Orange City Council

135 Byng Street

Orange NSW 2800

Dear Mr Waddel

Development Application DA771/2024(1)

Electrical Generation Works (Solar Farm) and Battery Energy Storage System

140 Cadia Road, Springside

Subject: Formal Objection to Proposed 28-Hectare Solar Farm Near Orange

Dear Mr Waddel

I am writing to formally object to the proposed 28-hectare solar farm development near Orange, which has been lodged without appropriate consultation with the local community. This development is entirely inappropriate for the area due to its location amongst small agricultural holdings, its significant visual and environmental impacts, and broader concerns regarding land use failure to comply with planning guidelines, property values, and public safety.

1. Prime Agricultural Land at Risk

The proposed site is located on prime agricultural land with a long history of valuable sheep and cattle grazing, horse breeding, orcharding and viticulture. Productive farmland should not be sacrificed for an industrial-scale solar development when more suitable, less arable land exists nearby.

Orange is outside the NSW Government Renewable Energy Zone (REZ), making this project even more inappropriate. This development threatens the long-term viability of agricultural operations in the area and sets a dangerous precedent for the displacement of farmland for profit-driven industrial projects.

2. This Solar Farm Has Been Shoehorned into the Back of a small rural holding.

Rather than utilizing a more appropriate location within the larger landholding, the solar farm has been shoehorned into the back of a small 40-hectare property utilizing more than 60% of the available land, positioned hard against the boundaries of three adjoining neighbours.

A 28-hectare project located on a 200- or 300-hectare property would have allowed proper setbacks and buffer zones, minimizing the impact on neighbouring properties. Instead, the landowner has positioned the solar farm as far from their own residence as possible while maximizing the negative impact on neighbours.

The choice of a site of appropriate size to facilitate mitigation rather than a site in an area where the property size is on average 50 Hectares or less thereby ensuring significant impacts on neighbours.

The fencing is industrial, not rural, and the proposed plant screening is inadequate and short-lived. One of the restored workers cottages on my property, , has a direct view of the solar site from its kitchen window, permanently altering its rural and heritage character.

To maintain the existing historical landscape, I have already planted a boundary of Cedrus deodara, which grows up to 50 metres tall, to replace the previous Radiata Pines which had existed on the boundary but had outlived their lifespan. My neighbour on the Orange city side is also planting fast-growing screening trees. These plantings will necessitate a redesign of the project and a reduction in its size a fact the developer would have known had they conducted proper consultation.

3. Failure to Adhere to NSW Planning Guidelines

The NSW Department of Planning and Environments Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline 2022 outlines clear expectations for solar farm developments, emphasizing:

- Consideration of local environmental factors, including proximity to adjoining properties
- Minimization of visual and environmental impacts
- **Early and ongoing engagement with the local community**

Additionally, the Technical Supplement for Landscape Character and Visual Impact Assessment (August 2022) states:

> Applicants **must engage** with the community, including the Indigenous community, as early as possible and throughout the assessment, to inform outcomes and any measures to mitigate impacts.

Importantly, the assessment process should happen alongside the design and siting of a solar energy project so the community input can effectively inform the design.

EDPR, the company behind this proposal and its subsidiary ITP Renewables who submitted the Development Application, have been explicitly criticized in during the consideration of previous applications for failing to consult with affected landowners prior to lodgement, they have been told it is unacceptable behaviour. Despite this, no consultation occurred. This failure to engage is in direct contradiction to NSW Government guidelines and planning best practices.

4. Visual Impact on Residents and the City of Orange

This development will have a substantial negative visual impact on surrounding properties and the broader rural and scenic character of the Orange outskirts.

Additionally, it will impact recreational users of Gosling Creek and the Forest Road area, diminishing the enjoyment of these important public spaces for both residents and visitors.

The proposed visual mitigation measures are inadequate for a development of this scale and will fail to properly screen the industrial structures from view.

5. Traffic & Public Safety Risks Glint & Glare Concerns

The proposed site is near Cadia and Forest Roads, both of which are heavily trafficked, particularly by mining and agricultural vehicles. Any glint or glare from the solar panels that could distract drivers poses an unacceptable safety risk. This issue has not been adequately addressed in the proposal.

6. Environmental & Water Catchment Concerns

The proposed development falls within the hydrological catchment of the Orange water supply. Large-scale land modifications for solar infrastructure can alter surface water runoff and groundwater absorption, potentially impacting water quality and availability. The proposal fails to provide a clear assessment of these risks.

7. Proven Negative Impact on Property Values

Numerous studies demonstrate that industrial-scale solar farms can significantly devalue nearby properties. A 2020 study by Herron Todd White found that properties closely adjacent to large solar farms can experience value reductions of 10-30%, depending on location and visibility.

My rural property, , has been undergoing meticulously landscape and agricultural restoration over the last six years, with over $1 million invested in restoring the historic value of its garden and associated rural land. The forced proximity of an industrial-scale solar farm will inevitably impact its market value and severely compromise the investment and heritage significance of the property.

8. Destruction of a Significant Garden & Lifeâ€™s Work

was home to one of the most important gardens in the Central West. Over the last six years, I have worked tirelessly to restore this garden, planted over 500 trees, restoring the landscape with the intention of passing this legacy on to my son. We regularly allow charity groups access to the garden to raise funds, the most recent being an event to support those suffering from Parkinson's.

Additionally, our property is part of a scientific trial, in association with the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), measuring the success of DDT contamination removal from land previously used for orcharding.

9. A Development That Can Easily Be Located Elsewhere

Why should the value and amenity of my home and farm restored with years of dedication and financial investment be compromised by a for-profit development that could easily be placed elsewhere.

There is no compelling reason for this project to be located here when:

- Less densely populated rural land exists, where neighbours would not be impacted.
- The site is outside the Renewable Energy Zone, making it a non-priority location for solar energy development.
- Lower-value, less-arable land is available, preserving productive farmland for future generations.

This proposal is a case of opportunism, where a single landowner has chosen to profit at the expense of their neighbours and community. The failure to consult and the deliberate placement of the solar farm against property boundaries demonstrates a lack of responsible planning.

Conclusion

This application is deeply flawed and inconsistent with responsible land use planning. Given the:

- **Total absence of consultation, inadequate setbacks**
- **Significant visual, environmental, and safety concerns**
- **Failure to comply with NSW Planning Guidelines**
- **Documented negative impact on property values and agricultural land**
- **Easy availability of better, alternative locations**

I strongly urge the council to reject this development application.

Yours sincerely

Submission 35

Submission to Orange City Council Regarding the Development of Three 5 MW Solar Power Plants and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) / DA 771/2024(1)

Date: 24 February 2025

1. Introduction

This submission strongly opposes the proposed development of three 5 MW solar power plants, each with an accompanying Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), at Cadia Road and Lone Pine Avenue, Orange, NSW. The projects, initiated by EDP Renewables Australia, claim to support renewable energy goals but, in reality, present significant environmental destruction, loss of biodiversity, fire risks, water contamination, and long-term sustainability issues that far outweigh any purported benefits.

The push for so-called 'clean and green' energy is a misleading narrative that ignores the substantial environmental and social costs associated with large-scale solar and battery storage developments. These projects require extensive land clearing, disrupting ecosystems and wildlife habitats. The toxic materials used in solar panels and lithium-ion batteries pose a severe risk of contamination, and their production, maintenance, and disposal create pollution at every stage. Additionally, solar farms contribute to local heat island effects, altering microclimates and exacerbating drought conditions.

Despite being presented as a step toward sustainability, these developments prioritize corporate profit over community wellbeing and environmental protection. The residents of Orange, NSW, deserve transparency regarding the full impacts of these projects, including fire hazards, economic disadvantages, and the irreversible harm to local flora and fauna. This submission highlights these critical concerns and presents compelling reasons why the Orange City Council must reject the proposed developments outright.

2. Project Overview

The proposed developments include:

- **Cadia Road Site**: Two 5 MW solar farms with BESS on a 13-hectare site, approximately 5.5 km southwest of Orange's town center.
- **Lone Pine Avenue Site**: A single 5 MW solar farm with BESS (5 MW / 10 MWh) on a 7-hectare site, about 4 km southeast of Orange's town center.

Each site is planned to contain approximately 16,000 solar panels installed on PEG systems, optimized for lightweight, high-density solar infrastructure.

2.1. Footprint and Environmental Disruption

- The combined footprint of these projects exceeds 20 hectares of land that will be permanently altered, stripped of native vegetation, and repurposed into industrial-scale solar infrastructure.
- This large-scale clearing will fragment ecosystems, reducing habitat connectivity for native species and placing additional stress on already vulnerable populations.
- The installation of PEG-mounted solar panels requires land grading and extensive groundwork, leading to soil compaction, erosion, and disruption of natural drainage patterns, which may increase flood risks in adjacent areas.
- The increase in impermeable surfaces will contribute to heightened water runoff, further affecting local waterways and leading to sedimentation that can negatively impact aquatic ecosystems.
- The presence of battery storage units will require additional infrastructure, including high-voltage transmission lines and substations, expanding the industrial footprint even further.
- This level of land transformation contradicts the principles of sustainability and conservation, proving that these so-called renewable projects are neither green nor environmentally responsible.

3. Environmental Considerations

3.1. Impact on Local Ecosystem

- The sites are in proximity to rural and natural landscapes, requiring an environmental impact assessment (EIA) to determine potential harm to local flora and fauna.
- Potential disruption to existing biodiversity corridors, particularly for bird species and small mammals, must be thoroughly investigated.
- Habitat loss and fragmentation concerns similar to those raised in the Beryl BESS project must be addressed to prevent adverse effects on species such as the Grey-crowned Babbler (Pomatostomus temporalis) and Eastern Pygmy Possum (Cercartetus nanus) (NSW Wildlife Atlas, 2023).
- The presence of high-voltage transmission infrastructure will pose an additional hazard to bird populations, particularly large raptors and migratory species vulnerable to electrocution and collision.

3.2. Soil and Water Contamination Risks

- The land alteration required for PEG system installation could lead to soil degradation, increased runoff, and sedimentation affecting local waterways.
- There is no mention in the current documentation regarding water requirements for cleaning and maintaining the solar panels. The council must ensure a sustainable water management plan is in place.
- Given the proximity to local waterways, there is a risk of soil and water contamination, particularly from lithium-ion BESS leakage, as seen in similar projects. Lithium, nickel, and cobalt leaching from batteries can cause long-term damage (Battery University, 2022).
- The use of firefighting foams containing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in case of BESS fires poses a significant risk to water quality. PFAS chemicals do not

break down in the environment and have been linked to severe health and ecological consequences.

3.3. Fire Safety and Thermal Runaway Risks

- Lithium-ion batteries are prone to thermal runaway, a process that can cause overheating and fires, releasing toxic gases such as hydrogen fluoride (Moss et al., 2020).
- The NSW Work Health and Safety Act 2011 requires comprehensive fire risk mitigation strategies, which must be detailed in the development documentation (SafeWork NSW, 2011).
- The release of toxic gases can pose serious health risks to local residents, emergency responders, and wildlife, particularly in bushfire-prone areas (NSW Rural Fires Act 1997).
- PFAS-containing firefighting foams used to combat BESS fires pose long-term contamination risks to soil and groundwater.

3.4. Heat Island Effect and Microclimate Alteration

- The BESS facility will generate significant heat during operation, contributing to localized warming, impacting soil moisture, and potentially altering weather patterns over time (CSIRO, 2023).
- Without adequate mitigation strategies, increased temperatures may exacerbate drought conditions and negatively impact surrounding vegetation and wildlife.
- Large expanses of solar panels will reflect and absorb heat, further disrupting local temperature regulation and worsening the urban heat island effect.

3.5. Toxic Waste and Long-Term Pollution Risks

- The production and disposal of solar panels involve hazardous chemicals such as lead, cadmium, and PFAS, which pose a serious risk to human and environmental health.
- The decommissioning of solar panels and battery storage units lacks a clear strategy, leading to concerns over landfill accumulation and long-term leaching of toxic substances.
- Many solar panels have an average lifespan of 20-25 years, after which they become electronic waste, with recycling processes that remain inadequate and inefficient.

4. Community and Economic Impacts

4.1. Impact on Local Residents

- The proximity of the projects to residential areas raises concerns about potential noise pollution, especially from BESS cooling systems and inverters.
- Glare from solar panels may affect nearby homes and roadways, requiring proper mitigation measures.
- The aesthetic degradation of the landscape will diminish property values, leading to financial losses for residents.
- Health concerns related to EMF (electromagnetic field) exposure from BESS and high-voltage infrastructure require further independent investigation.

- Increased industrialization of the area will erode the rural character and negatively impact residents' quality of life.
- The potential for toxic smoke emissions during a fire incident poses significant health risks to nearby residents, requiring detailed evacuation planning.
- The construction phase will bring heavy traffic, noise, and dust pollution, significantly affecting local residents for extended periods.

4.2. Economic Viability and Energy Contribution

- The proposal must clarify how the energy output will benefit Orange residents beyond general contributions to the grid.
- Job creation for local workers should be prioritized over reliance on external contractors.
- The reliance on foreign-manufactured solar panels and battery components undermines local economic benefits and increases supply chain vulnerabilities.
- The economic cost of maintaining and eventually decommissioning these installations is often underestimated, leading to potential long-term financial burdens on the community.
- Solar and battery storage facilities require specialized maintenance, meaning local workers may not be employed beyond the construction phase.
- There is no guarantee that the energy produced will remain in the local area, as it will likely be exported to other regions, providing no direct benefit to Orange residents.
- Land repurposed for industrial-scale solar prevents alternative, more sustainable economic uses, such as agriculture or ecotourism, which provide long-term community benefits.

4.3. Fire and Safety Risks

- Lithium-ion BESS installations pose significant fire hazards due to thermal runaway risks, requiring substantial emergency preparedness measures.
- The ability of local emergency services to respond effectively to BESS fires must be evaluated, as traditional firefighting methods are insufficient against battery-related fires.
- The use of PFAS-containing firefighting foams introduces long-term environmental contamination concerns, making fire response strategies a critical issue.
- The release of toxic gases, including hydrogen fluoride, during battery fires poses extreme health risks to local residents and first responders.
- If fire suppression systems fail, large-scale evacuations may be required, disrupting entire communities.
- The lack of clarity around decommissioning and waste management strategies for expired lithium-ion batteries raises concerns about abandoned infrastructure and toxic waste sites in the future.

4.4. Agricultural Disruptions

- The conversion of agricultural land into solar and battery storage facilities permanently removes fertile soil from production, reducing local food security.
- Increased dust and soil degradation during construction can affect surrounding farmlands, leading to lower crop yields and economic losses for farmers.

- The introduction of industrial-scale energy production in a rural setting increases the risk of chemical runoff contaminating agricultural water supplies.
- The cumulative impact of multiple renewable energy projects in the region will further stress agricultural viability, pushing farmers out of productive industries.

4.5. Tourism and Regional Branding Impacts

- Orange is recognized for its natural beauty, wine regions, and agritourism. The visual pollution created by these industrial solar farms will damage the area's appeal to visitors.
- The presence of large-scale solar farms disrupts the landscape, impacting local tourism businesses and reducing regional income from visitors.
- The destruction of native habitats and scenic rural landscapes contradicts Orange's branding as a pristine, environmentally conscious region.

4.6. Long-Term Economic Burden and Waste Management

- Decommissioning solar farms and BESS installations remains an unresolved issue, with no clear financial or logistical plans for waste management.
- The majority of solar panels used today are non-recyclable, meaning that at the end of their lifespan, they will contribute to Australia's growing electronic waste crisis.
- Abandoned solar farms have been observed in other regions where developers have failed to fulfill decommissioning obligations, leaving hazardous waste behind for local governments to manage.
- The economic liability of ensuring proper disposal of toxic battery materials will likely fall on local councils and taxpayers rather than project proponents.

4.7. Disproportionate Burden on Local Communities

- While corporate stakeholders profit from large-scale renewable projects, local communities bear the environmental and economic consequences.
- The social fabric of rural communities is at risk, as industrial-scale renewable energy projects often lead to depopulation and economic stagnation in affected areas.
- Communities already struggling with employment opportunities may find that promised renewable energy jobs are either temporary or outsourced, offering no sustainable benefits.
- The erosion of agricultural land for solar developments prioritizes corporate interests over the livelihoods of farmers and rural workers, further exacerbating economic disparity

5. Compliance with Local and State Regulations

The proposed solar farms and battery energy storage systems present multiple breaches of local and state regulations, highlighting severe non-compliance concerns. These include:

- **Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW):** The projects fail to balance development needs with environmental conservation, neglecting critical assessments of biodiversity destruction and ecosystem fragmentation.

- **Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW):** The impact on threatened species and ecological communities is inadequately addressed, violating legal requirements to mitigate biodiversity loss.
- **Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW):** The lack of proper safeguards against soil, water, and air pollution, particularly regarding lithium-ion battery leaks and PFAS contamination, presents a direct breach of environmental protection laws.
- **Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (NSW):** Insufficient planning for fire safety and emergency response for lithium-ion battery fires violates workplace health and safety obligations, exposing workers and residents to unnecessary risks.
- **Rural Fires Act 1997 (NSW):** Given the high fire risk associated with BESS installations, the lack of comprehensive risk management strategies breaches regulatory obligations to prevent fire hazards.
- **Water Management Act 2000 (NSW):** The absence of detailed water usage and runoff management plans raises significant concerns about compliance with water protection policies.
- **Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001 (NSW):** The failure to provide a clear decommissioning and waste management strategy for solar panels and battery storage units violates legal requirements for responsible disposal and recycling of hazardous materials.

These extensive regulatory breaches underscore the unsuitability of the project and the necessity for its rejection. The Orange City Council must enforce strict compliance with environmental and safety regulations to protect the community and ecosystem from irreversible damage.

6. Recommendations

Given the overwhelming environmental, economic, and safety concerns associated with these proposed developments, it is imperative that the Orange City Council takes decisive action to reject these projects outright. The following recommendations must be implemented to ensure community safety, environmental protection, and long-term sustainability:

6.1. Immediate Rejection of the Project

- Based on the identified breaches of environmental, planning, and safety regulations, the Orange City Council must reject the development applications in their entirety.
- The approval of such projects would set a dangerous precedent, prioritizing corporate interests over community welfare and environmental preservation.

6.2. Comprehensive Environmental and Safety Review

- Conduct a full-scale, independent Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that includes cumulative effects from multiple renewable projects in the region.
- Commission third-party safety reviews specifically addressing fire hazards, toxic material leakage, and PFAS contamination risks associated with BESS facilities.
- Mandate ongoing air and water quality monitoring for any similar projects proposed in the future.

6.3. Protection of Agricultural and Residential Land

- Implement strict zoning restrictions to prevent large-scale industrial renewable projects from being approved in close proximity to agricultural land and residential communities.
- Recognize the importance of preserving local farmland and ecosystems rather than converting them into hazardous industrial solar waste zones.

6.4. Holding Developers Accountable

- Enforce stringent financial penalties and legal consequences for developers failing to comply with environmental and safety regulations.
- Require legally binding decommissioning plans that ensure the full removal and safe disposal of toxic materials after the project's lifespan.
- Implement a mandatory community impact levy, ensuring any approved projects directly fund local environmental restoration initiatives.

6.5. Promotion of Truly Sustainable Energy Solutions

- Encourage investment in alternative renewable technologies, such as microgrid-based solar solutions that do not require extensive land clearing or grid-scale storage facilities.
- Support energy projects that enhance rather than degrade local biodiversity, including distributed solar installations on already-developed sites like rooftops and car parks.
- Develop policies that prioritize community-owned renewable projects, ensuring that profits remain within the local economy instead of multinational corporations.

6.6. Increased Transparency and Public Consultation

- Require all renewable energy projects to undergo thorough public consultation, ensuring affected residents have a meaningful say in the decision-making process.
- Mandate that developers disclose all project risks, including fire hazards, contamination threats, and economic disadvantages, in accessible and non-technical language.
- Establish an independent regulatory body to oversee renewable energy developments and ensure accountability.

7. Conclusion

It is undeniable that the proposed solar farms and battery energy storage systems will result in irreversible environmental damage, economic burdens, and significant safety risks. While renewable energy projects are being promoted as a path to sustainability, this proposal exemplifies how corporate interests overshadow the long-term well-being of local communities, agriculture, and ecosystems. The destruction of remnant vegetation, contamination of soil and water sources, increased fire hazards, and the failure to ensure responsible decommissioning make it clear that these projects do not align with true environmental responsibility or community benefit.

The Orange City Council has a duty to prioritize the health, safety, and prosperity of its residents over the financial gains of energy corporations. Approving these developments would set a dangerous precedent of allowing industrial-scale renewable energy projects to encroach upon agricultural and residential land without adequate oversight. Furthermore, the extensive breaches of local and state regulations demonstrate that these projects are neither legally compliant nor ethically justifiable.

For these reasons, we urge the Council to **reject the proposed developments** in their entirety and instead advocate for responsible, truly sustainable energy solutions that do not jeopardize local ecosystems, agriculture, or community well-being. **Orange deserves better.**

References

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Submission 36

DA771/2024(1)

PAN-499518

24th February 2025

Chief Executive Officer

Orange City Council

135 Byng Street

Orange NSW 2800

Dear Mr Waddel

Development Application DA771/2024(1)

Electrical Generation Works (Solar Farm) and Battery Energy Storage System

140 Cadia Road, Springside.

Executive Summary

I write to OBJECT to the above proposal on the following grounds.

1. Lack of Consultation
2. Visual Impact
3. Traffic concerns
4. Proximity of the Development

Background.

I was born in Orange in 1979. I spent the first part of my life growing up in town, before moving out to a small property located in the Village of Borenore. It was my parents dream to live and raise their family in a rural setting, which in turn became my dream to live and raise my own family in the same way.

My wife and I realised this dream when we where able to purchase in . With the intention to extend and modernise our home to capture the surrounding views from our living spaces.

Situated only 5.5kms from the centre of Orange meant that we could access the benefits of living close to a major inland city and enjoy living in a rural setting with visually pleasing views and country lifestyle. We also purchased to be close to family as my partners parents own the adjoining land and house to our cottage,

Our cottage is identified as OP 2 on the Visual Impact Statement and R 01 on the Noise Impact Statement and sits approximately 200 metres from the proposed development on the southern side. From statements in the EIS our cottage is the most affected of all the dwellings in the surrounding area to the development.

Objection 1.

Lack of Consultation:

In the entire time we have owned there has been zero consultation from the proponent. After receiving the notice of the development application, I reached out to the previous owners, who also advised that they had not had any consultation regarding the proposed development.

In Referencing the Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline August 2022

Section 3 Community and Stakeholder Engagement.

Applicants must undertake meaningful engagement with stakeholders throughout the environmental impact assessment process and during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of a project. They must consult the community according to the Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects.

Based on this, I feel they have failed to meet their obligations according to the guidelines.

Also, as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) the proponent must according to the guidelines:

Applicants must also ensure that stakeholders are given the opportunity to participate in the engagement process in a meaningful way. The environmental impact statement should include details of consultation with surrounding residents, community members, relevant authorities and councils. This includes

the key matters raised and how feedback was considered and incorporated into the project.

The proponents EIS does not include any mention of the above, clearly neglecting the most basic of guidelines set out in the Large-Scale Energy Guideline August 2022.

This alone outlines the lack of due diligence and respect for the community and stakeholders and in is totally unacceptable.

Objection 2.

Visual Impact:

As stated previously our house is OP 2 in Figure 2 of the visual impact assessment.

It is approximately 200m from our boundary to the boundary of the development and approximately 250m from our Kitchen window to the development boundary.

We have north facing living and kitchen areas, with large windows which gives a very pleasing rural view from these areas of our house. It is from these areas we will look directly at the proposed development.

Picture 3: View from Lounge Room Window - proposed site marked in red

Picture 4: View from our deck - proposed site marked in red

Picture 1: View from the entrance of our house - proposed site marked in red

Picture 2: View from kitchen window – proposed site marked in red

As stated in the proponents VIA in Table 4 our house is rated **High** for **Magnitude**, **Sensitivity** and **Impact** rating as well as 4 other dwellings. A further 8 have moderate visual impact as stated.

The proposed use of screening would be unacceptable as the proponents proposed screening will be ineffective given the size of the screen and land's topography. The land in which the screen would be planted lays (for most part) in a natural water coarse and this land during the wetter seasons is swamp like and would make near impossible growing conditions for the vegetation suggested in the EIS.

I query, how long will it take to establish an effective screen to mitigate the visual impact, are we as stakeholders expected to put up with the unsightly industrial look of the solar farm until this happens? What will happen once the project is decommissioned in the 35-year period as stated? The proposed screen will negatively impact our aspect and when fully grown, will erode our view from our private space.

In reference to the Technical Supplement for Landscape Character and Visual Impact Assessment:

Performance objectives

Applicants must address the relevant performance objective for each assessable viewpoint and the identified level of impact (Table 8).

Table 8. Visual performance objectives

High visual impact	This level of impact should be avoided unless the applicant has a negotiated agreement with the affected landholder or can justify that: • all reasonable efforts have been made to avoid the impact and alternative project designs are not feasible or would be unlikely to materially reduce the impact, • all reasonable mitigation options have been considered, • the proposed mitigation measures would effectively mitigate the impact and would not result in a significant obstruction of views, • the project site is strategically important because of its **location,** and • the project is in the public interest.

The proponents have not addressed the recommendations set out in Technical Supplement for Landscape Character and Visual Impact Assessment.

Glint and Glare:

Our house is identified as OP 02 in Figure 9 of the Glint and Glare Study.

According to this study OP02 received the most glare with a cumulative total of 93.62 Hr/Yr of yellow and green glare. This equates to approximately 15.38 mins per day.

As seen in Table 2 in Section 5 of the Assessment issues and requirements of the Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline August 2022 our house exceeds the hours per year for both High glare impact and Moderate glare impact per year, also stating that Significant amount of glare should be avoided.

Table 2. Impact rating and performance objectives for glare impacts to residential dwellings

High glare impact	Moderate glare impact	Low glare impact
> 30 minutes per day > 30 hours per year	< 30 minutes and >10 minutes per day < 30 hours and >10 hours per year	< 10 minutes per day < 10 hours per year
Significant amount of glare that should be avoided.	Implement mitigation measures to reduce impacts as far as practicable.	No mitigation required

I ask why is this acceptable? Why has there not been any consultation from the proponent? How can a study define it as acceptable when guidelines state otherwise.

If the proponents would have conducted their due diligence in line with the guidelines set out by the New South Wales Government I feel this project would not have even made it to the Development application stage.

Objection 3.

Traffic:

The traffic and parking impact statement provided by the proponent does not factor in any Local, Cadia Mine or School bus stops in its assessment.

Given that there are approximately 500 people that work at the mine over a 24hr period there is traffic along Cadia Road at all times of the day due to the nature of the shift work and contractors that travel this road. This does not include local residents that also travel this road on a daily basis.

There also is a school bus that runs morning and afternoon and has stops at 166 Cadia Road and 140 Cadia to pick up and drop off children during school terms. It would be an accident waiting to happen given that the access point for this development is via 140 Cadia Rd driveway.

As shown in the traffic report the B Double trucks that will enter from the north will need to leave the roadway to allow for the turn into the access point. This will lead to road damage on the edge of the bitumen causing a hazard to fellow road users.

It appears that according to the diagram that the access point is to narrow and would encroach on the neighbour's driveway.

Objection 4.

Site Selection:

I question how this site for this development was chosen. If there was a true and proper scope for acceptable sites along Cadia Rd using the guidelines set by the NSW Government I believe we would not be here writing objections. The site is too close to several Dwellings (5 high impacted and 8 Moderate impacted). It is situated along a natural watercourse; in a wet winter the chosen site is known for being swampy and inaccessible to any vehicles. The proposed use of sheep to control the growth of pasture will not be adequate during winter as sheep do not like wet ground conditions and are susceptible to foot rot, furthermore accessibility of any mechanical forms of transport or mowing equipment will also be limited. Over all the site does not add up to be an appropriate choice for this type of development.

Below picture of the watercourse the proposed screening is to be planted in:

Summary:

My family and I moved to to live in a rural setting and raise our children, where we can enjoy the landscape that is from the private areas of both our house and yard. Every morning, I look out our kitchen window to see the livestock, native birds and animals across the paddocks. If this development was to be approved our views and rural aspect will be eroded.

The insufficient proposed screen will not be enough to hide the solar farm, nor the ground conditions sustain it. It will take years to get to a state where if at all it will block the panels from view, only in the meantime we will have to endure the effects of the glint and glare that will come from it.

If the proponents would have done their due diligence and engaged the local landholders at the scoping stage as per the guidelines, we may not have even purchased the land knowing that this development was to be pursued. We feel that we have been misled by the lack consultation and now possibly could have to endure its 35-year lifespan. Even when it's decommissioned the screening trees will still be there to block our views, left to grow without them being maintained, closing in the aspect we have now.

I am not against renewable energy; it has a place in our world going forward. Orange is not a place where these solar farms perform well, our area is in the bottom 25% of solar producing sun in the state, we are not even in the Government Renewable Energy Zone.

It is a case of the wrong development in the wrong place, and this is why I OBJECT to its proposal.

Submission 37

From:
Sent: Monday, 24 February 2025 5:00 PM
To: Orange City Council
Subject: Objection to proposed solar farm

24/02/2025

Chief executive officer
Orange City Council
135 Byng Street
Orange NSW 2800

Subject: Objection to proposed 28-Hectare Solar Farm

Dear Mr Waddel,

I am writing to object to the proposed solar farm, near Orange.

As the future owner of I have several concerns regarding this development.

The location of the proposed solar farm is adjacent to several small rural properties, directly impacting the character of this area. There are better suited sites for a development of this size.

The immediate proximity to property boundaries, will have a significant visual and noise impact. Especially for our current tenants, who are renting the cottage in the south-east corner of our property, the development is less than 150m away with direct field of view. The surrounding paddocks are also home to their 26 horses, which would be disturbed by the noise.

We have put immense effort over the past years to improve the state of this property and this garden. I am very concerned about the impact of this development on the value of our property and the surround area, as I will be living there for the next 50 years.

At last, there hasn't been adequate consultation to assess the impact of this development on the local community.

Yours sincerely,

Submission 38

From:
Sent: Monday, 24 February 2025 5:07 PM
To: Orange City Council
Subject: FW: Development Application DA771/2024(1)-PAN-499518

24 February 2025

Chief Executive Officer
Orange city Council
135 Bing Street
Orange NSW 2800

Dera Mr Waddel

Development Application DA771/2024(1)
Electrical Generation Works (Solar farm) Energy Storage System
140 Cadia Road, Springside

I **Object** to the proposed development for the following reasons:

This project has provided citizens of Orange with little or no consultation on Solar Farm or wind Turbine Projects in the district.
What is the long term plan for renewables in Orange?
Is this just the start of things to come?
If it is approved in that location, there is nothing stopping more developments in other areas on Oranges outskirts

- The development is in the catchment for Gosling Creek and ultimately Soma Park Dam the Orange water supply.
- The appearance of the solar farm and the reduction in the appeal to tourists to the region
- Loss of wildlife during the construction phase.
- Loss of productive land and the unknown long term damage to soils and pastures
- Drop in land value in the immediate district to Springside
- Refection from panels to locals of Springside and Cadia Road users.

- Damage to the environment and local community during the construction phase and ongoing maintenance of site

Please feel free to contact me for clarification or any concerns

Submission 39 (2 of 2 submissions)

From:
Sent: Monday, 24 February 2025 7:09 PM
To: Orange City Council
Subject: Supplementary submission on DA re 140 Acadia Road

Objection to proposed industrial solar factory at 140 Cadia Road Orange 2
Supplementary submission
Submission to Orange Council - council@orange.nsw.gov.au
Name:
Phone:
Post:
Email:
Reportable political donations and/or gifts: NIL
DA number: DA 771/2024 (1) – PAN - 499518
Site address: 140 Cadia Road, Springside, ORANGE NSW

Additional Background:

is the developer of the proposed 10MW, 16,000 solar panels and a Grid Scale Lithium Battery (an industrial scale solar energy factory (not a farm)) and with a 2.3M high security surrounding the site/s at 140 cadia Road, Springside, Orange.

Grounds for Objection: Developer deception
EDPRA is presenting this development as two separate solar factories each producing 5MW of electricity. These 2 x 5MW are both proposed on the same property (note site is 140 Cadia Road) and therefore should be considered as a 10MW development.
It should be noted that a solar factory of 5MW or under to avoid stricter connection rules that apply to larger developments greater than 5MW.
This developer is deceiving authorities and Orange Council should not be complicit by approving this project.

Grid Scale Lithium Battery contamination

Information regarding the fallout and impact on people in the vicinity of the Moss Landing (California) grid scale lithium battery fire on 16 January 2025. Please see link:
Environmental tests reveal elevated levels of toxic metals since Moss Landing battery fire - Local News Matters

Environmental tests reveal elevated levels of toxic metals since Moss Landing battery fire - Local News Matters

END.

Submissioin 40

From:
Sent: Monday, 24 February 2025 11:43 PM
To: Orange City Council
Cc:
Subject: Reference Numbers: DA 771/2024(1) - PAN-499518 - INDUSTRIALISED SOLAR + BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM objection submission
Attachments: Grass Fire Shuts Down Beryl Solar Farm 26 April 2023.pdf; How Solar Farms Can Damage The Environment Firetrace International 11 Oct 2022.pdf; No Deal Country Firefighters Refuse To Fight Wind Turbines and Solar Panel Fires 27 June 2024.pdf; Telsa battery on fire at Bouldercombe energy storage site Genex confirms 27 Sept 2023.pdf; Forever chemicals being found literally everywhere January 2025.pdf; Ecological Nightmare Wind and Solar Rollout Delivers Permenant Environmental Destruction 9 Aug 2024.pdf; EV Explosion Lithium Battery Fires Provide New and Exciting Firefighting Opportunities 10 Aug 2024.pdf; As Victoria bushfire season looms one powerful reminder of Black Saturday hangs in the air 2 Jan 2024.pdf; Remembering Black Saturday 15th anniversary (1).pdf

Dear Orange NSW Council and Senators,

I object and do NOT consent to Reference Numbers: DA 771/2024(1) - PAN-499518 - INDUSTRIALISED SOLAR + BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM because of the extreme potential environmental harm solar farms and battery energy storage systems does to livestock, wildlife, drinking water, the unique and valuable ecosystem and biodiversity, as well as being extremely flammable bushfire toxic smoke and bushfire risk, especially as they are connected to dangerous and potentially flammable high voltage transmission lines.

Why are these high voltage transmission lines so dangerous? Because

Just over sixteen years ago, on the 7th of February 2009, 6 out of the 11 Black Saturday fires that took 173 lives and did untold damage to property, livestock and wildlife, were started by high voltage transmission lines. This was such a devastating, large scale catastrophe that a Royal Commission was called to investigate why these fires happened and how they could be prevented in the future - VBRC_Summary_PF.pdf, Remembering Black Saturday - 15th anniversary | Emergency Victoria.

Cameron Stuart of Brittanica.com on the 20th of January 2025 (Black Saturday bushfires | Causes, Deaths, Map, & Location | Britannica), described the horrific, catastrophic, devastating Black Saturday fires in detail:

"On February 7 Victorians were told to brace for the “worst day” in the state’s history: weather forecasters warned of a record heat wave with temperatures soaring to 115.5 °F (46.4 °C), combined with gale-force winds of up to 56 miles (90 km) per hour. That day more than 47 major fires erupted across the state, 14 of them claiming lives or causing significant damage. The most deadly conflagration, known as the Kilmore East fire, which claimed 121 lives, was sparked by a faulty power pole near the township of Kilmore East, 37 miles (60 km) north of Melbourne. The flames quickly jumped a major highway and roared into a forest, where they turned into a giant fireball, dwarfing the resources of local firefighters, who could only flee in its path. Aided by steep slopes and powerful winds, this fire raced through a series of townships, including Kinglake (where 38 people died), Strathewen (27 perished), and St. Andrews (12 were killed), catching residents by surprise and trapping many in their homes. Some sought to escape by car as the fires approached, but dozens died on the roads as they were overtaken by the fire, which leapt 330 feet (100 metres) above the tree line and was powerful enough to kill with radiant heat from nearly 1,000 feet

Late in the afternoon a sudden change in wind direction pushed the fire to the northeast, bringing new towns into its path. A parallel fire, known as the Murrindindi fire, also blew to the northeast, swallowing the unsuspecting tourist town of Marysville, where 34 people lost their lives. Fire experts said that these two fires alone released energy equivalent to that of 1,500 atomic bombs like the one dropped on Hiroshima, Japan."

Fire experts said that these two fires alone released energy equivalent to that of 1,500 atomic bombs like the one dropped on Hiroshima, Japan."

Not only are lithium battery factories extremely dangerous, but they are also deadly Lithium battery factory fire kills 22 in South Korea.

In California, it was reported that it was PG&E's powerlines that had sparked the recent horrific and deeply devastating fires - , How Did The California Wildfires Start? Officials Weigh Power Lines, Fireworks—And Arson (forbes.com), PG&E’s Lengthy Record of Starting Wildfires, and What the Company Is Doing to Change It (californialocal.com) and in fact, PG$E was found to be responsible for the worst fire in California history - the Camp Fire (Customers of PG&E, other utilities pay billions for wildfire prevention- CalMatters)

"POWER LINES AND ELECTRIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Multiple residents of Altadena sued Southern California Edison on Monday, alleging the Eaton Fire was started by the company's electrical equipment. The lawsuits cite eyewitness reports of sparking power lines. The company has pushed back against the theory, saying in a statement Sunday its "analysis shows no interruptions or operational/electrical anomalies in the 12 hours prior to the fire's reported start time until more than one hour after the reported start time of the fire." One of the filed complaints reportedly alleged, "there is clear evidence from video footage, photographs, and witness accounts that the fire was caused by electrical equipment operated by Defendants Edison International and Southern California Edison." Power infrastructure has been a leading cause of fires in California in the past—with eight of the state's 20 most destructive fires having power-related causes—and the amount of fires started by equipment has grown recently, The New York Times reported."

Interestingly enough,, prior to the recent wildfires in California, PG&E had a mitigation plan, which as you can very plainly see did NOT stop the extremely horrific, deadly and destructive California Wildfires from happening, much less actually put them out, and so now, what will happen to all the taxpayers who lost their homes, livelihoods, pets, etc because of PG&E's powerlines sparking the tremendously fast moving fires throughout Southern California, doing untold damage, along with taking lives?
(TN13803_20240402T112956_PGE's_2025_Wildfire_Mitigation_Plan_Update.pdf).

And then there is the astronomical and, in my opinion, completely irresponsible and unjustifiable cost of these renewables:

Stated in the 2025 SUBMISSION TO CSIRO'S DRAFT 2024-25 GENCOST REPORT.pdf

"3.0 Capital Cost Factors GenCost defines future capital cost factors 6 for various generation and storage technologies. It observes recent years when freight and raw materials rapidly increased costs. Its use of a 2006 to 2009 price bubble to show prices returned to previous expectations is not entirely realistic since the industry was much smaller at that time and basic power costs affecting manufacturing have been recently escalating much more rapidly. GenCost's contention that "… inflationary pressures for most technologies and the cost of some…such as solar PV and batteries are falling again" is contestable. We believe this is only a small part of the story. In our view: • Renewables are now relatively mature technologies after 30 years of intensive development, thus making assumptions of substantial future cost decreases too optimistic. • Labour costs have been hit with high inflation recently; these costs are not going to go down. • The dominance of one country, China, in the entire supply chain for renewables makes higher future prices likely as competition is stifled and hence deserves more careful analysis. • Increasing demand in global markets may cause price rises. • Shipping costs are being hit by increasing fuel

costs. • Operating costs of renewables are greater than anticipated, as the UK and Germany have found. • Subsidies for the cheapest form of electricity generation, which surely should not still be necessary) could be reduced, adding to manufacturing costs. Compounding the uncertainties in predicting future costs are: a. realisation that the extraordinary costs involved are not affordable nor sustainable, b. the negative impact on national economies from unreliable intermittent power, c. many countries, including the largest, doing nothing or very little, to meet Net Zero goals, d. the withdrawal of the US from the Paris Accord, e. the mounting market failure of EVs, f. recognition that the science of climate catastrophism is overstated and overhyped, and g. the severe environmental impacts of solar and wind generation installations being regarded as unacceptable. 6 GenCost Section 5 P3"

This report/submission was written by 19 independent engineers and professionals who are all well qualified to comment on the true costs of implementing the government's Net Zero 2050 policy for the National Electricity Market (NEM):

Professor Michael Asten, PhD, BSc (Hon), BLitt, FRAS Ben Beattie, BE(Elec), CPEng RPEQ Jeremy Barlow, BE, MBA, FAIMM William Bourke, BSc, BEng (Aero), MEng Sc. Michael Bowden IEng (Electronics-UK); CPL; CQP Rafe Champion, MSc (History and Philosophy of Science), B.Ag.Sc. (Hons) Arthur Day, PhD, BSc (Hon) Paul R C Goard, BSc, Physicist, M.A.I.P., M.I.of P., M.A.I.E., M.A.M.O.S. Peter J F Harris, BEng, Dipl. Prod Eng. Professor Emeritus Aynsley Kellow, BA(Hons) PhD Bryan Leyland, MSc (Power systems) DistFEngNZ, FIMechE, FIEE (rtd) John McBratney, B. Tech (Electronic Engineering), formerly MIE Aust, MIEEE John McLean, PhD Paul Miskelly, BE MEngSc Electrical Engineering Grant Piper, BE Aero UNSW, FRAeS, Chair NREN Peter Ridd, PhD, BSc James R (Jim) Simpson, (Ret., former business unit manager, OTC & Telstra) Bill Stinson, Dip.Tech(Building), B.AppSc.(Building), Dip Labour Relations & Law, Cert. Design Sc. (Facilities) James Taylor, PhD, MSc, BEng Elect (Hon), PEng, FCASI

Submission 40 - Attachment 1

Grass fire shuts down Beryl Solar Farm

April 26, 2023

Beryl Solar Farm

A grass fire has resulted in the shutdown of Beryl Solar Farm, located 5km west of Gulgong in New South Wales.

Related article: *Toxic blaze breaks out at Victorian Big Battery*

Crews from NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) and Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) worked to extinguish the grass fire burning under solar modules at Beryl Solar Farm on Monday.

Firies said they were struggling to reach the flames.

"The fire is burning under the solar panels, making access difficult for firefighters," a NSW RFS spokesman told news.com.au.

"A large column of smoke could be visible from Gulgong."

The solar farm supplies power to the Sydney Metro Northwest rail link.

A spokesperson for the solar farm said all plant personnel were safe and accounted for.

Related article: *Ausgrid launches annual bushfire prevention program*

"The site has been secured, and there were no injuries. BSF thanks the first responders who assisted the site teams with this effort."

Submission 40 - Attachment 2

How Solar Farm Fires Can Damage the Environment

October 11, 2022 | By Firetrace International

A fire at a solar farm can result in pollution as well as posing a serious threat to human life and health – consequently it's vital you protect your solar project from fire risk.

A fire at a solar farm can have devastating consequences for the surrounding environment. This is in addition to the obvious risks fires pose to human health. The damage can include air pollution, water pollution, fatalities, bronchitis, the ex... other lung diseases in the local population.

How Big Can Solar Fires Get?

Despite studies showing that the prevalence of solar farm fires may be underreported, there have been known instances of fire events in the solar sector that have caused significant damage to the surrounding environment.

Have you ever wondered what happens when a solar farm catches on fire? Well, earlier this year there was a solar farm fire in Australia that resulted in the loss of an area of grassland totaling five hectares, which is roughly equivalent to **12 NFL football fields**. In this instance, it took the local fire department an hour and a half to get fire under control. With the remoteness of many solar farm locations, it can be challenging for firefighters to get to the scene of a fire in a short timeframe.

What Damage Can Solar Farm Fires Do to the Surrounding Environment?

Here are three ways in which a solar farm fire could cause serious damage to the surrounding environment and the local population:

1. Polluted Water Supply

Stormwater runoff has been highlighted as one of the most noticeable impacts of forest fires. After vegetation has been destroyed by fire, the ground's soil becomes hydrophobic – meaning it is unable to absorb water. This means debris and sediment is transported into larger bodies of water, resulting in the pollution of local supplies. Filtering such water sources is often costly and time-consuming.

2. Poor Air Quality

For example, if a forest burns, then large amounts of smoke are released into the atmosphere. This smoke includes microscopic particles – often less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter, or around one-seventieth the size of a human hair. These particles are so small that our bodies find it difficult to filter them out of our airways. Consequently, they get **lodged deep in our lungs**.

3. Serious Damage to Human Health

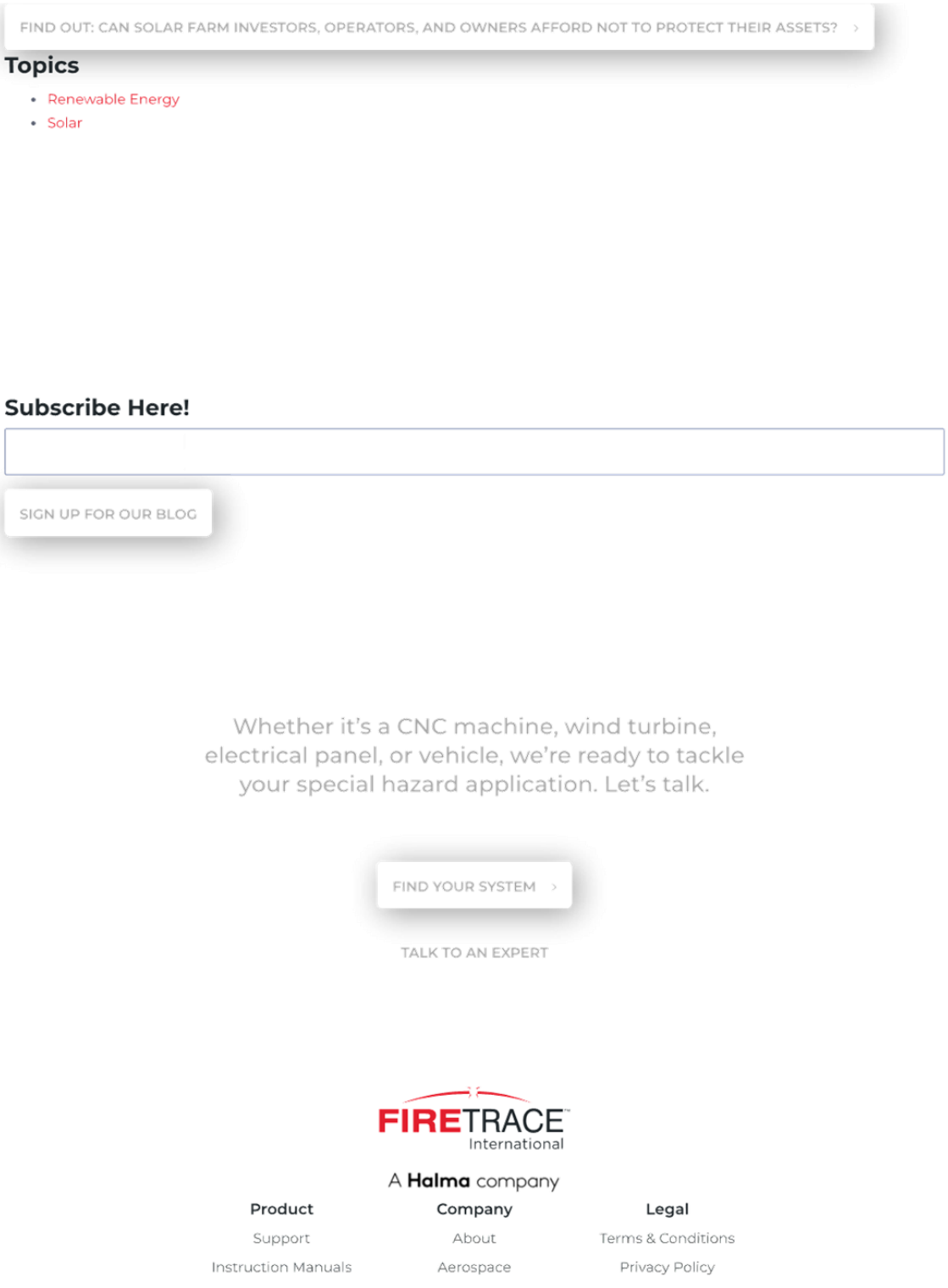
The World Health Organization (WHO) has highlighted how forest fires can have a major impact on **mortality and morbidity** depending on the size, speed, and proximity of the fire. The WHO says young children, pregnant women, and older adults are the most susceptible to "health impacts" from smoke and ash. In addition, the WHO explains that smoke and ash from wildfires can greatly affect "those with pre-existing respiratory diseases or heart disease." Meanwhile, as well as fatalities, wildfires can cause burns, decreased lung function, pulmonary inflammation, bronchitis, exacerbation of asthma, and exacerbation of cardiovascular diseases, such as heart failure.

How You Can Reduce Solar Farm Fire Risk

Given that fires at solar farms pose significant danger to environmental and human health, solar farm operators must do all they can to protect their renewables from fire risk. There are a few ways to stay safe from fire in addition to integrating fire suppression systems and fire risk assessments.

- Make certain independent third parties regularly test solar systems
- Integrate additional safety components at your solar panel farm
- Establish standardized quality assurance measures
- Replace defective or prematurely aged components

With the challenges of the solar supply chain and current solar prices, it's important to take action and prevent the worst-case scenario from occurring.


FIND OUT: CAN SOLAR FARM INVESTORS, OPERATORS, AND OWNERS AFFORD NOT TO PROTECT THEIR ASSETS?
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STOP THESE THINGS

Submission 40 - Attachment 3

No Deal: Country Firefighters Refuse to Fight Wind Turbine and Solar Panel Fires

(https://stopthesethings.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/volunteer-firefighters.png)

Fed up country firefighters are refusing to fight fires started by wind turbines, solar panels and giant batteries. Placing their lives at mortal risk to save others and their property, would be heroic enough. However, most of them are volunteers who spend hundreds of hours being trained in firefighting methods and how to do so safely – at their own time and expense.

When Summer bites, spare a thought for rural communities riddled with wind turbines: the perfect incendiary device. Around the world, hundreds have blown up in balls of flame – in the process – each one raining molten metal and over 1,000 litres of flaming gear oil and hydraulic fluid (see **our post here (https://stopthesethings.com/2015/04/22/victorian-country-fire-authoritys-claim-that-wind-turbines-not-combustible-scorched/)**) and burning plastic earthwards.

Wind turbine fires are ten times more common than the wind industry and its parasites claim (see our post **here (https://stopthesethings.com/2014/07/18/wind-turbine-fires-ten-times-more-common-than-thought-experts-warn/)** and check out this website: **http://turbinesonfire.org (http://turbinesonfire.org/)**).

Large-scale solar creates its very own fire risk (https://stopthesethings.com/2024/04/22/farmers-uninsurable-risk-solar-factory-neighbours-face-total-financial-ruin/), with panels known to self-immolate without warning.

Likewise, giant lithium-ion batteries will burst into toxic fireballs at the drop of a hat: **firefighters simply stand upwind and watch them burn themselves out, over a period of days (https://stopthesethings.com/2021/08/09/wind-solar-storage-fires-up-giant-battery-burns-for-days-after-terrifying-explosion/)**.

Connecting thousands of generators spread across the countryside with a veritable cobweb of high voltage transmission lines increases fire risk, exponentially. Every time the wind picks up strength during summer there is a high probability of lines clashing, arcing and setting the country ablaze.

Now, with more than their own lives at risk, Victoria's Country Fire Authority volunteers have said 'enough is enough'.

This group of courageous volunteers knows full well that the insanely deadly risk created by part-time power generators can be readily avoided by returning to a sensible energy policy – starting by keeping Australia's coal-fired power plants up and running and ultimately moving to nuclear plants located on the same sites.

As the articles below attest, Victoria's country firefighters are well within their rights to refuse to play ball, anymore.

CFA strike: Volunteers refuse to fight wind, solar and transmission line fires
The Weekly Times
Peter Hunt
18 June 2024

At least 24 CFA brigades are taking strike action, refusing to fight fires on land hosting high-voltage transmission lines, solar or wind farms, over what they call the Victorian Government's "reckless renewables expansion".

Most of the brigades are in communities that are being carved up by the 500kV Victoria-NSW Interconnector and subject to more wind and solar farm developments, as the Allan Government rushes to generate 95 per cent of the state's electricity from renewable sources by 2035.

The volunteer firefighters have written to Emergency Services Minister Jaclyn Symes and CFA chief officer Jason Heffernan stating they would "restrict turn-out commitments to incidents at electricity generation and transmission infrastructure sites to 'property perimeter defence'," only entering the site if lives were at risk.

The brigades' letter calls for "an immediate halt" of all current and proposed high voltage transmission lines and renewable energy infrastructure projects, and demands the government give "genuine consideration of concerns and acknowledgment of the negative impacts to our people and communities.

"Further action will be considered and taken as deemed necessary," the letter stated.

Gre Gre Village CFA captain and St Arnaud deputy group officer Peter Knights said: "Our brigades are not prepared to defend renewables infrastructure that destroys our communities, carves up our land, reduces our productive capacity and divides people."

Most of the 24 brigades backing the strike sit along 120kms of the proposed VNI West transmission line corridor, from north of Stawell and out past Charlton.

Traynors Lagoon CFA captain Jason Barratt said Victorians lived in one of the most fire-prone places on earth, yet the government was rushing to roll out renewables that increased the risk of fire in regional communities.

"CFA volunteers are becoming less and less, but they're increasing the load on us," Mr Barratt said.

Brigades say they have no hope of fighting wind-turbine fires and warn the CFA has issued contradictory standard operating procedures for the fireground when working near transmission lines that put their lives at risk from smoke-induced flashovers.

CFA brigades are already struggling to deal with fires sparked by isolated powerlines and transformers that go unnoticed for hours, to become firestorms that engulf the state, as happened on Ash Wednesday 1983, Black Saturday 2009 and the St Patrick's Day fires of 2018.

The International Association for Fire Safety Science estimates wind turbines catch fire at a rate of 1 in 1710, with UK research engineers finding "the three elements of the fire triangle, fuel (oil and polymers in the turbine), oxygen (wind) and ignition (electric, mechanical and lighting) are present and confined to the small and closed compartment of the turbine.

"Moreover, once ignition occurs in a turbine, the chances of externally fighting the fire are very slim due to the height of the nacelle (turbine) and the often remote location of the wind farm."

Energy Safe Victoria estimates there are about 2300 turbines in Victoria, with planning records showing another 311 under construction and hundreds more seeking Victorian Government approval.

The volunteer strike leaves hundreds of wind turbines without firefighter protection this summer and raises questions over CFA command's ability to draw on Fire Rescue Victoria for support, given its urban pumpers are incapable of fighting fires off road and without access to hydrants.

Mr Knight said he "can't imagine that book makers in insurance companies will think it's a good thing", so would cost them (renewable project developers) more.

As for fighting fires around transmission lines, Mr Knights said the CFA had issued standard operating procedures that were contradictory and dangerous to volunteers.

The CFA's SOPs advise brigades "not to directly attack fires in transmission line easement areas and crew members should maintain a safe working distance of at least 25 metres from lines or outside of easement areas, whichever is greater".

Mr Barratt said there were "too many grey areas in the SOP to make us feel safe", such as whether brigades should be 25m outside the easement and the role of fire behaviour during windy conditions.

Mr Knights said 25m was unacceptable and that brigades needed to be at least 100m from transmission lines during a fire, given the risk of smoke acting as a conductor and causing a flashover.

The CFA SOP states smoke from fires near or under transmission lines can create electrical arcs or flashovers that are "potentially life threatening to someone standing nearby", but gives no details under what conditions this can occur.

Meanwhile the Australian Energy Market Operator has established a subsidiary Transmission Company Victoria, which is in the midst of seeking Essential Services Commission approval for a transmission licence, which would give it the right to enter properties without landholder approval and compulsorily acquire easements.
The Weekly Times **(https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2024/06/18/cfa-strike-volunteers-refuse-to-fight-wind-solar-and-transmission-line-fires/)**

(https://stopthesethings.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/truck-and-fire.jpg)

Volunteer firefighters say they will not fight fires around new renewables projects, transmission lines
ABC Rural
Angus Verley
19 June 2024

Volunteer firefighters from a number of brigades in Victoria's central north will not attend blazes at properties hosting renewable energy plants or transmission lines.

Yesterday, captains from five brigades wrote to the CFA and the state government to declare that their members were not prepared to fight fires near or involving infrastructure such as the Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector (VNI West).

VNI West — a transmission line that would run hundreds of kilometres through farmland in western Victoria — has triggered angry protests from farmers who say they do not want it on their land.

The proposed transmission line is one of many being planned across Victoria to get the power from planned renewable energy projects into the national electricity grid.

'Pretty simple'
Jason Barratt, the captain of the Traynors Lagoon Fire Brigade and spokesperson for the newly formed Firefighters Against Renewables Over Victoria, told ABC Rural the group's message was "pretty simple".

"Any renewable infrastructure or projects, we're just going to refuse to fight fires in and around them," he said.

"We'll basically sit at the fence and wait for it to come out to us — we won't go in and put our lives at risk."

Mr Barratt said landowners who agreed to host transmission lines on their properties should not expect the assistance of firefighters.

"Anyone who's got renewable infrastructure will have to find their own way to protect it because CFA volunteers consider it too unsafe to do that," he said.

"You have crops and sheep that will be unprotected and there could be insurance implications as well."

Mr Barratt said an additional 19 brigades had agreed to join the action.

Letter of demands
The group's letter of demands calls for an immediate halt to "all current and proposed projects" and requests "appropriate reconsideration of alternative solutions", which Mr Barratt said should include nuclear power generation.

The cosignatories said infrastructure such as VNI West would "greatly impact our ability to control wildfire both on ground and particularly from the air".

Mr Barratt said transmission lines and renewable energy plants would make it more difficult to fight fires.

"We're worried about our ability to fight fires around transmission lines and the CFA hasn't been very good at all at giving us clear instructions on how safe it is to fight fires around them," Mr Barratt said.

"At the end of the day, we are volunteers and the government is willingly putting this infrastructure in and adding risk to our community and our members and it's unnecessary."

This is the latest protest action by affected regional communities against planned transmission line projects being rolled out to connect planned renewable projects.
ABC Rural **(https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2024-06-19/cfa-renewables-protest-volunteer-firefighters-transmission-lines/103995318)**

https://www.farov.com.au/ (https://www.farov.com.au/)

(https://stopthesethings.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/battery-fire.png)

Firefighters Against Renewables Over Victoria (FAROV)
Press Release

We are a collective of 5 Fire Brigades situated under the proposed VNI West 500kV Transmission Lines and in a proposed Renewable Energy zone as part of the Victorian State Government's mission to cover our food bowl and countryside in renewable infrastructure.

We have received commitments from a further 19 impacted Brigades and looking to add the support of many more either in joining our proposed action or taking their own variation of action.

We seek your support in publishing the attached call to CFA Brigades to sign on to proposed Industrial Action by the Volunteer Brigades, and to explain to our communities that our intentions are altruistic and with the safety of all residents in these areas and our volunteers in mind. We seek genuine long term solutions to energy production and transmission, not short term money grabbing by international investors and cash strapped Governments.

Letter of Demands from CFA Brigades to State Emergency Services Minister and CFA CO
Affected CFA Brigades have united in a call for industrial action to achieve demands with respect to the future of their role as firefighters in view of the Victorian State Government proposed reckless renewables expansion. We consider untenable the risks to lives and property, and irreparable damage imposed by proposed installations of High Voltage Transmission Lines and Renewable Energy Infrastructure.

Industrial action is proposed until

- Genuine consideration of concerns and acknowledgement of the negative impacts to our people and communities is given
- An immediate halt is effected of all current and proposed projects
- Appropriate reconsideration of alternative solutions, is conducted
- Action taken so that the safety and security of our members and communities can be assured.

It is proposed by the initiating Brigades, and Brigades signing on in support, that they commit to the following :-

1. Undertaking to restrict turn out commitment to incidents at electricity generation and transmission infrastructure sites to "Property Perimeter Defense" only. Brigades will not commit to enter land or premises upon which such infrastructure is situated, to complete fire management tasks unless there are personal safety issues identified by the incident controller. Brigades will not commit to defending or protecting electricity generation or transmission assets forthwith.
2. Undertaking that, by commencing Industrial Action, the members of the brigade will not implement or continue the Industrial Action where that action would endanger the Life or personal safety or welfare of our community.
3. Brigade specific concerns and proposed actions will be communicated to CFA, additional to that contained in this letter, including restrictions to turn out capacity, training and reporting of incidents.

Further action will be considered and taken as deemed necessary.

Our Volunteers, and colleagues at Fire Rescue Victoria, are being committed to a future use without consent, to provide free labour and fire protection services to a greedy, investor centric renewables industry which is focused only on profit with complete disregard of the destruction of our unique, beautiful and productive regional landscapes and communities.

Wind Towers the height of the Rialto, Solar Installations covering massive expanses of productive farm land and Transmission Lines the height of MCG lights, all with the propensity to ignite fires and impede safe firefighting, placed in the extreme fire risk areas of regional Australia, are simply illogical and unnecessary, given the short life span and inadequacy of wind turbines and large solar as a long term power generation solution. Genuine alternatives to these installations and the huge transmission line projects such as WRL and VNI West are available.

These installations will greatly impede our ability to control wildfire both on ground and particularly from the air. The access to these areas, as controlled by Renewable Energy Entities, will be restricted and therefore unsafe.

The State Government of Victoria controls this process and we demand of them the following:-

- Acknowledge that high voltage lines are potentially lethal in wildfire scenarios.
- Acknowledge that high voltage lines in high fire risk areas jeopardise firefighter and community safety and that powering down 500kV Transmission Lines during wildfire events is not a realistic protection mechanism.
- Acknowledge that Wind Turbines and industrial solar facilities provide probable ignition sources in high fire risk areas and impede fire fighting actions.
- Ensure impacted residents and communities can object to proposed Renewable Energy (RE) projects on the basis of fire risk and community impact. Specifically, to reinstate rights to object to RE facility project proposals through VCAT, as removed by State Government in April.
- Acknowledge that owners of renewable energy facilities will be responsible and liable for their own fire risk and management and that Volunteers are not compelled to turn out to emergency events at these locations.
- A cessation of proposed imposition of Fire Services Levy increases announced in the Victorian State Budget 2024 and a review of that system with amendments to align tax collection to location of spend and contribution by volunteers, particularly in rural and remote Victoria.
- Provide transparency and full public disclosure of budgeted consumer and government financial contribution, and detailed stakeholder interests, of each renewable infrastructure project.

The CFA is called to support it's members and employees as follows :-

- Clear, accurate and concise safe working distances for attending and attacking wildfire for all fireground participants near High voltage transmission lines and renewable facilities.
- Ensure SOP's must dispel any misinformation that it is in any way safe to operate near or under a 500kV line whilst managing a wildfire in the vicinity, and establish concise safe working procedures and distances for both CFA Brigades and Private Units attending.
- Acknowledge that High Transmission Lines placed across broadacre cropping and grazing land in high fire danger areas makes an unacceptable risk to firefighters and communities in the vicinity.
- Active support of Brigades to rebuke misleading information regarding Fire Safety and Procedure as it concerns RE Projects, published to the Public by Government and/or RE Corporate entities.
- Clear guidance as to access rights of both Brigades and Private units on to Renewable Energy Company controlled property, and full guarantee of indemnity for actions taken both as Brigade Volunteers and private units when attending fire incidents at such properties.
- Undertaking to prioritise provision of adequate trucks and equipment upgrades.

We do not take our decision to take industrial action lightly. Our members have decades of dedicated service to the CFA, both to our local districts and at major fire emergencies. We expect Victorian State Government and CFA management to not only listen to our concerns but to initiate actions to prevent

the destruction of our communities and our Brigades, from proposed renewables transition.

We willingly accept the risks that nature and mishap throw up from time to time but we refuse to be used as an unpaid resource for corporate, government and private interests to profit from an already stretched volunteer system. We are there to be utilized by our community but not used as free labour. *FAROV* (https://www.farov.com.au/)

(https://stopthesethings.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/fire.png)

Rural Volunteer Fire Fighters in Victoria are taking a stand against the unconscionable rollout of wind, solar, battery and HV transmission lines. Their concerns are for their safety and the safety of the communities they serve. They are also concerned about the destruction of agricultural land, grazing land and areas of high biodiversity. Government and the 'renewables' industry have shown they have no

concern for the safety of communities, the preservation of agricultural and grazing land, no interest in preserving Australia's unique flora and fauna and also a complete disregard for the inability of landowners to procure adequate public liability insurance at a reasonable cost.

It is time to push back against politicians who are elected to serve their constituents but appear to be beholding to the 'renewables' industry, an industry that does not have a plan in place for the decommissioning and disposal of tens of thousands of tonnes of PV solar panels, wind turbines and batteries at their 'end of life'. This is a failure to comply with their obligations pursuant to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999:

3A Principles of ecologically sustainable development

The following principles are principles of ecologically sustainable development:

(a) decision-making processes should effectively integrate both long-term and short-term economic, environmental, social and equitable considerations;

(b) if there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation;

(c) the principle of inter-generational equity—that the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations;

(d) the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity should be a fundamental consideration in decision-making.

They are also ignoring their obligations pursuant to the 2015 Paris Agreement Article 2.1(b):

"Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production";

Volunteer Fire Fighters from other Victorian Brigades and other State Brigades consider supporting your colleagues in their pushback against the community destroying and unconscionable rollout of wind, PV solar, battery and HV transmission projects.

We will prevail.

Kind regards,

(https://stopthesethings.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/wind-turbine-fire-lake_bonney_windfarm.jpg)
Posted on June 27, 2024June 23, 2024

4 thoughts on "No Deal: Country Firefighters Refuse to Fight Wind Turbine and Solar Panel Fires"

1. July 5, 2024 at 1:56 pm
   I support this action 100%. Our farm is in a high risk area and a wind 'farm' on adjacent properties has been shoved through by the NSW planning and IPCN. The larger of the two properties is foreign owned, absentee landowner, NO support in the 2019 fires. The renewables company is French, NEOEN. My partner is a Senior deputy captain in the RFS. Our concerns were ignored and not addressed meaningfully by the upper echelons (paid, no skin in the game) of the RFS or AFAC.

   ↳ Reply
2. June 28, 2024 at 4:46 pm

Fire at lithium battery factory kills at least 22 people (mostly chinese migrant workers). Some days ago.

↳ Reply

1.

June 29, 2024 at 12:21 am
In South Korea.

↳ Reply

3.

June 28, 2024 at 4:18 pm
I support their stance 100%, they already put their lives on the line each time they go out to fight fires.

The renewable industry is taking sufficient money from the Government (our money) in subsidies why should our volunteer fire fighters risk their lives to save the industries useless waste of time and money equipment.

They take over peoples land including neighbours without consideration of the cost to ensure fires do not kill or destroy residents and their homes and businesses. Every installation should have sufficient on site firefighters and equipment at immediate hand, they should not rely on local communities to do this job.

If they cannot pay to do this then they should not be given permission to build their structures.

↳ Reply

Submission 40 - Attachment 4

Tesla battery on fire at Bouldercombe energy storage site, Genex confirms

ABC Capricornia Industrial Fires

Wed 27 Sep 2023 at 7:33am

Fire breaks out at Tesla battery facility in Central Queensland. *(Supplied: Kent Murray)*

Witnesses have reported loud bangs, "multicoloured" flames and a smell of burning plastic as a Tesla battery burns at one of Queensland's first large-scale battery storage sites after catching fire last night.

Police were called to the incident in Child's Avenue in Bouldercombe, about 23 kilometres from Rockhampton, at 7:45pm.

Officers said the fire caused hazardous smoke to spread across the immediate area and nearby residents were urged

Key points:

- A resident says he heard bangs and pops as the fire raged
- He kept his distance because he believed the

to stay indoors and keep respiratory medication close by.

Several firefighting crews responded and the fire was contained to a single battery this morning.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Fitzroy Zone Commander John Platt said the battery pack was still alight and he was unsure how long it would continue to burn.

smoke would have been "very toxic"

- The site's owner and operator says Tesla will be involved in the investigation of the incident

"They are monitoring temperatures — a lot of that combustion can be internal to the unit so it's just about monitoring and making sure the visible fire doesn't spread," Mr Platt said.

He said officers were monitoring gas levels and air sampling in the Bouldercombe region and confirmed residents had nothing to be concerned about.

> "There is no worry for members of the public in terms of that toxic gas issue."

Mr Platt said the timing of the fire was fortunate, as the region's bushfire conditions were relatively mild compared to last week, when parts of central Queensland had a high fire danger rating.

Huge, multicoloured flames

Gracemere resident Dave Bailey witnessed the fire and said he could see huge, multicoloured flames.

"We heard a few bangs and pops and things like that," Mr Bailey said.

"At one point the flames were pretty good — different colours and things like that."

Crews worked throughout the night to contain the blaze. *(Supplied: David Bailey)*

But he said he was not willing to get any closer because he was worried the smoke would be dangerous.

"The smoke we saw coming from there would have been very toxic smoke, but we didn't get close enough to smell it or anything like that," Mr Bailey said.

Genex Power, which owns and operates the Bouldercombe Battery Project, said no-one was at the site at the time of the incident.

"On advice from the Queensland fire brigade and protocols provided by Tesla, the fire is being allowed to

> burn out under the supervision of the fire brigade," a spokesperson said.

Frank Lawrence lives about 300 metres from the site. *(ABC Capricornia: Jasmine Hines)*

Site disconnected from grid

Frank Lawrence lives next door to the site and said he slept through the fire but noticed a plastic burning smell this morning when he woke.

"It came up on Facebook — that was the first I knew of it," he said.

> "It was like a plastic smell drifting around but other than that that's all we got."

Authorities have cordoned off the site. *(ABC Capricornia: Jasmine Hines)*

The battery is a lithium Tesla Megapack 2.0 unit and is one of 40 used at the site.

In a statement released on the ASX, Genex Power said the site had been disconnected from the grid and it was working with Tesla to investigate the cause.

Police say the fire does not appear to be suspicious.

Powerlink, which owns the substation next to the facility, says there is no damage to its assets or infrastructure.

The Queensland Fire and Emergency Service said a single crew remained at the scene.

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Posted Wed 27 Sep 2023 at 7:33am, updated Thu 28 Sep 2023 at 10:12am

Submission 40 - Attachment 5

Forever chemicals being found 'literally everywhere'

Australia needs to prevent the introduction of more "forever chemicals" amid warnings it is becoming increasingly difficult to deal with the contaminants already in the environment.

A federal senate inquiry is examining the extent of contaminations from the PFAS family of chemicals, which do not naturally break down and have been linked to health problems like cancer.

Water Services Association of Australia executive director Adam Lovell recommended severe restrictions and labelling on PFAS in non-essential consumer products so consumers have a choice to limit their exposure.

The presence of the chemicals is becoming increasingly difficult to manage, he told a hearing on Wednesday.

Adam Lovell said the presence of PFAS chemicals is becoming increasingly difficult to manage. (Steven Saphore/AAP PHOTOS)

"We're finding (PFAS) literally everywhere," he said.

Sydney Water executive general manager Paul Plowman agreed the chemicals were "absolutely ubiquitous".

"So we do need to manage it within the urban water cycle," he said.

The agency is designing a thermal treatment facility to treat wastewater at high temperatures to destroy the chemical, leaving behind a reusable biochar.

"It's extremely energy intensive and very, very expensive," he said.

Utility costs are passed on to customers, and it would be cheaper and easier to avoid the presence of the chemicals than to treat them, he added.

NSW Environment Protection Authority chief executive Tony Chappel said more than 1100 sites in the state had been triaged, with significant contamination detected at 51 since legacy firefighting chemicals were found at Williamtown air force base and Newcastle Airport.

Rivers, lakes, a park and a school are among the NSW sites likely to have had significant exposure.

But the state agency has only so much power over sites that include Defence bases and federally-owned airports.

"Without legal powers to regulate or compel the commonwealth government this has created significant issues," Mr Chappel said.

For many of the listed sites, the environmental watchdog says the discovery of PFAS in the environment does not mean there is a human health risk.

While drinking water in Sydney and the Hunter region is regularly monitored, NSW Health is supporting an expanded screening test for water utilities managed by regional councils.

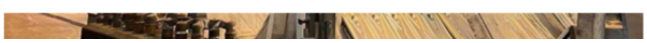
PFAS chemicals are known for their heat, water and stain resistance and have been commercially produced for decades for use in firefighting foam, aviation, carpets, fabric and cosmetics.

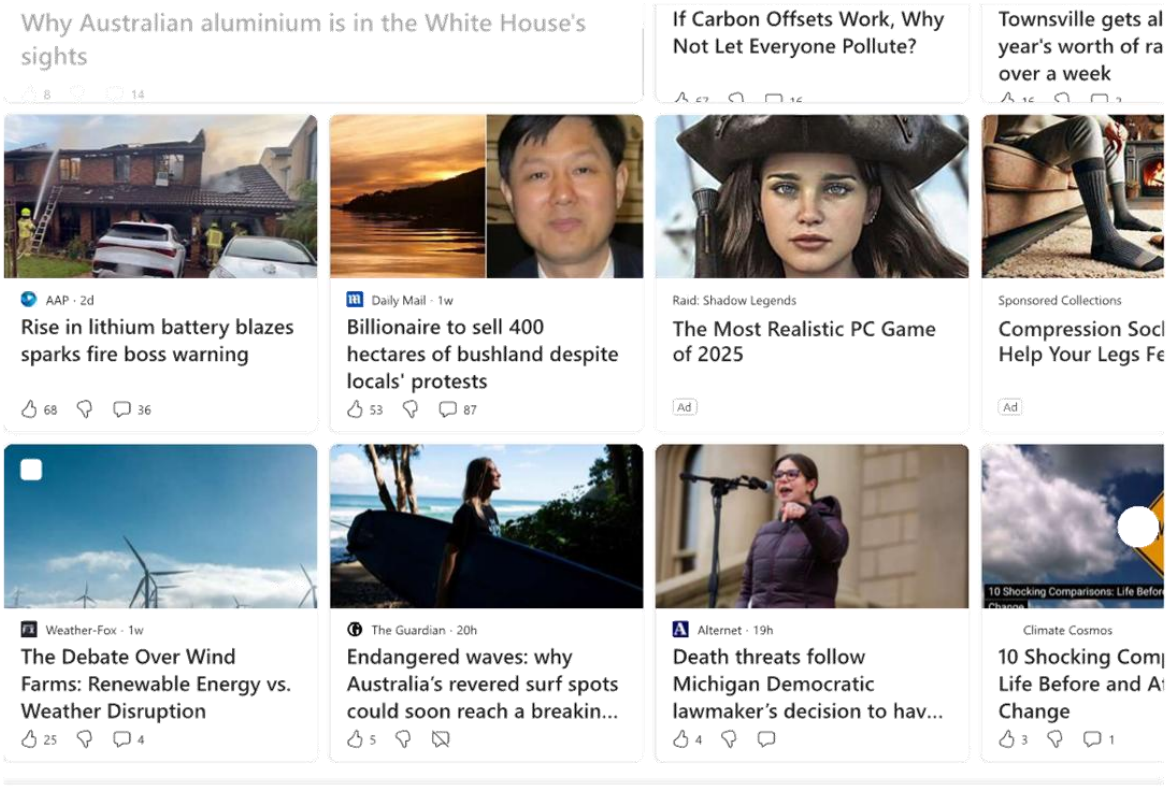
The federal inquiry is examining sources of contamination and the effectiveness of current regulations, along with the social, economic, health and environmental effects.

Stop PFAS Blue Mountains convenor Jon Dee criticised health authorities for not offering blood tests in communities where chemicals have been detected and said drinking water guidelines were inadequate.

The United States' Environmental Protection Agency agency has set an enforceable target of four nanograms per litre, but it also has a health-based goal of zero.

University of Sydney professor Stuart Khan said it was a purely aspirational statement by an agency that had "effectively plucked a number out of the air" and Australia's less-strict guidelines were aligned with the rest of the world.




Why Australian aluminium is in the White House's sights
If Carbon Offsets Work, Why Not Let Everyone Pollute?
Townsville gets al year's worth of ra over a week
AAP · 2d
Rise in lithium battery blazes sparks fire boss warning
Daily Mail · 1w
Billionaire to sell 400 hectares of bushland despite locals' protests
Raid: Shadow Legends
The Most Realistic PC Game of 2025
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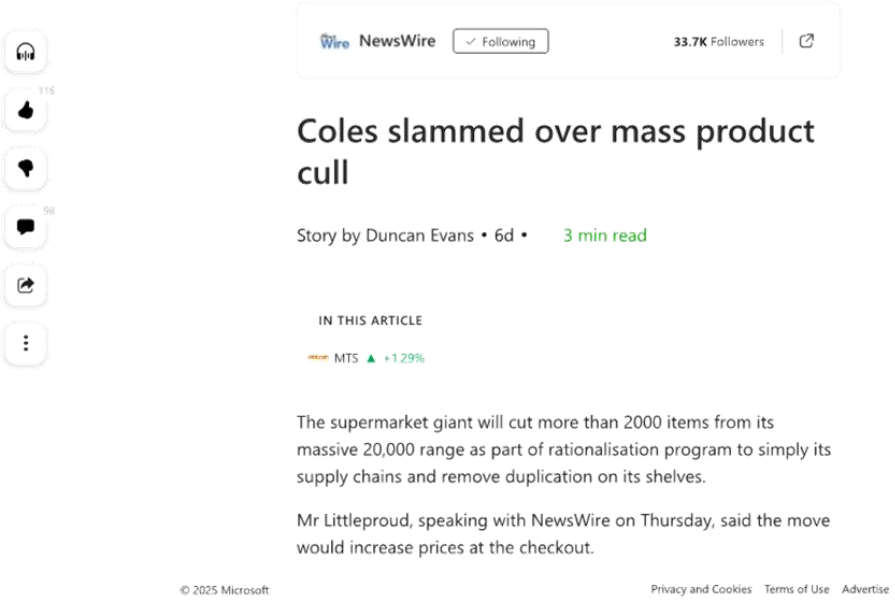
Weather-Fox · 1w
The Debate Over Wind Farms: Renewable Energy vs. Weather Disruption
The Guardian · 20h
Endangered waves: why Australia's revered surf spots could soon reach a breakin...
Alternet · 19h
Death threats follow Michigan Democratic lawmaker's decision to hav...
Climate Cosmos
10 Shocking Comp Life Before and A Change


NewsWire
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33.7K Followers
Coles slammed over mass product cull
Story by Duncan Evans • 6d • 3 min read
IN THIS ARTICLE
MTS ▲ +1.29%
The supermarket giant will cut more than 2000 items from its massive 20,000 range as part of rationalisation program to simply its supply chains and remove duplication on its shelves.
Mr Littleproud, speaking with NewsWire on Thursday, said the move would increase prices at the checkout.
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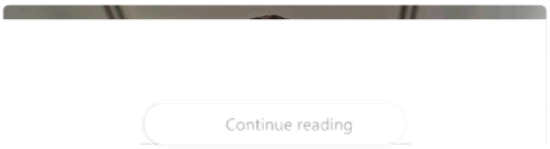
"This is a direct measure to try and reduce competition to push up prices and push up their margin," he said.

"It's as simple as that.

"You don't take competition away from the shelves, unless you are trying to do one simple thing: rescue competition and increase prices."

QUT retail marketing and consumer behaviour expert Professor Gary Mortimer cautioned, however, the cull could potentially lead to a small drop in prices for shoppers if the company secured an overall reduction in its cost base.



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STOP THESE THINGS

Submission 40 - Attachment 6

Ecological Nightmare: Wind & Solar Rollout Delivers Permanent Environmental Destruction

(https://stopthesethings.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/solar-panel-blight-720x405-1.jpg)

The wind and solar 'industries' are clear-felling ancient forests, bulldozing whole mountains, stripping the last remnants of fragile vegetation from deserts, killing endangered whales, eagles, bats and more, turning productive farmland into industrial wastelands and are being paid handsomely to do so by the governments you elect. Seems legit, right?

As Bonner Cohan outlines below, the environmental destruction being wreaked to make way for endless seas of solar panels and thousands of giant industrial wind turbines – neither of which will ever generate power on demand – makes absolutely no sense, at all.

Thousands of Joshua Trees set to fall victim to Green-Energy transition
DC Journal

28 June 2024

(https://stopthesethings.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/joshua-trees-800x535-1.png)

More than 3,500 majestic Joshua trees in California's Mojave Desert are being shredded onsite to make way for thousands of solar panels under a plan approved by California and Kern County officials.

The sprawling solar project will produce intermittent energy on 2,300 acres of land near the small towns of Boron and Desert Lake.

It is not clear whether any of the electricity produced at the solar site will serve some nearby communities. But the project's developer, California-based Avantus, says contracts have been signed to deliver some of the power to Silicon Valley Clean Energy and Central Coast Community Energy, both are nonprofits that provide green energy to homes in more affluent coastal communities, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Even though many of the trees are estimated to be between 100 and 200 years old, government approval of the solar project in 2021 predated a state decision to protect the Joshua tree under the California Endangered Species Act and last year's enactment by the legislature of the Joshua Tree Conservation Act, which bans unpermitted killing of the trees. As a result, the targeted trees are defenseless.

(https://stopthesethings.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/stripping-the-land-1024x767-e1415220313754.jpg)

The company provides no evidence for its claim that Joshua trees "are being threatened by climate change caused by greenhouse gas emissions." [Note to Ed: How carbon dioxide gas – essential for all plants and all life on Earth – threatens any vegetation is beyond comprehension]

In addition to the loss of the Joshua trees, which share the same habitat as the threatened desert tortoise, residents will have to contend with massive amounts of dust that will be kicked up during the project's construction.

"Let's destroy the environment to save the environment. That seems to be the mentality," Deric English, a Boron Junior-Senior High School teacher, told the Los Angeles Times. "It's hard to comprehend."

(https://stopthesethings.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/mojave-desert-tortoise.png)

Two recognized subspecies of Joshua trees are native to the Mojave Desert, where they can be found at elevations of 2,000 to 6,000 feet. The trees enjoy varying degrees of protection in the jurisdictions they inhabit, but those protections can be undermined if a favored project, such as a solar plantation, comes along.

A similar fate could befall the Mojave Desert tortoise. In April, in a 4-0 decision, the California Fish and Game Commission voted to list the Mojave Desert tortoise as endangered under the Golden State's Endangered Species Act. The creature has been listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act since 1990. Even though the tortoise is California's state reptile, it is being pushed to the brink by various factors, including vehicle strikes, wildfires, raven predation, illegal marijuana growth, and massive solar farm development.

While desert tortoises and Joshua trees are at risk from giant solar arrays on the ground, up in the air, taxpayer-subsidized wind turbines pose a real threat to supposedly protected bald and golden eagles.

In February, the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service updated its rule for an "incidental take" under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

"In addition to continuing to authorize specific permits, we created general permits for certain activities under prescribed conditions, including qualifying wind energy projects, power line infrastructure, activities that may disturb breeding bald eagles, and bald eagle nest take," the FWS states.

In other words, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act is a nice law, but, under certain conditions, wind power developers can go around it by getting permits for the "incidental," but entirely predictable, killing of the eagles the law is supposed to protect.

To promote renewable energy, FWS officials allow wind turbines to reach hundreds of feet into the air and go up in areas where "protected" eagles are known to fly. And by issuing permits for the "incidental take" of a bird, they acknowledge that some of the eagles will be slaughtered in the turbines' spinning rotors.

(https://stopthesethings.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/dead_eagle_at_base_of_turbine-e1401765122884.jpg)

If wind and solar power are making it rough for endangered species on land and in the air, things are no better at sea. On April 14, Maryland Gov. Wes Moore signed an agreement with administration officials to secure more lease areas for offshore wind development in the Atlantic Ocean.

More offshore wind turbines would further complicate the migratory patterns of the endangered right whale. Female right whales migrate from the Northeastern Coast to waters off the Southeast, where they give birth before returning north with their calves. Their path — going and coming — takes them through an area where Richmond, Va.-based Dominion Energy plans to construct 176 turbines as part of its Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project.

If neighboring Maryland becomes a player in offshore wind, the migrating whales' journey will become even more perilous.

Lured by generous taxpayer subsidies and encouraged by compliant government officials, wind and solar developers have concluded that endangered species pose little threat to their livelihoods.
DC Journal (https://dcjournal.com/thousands-of-joshua-trees-set-to-fall-victim-to-green-energy-transition/)

(https://stopthesethings.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/dead-humpback-whale23.jpg)
Posted on August 9, 2024July 28, 2024

One thought on "Ecological Nightmare: Wind & Solar Rollout Delivers Permanent Environmental Destruction"

1.
August 10, 2024 at 6:37 am
The dust doesn't stop when construction is complete. Once the "desert varnish" is destroyed, the dust is eternal.

When pioneers were crossing the California deserts they thought of the yet-unnamed trees as Joshua pointing the way to the Promised Land.

↳ Reply

Submission 41

23 February 2025

Mr David Waddell
CEO - Orange City Council
PO Box 35
Orange NSW 2800

Dear Mr Waddell

Re Objection to DA771/2024(1) – PAN-499518
Electricity Generating Works (solar farm) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

We have just been made aware of DA771/2024(1) which we vehemently object to and request council oppose. We own and were not notified of this proposal even though our property is nearby.

We *object* to the proposal for the following reasons:

- A solar farm should not be placed so close to the city of Orange which is a popular tourist destination and an emerging wine region. Council invests heavily in the promotion of tourism in Orange including FOOD week and allowing this development to proceed negatively impacts on this investment.
- The solar farm would utilise prime agricultural land and is located in Orange's drinking water catchment. The impacts of degrading solar panels on the environment are still not fully understood but it is not a risk we should accept.
- Traffic on Cadia Road is already congested and dangerous with numerous vehicles (including large trucks) heading to Cadia mine.
- Solar farms devalue surrounding land. Any proposal like this should be away from town and wineries in an unpopulated area.
- There are potential EMF impacts which can harm human health.

We request that Council opposes this proposal and makes their opposition known to the Western Regional Planning Panel.

(1)

Submission 42

DA 771/2024(1) PAN-499518.
Lot 5 DP6173 - 140 Cadia Road, Orange.
23/2/25.

Dear Chief Executive Officer,

I wish to make a submission regarding the proposed Solar Farm on Lot 5 DP6173 - 140 Cadia Road, Orange.

My objections are:

- The solar panels will be covering areas of good agricultural land, one proposed area (the western area), until recently was a productive apple orchard.
- The area proposed for the solar farm is in a catchment area, which will be heavily impacted with the bringing in of fill etc., and truck traffic while setting the panels up and the 2 electricity conversion kiosks and the 2 BESS stations.
- It will devalue my property, which ajoins it.
- There will be an excessive amount of glare reflected from

(2)

these panels.

- It will take years before trees planted around the panels will reduce the glare from the panels.
- I will be heavily impacted by the traffic coming up and down the driveway adjoining my driveway and my northern boundary (the access route to the solar farm), when the solar farm is being set up.
- I am led to believe it will take from 3 – 4 months, Mon – Fri 7am – 4pm to set up, and involve up to 10 trucks a day (some B doubles), accessing that driveway. I will be heavily impacted with noise and dust and disturbance of my livestock, right along my entire northern boundary, from Cadia Road to my back boundary fence.
- The driveway of 140 Cadia Road is very narrow alongside and cottage and . The ground here is terraced along the boundary fence, due to the steepness of the slope and the soil previously giving way under the fence. It is made narrower by a row of Leylandii

(3.)

Cypress trees recently planted by them and the roots will undermine this terracing along with the heavy truck traffic, which will further undermine this section of the hill and driveway, which is to be the access road to the solar farm.

- driveway ends beside their garage, behind their house. There is no farm road beyond that, only a track through the paddock in dry weather.
- If this solar farm is approved by Council, I would propose the access route road is made along the northern boundary of 140 Codia Road. The 2 BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) stations and the 2 electricity conversion kiosks are to be located along the northern boundary.
- Who is going to be responsible for keeping the grass down under the panels, to reduce the fire hazard?
- Who is going to maintain the trees planted around the panels?

* I have not been able to speak to , the Council

(4)

Officer responsible for the application, so she is working remotely with no phone access. I would have liked to have spoken to her on the phone or in person, not via a link or by email, but found this was not possible.

The visual impact of the solar farm will be seen from as far away as Forest Road and will destroy the rural ambience of the Springside area. Therefore I am against the development of this solar farm.

Yours faithfully

5.4 Small Donations - Requests for Donations

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/1939
AUTHOR: Jen Sharp, Director Corporate & Commercial Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides information to Council to allow for the consideration of a resolution regarding applications for funding through the Small Donations Program deferred from the Finance Policy Committee meeting of 2 September 2025.

The Small Donations Program has been established to provide assistance to community and not-for-profit groups that offer significant contribution to the social, economic and/or environmental wellbeing of the Orange Local Government Area (LGA).

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "10.2 Develop and attract a variety of events, festivals, venues and activities that attract visitors".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The budget for General Donations within the Small Donations Program for 2025/2026 is **$90,000** with $34,775.50 spent to date. The total requested in this round is $2,500.00. The total recommended for approval this round is $2,500.00.

Annual budget 25/26	$90,000.00
Total spent to date	$34,775.50
Recommended amount this round	$2,500.00
Remaining balance	$52,724.50

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Refer to Council's Donations and Grants Policy - ST32

This policy is in accordance with these sections in the Local Government Act 1993:

1. Section 356 (financial assistance)
2. Section 377 (delegated authority)
3. Section 610E (waive or reduce fees)

And in accordance with this section in the Local Government Regulation 2021:

Section 207 (record of donations for auditing purposes).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council determine the application to donate $2,500 to Orange Scouts Camp to contribute to transport for Orange members to attend regional camp.

5.4 Small Donations - Requests for Donations

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council's key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

Service/Project Delivery	Grants and Donations are part of Council's service to the community. Assessing applications for Grants and Donations forms part of the delivery of this service. There are no risks currently of concern with regard to achieving delivery of this service.
Financial	There is sufficient budget to meet the current commitments of Grants and Donations in the current financial year.
Reputation/Political	Awarding Grants and providing donations has a positive impact on Council's reputation. A policy is in place to ensure that grants and donations are awarded in a fair and equitable manner.
Environment	There are no environmental risks or implications relating specifically to the Grants and Donations program.
Compliance	Council applies the approved Grants and Donations policy and related internal policies and procedures when processing applications for Grants and Donations.
People & WHS	The Grants and Donations program has minimal interactions with Council Staff. There are no identified People or WHS risks associated with the program.
Information Technology/Cyber Security	Information collected as part of the Grants and Donations program is managed within the policies which minimise the risks to Information Technology and Cyber Security for both the Council and the program applicants.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

At the Finance Policy Committee meeting of 2 September 2025, Council resolved to defer the application to obtain more information about the application.

Applicant	**Scouts Australia - NSW Branch**
Assistance Would Support	The assistance would contribute to the costs of providing transport for youth and adult members to the regional Scout Camp. Additional Information Requested: The donation request includes information about travel to the venue with the hire of buses from both Orange and Dubbo as well as train travel costs. The plan for the event involves 40 people from Orange. Due to the large group size, different travel dates and availability of services the participants have a variety of travel options. A portion of the forty will be travelling on a 22-seater bus from Orange A separate group, mainly of younger scout and their parents, will be

5.4 Small Donations - Requests for Donations

	travelling via train and transferring to a bus in Dubbo. The train timetable means that some will be travelling via the NSW Train Link Bus Service on the return trip, rather than by train.
Amount Requested	$2,500
Amount Recommended for Approval	$2,500
Policy Category	Community event not being event sponsorship
Category Maximum	$2,500
Complies With Policy	Yes
Previously funded by Council?	Yes 2022/2023 $2,000.00 2019/2020 $2,000.00

ATTACHMENTS

1 Small Donations Program - Application Form - General Donations - Scouts Australia - Regional Scout camp - 27 September 2025 (redacted), D25/95934⇩

Attachment 1 Small Donations Program - Application Form - General Donations - Scouts Australia - Regional Scout camp - 27 September 2025 (redacted)

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

SMALL DONATIONS PROGRAM - APPLICATION FORM

General donations

Community or not-for-profit group providing benefit to the local community can apply for a maximum of $2,500

This document will be made public, and only fields with this icon will be redacted.

APPLICANT'S DETAILS

Name of organisation:	Scouts Australia - NSW Branch
Contact name:	Leigh Williamson
Position:	RC - Major Events, TGW Region

[redacted]

ABN (if applicable): 42 460 434 054

ACN (if applicable):

YOUR ORGANISATION

☑ Not-for-Profit ☐ Community Group

Please provide a short description of your organisation, and its purpose.

Orange Scouts are a vibrant, volunteer-led youth organisation. It is dedicated to empowering young people through adventure, skill-building and community service. We provide a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for children and teenagers aged 5 to 18, to develop resilience, confidence and leadership skills that will serve them for life.
Our programs combine outdoor education, environmental stewardship and hands-on learning with a strong focus on teamwork, problem solving and personal growth. From camping and hiking, to community projects and cultural engagement, we encourage our members to challenge themselves, discover their potential and contribute positively to society.
As part of Scouts Australia, we are committed to fostering diversity, respect and belonging. Our group actively welcomes young people from all cultural backgrounds, abilities and identities. We are proud to engage in activities that promote environmental awareness, celebrate indigenous heritage and strengthen connections between our youth and the broader community.
Through the dedication of our volunteer leaders and the enthusiasm of our members, the Orange Scouts continue to inspire the next generation to be active citizens, caring friends and capable leaders - ready to create a better world.

YOUR REQUEST

Amount requested: $ 2500 Date event if applicable: 27/09/2025

If you have attempted to seek funding for this project from any other source,including other grants, requests for in kind donations or reduction in costs from suppliers, please provide details:

We were very lucky to receive a grant from Broken Hill Council for $10,000.

What will this donation be used for?

Funds from this grant will be used to provide safe and reliable transport for the 40 youth and adult members from both 2nd Orange and 3rd Orange Scout Groups to attend our upcoming regional Scout Camp. Many of our young people face barriers to participation due to distance, cost or limited access to transport. By covering bus hire and travel expenses, we can ensure that every youth member - regardless of their personal or family circumstances - has the opportunity to take part in this valuable experience.
The regional camp offers unique opportunities for skill development, cultural exchange and personal growth, including outdoor challenges, team building activities and community engagement projects with youth from different towns and backgrounds, helping them learn from one another and broadening their experiences. Transport support will remove a key obstacle to participation, allowing all of our Scouts to benefit from the friendships, learning and confidence that comes from being a part of this event.

BENEFIT TO ORANGE

Please outline how the donation will contribute to the social, economic and/or environmental wellbeing of the Orange Local Government Area.

Support for local business - The bus for transporting participants will be hired from the Orange based company, keeping funds in the local economy and supporting local jobs. Youth leadership growth - The camp provides opportunities for young people to take on leadership roles, plan activities and mentor younger members. Skill development - Participants gain valuable skills in problem-solving, teamwork and communication which they bring back to their schools, clubs and the wider Orange community. Inclusive opportunities - We actively welcome and support youth from all backgrounds, including LGBTQ and Indigenous young people, ensuring everyone has equal access to opportunities for growth, belonging and achievement. Cultural awareness and respect - Activities at camp encourage understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, building mutual respect and community cohesion. Positive youth engagement - By offering meaningful, structured experiences, we help steer young people towards constructive activities that build resilience, confidence and a strong sense of identity.

ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Which theme/s best match your reason for donation?

- ☑ **LIVE: A healthy, safe, inclusive and vibrant community**
  This theme recognises the importance of encouraging healthy lifestyles, community pride and a sense of belonging.
- ☐ **PRESERVE: Balancing the natural and built environment**
  This theme ensures that the unique natural, cultural, social and historical aspects of our community are preserved while recognising the need for growth and improvement.
- ☑ **PROSPER: A smart, innovative and resilient economy**
  This theme focuses on providing the community with positive choices for investment, employment and study.
- ☑ **COLLABORATE: Leadership and partnership**
  This theme looks at forging a collaborative community that engages with open and ongoing decision making.

COSTS AND FUNDING

Please provide a summary of your event costs and funding sources. For equipment purchase, please attach quotes.

COSTS

Transport - 22 seater bus - Orange Hertz	$ 3,615.00
Transport - 22 seater bus - Dubbo Hertz	$ 3,615.00
NSW Rail - Train and Bus return	$ 3,125.00
Accommodation at Broken Hill Race Course and Event Centre	$ 1,500.00
Tent hire	$ 3,300.00
Total costs	$ 15,155.00

FUNDING

Your organisation's contribution	$ 0.00
Funding from other councils	$ 10,000.00
Contribution from other sources	$ 0.00
Total funding	$ 10,000.00

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS FOR PAYMENT

[redacted]

DECLARATION

On behalf of: (name of organisation if applicable) Scouts NSW, The Golden West Region

☑ I certify to the best of my knowledge that the statements made in this application and any supporting documentation are true.

[redacted] Date 15/05/2025

Print name Leigh Williamson

Position in organisation RC - Major Events, TGW Region

The information you provide will be handled in accordance with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998. The supply of information by you is voluntary. If you cannot provide or do not wish to provide the information sought, your application may be unable to be processed. Any personal information collected from you will be in order to process your application.

5.5 Statement of Investments - August 2025

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/1908
AUTHOR: John Thompson, Chief Financial Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide a statement of Council's investments held for the period August 2025.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "15.3 Ensure financial stability and support efficient ongoing operation".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to:

1 Note the Statement of Investments for the period August 2025.

2 Adopt the certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council's other key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

Service/Project Delivery	Minimal risks as investments are fully compliant with our Investment Policy risk appetite and parameters.
Financial	Minimal risk to Council's financial performance and position. Interest rate cycle has been in a reduction phase though this may change in the period ahead so as investments redeem the renewal deposit rate is less. Average investment weighted yield continues to decline.
Reputation/Political	Negligible risk.
Environment	Most of the larger Approved Deposit Institutions (ADIs) the we invest in have a hybrid portfolio and their underlying investments are in both Renewable and Non Renewable energy entities respectively.
Compliance	All investments are all fully compliant with Council's Investment Policy.
People & WHS	Negligible risk.
Information Technology/Cyber Security	Risk is negligible due to strong IT/Cyber Security controls over financial transactions and products invested in.

5.5 Statement of Investments - August 2025

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

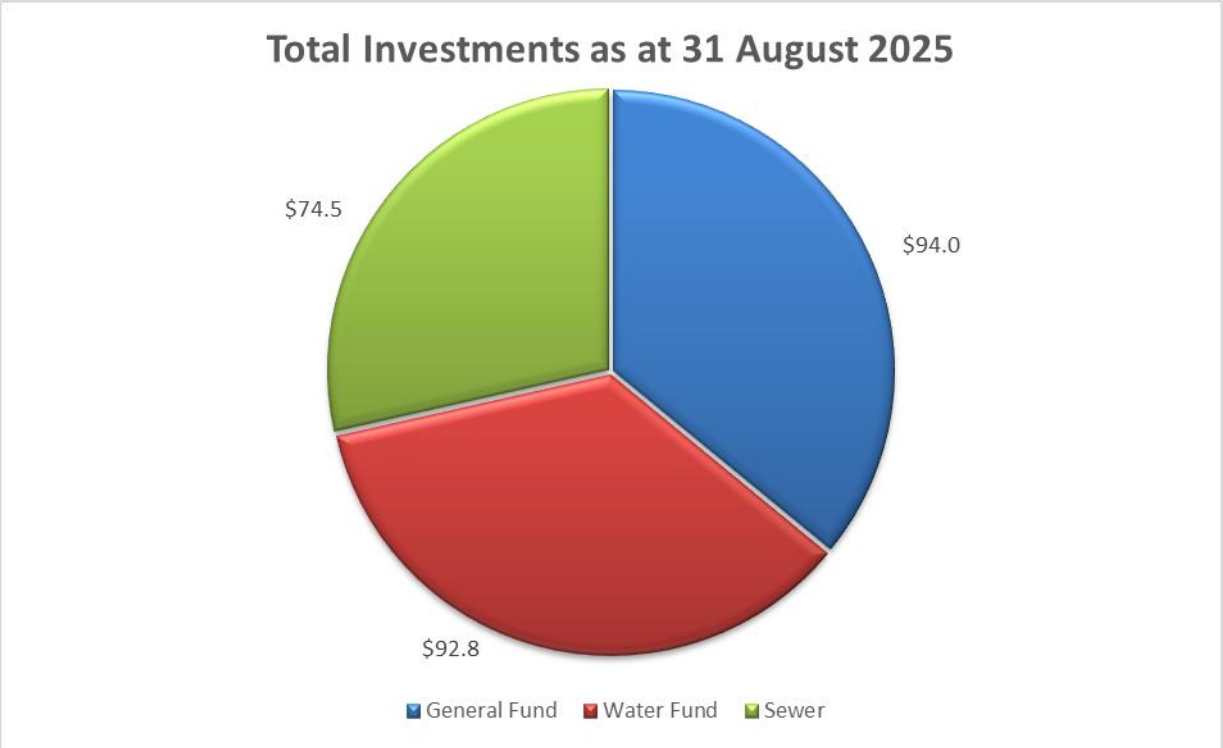
Statement of Investments – August 2025

The investments held by Council in each fund is shown below:

Fund	31/07/2025	31/08/2025
General Fund	85,531,332	93,969,988
Water Fund	94,656,121	92,802,535
Sewer Fund	73,183,650	74,510,047
Total Funds	**253,371,103**	**261,282,570**

Portfolio Performance

As at the end of August 2025, Council's investment portfolio remains largely secured through fixed rate term deposits (86%), with the remaining portfolio allocated to FRNs 3%), bonds (2%), and cash (9%).



Overall Council's portfolio remains highly liquid and diversified with approximately 75% of assets maturing under 12 months and no exposure to the unrated ADI sector. All investments are within Council's risk appetite as per our investment Policy.

The weighted average interest rate of **Council's investment portfolio** (refer to the **green line** in below chart) for the period ending 31 August 2025 was **4.29 percent**, which is only slightly below **Council Policy's target** or **'mandated' cash rate** (refer to the **red line** in the chart below) of **4.35 percent** or 435 basis points (based on a target of 75 basis points above the cash rate for August at 3.60 percent).

As the official cash rate reduces its 'mandated' target rate of return as per its Investment Policy Council becomes closer in differential. That is while Council acknowledges that it is currently not achieving its 'mandated levels' it also notes that this is a function of the interest rate cycle and has

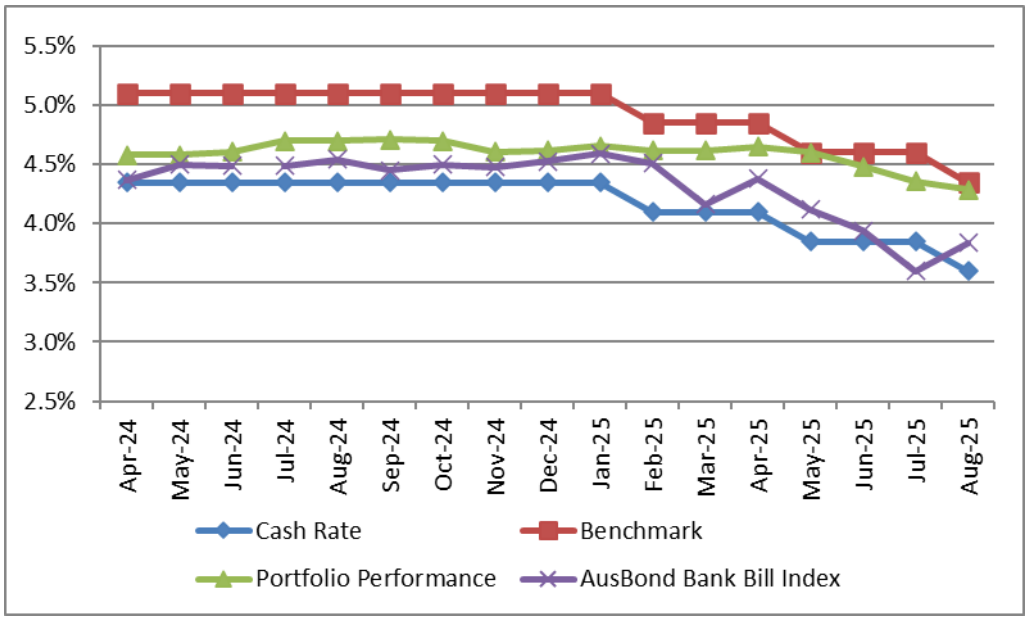
5.5 Statement of Investments - August 2025

a lag effect to the official cash rates as they both increase and decrease. Official rates are now in a gradual decreasing to stable phase of the cycle.

Council will continue to monitor maturing investments to ensure these are reinvested at optimum investment rates available at the time. Retiring investments are being monitored closely and reinvested to optimise returns in line with Council's Investment Policy.

A review of the current target benchmark is being progressed as part of the broader review of Council's Investment Policy as discussed and agreed at the 26 June 2024 Audit, Risk, and Improvement Committee (ARIC). This was tabled for ARIC in the 4 June 2025 meeting. However, has been extended for review in the December 2025 meeting. Any outcome will be advised to Council in due course.

Council has also compared its performances to the Bloomberg **AusBond Bank Bill Index** (Baubil or Ausbond) to provide a further benchmark (refer to the **purple line** in the below chart). This index is focused on short term Australian money market investments. For the period August 2025, the AusBond rate was 3.84 percent. The weighted average interest rate of Council's investment portfolio of 4.29 percent exceeded the AusBond rate at the same reporting date. The AusBond rate is supplied to Council by our investment consultants Arlo Advisory Pty Ltd.



Council's Investment Policy also establishes limits in relation to the maturity terms of Council's investments as well as the credit ratings of the institutions with whom Council can invest.

The following tables provide a dissection of Council's investment portfolio as required by the Policy. The Policy identifies the maximum amount that can be held in a variety of investment products or with institutions based on their respective credit ratings.

Table 1 shows the percentage held by Council (Holdings) and the additional amount that Council could hold (Capacity) for each term to maturity allocation in accordance with limits established by Council's Policy.

5.5 Statement of Investments - August 2025

Table 1: Maturity – term limits

Term to Maturity Allocation	Maximum	Holdings	Capacity
0 - 3 Months	100.00%	28.24%	71.76%
3 - 12 Months	100.00%	46.31%	53.69%
1 - 2 Years	70.00%	9.09%	60.91%
2 - 5 Years	50.00%	16.37%	33.63%
5+ Years	25.00%	0.00%	25.00%

Table 2 (below) shows the total amount held, and the weighted average interest rate (or Return on investment), by credit rating. The credit rating is an independent opinion of the capability and willingness of a financial institution to repay its debts, or in other words, the providers' financial strength or creditworthiness. The rating is typically calculated as the likelihood of a failure occurring over a given period, with the higher rating (AAA) being superior due to having a lower chance of default. However, it is accepted that this lower risk will be accompanied by a lower return on investment and conversely the higher the risk will be accompanied by a higher weighted return.

The level of money held in the bank accounts has been added to the table to illustrate the ability of Council to cover the operational liabilities that typically occur (for example payroll, materials and contracts, utilities).

Table 2: Credit rating limits

Credit Rating	Maximum	Holding	Remaining Capacity	Value	Return on investment
Bank Accounts	100.00%	9.10%	90.90%	23,783,621	3.50%
AAA	100.00%	0.39%	99.61%	1,010,825	4.50%
AA	100.00%	34.35%	65.65%	89,755,648	3.71%
A	60.00%	31.12%	28.88%	81,314,301	4.75%
BBB & NR	40.00%	25.04%	14.96%	65,418,176	4.81%
Below BBB	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-	0.00%
				261,282,570	

It is noted that Council still holds several investments with a lower than market interest rate. These investments will incur significant costs to redeem (or break) early and would thus impact Council's expected interest income. These investments will naturally be redeemed at maturity and reinvested into the best performing products at that time. It is important to note there will always be a lag in our performance to the spot interest rate at any time (both on the lower side and the higher side) depending on where we are at in the interest rate cycle.

Portfolio advice

Council uses the services of an independent investment advisor in maintaining its portfolio of investments. Council's current investment advisor is Arlo Advisory Pty Ltd. Services provided to Council currently include:

- quarterly portfolio summary reports;
- advice on investment opportunities, in particular Floating Rate Note products;
- advice on policy construction; and
- year-end market values for Floating Rate Note products held by Council.

5.5 Statement of Investments - August 2025

Certification by Responsible Accounting Officer

Section 212(1) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 requires that a written report be presented each month at an Ordinary Meeting of the Council detailing all money that Council has invested under *Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993*.

I, John Thompson, hereby certify that all investments have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* and Council's Investment Policy.

ATTACHMENTS

1 Monthly Investment Report August 2025, D25/103999⇩

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Investment Report

01/08/2025 to 31/08/2025

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Portfolio Valuation as at 31/08/2025

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
Defence Bank	BBB+	TD	SEWER	At Maturity	28/11/2024	04/09/2025	5.1000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	77,408.22	8,663.01
Defence Bank	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	28/11/2024	04/09/2025	5.1000	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	116,112.33	12,994.52
AMP Bank	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	05/12/2024	11/09/2025	5.1000	6,000,000.00	6,000,000.00	226,356.16	25,989.04
MyState Bank	BBB	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	12/06/2025	18/09/2025	4.3500	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	28,960.27	11,083.56
Australian Unity Bank	BBB+	TD	SEWER	At Maturity	05/12/2024	18/09/2025	5.1000	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	37,726.03	4,331.51
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	05/12/2024	18/09/2025	4.9500	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	183,082.19	21,020.55
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	03/07/2025	02/10/2025	4.2800	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	35,178.08	18,175.34
Auswide Bank	BBB	TD	WATER	At Maturity	09/01/2025	02/10/2025	5.0000	6,000,000.00	6,000,000.00	193,150.68	25,479.45
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	04/07/2025	09/10/2025	4.2000	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	20,367.12	10,701.37
AMP Bank	BBB+	TD	WATER	At Maturity	22/01/2025	09/10/2025	5.0500	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	122,860.27	17,156.16
MyState Bank	BBB	TD	WATER	At Maturity	26/06/2025	06/11/2025	4.3000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	15,786.30	7,304.11
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	14/02/2025	06/11/2025	4.7100	6,000,000.00	6,000,000.00	154,075.07	24,001.64
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	07/08/2025	06/11/2025	4.2000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	5,753.42	5,753.42
Westpac	AA-	TD	WATER	Quarterly	25/11/2021	27/11/2025	1.9400	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	744.11	744.11
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	14/08/2025	04/12/2025	4.1200	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	4,063.56	4,063.56
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	SEWER	Annual	14/12/2023	11/12/2025	5.2000	4,500,000.00	4,500,000.00	166,043.84	19,873.97
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	WATER	Annual	14/12/2023	11/12/2025	5.2000	2,500,000.00	2,500,000.00	92,246.58	11,041.10

IMPERIUM MARKETS

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ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	14/12/2023	11/12/2025	5.2000	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	110,695.89	13,249.32
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	WATER	Quarterly	16/12/2022	18/12/2025	4.7000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	49,575.34	19,958.90
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	21/12/2023	18/12/2025	5.0800	3,500,000.00	3,500,000.00	302,016.44	15,100.82
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	24/07/2025	08/01/2026	4.3100	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	13,815.62	10,981.64
Suncorp Bank	AA-	TD	WATER	At Maturity	19/06/2025	08/01/2026	4.3700	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	17,719.45	7,423.01
Defence Bank	BBB+	TD	SEWER	At Maturity	23/01/2025	08/01/2026	4.9000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	148,342.47	20,808.22
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	17/07/2025	08/01/2026	4.1100	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	10,359.45	6,981.37
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	14/08/2025	15/01/2026	4.1200	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	4,063.56	4,063.56
Suncorp Bank	AA-	TD	SEWER	At Maturity	19/06/2025	15/01/2026	4.3800	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	35,520.00	14,880.00
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	SEWER	Annual	11/01/2024	15/01/2026	4.9600	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	94,172.05	12,637.81
Westpac	AA-	TD	WATER	At Maturity	23/01/2025	05/02/2026	4.8700	7,000,000.00	7,000,000.00	206,407.95	28,953.15
Westpac	AA-	TD	SEWER	Quarterly	10/02/2022	12/02/2026	2.1500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	1,236.99	1,236.99
Westpac	AA-	TD	WATER	Quarterly	10/02/2022	12/02/2026	2.1500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	1,236.99	1,236.99
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Quarterly	10/02/2022	12/02/2026	2.1500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	1,236.99	1,236.99
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	14/08/2025	13/02/2026	4.1200	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	6,095.34	6,095.34
State Bank of India, Sydney Branch	BBB	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	20/02/2025	19/02/2026	5.2000	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	109,983.56	17,665.75
BOQ	A-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	28/08/2025	05/03/2026	4.1300	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	2,263.01	2,263.01
Rabobank Australia	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	05/09/2024	05/03/2026	4.9200	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	194,643.29	16,714.52

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
Limited											
Westpac	AA-	TD	WATER	Quarterly	04/03/2021	05/03/2026	1.2000	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00	4,389.04	1,528.77
Westpac	AA-	TD	SEWER	Quarterly	04/03/2021	05/03/2026	1.2000	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	2,926.03	1,019.18
P&N Bank	BBB+	TD	WATER	Quarterly	16/03/2023	19/03/2026	4.7000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	49,575.34	19,958.90
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	28/08/2025	02/04/2026	4.1200	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	2,257.53	2,257.53
JUDO BANK	BBB	TD	WATER	Annual	13/03/2025	02/04/2026	4.6500	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	109,561.64	19,746.58
BankVic	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	24/07/2025	09/04/2026	4.1500	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	13,302.74	10,573.97
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	WATER	Annual	20/03/2025	09/04/2026	4.6500	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	42,041.10	7,898.63
NAB	AA-	TD	SEWER	At Maturity	20/03/2025	09/04/2026	4.6000	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	62,383.56	11,720.55
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	WATER	Annual	20/03/2025	16/04/2026	4.6500	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	42,041.10	7,898.63
BOQ	A-	TD	WATER	Quarterly	04/07/2025	07/05/2026	4.1000	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	19,882.19	10,446.58
Australian Unity Bank	BBB+	TD	SEWER	Annual	01/05/2025	07/05/2026	4.3000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	28,980.82	7,304.11
State Bank of India, Sydney Branch	BBB	TD	SEWER	At Maturity	03/04/2025	07/05/2026	4.9000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	40,542.47	8,323.29
NAB	AA-	TD	SEWER	At Maturity	10/07/2025	07/05/2026	4.1500	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	24,104.11	14,098.63
NAB	AA-	TD	WATER	At Maturity	17/07/2025	04/06/2026	4.1000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	10,334.25	6,964.38
Australian Unity Bank	BBB+	TD	SEWER	At Maturity	05/06/2025	11/06/2026	4.3000	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	31,101.37	10,956.16
Australian Unity Bank	BBB+	TD	SEWER	At Maturity	05/06/2025	18/06/2026	4.3000	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	31,101.37	10,956.16
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	SEWER	Annual	04/07/2025	06/07/2026	4.0700	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	13,157.81	6,913.42
P&N Bank	BBB+	TD	WATER	Quarterly	13/07/2023	16/07/2026	5.7500	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	15,438.36	9,767.12

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
NAB	AA-	TD	SEWER	At Maturity	31/07/2025	06/08/2026	4.1400	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	10,888.77	10,548.49
NAB	AA-	TD	SEWER	At Maturity	31/07/2025	03/09/2026	4.1300	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	7,241.64	7,015.34
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Quarterly	28/10/2021	29/10/2026	1.7800	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	1,706.85	1,511.78
Westpac	AA-	TD	SEWER	Quarterly	28/10/2021	29/10/2026	1.7800	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	1,706.85	1,511.78
Westpac	AA-	TD	WATER	Quarterly	28/10/2021	29/10/2026	1.7800	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	3,413.70	3,023.56
Westpac	AA-	TD	WATER	Quarterly	28/10/2021	29/10/2026	1.7800	4,500,000.00	4,500,000.00	7,680.82	6,803.01
Westpac	AA-	TD	WATER	Quarterly	02/12/2021	03/12/2026	2.0000	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	4,986.30	1,698.63
Westpac	AA-	TD	SEWER	Quarterly	02/12/2021	03/12/2026	2.0000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	9,972.60	3,397.26
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Quarterly	02/12/2021	03/12/2026	2.0000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	9,972.60	3,397.26
Westpac	AA-	TD	WATER	Quarterly	25/01/2024	28/01/2027	4.8400	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	5,038.90	4,110.68
State Bank of India, Sydney Branch	BBB	TD	WATER	At Maturity	24/07/2025	09/02/2027	4.1000	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	4,380.82	3,482.19
NAB	AA-	TD	SEWER	Quarterly	10/02/2022	09/02/2027	2.3500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	1,352.05	1,352.05
Westpac	AA-	TD	SEWER	Semi-Annual	15/02/2024	18/02/2027	4.8700	1,340,000.00	1,340,000.00	3,039.41	3,039.41
NAB	AA-	BOND	WATER	Semi-Annual	25/02/2022	25/02/2027	2.9000	444,172.50	450,000.00	250.27	250.27
NAB	AA-	BOND	SEWER	Semi-Annual	25/02/2022	25/02/2027	2.9000	444,172.50	450,000.00	250.27	250.27
NAB	AA-	TD	WATER	Quarterly	04/07/2025	04/03/2027	4.0000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	12,931.51	6,794.52
Royal Bank of Canada	AAA	BOND	WATER	Semi-Annual	13/07/2022	13/07/2027	4.5000	1,010,825.00	1,000,000.00	6,041.10	3,821.92
AMP Bank	BBB+	FRN	SEWER	Quarterly	13/09/2024	13/09/2027	4.9875	3,418,176.40	3,400,000.00	37,167.12	14,402.26
ANZ Bank	AA-	FRN	SEWER	Quarterly	31/03/2023	31/03/2028	4.6637	1,517,170.50	1,500,000.00	12,074.51	5,941.43

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	WATER	Annual	17/07/2025	21/07/2028	4.2900	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	10,813.15	7,287.12
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	FRN	GENERAL	Quarterly	20/08/2024	20/08/2029	4.5925	1,814,301.00	1,800,000.00	2,717.75	2,717.75
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	WATER	Annual	22/08/2024	29/08/2029	4.8500	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	6,643.84	6,643.84
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	29/08/2024	30/08/2029	4.8500	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	1,195.89	1,195.89
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	SEWER	Annual	05/09/2024	06/09/2029	4.8500	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	191,873.97	16,476.71
BOQ	A-	TD	WATER	Annual	03/04/2025	04/04/2030	4.5900	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	94,943.84	19,491.78
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	WATER	Annual	01/05/2025	02/05/2030	4.7300	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	79,697.26	20,086.30
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	SEWER	Annual	22/05/2025	23/05/2030	4.6200	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	25,821.37	7,847.67
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	WATER	Annual	22/05/2025	23/05/2030	4.6200	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	25,821.37	7,847.67
BOQ	A-	TD	WATER	Annual	06/06/2025	06/06/2030	4.1500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	9,891.78	3,524.66
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	SEWER	Annual	12/06/2025	13/06/2030	4.6000	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	30,624.66	11,720.55
Westpac	AA-	BOND	WATER	Semi-Annual	19/06/2025	19/06/2030	4.3000	4,010,132.00	4,000,000.00	34,871.23	14,608.22
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	CASH	WATER	Monthly	31/08/2025	31/08/2025	3.5000	1,837,405.74	1,837,405.74	5,422.56	5,422.56
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	CASH	SEWER	Monthly	31/08/2025	31/08/2025	3.5000	9,290,527.83	9,290,527.83	25,460.06	25,460.06
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	CASH	GENERAL	Monthly	31/08/2025	31/08/2025	3.5000	12,655,686.98	12,655,686.98	29,633.22	29,633.22
TOTALS								**261,282,570.45**	**261,223,620.55**	**4,047,947.51**	**860,512.58**

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Portfolio by Asset as at 31/08/2025

Asset Type: CASH

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	CASH	WATER	Monthly	31/08/2025	31/08/2025	3.5000	1,837,405.74	1,837,405.74	5,422.56	5,422.56
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	CASH	SEWER	Monthly	31/08/2025	31/08/2025	3.5000	9,290,527.83	9,290,527.83	25,460.06	25,460.06
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	CASH	GENERAL	Monthly	31/08/2025	31/08/2025	3.5000	12,655,686.98	12,655,686.98	29,633.22	29,633.22
CASH SUBTOTALS								**23,783,620.55**	**23,783,620.55**	**60,515.84**	**60,515.84**

Asset Type: TD

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
Defence Bank	BBB+	TD	SEWER	At Maturity	28/11/2024	04/09/2025	5.1000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	77,408.22	8,663.01
Defence Bank	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	28/11/2024	04/09/2025	5.1000	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	116,112.33	12,994.52
AMP Bank	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	05/12/2024	11/09/2025	5.1000	6,000,000.00	6,000,000.00	226,356.16	25,989.04
MyState Bank	BBB	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	12/06/2025	18/09/2025	4.3500	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	28,960.27	11,083.56
Australian Unity Bank	BBB+	TD	SEWER	At Maturity	05/12/2024	18/09/2025	5.1000	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	37,726.03	4,331.51
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	05/12/2024	18/09/2025	4.9500	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	183,082.19	21,020.55
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	03/07/2025	02/10/2025	4.2800	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	35,178.08	18,175.34
Auswide Bank	BBB	TD	WATER	At Maturity	09/01/2025	02/10/2025	5.0000	6,000,000.00	6,000,000.00	193,150.68	25,479.45
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	04/07/2025	09/10/2025	4.2000	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	20,367.12	10,701.37

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
AMP Bank	BBB+	TD	WATER	At Maturity	22/01/2025	09/10/2025	5.0500	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	122,860.27	17,156.16
MyState Bank	BBB	TD	WATER	At Maturity	26/06/2025	06/11/2025	4.3000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	15,786.30	7,304.11
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	14/02/2025	06/11/2025	4.7100	6,000,000.00	6,000,000.00	154,075.07	24,001.64
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	07/08/2025	06/11/2025	4.2000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	5,753.42	5,753.42
Westpac	AA-	TD	WATER	Quarterly	25/11/2021	27/11/2025	1.9400	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	744.11	744.11
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	14/08/2025	04/12/2025	4.1200	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	4,063.56	4,063.56
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	SEWER	Annual	14/12/2023	11/12/2025	5.2000	4,500,000.00	4,500,000.00	166,043.84	19,873.97
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	WATER	Annual	14/12/2023	11/12/2025	5.2000	2,500,000.00	2,500,000.00	92,246.58	11,041.10
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	14/12/2023	11/12/2025	5.2000	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	110,695.89	13,249.32
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	WATER	Quarterly	16/12/2022	18/12/2025	4.7000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	49,575.34	19,958.90
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	21/12/2023	18/12/2025	5.0800	3,500,000.00	3,500,000.00	302,016.44	15,100.82
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	24/07/2025	08/01/2026	4.3100	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	13,815.62	10,981.64
Suncorp Bank	AA-	TD	WATER	At Maturity	19/06/2025	08/01/2026	4.3700	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	17,719.45	7,423.01
Defence Bank	BBB+	TD	SEWER	At Maturity	23/01/2025	08/01/2026	4.9000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	148,342.47	20,808.22
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	17/07/2025	08/01/2026	4.1100	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	10,359.45	6,981.37
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	14/08/2025	15/01/2026	4.1200	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	4,063.56	4,063.56
Suncorp Bank	AA-	TD	SEWER	At Maturity	19/06/2025	15/01/2026	4.3800	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	35,520.00	14,880.00
ING Bank (Australia)	A	TD	SEWER	Annual	11/01/2024	15/01/2026	4.9600	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	94,172.05	12,637.81

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
Ltd											
Westpac	AA-	TD	WATER	At Maturity	23/01/2025	05/02/2026	4.8700	7,000,000.00	7,000,000.00	206,407.95	28,953.15
Westpac	AA-	TD	SEWER	Quarterly	10/02/2022	12/02/2026	2.1500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	1,236.99	1,236.99
Westpac	AA-	TD	WATER	Quarterly	10/02/2022	12/02/2026	2.1500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	1,236.99	1,236.99
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Quarterly	10/02/2022	12/02/2026	2.1500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	1,236.99	1,236.99
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	14/08/2025	13/02/2026	4.1200	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	6,095.34	6,095.34
State Bank of India, Sydney Branch	BBB	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	20/02/2025	19/02/2026	5.2000	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	109,983.56	17,665.75
BOQ	A-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	28/08/2025	05/03/2026	4.1300	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	2,263.01	2,263.01
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	05/09/2024	05/03/2026	4.9200	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	194,643.29	16,714.52
Westpac	AA-	TD	WATER	Quarterly	04/03/2021	05/03/2026	1.2000	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00	4,389.04	1,528.77
Westpac	AA-	TD	SEWER	Quarterly	04/03/2021	05/03/2026	1.2000	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	2,926.03	1,019.18
P&N Bank	BBB+	TD	WATER	Quarterly	16/03/2023	19/03/2026	4.7000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	49,575.34	19,958.90
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	28/08/2025	02/04/2026	4.1200	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	2,257.53	2,257.53
JUDO BANK	BBB	TD	WATER	Annual	13/03/2025	02/04/2026	4.6500	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	109,561.64	19,746.58
BankVic	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	24/07/2025	09/04/2026	4.1500	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	13,302.74	10,573.97
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	WATER	Annual	20/03/2025	09/04/2026	4.6500	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	42,041.10	7,898.63
NAB	AA-	TD	SEWER	At Maturity	20/03/2025	09/04/2026	4.6000	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	62,383.56	11,720.55
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	WATER	Annual	20/03/2025	16/04/2026	4.6500	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	42,041.10	7,898.63
BOQ	A-	TD	WATER	Quarterly	04/07/2025	07/05/2026	4.1000	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	19,882.19	10,446.58

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ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
Australian Unity Bank	BBB+	TD	SEWER	Annual	01/05/2025	07/05/2026	4.3000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	28,980.82	7,304.11
State Bank of India, Sydney Branch	BBB	TD	SEWER	At Maturity	03/04/2025	07/05/2026	4.9000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	40,542.47	8,323.29
NAB	AA-	TD	SEWER	At Maturity	10/07/2025	07/05/2026	4.1500	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	24,104.11	14,098.63
NAB	AA-	TD	WATER	At Maturity	17/07/2025	04/06/2026	4.1000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	10,334.25	6,964.38
Australian Unity Bank	BBB+	TD	SEWER	At Maturity	05/06/2025	11/06/2026	4.3000	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	31,101.37	10,956.16
Australian Unity Bank	BBB+	TD	SEWER	At Maturity	05/06/2025	18/06/2026	4.3000	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	31,101.37	10,956.16
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	SEWER	Annual	04/07/2025	06/07/2026	4.0700	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	13,157.81	6,913.42
P&N Bank	BBB+	TD	WATER	Quarterly	13/07/2023	16/07/2026	5.7500	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	15,438.36	9,767.12
NAB	AA-	TD	SEWER	At Maturity	31/07/2025	06/08/2026	4.1400	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	10,888.77	10,548.49
NAB	AA-	TD	SEWER	At Maturity	31/07/2025	03/09/2026	4.1300	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	7,241.64	7,015.34
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Quarterly	28/10/2021	29/10/2026	1.7800	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	1,706.85	1,511.78
Westpac	AA-	TD	SEWER	Quarterly	28/10/2021	29/10/2026	1.7800	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	1,706.85	1,511.78
Westpac	AA-	TD	WATER	Quarterly	28/10/2021	29/10/2026	1.7800	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	3,413.70	3,023.56
Westpac	AA-	TD	WATER	Quarterly	28/10/2021	29/10/2026	1.7800	4,500,000.00	4,500,000.00	7,680.82	6,803.01
Westpac	AA-	TD	WATER	Quarterly	02/12/2021	03/12/2026	2.0000	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	4,986.30	1,698.63
Westpac	AA-	TD	SEWER	Quarterly	02/12/2021	03/12/2026	2.0000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	9,972.60	3,397.26
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Quarterly	02/12/2021	03/12/2026	2.0000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	9,972.60	3,397.26
Westpac	AA-	TD	WATER	Quarterly	25/01/2024	28/01/2027	4.8400	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	5,038.90	4,110.68
State Bank of India, Sydney Branch	BBB	TD	WATER	At Maturity	24/07/2025	09/02/2027	4.1000	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	4,380.82	3,482.19

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
NAB	AA-	TD	SEWER	Quarterly	10/02/2022	09/02/2027	2.3500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	1,352.05	1,352.05
Westpac	AA-	TD	SEWER	Semi-Annual	15/02/2024	18/02/2027	4.8700	1,340,000.00	1,340,000.00	3,039.41	3,039.41
NAB	AA-	TD	WATER	Quarterly	04/07/2025	04/03/2027	4.0000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	12,931.51	6,794.52
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	WATER	Annual	17/07/2025	21/07/2028	4.2900	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	10,813.15	7,287.12
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	WATER	Annual	22/08/2024	29/08/2029	4.8500	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	6,643.84	6,643.84
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	29/08/2024	30/08/2029	4.8500	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	1,195.89	1,195.89
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	SEWER	Annual	05/09/2024	06/09/2029	4.8500	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	191,873.97	16,476.71
BOQ	A-	TD	WATER	Annual	03/04/2025	04/04/2030	4.5900	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	94,943.84	19,491.78
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	WATER	Annual	01/05/2025	02/05/2030	4.7300	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	79,697.26	20,086.30
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	SEWER	Annual	22/05/2025	23/05/2030	4.6200	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	25,821.37	7,847.67
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	WATER	Annual	22/05/2025	23/05/2030	4.6200	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	25,821.37	7,847.67
BOQ	A-	TD	WATER	Annual	06/06/2025	06/06/2030	4.1500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	9,891.78	3,524.66
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	SEWER	Annual	12/06/2025	13/06/2030	4.6000	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	30,624.66	11,720.55
TD SUBTOTALS								**224,840,000.00**	**224,840,000.00**	**3,894,059.41**	**758,004.62**

Asset Type: FRN

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
AMP Bank	BBB+	FRN	SEWER	Quarterly	13/09/2024	13/09/2027	4.9875	3,418,176.40	3,400,000.00	37,167.12	14,402.26
ANZ Bank	AA-	FRN	SEWER	Quarterly	31/03/2023	31/03/2028	4.6637	1,517,170.50	1,500,000.00	12,074.51	5,941.43
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	FRN	GENERAL	Quarterly	20/08/2024	20/08/2029	4.5925	1,814,301.00	1,800,000.00	2,717.75	2,717.75
FRN SUBTOTALS								**6,749,647.90**	**6,700,000.00**	**51,959.39**	**23,061.44**

Asset Type: BOND

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
NAB	AA-	BOND	WATER	Semi-Annual	25/02/2022	25/02/2027	2.9000	444,172.50	450,000.00	250.27	250.27
NAB	AA-	BOND	SEWER	Semi-Annual	25/02/2022	25/02/2027	2.9000	444,172.50	450,000.00	250.27	250.27
Royal Bank of Canada	AAA	BOND	WATER	Semi-Annual	13/07/2022	13/07/2027	4.5000	1,010,825.00	1,000,000.00	6,041.10	3,821.92
Westpac	AA-	BOND	WATER	Semi-Annual	19/06/2025	19/06/2030	4.3000	4,010,132.00	4,000,000.00	34,871.23	14,608.22
BOND SUBTOTALS								**5,909,302.00**	**5,900,000.00**	**41,412.88**	**18,930.68**

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Portfolio by Asset Totals as at 31/08/2025

Type	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
CASH	23,783,620.55	23,783,620.55	60,515.84	60,515.84
TD	224,840,000.00	224,840,000.00	3,894,059.41	758,004.62
FRN	6,749,647.90	6,700,000.00	51,959.39	23,061.44
BOND	5,909,302.00	5,900,000.00	41,412.88	18,930.68
TOTALS	**261,282,570.45**	**261,223,620.55**	**4,047,947.51**	**860,512.58**

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Counterparty Compliance as at 31/08/2025

Long Term Investments

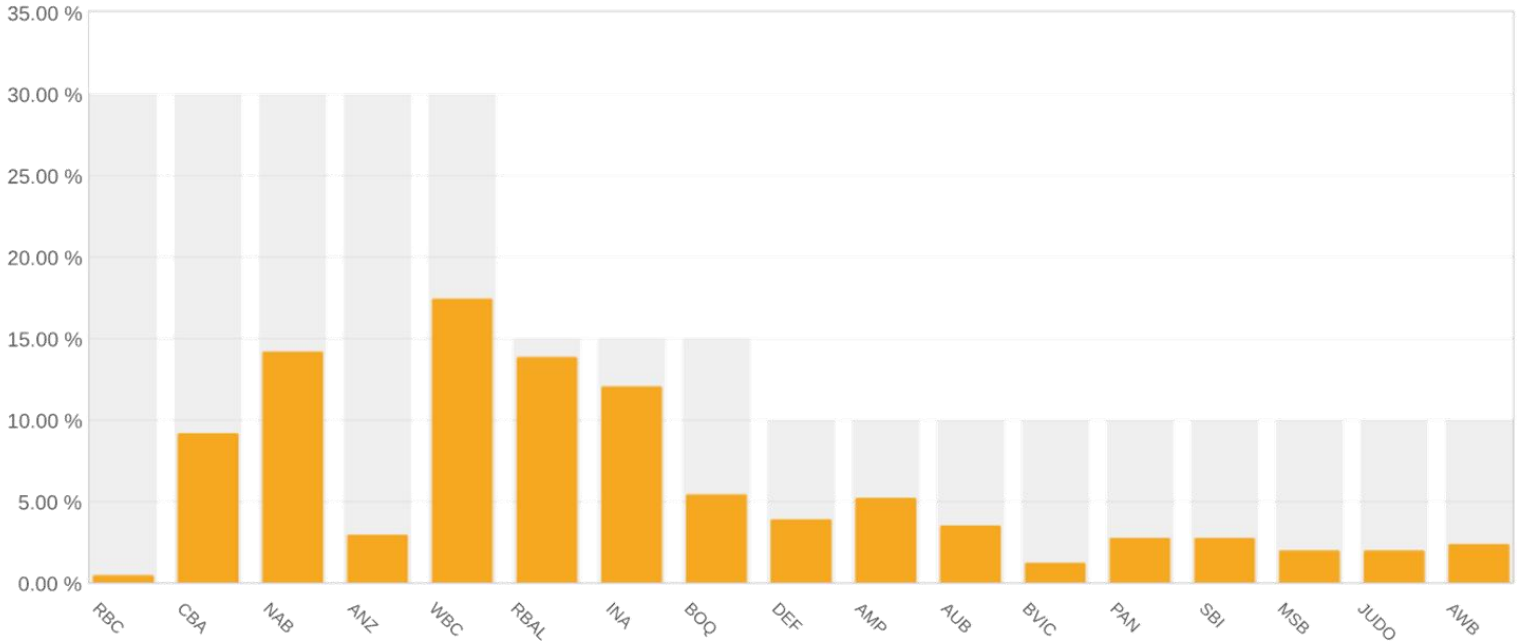
Compliant	Bank Group	Term	Rating	Invested ($)	Invested (%)	Limit (%)	Limit ($)	Available ($)
✔	Royal Bank of Canada	Long	AA-	1,010,825.00	0.39	30.00	-	77,373,946.14
✔	Commonwealth Bank	Long	AA-	23,783,620.55	9.10	30.00	-	54,601,150.59
✔	NAB	Long	AA-	36,888,345.00	14.12	30.00	-	41,496,426.14
✔	ANZ Bank	Long	AA-	7,517,170.50	2.88	30.00	-	70,867,600.64
✔	Westpac	Long	AA-	45,350,132.00	17.36	30.00	-	33,034,639.14
✔	Rabobank Australia Limited	Long	A	36,000,000.00	13.78	15.00	-	3,192,385.57
✔	ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	Long	A	31,314,301.00	11.98	15.00	-	7,878,084.57
✔	BOQ	Long	A-	14,000,000.00	5.36	15.00	-	25,192,385.57
✔	Defence Bank	Long	BBB+	10,000,000.00	3.83	10.00	-	16,128,257.05
✔	AMP Bank	Long	BBB+	13,418,176.40	5.14	10.00	-	12,710,080.65
✔	Australian Unity Bank	Long	BBB+	9,000,000.00	3.44	10.00	-	17,128,257.05
✔	BankVic	Long	BBB+	3,000,000.00	1.15	10.00	-	23,128,257.05
✔	P&N Bank	Long	BBB+	7,000,000.00	2.68	10.00	-	19,128,257.05
✔	State Bank of India	Long	BBB	7,000,000.00	2.68	10.00	-	19,128,257.05

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Compliant	Bank Group	Term	Rating	Invested ($)	Invested (%)	Limit (%)	Limit ($)	Available ($)
✔	MyState Bank	Long	BBB	5,000,000.00	1.91	10.00	-	21,128,257.05
✔	JUDO	Long	BBB	5,000,000.00	1.91	10.00	-	21,128,257.05
✔	Auswide Bank	Long	BBB	6,000,000.00	2.30	10.00	-	20,128,257.05
TOTALS				**261,282,570.45**	**100.00**			

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Counterparty Compliance - Long Term Investments



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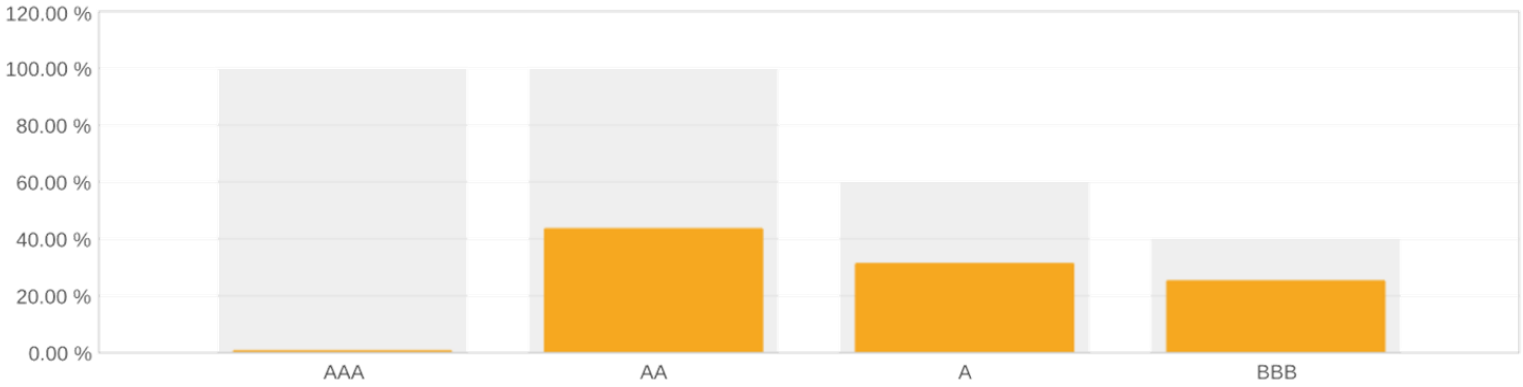
ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Credit Quality Compliance as at 31/08/2025

Long Term Investments

Compliant	Rating	Invested ($)	Invested (%)	Limit (%)	Available ($)
✔	AAA	1,010,825.00	0.39	100.00	260,271,745.45
✔	AA	113,539,268.05	43.45	100.00	147,743,302.40
✔	A	81,314,301.00	31.12	60.00	75,455,241.27
✔	BBB	65,418,176.40	25.04	40.00	39,094,851.78
TOTALS		**261,282,570.45**	**100.00**		

Credit Quality Compliance - Long Term Investments

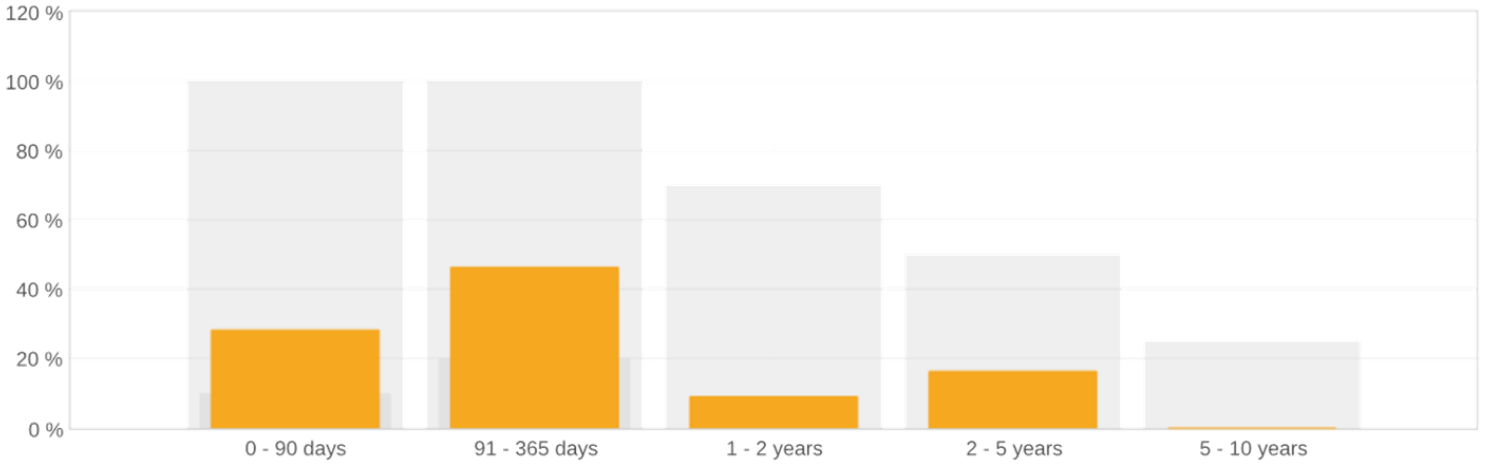


ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Maturity Compliance as at 31/08/2025

Compliant	Term	Invested ($)	Invested (%)	Min Limit (%)	Max Limit (%)	Available ($)
✔	0 - 90 days	73,783,620.55	28.24	10.00	100.00	187,498,949.90
✔	91 - 365 days	121,000,000.00	46.31	20.00	100.00	140,282,570.45
✔	1 - 2 years	23,739,170.00	9.09	0.00	70.00	159,158,629.32
✔	2 - 5 years	42,759,779.90	16.36	0.00	50.00	87,881,505.33
✔	5 - 10 years	-	0.00	0.00	25.00	65,320,642.61
TOTALS		**261,282,570.45**	**100.00**			

Maturity Compliance



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ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Portfolio Comparison

From: 31/07/2025 To: 31/08/2025

Issuer	Rating	Type	Rate (%)	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Interest (%)	31/07/2025 ($)	31/08/2025 ($)	Difference ($)
NAB	AA-	TD	5.0500	02/08/2024	07/08/2025	Annual	2,000,000.00	-	-2,000,000.00
NAB	AA-	TD	5.2000	02/08/2024	14/08/2025	Annual	2,000,000.00	-	-2,000,000.00
State Bank of India, Sydney Branch	BBB-	TD	4.6500	22/05/2025	21/08/2025	At Maturity	2,000,000.00	-	-2,000,000.00
JUDO BANK	BBB	TD	4.2000	26/06/2025	28/08/2025	At Maturity	3,000,000.00	-	-3,000,000.00
JUDO BANK	BBB	TD	4.2000	26/06/2025	28/08/2025	At Maturity	5,000,000.00	-	-5,000,000.00
NAB	AA-	TD	5.2000	02/08/2024	28/08/2025	Annual	2,000,000.00	-	-2,000,000.00
Defence Bank	BBB+	TD	5.1000	28/11/2024	04/09/2025	At Maturity	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
Defence Bank	BBB+	TD	5.1000	28/11/2024	04/09/2025	At Maturity	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	-
AMP Bank	BBB+	TD	5.1000	05/12/2024	11/09/2025	At Maturity	6,000,000.00	6,000,000.00	-
MyState Bank	BBB	TD	4.3500	12/06/2025	18/09/2025	At Maturity	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	-
Australian Unity Bank	BBB+	TD	5.1000	05/12/2024	18/09/2025	At Maturity	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	-
NAB	AA-	TD	4.9500	05/12/2024	18/09/2025	At Maturity	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	-
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	4.2800	03/07/2025	02/10/2025	At Maturity	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	-
Auswide Bank	BBB	TD	5.0000	09/01/2025	02/10/2025	At Maturity	6,000,000.00	6,000,000.00	-
NAB	AA-	TD	4.2000	04/07/2025	09/10/2025	At Maturity	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	-
AMP Bank	BBB+	TD	5.0500	22/01/2025	09/10/2025	At Maturity	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	-
MyState Bank	BBB	TD	4.3000	26/06/2025	06/11/2025	At Maturity	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Issuer	Rating	Type	Rate (%)	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Interest (%)	31/07/2025 ($)	31/08/2025 ($)	Difference ($)
Westpac	AA-	TD	4.7100	14/02/2025	06/11/2025	At Maturity	6,000,000.00	6,000,000.00	-
NAB	AA-	TD	4.2000	07/08/2025	06/11/2025	Annual	-	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00
Westpac	AA-	TD	1.9400	25/11/2021	27/11/2025	Quarterly	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
NAB	AA-	TD	4.1200	14/08/2025	04/12/2025	At Maturity	-	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	5.2000	14/12/2023	11/12/2025	Annual	4,500,000.00	4,500,000.00	-
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	5.2000	14/12/2023	11/12/2025	Annual	2,500,000.00	2,500,000.00	-
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	5.2000	14/12/2023	11/12/2025	Annual	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	-
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	4.7000	16/12/2022	18/12/2025	Quarterly	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	-
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	5.0800	21/12/2023	18/12/2025	At Maturity	3,500,000.00	3,500,000.00	-
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	4.3100	24/07/2025	08/01/2026	At Maturity	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	-
Suncorp Bank	AA-	TD	4.3700	19/06/2025	08/01/2026	At Maturity	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
Defence Bank	BBB+	TD	4.9000	23/01/2025	08/01/2026	At Maturity	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	-
NAB	AA-	TD	4.1100	17/07/2025	08/01/2026	At Maturity	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
Suncorp Bank	AA-	TD	4.3800	19/06/2025	15/01/2026	At Maturity	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	-
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	4.9600	11/01/2024	15/01/2026	Annual	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	-
NAB	AA-	TD	4.1200	14/08/2025	15/01/2026	At Maturity	-	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00
Westpac	AA-	TD	4.8700	23/01/2025	05/02/2026	At Maturity	7,000,000.00	7,000,000.00	-
Westpac	AA-	TD	2.1500	10/02/2022	12/02/2026	Quarterly	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	-
Westpac	AA-	TD	2.1500	10/02/2022	12/02/2026	Quarterly	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	-
Westpac	AA-	TD	2.1500	10/02/2022	12/02/2026	Quarterly	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	-

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Issuer	Rating	Type	Rate (%)	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Interest (%)	31/07/2025 ($)	31/08/2025 ($)	Difference ($)
NAB	AA-	TD	4.1200	14/08/2025	13/02/2026	At Maturity	-	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00
State Bank of India, Sydney Branch	BBB-	TD	5.2000	20/02/2025	19/02/2026	At Maturity	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	-
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	4.9200	05/09/2024	05/03/2026	Annual	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	-
Westpac	AA-	TD	1.2000	04/03/2021	05/03/2026	Quarterly	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00	-
Westpac	AA-	TD	1.2000	04/03/2021	05/03/2026	Quarterly	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	-
BOQ	A-	TD	4.1300	28/08/2025	05/03/2026	At Maturity	-	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00
P&N Bank	BBB+	TD	4.7000	16/03/2023	19/03/2026	Quarterly	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	-
JUDO BANK	BBB	TD	4.6500	13/03/2025	02/04/2026	Annual	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	-
Westpac	AA-	TD	4.1200	28/08/2025	02/04/2026	At Maturity	-	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00
BankVic	BBB+	TD	4.1500	24/07/2025	09/04/2026	At Maturity	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	-
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	4.6500	20/03/2025	09/04/2026	Annual	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
NAB	AA-	TD	4.6000	20/03/2025	09/04/2026	At Maturity	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	-
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	4.6500	20/03/2025	16/04/2026	Annual	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
BOQ	A-	TD	4.1000	04/07/2025	07/05/2026	Quarterly	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	-
Australian Unity Bank	BBB+	TD	4.3000	01/05/2025	07/05/2026	Annual	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
State Bank of India, Sydney Branch	BBB-	TD	4.9000	03/04/2025	07/05/2026	At Maturity	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
NAB	AA-	TD	4.1500	10/07/2025	07/05/2026	At Maturity	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	-
NAB	AA-	TD	4.1000	17/07/2025	04/06/2026	At Maturity	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
Australian Unity Bank	BBB+	TD	4.3000	05/06/2025	11/06/2026	At Maturity	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	-

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Issuer	Rating	Type	Rate (%)	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Interest (%)	31/07/2025 ($)	31/08/2025 ($)	Difference ($)
Australian Unity Bank	BBB+	TD	4.3000	05/06/2025	18/06/2026	At Maturity	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	-
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	4.0700	04/07/2025	06/07/2026	Annual	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
P&N Bank	BBB+	TD	5.7500	13/07/2023	16/07/2026	Quarterly	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
NAB	AA-	TD	4.1400	31/07/2025	06/08/2026	At Maturity	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	-
NAB	AA-	TD	4.1300	31/07/2025	03/09/2026	At Maturity	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
Westpac	AA-	TD	1.7800	28/10/2021	29/10/2026	Quarterly	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	-
Westpac	AA-	TD	1.7800	28/10/2021	29/10/2026	Quarterly	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	-
Westpac	AA-	TD	1.7800	28/10/2021	29/10/2026	Quarterly	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
Westpac	AA-	TD	1.7800	28/10/2021	29/10/2026	Quarterly	4,500,000.00	4,500,000.00	-
Westpac	AA-	TD	2.0000	02/12/2021	03/12/2026	Quarterly	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	-
Westpac	AA-	TD	2.0000	02/12/2021	03/12/2026	Quarterly	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
Westpac	AA-	TD	2.0000	02/12/2021	03/12/2026	Quarterly	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
Westpac	AA-	TD	4.8400	25/01/2024	28/01/2027	Quarterly	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	-
State Bank of India, Sydney Branch	BBB-	TD	4.1000	24/07/2025	09/02/2027	At Maturity	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	-
NAB	AA-	TD	2.3500	10/02/2022	09/02/2027	Quarterly	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	-
Westpac	AA-	TD	4.8700	15/02/2024	18/02/2027	Semi-Annual	1,340,000.00	1,340,000.00	-
NAB	AA-	BOND	2.9000	25/02/2022	25/02/2027	Semi-Annual	443,520.90	444,172.50	651.60
NAB	AA-	BOND	2.9000	25/02/2022	25/02/2027	Semi-Annual	443,520.90	444,172.50	651.60
NAB	AA-	TD	4.0000	04/07/2025	04/03/2027	Quarterly	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Issuer	Rating	Type	Rate (%)	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Interest (%)	31/07/2025 ($)	31/08/2025 ($)	Difference ($)
Royal Bank of Canada	AAA	BOND	4.5000	13/07/2022	13/07/2027	Semi-Annual	1,009,605.00	1,010,825.00	1,220.00
AMP Bank	BBB+	FRN	4.9875	13/09/2024	13/09/2027	Quarterly	3,413,120.60	3,418,176.40	5,055.80
ANZ Bank	AA-	FRN	4.6637	31/03/2023	31/03/2028	Quarterly	1,515,673.50	1,517,170.50	1,497.00
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	4.2900	17/07/2025	21/07/2028	Annual	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	FRN	4.8143	20/08/2024	20/08/2029	Quarterly	1,810,729.80	1,814,301.00	3,571.20
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	4.8500	22/08/2024	29/08/2029	Annual	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	-
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	4.8500	29/08/2024	30/08/2029	Annual	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	-
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	4.8500	05/09/2024	06/09/2029	Annual	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	-
BOQ	A-	TD	4.5900	03/04/2025	04/04/2030	Annual	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	-
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	4.7300	01/05/2025	02/05/2030	Annual	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	-
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	4.6200	22/05/2025	23/05/2030	Annual	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	4.6200	22/05/2025	23/05/2030	Annual	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
BOQ	A-	TD	4.1500	06/06/2025	06/06/2030	Annual	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	-
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	4.6000	12/06/2025	13/06/2030	Annual	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	-
Westpac	AA-	BOND	4.3000	19/06/2025	19/06/2030	Semi-Annual	4,000,840.00	4,010,132.00	9,292.00
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	CASH	3.7500	31/07/2025	31/07/2025	Monthly	1,702,154.93	1,837,405.74	135,250.81
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	CASH	3.7500	31/07/2025	31/07/2025	Monthly	7,971,335.21	9,290,527.83	1,319,192.62
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	CASH	3.7500	31/07/2025	31/07/2025	Monthly	9,220,601.74	12,655,686.98	3,435,085.24
TOTALS							**253,371,102.58**	**261,282,570.45**	**7,911,467.87**

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Trades in Period

From: 01/08/2025 To: 31/08/2025

New Trades - From: 01/08/2025 To: 31/08/2025

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Value ($)	Reference
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	07/08/2025	06/11/2025	4.2000	2,000,000.00	Folio 1507
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	14/08/2025	13/02/2026	4.1200	3,000,000.00	Folio 1518
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	14/08/2025	15/01/2026	4.1200	2,000,000.00	Folio 1519
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	14/08/2025	04/12/2025	4.1200	2,000,000.00	Folio 1520
BOQ	A-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	28/08/2025	05/03/2026	4.1300	5,000,000.00	Folio 1621
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	28/08/2025	02/04/2026	4.1200	5,000,000.00	Folio 1339
TOTALS								**19,000,000.00**	

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Sell Trades - From: 01/08/2025 To: 31/08/2025

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Selling Date	Yield/Margin (%)	Face Value ($)	Gross Value ($)	Capital Value ($)	Reference
No entries for this item												
TOTALS									0			

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Matured Trades - From: 01/08/2025 To: 31/08/2025

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Value ($)	Reference
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	02/08/2024	07/08/2025	5.0500	2,000,000.00	Folio 1507
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	02/08/2024	14/08/2025	5.2000	2,000,000.00	Folio 1508
State Bank of India, Sydney Branch	BBB	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	22/05/2025	21/08/2025	4.6500	2,000,000.00	Folio 3903
JUDO BANK	BBB	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	26/06/2025	28/08/2025	4.2000	5,000,000.00	Folio 3804
JUDO BANK	BBB	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	26/06/2025	28/08/2025	4.2000	3,000,000.00	Folio 3805
NAB	AA-	TD	WATER	Annual	02/08/2024	28/08/2025	5.2000	2,000,000.00	Folio 1509
TOTALS								**16,000,000.00**	

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Unrealised Gains / Losses as at 31/08/2025

Issuer	Rating	Type	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Allocation	Cost ($)	Value ($)	Purchase Price	Current Price	Gain/Loss ($)
NAB	AA-	BOND	25/02/2022	25/02/2027	WATER	448,866.00	444,172.50	99.7480	98.7050	-4,693.50
NAB	AA-	BOND	25/02/2022	25/02/2027	SEWER	448,866.00	444,172.50	99.7480	98.7050	-4,693.50
Royal Bank of Canada	AA-	BOND	13/07/2022	13/07/2027	WATER	998,230.00	1,010,825.00	99.8230	101.0825	12,595.00
AMP Bank	BBB+	FRN	13/09/2024	13/09/2027	SEWER	3,400,000.00	3,418,176.40	100.0000	100.5346	18,176.40
ANZ Bank	AA-	FRN	31/03/2023	31/03/2028	SEWER	1,500,000.00	1,517,170.50	100.0000	101.1447	17,170.50
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	FRN	20/08/2024	20/08/2029	GENERAL	1,800,000.00	1,814,301.00	100.0000	100.7945	14,301.00
Westpac	AA-	BOND	19/06/2025	19/06/2030	WATER	3,993,400.00	4,010,132.00	99.8350	100.2533	16,732.00
TOTALS						**12,589,362.00**	**12,658,949.90**			**69,587.90**

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Realised Gains / Losses

From: 01/08/2025 To: 31/08/2025

Issuer	Rating	Type	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Selling Date	Cost Price	Current Price	Purchase Price	Selling Price	Realised	Type
No entries for this item											
TOTALS						0	0				0

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Interest Received in Period

From: 01/08/2025 To: 31/08/2025

Periodic Interest

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Frequency	Value ($)	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Coupon Date	Type	Rate (%)	Received ($)
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	2,000,000.00	02/08/2024	07/08/2025	07/08/2025	Maturity	5.0500	553.42
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	2,000,000.00	02/08/2024	07/08/2025	05/08/2025	Periodic	5.0500	101,830.14
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	2,000,000.00	02/08/2024	14/08/2025	14/08/2025	Maturity	5.2000	2,564.38
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	2,000,000.00	02/08/2024	14/08/2025	05/08/2025	Periodic	5.2000	104,854.79
State Bank of India, Sydney Branch	BBB	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	2,000,000.00	22/05/2025	21/08/2025	21/08/2025	Maturity	4.6500	23,186.30
JUDO BANK	BBB	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	5,000,000.00	26/06/2025	28/08/2025	28/08/2025	Maturity	4.2000	36,246.58
JUDO BANK	BBB	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	3,000,000.00	26/06/2025	28/08/2025	28/08/2025	Maturity	4.2000	21,747.95
NAB	AA-	TD	WATER	Annual	2,000,000.00	02/08/2024	28/08/2025	28/08/2025	Maturity	5.2000	6,553.42
NAB	AA-	TD	WATER	Annual	2,000,000.00	02/08/2024	28/08/2025	05/08/2025	Periodic	5.2000	104,854.79
Westpac	AA-	TD	WATER	Quarterly	2,000,000.00	25/11/2021	27/11/2025	25/08/2025	Periodic	1.9400	9,673.42
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Quarterly	1,000,000.00	10/02/2022	12/02/2026	11/08/2025	Periodic	2.1500	5,360.27
Westpac	AA-	TD	WATER	Quarterly	1,000,000.00	10/02/2022	12/02/2026	11/08/2025	Periodic	2.1500	5,360.27
Westpac	AA-	TD	SEWER	Quarterly	1,000,000.00	10/02/2022	12/02/2026	11/08/2025	Periodic	2.1500	5,360.27
NAB	AA-	TD	SEWER	Quarterly	1,000,000.00	10/02/2022	09/02/2027	11/08/2025	Periodic	2.3500	5,858.90
Westpac	AA-	TD	SEWER	Semi-Annual	1,340,000.00	15/02/2024	18/02/2027	15/08/2025	Periodic	4.8700	32,003.24
NAB	AA-	BOND	SEWER	Semi-Annual	450,000.00	25/02/2022	25/02/2027	25/08/2025	Periodic	2.9000	6,525.00

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Frequency	Value ($)	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Coupon Date	Type	Rate (%)	Received ($)
NAB	AA-	BOND	WATER	Semi-Annual	450,000.00	25/02/2022	25/02/2027	25/08/2025	Periodic	2.9000	6,525.00
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	FRN	GENERAL	Quarterly	1,800,000.00	20/08/2024	20/08/2029	20/08/2025	Periodic	4.8143	21,842.41
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	WATER	Annual	5,000,000.00	22/08/2024	29/08/2029	22/08/2025	Periodic	4.8500	242,500.00
Rabobank Australia Limited	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	3,000,000.00	29/08/2024	30/08/2029	29/08/2025	Periodic	4.8500	145,500.00
TOTALS					**34,040,000.00**						**888,900.58**

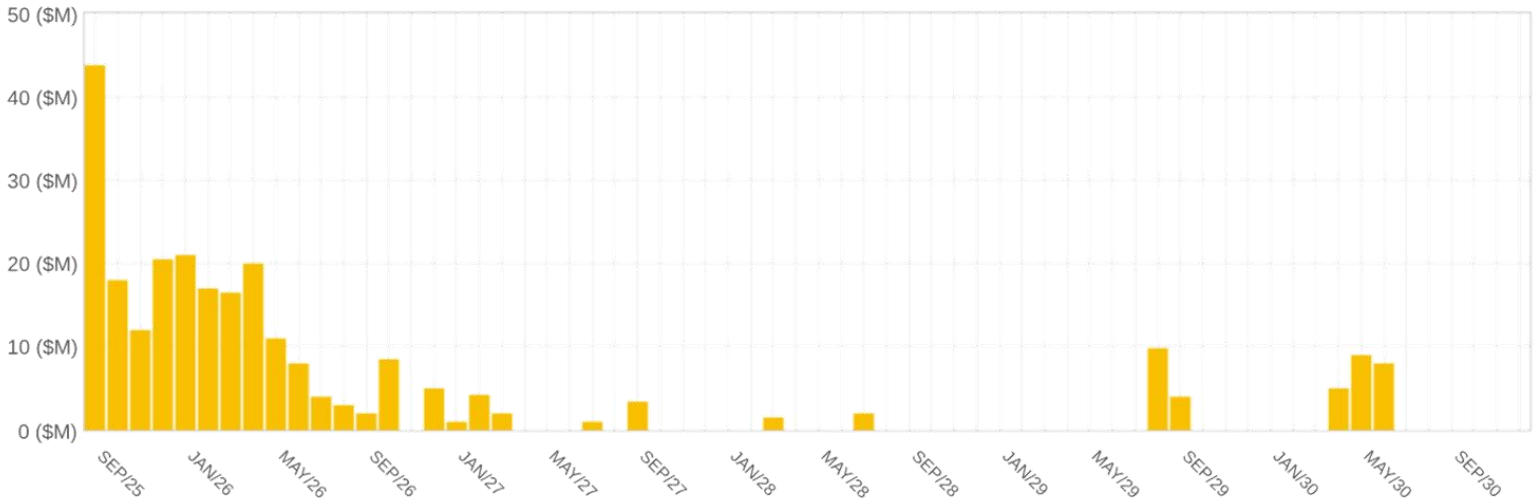
ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Maturity Cash Flow as at 31/08/2025

Year	Jan ($)	Feb ($)	Mar ($)	Apr ($)	May ($)	Jun ($)	Jul ($)	Aug ($)	Sep ($)	Oct ($)	Nov ($)	Dec ($)	Total ($)
2025	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43,783,620	18,000,000	12,000,000	20,500,000	94,283,620.55
2026	21,000,000	17,000,000	16,500,000	20,000,000	11,000,000	8,000,000	4,000,000	3,000,000	2,000,000	8,500,000	-	5,000,000	116,000,000.00
2027	1,000,000	4,228,345	2,000,000	-	-	-	1,010,825	-	3,418,176	-	-	-	11,657,346.40
2028	-	-	1,517,170	-	-	-	2,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	3,517,170.50
2029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,814,301	4,000,000	-	-	-	13,814,301.00
2030	-	-	-	5,000,000	9,000,000	8,010,132	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,010,132.00
TOTALS													**261,282,570.45**

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

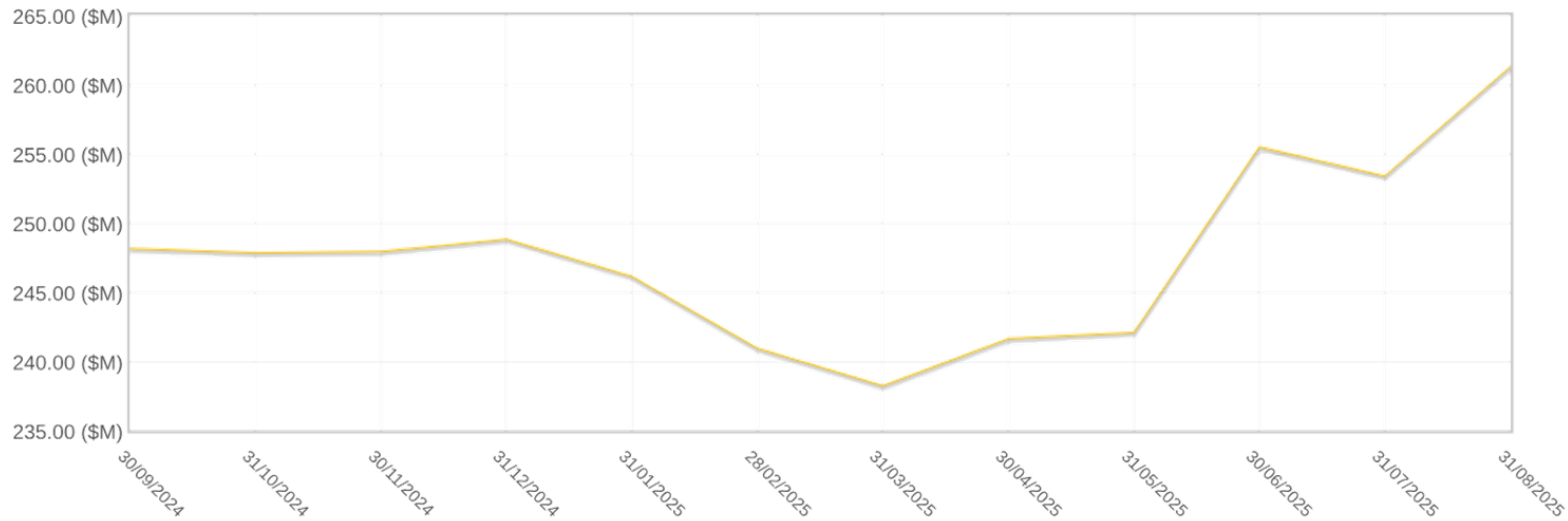
Maturity Cash Flow Distribution



ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Historical Portfolio Balances as at 31/08/2025

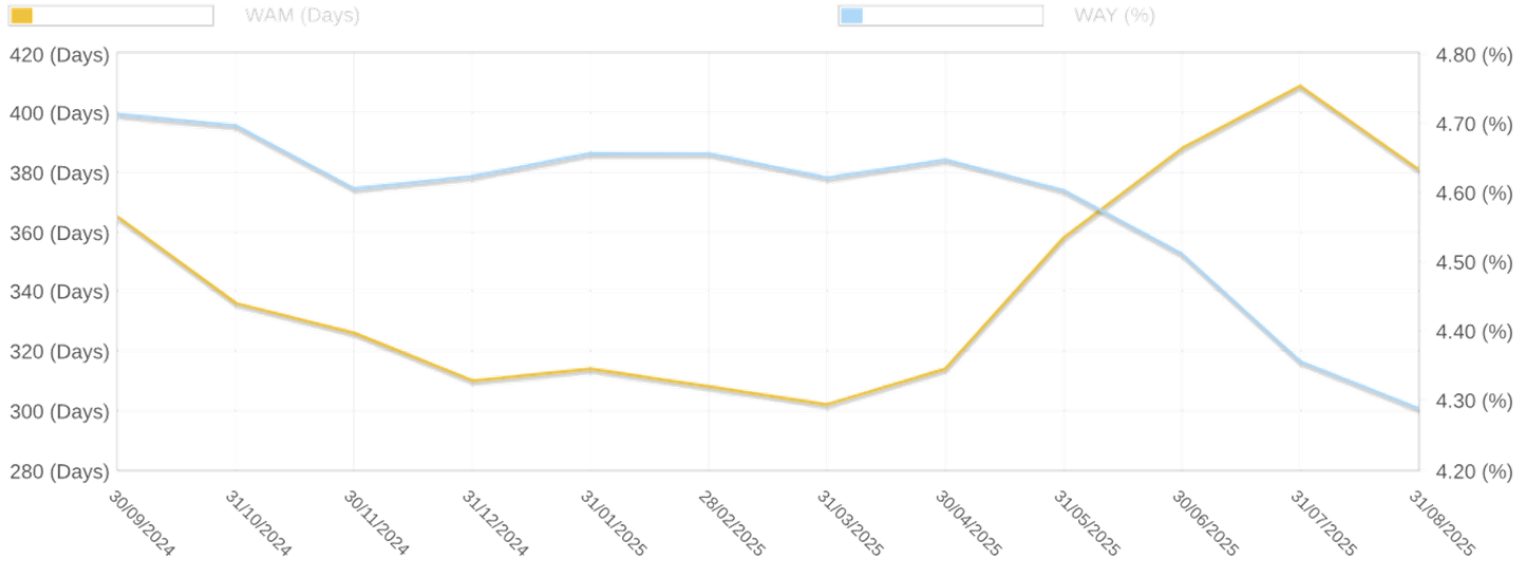
30/09/2024	31/10/2024	30/11/2024	31/12/2024	31/01/2025	28/02/2025	31/03/2025	30/04/2025	31/05/2025	30/06/2025	31/07/2025	31/08/2025
248.14	247.82	247.92	248.81	246.12	240.93	238.22	241.62	242.07	255.48	253.37	261.28



ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Historical Ratios as at 31/08/2025

	30/09/2024	31/10/2024	30/11/2024	31/12/2024	31/01/2025	28/02/2025	31/03/2025	30/04/2025	31/05/2025	30/06/2025	31/07/2025	31/08/2025
WAM (Days)	365	336	326	310	314	308	302	314	358	388	409	381
WAY (%)	4.7119	4.6957	4.6050	4.6228	4.6561	4.6555	4.6208	4.6468	4.6027	4.5113	4.3564	4.2887



IMPERIUM MARKETS

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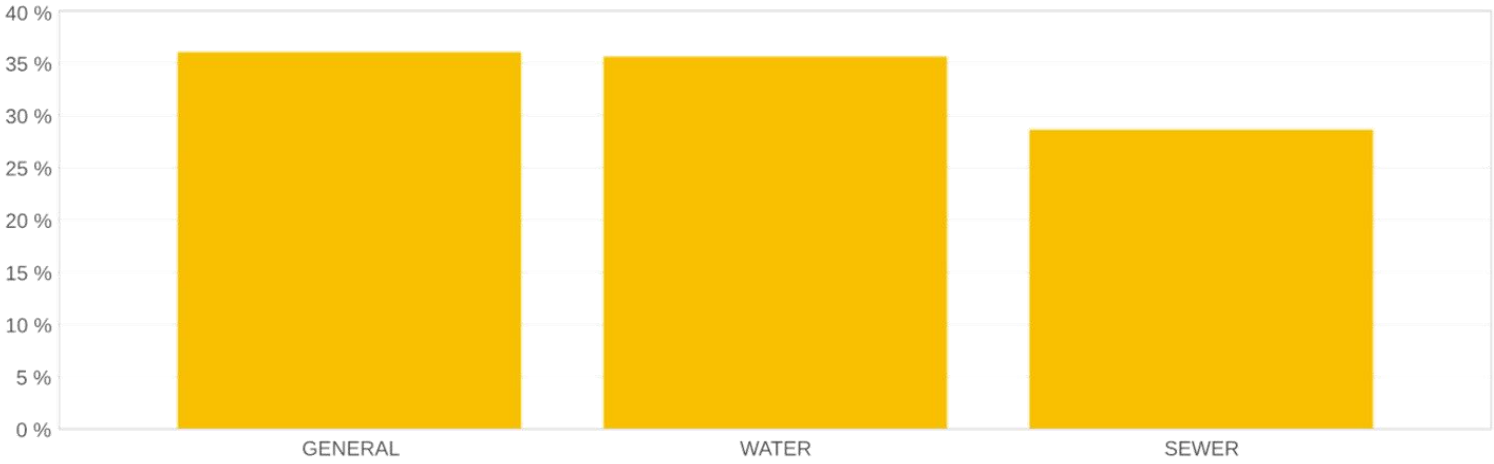
ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Allocation as at 31/08/2025

Code	Number of trades	Invested ($)	Invested (%)
GENERAL	26	93,969,987.98	35.96
WATER	33	92,802,535.24	35.52
SEWER	28	74,510,047.23	28.52
TOTALS	**87**	**261,282,570.45**	**100.0**

Allocation Distribution as at 31/08/2025

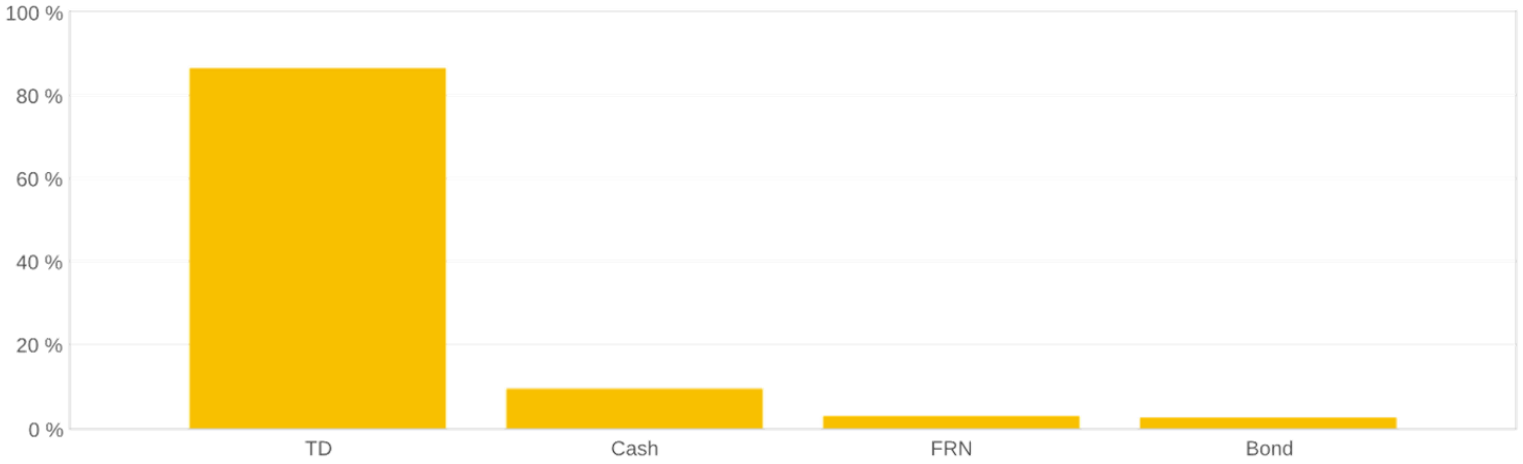


ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Asset Class as at 31/08/2025

Code	Number of Trades	Invested ($)	Invested (%)
TD	77	224,840,000.00	86.05
Cash	3	23,783,620.55	9.10
FRN	3	6,749,647.90	2.58
Bond	4	5,909,302.00	2.26
TOTALS	**87**	**261,282,570.45**	**100.0**

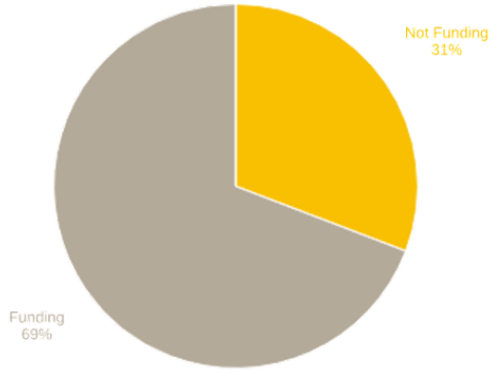
Asset Class Distribution



ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

ADIs funding fossil fuels as at 31/08/2025

	Number of Trades	Invested ($)	Invested (%)
Not funding fossil fuels	25	80,429,001.40	30.8
Funding fossil fuels	62	180,853,569.05	69.2



5.6 Motion for Local Government Annual Conference - November 2025

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/1922
AUTHOR: Catherine Davis, Executive Support Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

After calling for motions from Councillors for the 2025 Local Government Annual Conference, this report provides a proposed motion to be submitted to the Conference, to be held on 23-25 November 2025, in relation to supporting people seeking asylum within our communities.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "14.1 Work in partnership with other councils, regional organisations and State and Federal Governments".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council submit the following motion to the 2025 Local Government Conference:

That Local Government NSW write to the Australian Federal Minister for Immigration to call upon the Australian Government to:

- ***Provide people seeking asylum with a valid visa and the opportunity to work while they await decisions on their protection application, including automating the bridging renewal process. By providing people work rights, they can contribute skills to Australia, remain independent in society and stay engaged in the immigration system.***
- ***Expand the eligibility criteria of the Status Resolution Support Services program to ensure people's basic needs are met, including health care, accommodation, crisis support, so people in need can live safely and not in destitution and deep poverty.***
- ***Provide a fair pathway to permanency for the approximately 7,700 individuals who were subjected to the 'Fast Track' visa assessment process.***

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council's key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

Service/Project Delivery	Nil
Financial	Nil
Reputation/Political	Nil
Environment	Nil
Compliance	Nil
People & WHS	Nil
Information Technology/Cyber Security	Nil

5.6 Motion for Local Government Annual Conference - November 2025

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Councils support refugee resettlement, provide services for newly arrived migrants, fill the gaps in the provision of essential human services when there are no other providers, and advocate for equitable access to infrastructure and services.

Four out of five people seeking protection in our communities are not eligible for federal funded support and rely on support from local government and charities to keep food on the table. This has placed huge burdens on local government and service providers, families are facing poverty and trust in Government systems is eroded.

Financial assistance delivered through the Federally funded Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) Program has been cut by 93% (from $300 million in 2015-16 to $20 million in 2025-26) and the number of people assisted has dropped to only 1,057 in 2024. The NSW government has ceased support in expectation the Federal Government would step in.

Lengthy delays in visa processing have made the situation much worse. The lack of assistance, coupled with extended waiting times for decisions, have led to people waiting for over 12 years without access to basic health care, safe accommodation and the opportunity to work or study.

The Australian Federal Government has responsibility for providing people seeking refugee protection with a clear pathway to resolve their immigration status and adequate support mechanisms while they navigate the asylum process.

There are still 8,000 people waiting for their immigration status to be resolved. These individuals, part of the 'Legacy Caseload', arrived in Australia between August 2012 and December 2013 and were subjected to a refugee determination process that has been widely criticised for its lack of procedural fairness.

The 'Fast Track' process limited applicants' rights to a comprehensive review, without the opportunity for interviews or the presentation of new evidence, despite changed country conditions. Many have lived in Australia for over a decade on temporary visas, contributing to their communities, yet remain in a state of uncertainty, unable to reunite with family or access stable employment. Addressing their situation by providing a clear pathway to permanency would rectify past injustices and allow these individuals to fully participate in Australian society.

Since 2018, the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum has been advocating for people seeking asylum. The Taskforce is made up of a growing membership of over 40 councils nationwide, including 10 Councils in NSW, who recognise that this issue is of significance to local government.

5.7 Progress Report - Delivery Program/Operational Plan 2024/2025 (Delivery Program Year 3) - Six Months from 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/1863
AUTHOR: Jen Sharp, Director Corporate & Commercial Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides the half-yearly progress report of the 2024/2025 Operational Plan (Delivery Program Year 3). The report illustrates the progress Council has made on the Community Strategic Plan Strategies and annual operational plan actions identified in its Integrated Planning and Reporting documents.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "15.1 Provide representative, responsible and accountable community governance".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

This report provides the consolidated progress made in delivering Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2024/2025, as required by the Integrated Planning and Reporting obligations.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Progress Report – Delivery Program/Operational Plan 2024/2025 (Delivery Program Year 3) – Six Months from 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025 be noted.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council's key risk categories, and the following comments are provided:

Service/Project Delivery	The Progress Report highlights progress in achieving the projects/services in the Operational Plan under the Delivery Program that finished in June 2025. The traffic-light indicators show the status of progress: * Green – Target has been Met or Exceeded. * Red – Target has not been Met/Not Completed. Progress depends on a range of reasons including programming and budget allocation that may not fall within this reporting period. Note: some actions will be continued in the new four year Delivery Program. Inaccurate or delayed reporting may obscure service delivery issues and hinder timely corrective action.
Financial	Misreporting of budget performance may lead to poor financial decisions or funding shortfalls. Council completion of key programs and services during this period have been accounted for in the budgeting process. Any programs, projects or services that were delayed or not completed may have an impact on future budgets.
Reputation/Political	Lack of transparency or perceived underperformance may attract public criticism or political pressure. Non-completion of any programs or projects identified for this period may have an impact on Council's

5.7 Progress Report - Delivery Program/Operational Plan 2024/2025 (Delivery Program Year 3) - Six Months from 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025

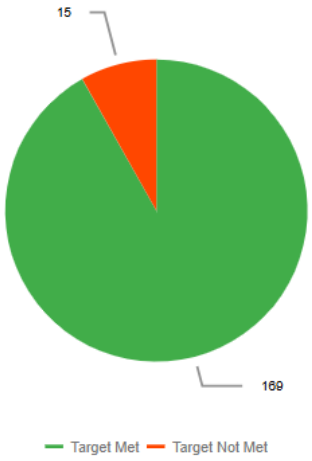
	reputation within the community, with staff or with other stakeholders.
Environment	Failure to report on environmental initiatives may undermine Council's sustainability commitments.
Compliance	Incomplete or non-compliant reporting may breach legislative obligations under the Local Government Act. Bi-Annual reporting ensures Compliance with Council's Integrated Planning & Reporting requirements.
People & WHS	Omission of workforce-related progress may mask WHS risks or staffing challenges.
Information Technology/Cyber Security	Reliance on digital reporting systems may expose data to integrity or security risks if not properly managed.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The progress report for 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025 is attached.

The graph below shows the status break down of the 184 Operational Plan Actions on the Delivery Plans Principal Activities delivered over the six-month reporting period:

- 169 Actions have met their target.
- 15 Actions have not met their target for the reporting period.

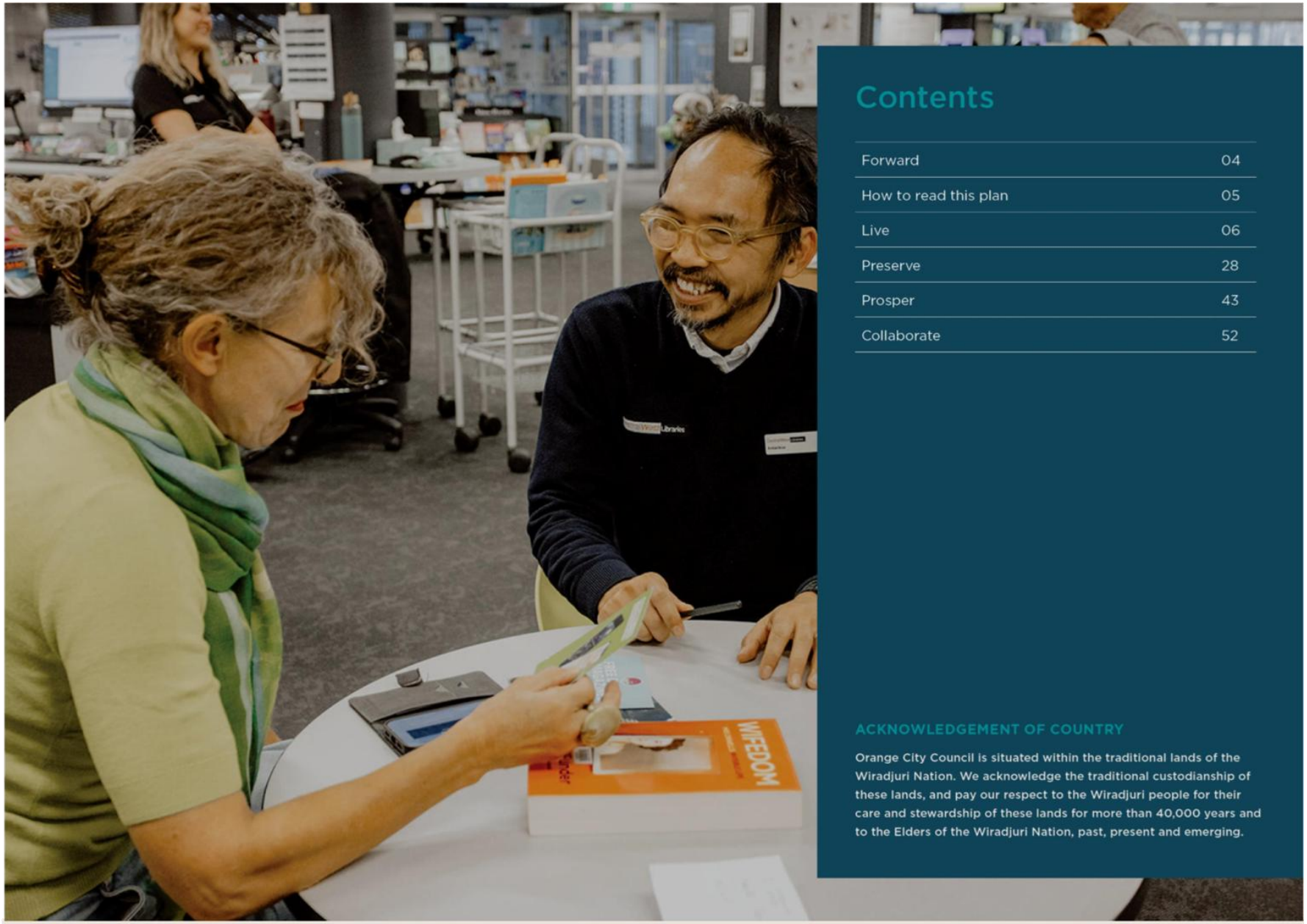


ATTACHMENTS

1 Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) 2024/25 Half Yearly Progress Report, D25/101797⇩

ORANGE
CITY COUNCIL
DELIVERY PROGRAM & OPERATIONAL PLAN
Half-yearly
Progress
Report
IP&R
ORANGE.NSW.GOV.AU
JANUARY
— JUNE
2025

MOVING TOGETHER
Yuga Mawang
Artwork by Wiradjuri Artist, Mitchell Groat
This artwork embodies the deep connection between Orange City Council and the local community, highlighting the harmony essential for collaborative initiatives.
At its center, two significant landmarks—Gaanha-bula (Mount Canobolas) and Guriyan Gaanha-bula (Lake Canobolas) serve as focal points. Surrounding them are eight circles in yellow and navy, representing my core values that strengthen cultural relationships: Culture, Connection, Community, History, Storytelling, Water, Totems, and Gathering Places. Framed by blue borders that reflect the Council's logo and the outline of Orange, these areas feature symbols of the cultural connections unique to our region. The Goanna and Platypus represent the Wiradjuri and Orange totems, while bush tucker signifies local produce.
Each border begins and ends with a symbol of a person, representing the idea that everything in the community starts and ends with people. Veins of gold and yellow speaks to the regions abundance, while ripples of green and blue signify the connections between Gaanha-bula, Guriyan Gaanha-bula and the community. These colours illustrate the ripple effect of Council's influence, showcasing its meaningful impact within and beyond the community.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Orange City Council is situated within the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri Nation. We acknowledge the traditional custodianship of these lands, and pay our respect to the Wiradjuri people for their care and stewardship of these lands for more than 40,000 years and to the Elders of the Wiradjuri Nation, past, present and emerging.

FOREWORD

Message from the Director of Corporate and Commercial Services

The following is the FY25 half yearly progress report for Orange City Council which is produced as part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) cycle.

This report covers the six months between January 2025 and June 2025 and will form part of the Annual Report for the financial year.

The Council achieved the majority of its IP&R actions for this year half year with 92% of the 184 actions completed during the period. The remaining actions which were not completed include multiyear projects and will either progress in the FY26 financial year or were ceased following review and reassessment.

There has been some significant progress on four major projects. The Conservatorium and Planaterium project is progressing as planned although slightly behind schedule. The timing of the Sports Precinct is dependent on the development application approval process. The $6.5 million Sewage Treatment Plant Inlet construction project is in the final stages and will improve processing and environmental outcomes. Brabham Way (The Southern Feeder Road project), is complete and open. However issues from the project, such as the costs relating to the naturally occurring asbestos on the site will likely be realised during the coming financial year.

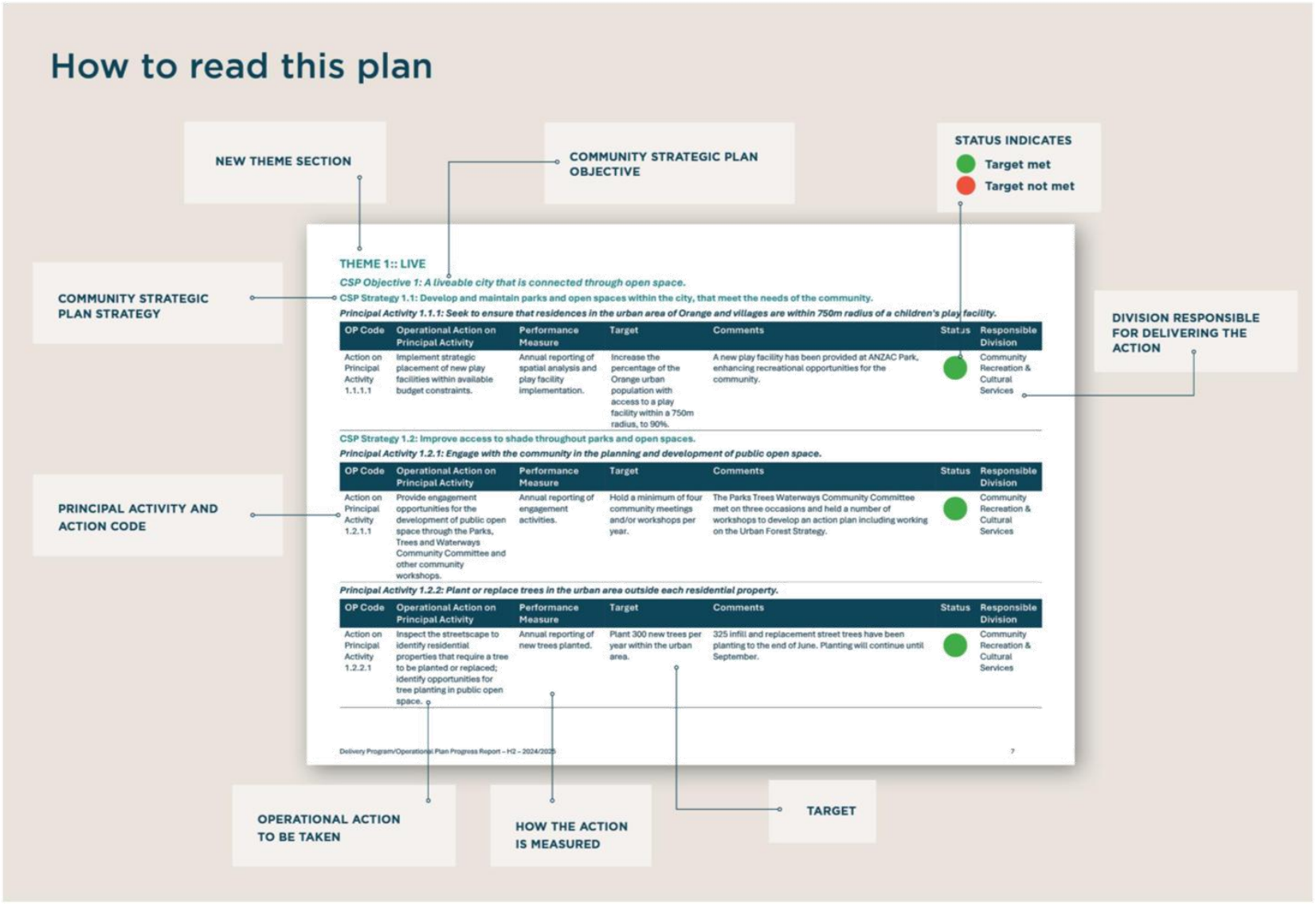
Completion of other projects such as the Adventure Playground, Road Rehabilitation and Building Capital Renewal projects have been completed and received large volumes of positive feedback from the community who utilise the assets.

Delivery of large capital projects is a continuing challenge in terms of supply chain, economic fluctuations and high community expectations weighted against prudent financial management. As these pressures shift, ensuring a robust and adaptable risk management framework is critical.

This period sees the end of the four year IP&R Cycle with July 2025 bringing in the response to the new Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and associated Delivery Program (DP) and Operational Plan (OP). It is exciting to see so much has been achieved to finalise the IP&R cycle and how those actions have placed Orange City Council in an excellent position to continue the high level of service to our Community.

Jen Sharp
Director Corporate and Commercial Services

How to read this plan



THEME 1:: LIVE

CSP Objective 1: A liveable city that is connected through open space.

CSP Strategy 1.1: Develop and maintain parks and open spaces within the city, that meet the needs of the community.

Principal Activity 1.1.1: Seek to ensure that residences in the urban area of Orange and villages are within 750m radius of a children's play facility.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 1.1.1.1	Implement strategic placement of new play facilities within available budget constraints.	Annual reporting of spatial analysis and play facility implementation.	Increase the percentage of the Orange urban population with access to a play facility within a 750m radius, to 90%.	A new play facility has been provided at ANZAC Park, enhancing recreational opportunities for the community.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

CSP Strategy 1.2: Improve access to shade throughout parks and open spaces.

Principal Activity 1.2.1: Engage with the community in the planning and development of public open space.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 1.2.1.1	Provide engagement opportunities for the development of public open space through the Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee and other community workshops.	Annual reporting of engagement activities.	Hold a minimum of four community meetings and/or workshops per year.	The Parks Trees Waterways Community Committee met on three occasions and held a number of workshops to develop an action plan including working on the Urban Forest Strategy.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

Principal Activity 1.2.2: Plant or replace trees in the urban area outside each residential property.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 1.2.2.1	Inspect the streetscape to identify residential properties that require a tree to be planted or replaced; identify opportunities for tree planting in public open space.	Annual reporting of new trees planted.	Plant 300 new trees per year within the urban area.	325 infill and replacement street trees have been planting to the end of June. Planting will continue until September.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

Delivery Program/Operational Plan Progress Report – H2 – 2024/2025 7

THEME 1
Live

HIGHLIGHTS

Inclusive Recreational Infrastructure

- Completion of Anzac Park and Mulga Bill's Playground upgrades with improved accessibility.
- Refurbishment of the Orange Adventure Playground, including a new Splash Park and Water Play area.

Road Safety and Crime Prevention

- The Orange and Cabonne Road Safety Program delivered multiple initiatives including Free Cuppa, Driver Fatigue, and Learner Driving programs.
- Enhanced collaboration with NSW Police and community groups to improve perceptions of safety.

MAJOR PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

Construction of the Orange Conservatorium and Planetarium

- The project is progressing as planned, remaining on schedule and within the allocated budget.

Construction of Orange Sports Precinct

- The sports precinct remains on schedule and within the allocated budget.

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

68
Total Operational Plan indicators

64
Target Met

4
Target not Met

THEME 1:: LIVE

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Principal Activity 1.2.3: Engage the local community to plant native trees, shrubs and grasses to improve biodiversity and connectivity throughout the city.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 1.2.3.1	Engage the local community to plant native trees, shrubs and grasses to improve biodiversity and connectivity throughout the city; Promote the Parks Alive Program and its environmental benefits through social media platforms and events such as Bill's Bush Tours.	Annual reporting of event participant numbers, the success of social media programs in mobilizing the community, and the quantity of native flora planted at each event to gauge the effectiveness of community engagement efforts.	Host 20 events with a minimum of three social media plugs per event; Engage at least 500 community members in planting activities through the Parks Alive Program annually.	Letterbox flyer distribution generated higher engagement compared to social media posts. Engagement targets were exceeded through participation by school groups in summer and autumn 'walk and talk' programs. A total of 5,302 native trees, shrubs, and grasses were planted, including contributions from the Natural Resource Management (NRM) Team.		Development Services

CSP Objective 2: A healthy and active community that is supported by sport and recreational infrastructure.

CSP Strategy 2.1: Deliver sport and recreational facilities to service the community into the future.

Principal Activity 2.1.1: Work and consult with existing and emerging groups to enhance and develop sporting and recreational infrastructure and activities.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 2.1.1.1	Implement Council's sports facility program (minor grants).	Annual reporting of sports facilities program (minor grants).	Conduct of annual program.	Over $50,000 in Minor Grants Program funding has been awarded to six sporting organisations.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services
Action on Principal Activity 2.1.1.2	Develop plans and cost estimates for enhancement of existing facilities.	Annual reporting of progress for existing facilities.	Two facilities per annum.	Approximately 230 lineal metres of shared path in Elephant Park have been upgraded to concrete, and repairs have been completed on 450 lineal metres of the granite path network to support Orange Runners Club events.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services
Action on Principal Activity 2.1.1.3	Mount Canobolas Mountain Bike Trail.	Report to Council.	Determine costs of redesign and construction.	Council has decided not to progress with this project at this time. No budget has been allocated to support further investigations or actions. As a result, the project will remain on hold until funding becomes available or priorities change.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

CSP Strategy 2.2: Provide recreational activities and programs that are inclusive and meet the needs of the community.

Principal Activity 2.2.1: Develop and finalise the Orange City Council Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

DP Principal Activity Completed - Year 1

CSP Strategy 2.3: Ensure the sporting and recreational facilities, programs and activities are accessible and affordable to support healthy life choices.

Principal Activity 2.3.1: Deliver Orange's Conservatorium and Planetarium.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 2.3.1.1	Construction of Orange Conservatorium and Planetarium.	Quarterly reporting of the percentage of overall construction completed, aiming to reach at least 75% completion by 30 June 2025.	75% Construction completion by 30 June 2025.	The capital project is progressing as planned, slightly behind schedule and still within the allocated budget. Key milestones continue to be met as planned, reflecting strong coordination and effective resource management.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

Principal Activity 2.3.2: Deliver Orange's Sports Stadium.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 2.3.2.1	Construction of Orange Sports Precinct.	Annual Reporting on delivery that is consistent with funding deeds and available funding.	Completion of Stage One and Stage Two works.	The Sports Precinct remains on schedule and within the allocated budget. Key milestones continue to be met as planned. The Main risk to project delay is the development application approval process.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

CSP Strategy 2.4: Develop an extensive network of shared use paths connecting the city to allow for active travel.

Principal Activity 2.4.1: Improve the existing path network.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 2.4.1.1	Complete footpath rehabilitation, repair and maintenance in accordance with the Transport Asset Management Plan.	Bi-annual reporting of number of projects delivered.	Four-year program of works delivered.	Footpath rehabilitation program was completed in accordance with the Transport Asset Management Plan.		Technical Services

Principal Activity 2.4.2: Construct footpaths to enhance existing path network.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 2.4.2.1	Apply for capital works grants to support construction and maintenance of pedestrian and cycle path networks.	Number of eligible grants applied for and percentage of successful applications.	Apply for all suitable grants.	Applications for State and Federal Active Transport grants were submitted but were unsuccessful. However, funding was awarded under the Safer Roads Program for the installation of a pedestrian refuge island on Telopea Way.		Technical Services
Action on Principal Activity 2.4.2.2	Complete construction of new footpaths in accordance with the Transport Asset Management Plan.	Bi-annual reporting of number of projects completed.	Four-year program of works delivered.	Footpath construction continued in the second half of the year. Heritage concerns related to the Endsleigh Avenue path led to its deferral. In response, other projects were brought forward, including the construction of the Matthews Avenue footpath.		Technical Services

CSP Objective 3: A friendly environment where people feel safe and included.

CSP Strategy 3.1: Support projects and programs that address crime and safety and contribute to an increased sense of safety in our homes and the wider community.

Principal Activity 3.1.1: Retain the Operational area under the Children (Protection and Parental Responsibility) Act 1997 in the Orange region.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 3.1.1.1	Report to the Attorney General on the use of the Children (Protection and Responsibility) Act 1997.	Bi-annual Reporting of progress.	Ensure the Children (Protection and Responsibility) Act 1997 remains in place.	Reports provided to the Attorney General as required for the January to June 2025 period based on data provided by the Police.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

Principal Activity 3.1.2: Increase perceptions of safety in 2030 Community Safety Evaluation and reduce crime as measured through BOCSAR improved road safety statistics.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 3.1.2.1	Collaborate with local Police to actively reduce crime rates, as reflected in BOCSAR statistics, contributing to improved community safety perceptions.	Bi-annual Reporting with statistics and analysis on progress towards enhancing road safety and community perceptions of safety in Orange.	Assist Police to achieve a reduction in BOCSAR crime statistics, reflecting improved road safety and community safety perceptions.	The Orange and Cabonne Road Safety Program, led by Council's Road Safety Officer, supports local police enforcement by collecting speed data and delivering behavioural change initiatives aimed at reducing speeding on key roads. The program also uses social media to raise awareness and promote safer driving habits through targeted campaigns.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 3.1.2.2	Support law enforcement initiatives and community awareness programs to reduce road incidents and increase community safety.	Annual Reporting of traffic incidents in the Orange Region and road safety activities delivered.	Assist Police to achieve a 20% reduction in major road incidents.	The Road Safety Officer (RSO) continues to raise awareness, engaging with community groups and supporting other local stakeholders. Social media is also used to promote awareness and encourage behavioural change around key road safety risks.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

CSP Strategy 3.2: Deliver infrastructure and activities that improve the safety and security of the community.

Principal Activity 3.2.1: Continue CCTV Cameras Program.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 3.2.1.1	Operation of Public CCTV Program.	Bi-annual reporting of program.	Maintain existing CCTV System, Provision of security footage to Police, Enhancement of Public CCTV Program.	The CCTV system is fully installed and operational. Annual maintenance has been completed, ensuring continued functionality and reliability of the system.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

Principal Activity 3.2.2: Engage with the community to address crime and safety and contribute to an increased sense of safety in our homes and the wider community.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 3.2.2.1	*Deliver the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Committee action plan in collaboration with the Crime Prevention Committee.*	Bi-annual Reporting on progress.	Hold at least two Crime Prevention Committee meetings per year.	The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Committee successfully completed all actions outlined in the previous action plan prior to Council entering the Caretaker period. The newly formed Committee has since reviewed the former plan and developed a revised action plan in consultation with NSW Police, ensuring alignment with current policing priorities.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

Principal Activity 3.2.3: Deliver Orange and Cabonne Road Safety Program to conduct programs such as Free Cuppa, Driver Fatigue and Learner Driving.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 3.2.3.1	Deliver Orange and Cabonne Road Safety Program to conduct programs such as Free Cuppa, Driver Fatigue and Learner Driving.	Annual reporting on progress.	Annual action plan implemented.	The Orange and Cabonne Road Safety Program delivered a range of targeted initiatives to address key road safety risks, including the Power Nap driver fatigue strategy, child car seat checking days, learner driver programs with community stakeholders, and campaigns like Be Seen. Be Safe and Drive with Your Headlights On 24/7. The Road Safety Officer also engaged with community groups and supported local stakeholders to raise awareness and promote safer driving behaviours.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

CSP Strategy 3.3: Partner to support victims of family violence.

Principal Activity 3.3.1: Support local service providers.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 3.3.1.1	Support local agencies to deliver education for victims and perpetrators of family violence.	Bi-annual Reporting on progress.	Participate in Agency conducted forums and 16 days of activism against gender-based violence program.	On 9th May 2025, Council Children's Services staff attended the WAGEC All In program, with around one-third of the team now having completed the training. This initiative supports the integration of gender equality and inclusion principles into early childhood education for children under five, enhancing learning opportunities across Council services.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

CSP Strategy 3.4: Recognise and celebrate our Aboriginal culture.

Principal Activity 3.4.1: Assist in the achievement of the outcomes of the Orange Aboriginal Social Plan.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 3.4.1.1	Improve communication with the Orange Local Aboriginal Lands Council.	Bi-annual reporting of meetings held.	Council conducts at least four meetings per year, increase engagement with OLALC.	Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council (OLALC) and Council meet regularly throughout the year to coordinate and support relevant events. LALC protocols are respectfully followed for Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremonies at meetings and community gatherings, ensuring cultural practices are honoured.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 3.4.1.2	Support NAIDOC week and other important indigenous recognition days.	Bi-annual reporting of events held and outcomes achieved.	Partner in provision of five or more events per annum.	Council hosts and provides Clerk support. Staff also attend and participate in the NAIDOC Committee, which consists of over eight partnering organisations and meets at least ten times.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services
Action on Principal Activity 3.4.1.3	Provide support through youth services for indigenous youth to continue positive life outcomes.	Bi-annual reporting of events held and outcomes achieved.	Partner in provision of three or more events per annum to increase communication and support to Elders.	Initiatives include: Duke of Edinburgh Award - supports young people to develop social capital skills. Orange United Sports Club - supports Aboriginal young people into mainstream sports; Pathfinders - educational and recreational activities. Orange Youth Hub is a drop-in centre. Aboriginal young people can hang out with friends, seek advice and support from Youth Staff and participate in activities. Bowen Kids Club-weekly activity group for children aged between 5 and 12.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services
Action on Principal Activity 3.4.1.4	Foster good communication and relationships with Elders.	Bi-annual reporting of events held and outcomes achieved.	Quarterly meetings with the Elders group.	Orange City Council hosts a fortnightly Elders group engaging between 8 to 15 Elders. A Community Development staff person hosts the group with a rotation of council staff to encourage new relationships and networks. Elders have autonomy on group activities which lead to the Far West Walking on Country excursion. Elders are contacted and transported to community events such as Sorry Day and Reconciliation events.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

CSP Strategy 3.5: Address the growing social and class divide within the city.

Principal Activity 3.5.1: Continue to provide traineeships and education support for young people.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 3.5.1.1	Increase outreach efforts to underrepresented communities to identify and recruit potential trainees.	Bi-annual reporting.	Two trainees engaged per annum.	Recent community engagement included attendance at the Job Expo held at the Orange Function Centre and a Career Information Night. Additionally, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee held a meeting at the Youth Hub to promote education and provide support to young people in the community. Six additional trainees commenced in 2025.		Corporate & Commercial Services

CSP Strategy 3.6: Improve access, inclusion, equity and diversity in our community.

Principal Activity 3.6.1: Maintain an Ageing and Access Committee and Disability Inclusion Plan.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 3.6.1.1	Maintain an Ageing and Access Committee and Disability Inclusion Plan.	Bi-annual reporting.	Hold four Ageing & Access Community Committee meetings per year.	Council staff responsible for the Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) have regularly reported on updates for all required actions in the plan. The Ageing and Access Committee recommenced with new members in April 2025 and have met twice in the reporting period.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

Principal Activity 3.6.2: Maintain a Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 3.6.2.1	Support actions of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee.	Bi-annual reporting.	Hold four Diversity and Inclusion Committee meetings per year.	The Diversity and Inclusion Committee remains highly engaged and continues to deliver on the objectives outlined in the Diversity and Inclusion Strategy. Their ongoing commitment reflects a strong organisational culture of inclusion and equity.		Corporate & Commercial Services

CSP Objective 4: A creative community participating in arts and cultural services.

CSP Strategy 4.1: A broad range of creative and cultural facilities, services and programs that meet community needs.

Principal Activity 4.1.1: Facilitate the exchange and production of ideas between artists and audiences.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 4.1.1.1	Develop a rich range of education and engagement programs enhancing the audiences understanding and experience of art.	Bi-annual reporting on progress.	Collaborate with teachers, artist educators and youth in the development of program content. Delivery of educational program.	A dedicated program was initiated to promote wellbeing and foster a sense of belonging within the migrant and refugee community. Schools were actively engaged through a variety of initiatives, including the Brett Whiteley: Inside the Studio exhibition programs and the annual Sparke exhibition. Additionally, the Gallery hosted a series of artist and curator-led discussions, presentations, and workshops tailored for adult audiences.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

Principal Activity 4.1.2: Encourage and include the broader community in the Orange Regional Gallery while being extended and exposed to new ideas and art forms.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 4.1.2.1	Provide ongoing opportunities via the Orange Regional Gallery's website for artists and curators to propose exhibitions.	Bi-annual reporting on progress.	Artists and curators to exhibitions included in exhibition program.	The Gallery received a range of exhibition proposals via its online portal, which have been assessed this reporting period and being programmed for the next four years.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

Principal Activity 4.1.3: Maintain and promote Orange Regional Gallery as a space for learning and of community pride.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 4.1.3.1	Provide staff to operate the Orange Regional Gallery on the weekend.	Bi-annual reporting on Gallery operating days.	Orange Regional Gallery open to public Seven days a week.	The Gallery is open every weekend throughout the year from 10am to 4pm on Saturdays and Sundays. A team of four permanent part time staff alternate, and casual staff are engaged where necessary.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services
Action on Principal Activity 4.1.3.2	Provide Orange Regional Gallery staff with ongoing customer service training and implement procedures to enhance the visitor experience.	Bi-annual Reporting of training programs and conference attendance, including implementation measures to enhance the visitor experience.	All staff attendance to training programs and identified conferences.	The Gallery Team received an introduction to strategies for working with Migrant and Refugee communities from Gill Nicoll and Anni Gallagher. Regular check-ins and updates were undertaken to Front of House teams on facilitating the visitor experience.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

Principal Activity 4.1.4: Develop and deliver dynamic and accessible exhibition program at the Orange Regional Museum that are valued by our local community and visitors.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 4.1.4.1	Develop and deliver a diverse exhibition program in collaboration with community groups, organisations, and stakeholders to provide high-quality experiences for the local and regional audience at the Orange Regional Museum.	Bi-annual reporting on the identification, development, delivery, and refreshment of exhibitions, including both locally curated and secured exhibitions.	Annually identify, secure, and deliver a diverse exhibition program in collaboration with stakeholders, ensuring at least one high-quality exhibition is secured, and one locally curated exhibition is maintained and refreshed to engage the local and regional audience effectively.	During January-June 2025, Orange Regional Museum presented touring exhibitions 'Mariw Minaral (Spiritual Patterns)' and 'On the Move', offering engaging experiences on Torres Strait Islander culture and transport innovation. 'On the Move', tailored to families, saw a 609% weekend visitation increase. Staff secured two touring shows for 2026 and advanced development of 'Bloomfield 1925-2025', 'Ngumbaaydyl' and 'Painted in Light'.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

Principal Activity 4.1.5: Develop and deliver cultural and educational programs at the Orange Regional Museum that are valued by our local community and visitors.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 4.1.5.1	Develop and deliver education and public programs to engage our communities and visitors with the Orange Regional Museum's exhibition program and collections.	Bi-annual reporting on annual program delivery.	Delivery of annual program.	During January-June 2025. Orange Regional Museum (ORM) delivered curriculum-linked school programs, First Nations Engagement Days, and launched the new History Futures initiative for senior students. Public programs included Mondays at the Museum, school holiday activities, exhibition openings for 'Reception this Way', 'Mariw Minaral', and 'On the Move', curator floor talks, and a Wula Gurray choir performance in partnership with the Orange Regional Conservatorium.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

Principal Activity 4.1.6: Manage the Orange Regional Museum's Collection to preserve our cultural heritage.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 4.1.6.1	Encourage community donations of cultural material to the Orange Regional Museum through community engagement activities.	Bi-annual reporting on engagement activities.	Conduct two community engagement activities per year.	Orange Regional Museum encouraged donations through community engagement and targeted campaigns. Acquisition highlights include the early 20th-century Hives Shield donated by Orange City Rugby Club and significant Bloomfield Hospital material, including patient-made items and photographs. The Orange Festival of Arts exhibition led to a number of donations as well as oral histories. ORM continued to promote its collections through an 'Object in Focus' segment in its monthly newsletter.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services
Action on Principal Activity 4.1.6.2	Undertake proactive collecting, including contemporary and born-digital collecting, to better reflect our local history and experiences at the Orange Regional Museum.	Bi-annual reporting on contemporary collecting activities.	One targeted collecting campaign per year.	Orange Regional Museum undertook targeted collecting from January to June 2025, with a strong focus on Bloomfield Hospital material and oral histories collected through extensive community engagement for the Orange Festival of Arts exhibition. Highlights include Bloomfield Theatrical Society and Festival programs and posters, and the acquisition of artworks commissioned through the Creative Collections program, supporting contemporary collecting.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services
Action on Principal Activity 4.1.6.3	Create and Maintain database records for all objects in the Orange Regional Museum Collection.	Bi-annual reporting.	Maintain acquisition records created and all loans documented.	Orange Regional Museum (ORM) creates and maintains database records for all objects through a formal acquisition process. During the period, ORM continued its major volunteer project to document the 'Summer Hill' collection. This collection was sorted and re-housed in 2021/2022. This volunteer project supports detailed documentation, data entry to the Vernon database, and digitisation of the material. ORM maintains records for all object movements including incoming and outgoing loan traffic.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

Principal Activity 4.1.7: Provide the community with a venue (Orange Function Centre) to host a range of events.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 4.1.7.1	Delivery of functions or events.	Bi-annual reporting of type and number of events held.	Ten events held per year.	The second half of the year featured international events, comedy, music, expos, the Business Women's Huddle, and industry forums. Community events included fundraisers, disability access initiatives, and the Antique Fair. A key highlight was the Function Centre's 60th Anniversary, celebrating its history and reaffirming its ongoing contribution to Orange's cultural and civic life.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

Principal Activity 4.1.8: Increase the use of library services and its collections in five Council areas.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 4.1.8.1	Enhance library services and engagement by implementing targeted strategies to increase library use and access across physical and digital platforms.	Bi-annual Reporting on visitor numbers, circulation, program attendance, digital resource usage, social media engagement metrics, and outcomes of community consultations.	Achieve 40% of the collection purchased in the past five years.	Blayney Library visitors increased by 46%; Cowra Library visitors increase by 15%; Molong Library visitors increase 39%; Orange City Library visitors increase by 24%; Eloans increased by 10.4%; Overall loans of library materials increase 8.5%.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

Principal Activity 4.1.9: Increase the number of paid theatre members.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 4.1.9.1	Market the benefits of the Membership Program to the community.	Bi-annual Reporting of the number of paid members with data demonstrating the percentage increase or decrease in membership numbers.	Increase number of paid members by 20%.	While ticket sales are a record high for this season, memberships only increased marginally with 413 members/subscribers for the year. Single ticket sales rather than packages are a reflection of audiences purchasing in the short term rather than long term commitment.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

CSP Strategy 4.2: Deliver cultural facilities and programs that reflect the interests of a culturally diverse community.

Principal Activity 4.2.1: Partner with key stakeholders in the development and delivery of exhibitions or events.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 4.2.1.1	Delivery partnership exhibitions or events.	Bi-annual reporting.	Three partnership exhibitions or events delivered per year.	The annual SPARKE project opened in June 2025 which extended our schools program by inviting 2000+ local public primary school students (K-6) to participate in the cultural life of their city though the creation of a large-scale art installation and associated learning programs. The Gallery presented Brett Whiteley: Inside the Studio in partnership with the Art Gallery of NSW with record attendance.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

Principal Activity 4.2.2: Engage with community members and organisations to contribute to the content of exhibitions and programs at the Orange Regional Museum.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 4.2.2.1	Identify opportunities for collaboration with community, member groups and associations in the development of temporary exhibitions.	Bi-annual reporting on development and delivery of community focused exhibitions.	At least one community focused collaborative exhibition.	Orange Regional Museum (ORM) collaborated with a wide range of community groups in the development if temporary exhibitions. These included the Orange NAIDOC Week Committee, Orange & District Historical Society, Western NSW LHD, and the Central West Museum Network. ORM engaged directly with community members, who contributed to the Orange Festival of Arts exhibition and Bloomfield exhibition development.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

Principal Activity 4.2.3: Develop a well-balanced theatre program that entertains, informs and challenges audiences.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 4.2.3.1	Develop annual program that entertains, informs and challenges audiences in partnership with other cultural partners and key stakeholders.	Bi-annual reporting of audience engagement and participation.	To offer a well-balanced program.	In the second half of the year, Orange Civic Theatre continued to present a diverse program that entertains, informs, and challenges. In collaboration with the Museum, Gallery, Conservatorium, and Library, the Theatre hosted professional tours, children's productions, community shows, and school performances. These partnerships have enhanced cultural engagement and reinforced the Theatre's central role in Orange's creative life.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

CSP Objective 5: Responsive programs and services that support our community's lifestyle and social needs.

CSP Strategy 5.1: Provide services to people at all stages of life.

Principal Activity 5.1.1: Regular planning to assess the needs of the ageing population in line with the principles of an aged-friendly community.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 5.1.1.1	Schedule planning meetings, surveys and focus groups/drop ins to Seniors Hub (subject to funding).	Bi-annual reporting of usage and participation.	Increase in usage of Seniors Hub.	Council continues to host the Steering Committee, which includes representatives from hiring groups and meets bi-monthly throughout the reporting period. The Community Services Admin manages all hirer contracts and maintains regular consultation. Council staff delivering projects at the Hub also engage consistently with hirers and users to support collaboration and communication.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services
Action on Principal Activity 5.1.1.2	Support a diverse range of activities from Seniors Hub (subject to funding).	Bi-annual reporting on decreased social isolation and increase in older people experiencing healthy lifestyle.	Increase in activities available from the Hub.	Activities held at the Hub funded through the Social Isolation Grant and organised by Council staff in H2 include: Service NSW Savings Finder Information Session - 6 March 2025 Successful Ageing Information Session - 12 June 2025 Seniors Ballet Class - 27 June 2025.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

Principal Activity 5.1.2: Engage with the local culturally and linguistically diverse community to identify needs and opportunities.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 5.1.2.1	Provide support to new migrants through the Settlement Services Program.	Bi-annual reporting of new migrants supported to settle in Orange.	Over 10 migrants supported per year.	Council's Migrant Support Officer engaged with 51 new clients for casework and support from 22 cultures. The majority of clients came from the top ten cultures including; Sri Lanka, Mongolia, India, Congo, Egypt, Indonesia, Italy. Pakistan, Zimbabwe, Taiwan, Nepal, and Nigeria. The MSO also engaged with 78 Capacity Building clients from 15 cultures including Nepal, India, Timor Leste, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, and Nigeria.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 5.1.2.2	Celebrate diverse cultural events such as Harmony Day, Harmony Cup etc.	Bi-annual reporting of events held and outcomes achieved.	Four events held per year.	Harmony Cup Soccer competition had 19 teams including Nepalese, South Americans, African and an International team competing for the Harmony Cup. Approximately 130 players and a further 100 spectators. Harmony Day hosted a range of multicultural food and performances for community to enjoy. Approximately 300 community members attended.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services
Action on Principal Activity 5.1.2.3	Provide education regarding inclusions and diversity.	Bi-annual reporting on the delivery of education and information programs.	Deliver three education events per year.	Orange City Council supported inclusive programs like Walking on Country, All Abilities Basketball, Harmony Cup, and Duke of Edinburgh explorations—promoting cultural respect, diversity, and community connection across all ages and abilities.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

Principal Activity 5.1.3: Provide recreational activities for older people, people with disabilities and younger people to support healthy, active living and improved life outcomes.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 5.1.3.1	Develop and deliver a wide range of healthy lifestyle, wellbeing and socialisation programs for older people across the region.	Bi-annual reporting on programs developed for health life outcomes.	A minimum of five programs delivered per year.	Choices at Home delivers a bi-monthly schedule of group social support activities which are heavily supported by seniors, resulting in a 81% delivery of Social Support Group target and 112% delivery of Social Support individual for 2024/2025. The Let's Move Together project promotes and supports women and girls to participate in sport.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services
Action on Principal Activity 5.1.3.2	Investigate additional funding and grants to provide activities and programs at a subsidised level to ensure lower income earners can participate.	Bi-annual reporting of grants submitted and percentage of successful grants.	A minimum of two grant applications submitted.	Additional funding secured through Be Connected, LiveUP, and Community Arts Program (Vegetable Garden activities) has allowed additional support for activity participation for older people. Clients of Disability Services continue to be provided with quality care through their NDIS funding. Children's Services access Additional Child Care Subsidy for eligible families as well as access Start Strong funding to further reduce fees for children who will be attending school the following year.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 5.1.3.3	Collaborate with local agencies and NGOs to increase capacity.	Bi-annual reporting of collaborate activities through interagencies and partnerships.	A minimum of four collaboration projects engaged.	Collaboration with local agencies and key stakeholders in the broader aged care sector undertaken through Sector Support & Development activities targeted to increase capacity through training sessions, network opportunities, Aged Care Integration Meetings, Central West Region Collaborative for the Prevention of Abuse of Older People, and Orange Community Dementia Alliance.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

Principal Activity 5.1.4: Provide support to the Support at Home Program in the Central West.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 5.1.4.1	Meet service level expectations for the Support at Home Program, as set by the Department of Health.	Bi-annual reporting of Activity Work Plans.	Retain all programs.	Council's Choices at Home service supported seniors to age well at home by delivering: Transport - 1914 trips; Meals - 9067 meals; Home maintenance - 228.5 hours; Social support - 6637 hours. The Choices at Home service currently provides support to 466 active clients servicing 365 of those in the last six months, all from the Orange area, assisted by a dedicated team of 79 Active volunteers and six staff.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

Principal Activity 5.1.5: Deliver quality children's services to before school and school aged children.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 5.1.5.1	Maintain and upgrade childcare facilities to meet industry standards.	Bi-Annual Reporting of service quality improvements and compliance with industry standards.	Retain over 80% utilisation rates in childcare facilities.	All Council Education and Care services continue to meet and maintain the National Quality Framework Standards and Regulatory requirements.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

Principal Activity 5.1.6: Provide supported accommodation services to adults with an intellectual disability in the Orange region.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 5.1.6.1	Implement and monitor a quality enhancement program for supported accommodation services, focusing on continuous improvement in service delivery and housing conditions.	Bi-annual reporting on service improvements implemented based on annual quality assessments and stakeholder feedback.	Achieve a minimum of 90% implementation rate of identified service and housing quality improvements by 30 June 2025.	Council's Disability Services Continuous Improvement Register, documents improvements in incident, risk, complaints for service delivery and also to reflect positive feedback. The services have regular team and resident meetings, staff catch ups and ongoing training, focusing on continuous service delivery. Residents have quarterly Individual Planning reviews with their families or guardians, and all documentation is maintained in line with relevant legislation.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

Principal Activity 5.1.7: Operate Orange Cemetery for the community.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 5.1.7.1	Maintain records in accordance with the Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2013 by regularly updating records with new internments.	Bi-annual reporting on progress.	Update the existing record system.	As interments are being booked and Council notified records are updated.		Development Services
Action on Principal Activity 5.1.7.2	Investigate internment options and provide planning for new areas.	Bi-annual reporting on progress.	Commence work on two identified areas.	The Garden of Memories is now available for interments. Several reservations have been made. A Plan for the next stage has been developed and is currently being assessed for future areas.		Development Services
Action on Principal Activity 5.1.7.3	Investigate and prioritise repairs for damaged heritage headstones.	Reporting of six monthly inspection of site.	Repair minimum of 10 (minor repairs) heritage gravesites on an annual basis.	Repairs have been carried out on five heritage headstones. There have been no reports of vandalism.		Development Services

CSP Strategy 5.2: Support our homeless population and stop homelessness.

Principal Activity 5.2.1: Support local service providers to increase subsidised housing options and grant opportunities.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 5.2.1.1	Prepare a Homelessness Policy that identifies principles and actions, including partnerships and advocacy roles, for Council to contribute to efforts to end homelessness in Orange.	Bi-annual reporting on progress.	Policy developed by 30 June 2025.	The final Strategy and Action Plans for the Communities and Justice NSW Homelessness Strategy 2025-2035 have yet been finalised and released.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

CSP Strategy 5.3: Improve housing supply, diversity and affordability.

Principal Activity 5.3.1: Support the provision of Social and Affordable Housing through the adoption of the Local Housing Strategy.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 5.3.1.1	Landcom Affordable Housing.	Bi-annual reporting.	Lodge planning proposal and obtain rezoning approval.	Rezoning of the site was obtained. Residential zone now applies. Design of subdivision well underway with DA preparation taking place, expected lodgement in late July 2025.		Development Services

CSP Strategy 5.4: Improve access to mental health services.

Principal Activity 5.4.1: Support the development of the Community Services Directory to include Mental Health listings.

DP Principal Activity Completed - Year 2

CSP Objective 6: A community that values and protects domestic animals and the role they play in residents' wellbeing both physical, social and psychological.

CSP Strategy 6.1: Ensure that infrastructure exists for the safe exercising of domestic dogs.

Principal Activity 6.1.1: Provide off leash fenced and unfenced facilities for people to exercise their dogs safely in the city.

DP Principal Activity Completed - Year 1

CSP Strategy 6.2: Deliver education and services relating to animal health and wellbeing.

Principal Activity 6.2.1: Support the Companion Animal Community Committee.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 6.2.1.1	Deliver the Companion Animal Community Committee (CACC) Action Plan.	Bi-annual reporting of actions implemented.	Hold four meetings by June 2025.	The committee met twice this half. Actions on the Companion Animal Action Plan continued to be delivered which included a desexing program being delivered.		Development Services

Principal Activity 6.2.2: To engage the community in the strategic management of companion animals within the city.

DP Principal Activity Completed - Year 2

Principal Activity 6.2.3: Provide opportunity for the adoption of companion animals from the Orange Pound.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 6.2.3.1	Return companion animals to owners in preference to impounding.	Bi-annual reporting on the number animals impounded.	A reduction in the number of impounded animals to the previous year.	Rangers continue to return animals that are correctly identified to owners. Despite Pound and Ranger efforts the numbers of animals in Councils care continue to increase.		Development Services
Action on Principal Activity 6.2.3.2	Deliver registration and desexing programs to the community.	Bi-annual reporting on the number of desexing and registration programs offered to the community.	Minimum of two desexing programs per year.	The cat desexing program was offered to the community with participation being less than expected.		Development Services
Action on Principal Activity 6.2.3.3	Actively engage the community in rehoming suitable companion animals.	Bi-annual reporting on the number of companion animals rehomed.	Daily updates on the Reuniting Pets social media page of impounded animals suitable for rehoming.	The Facebook page - Reuniting Orange Pets is continually being used for adoption and return home purposes.		Development Services

Principal Activity 6.2.4: Manage Ranger Services for companion animals and stray stock to ensure a safe city.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 6.2.4.1	Deliver Ranger Services to assist with lost, stray, noisy or nuisance animals.	Bi-annual reporting on response times.	First response letters are sent out within four working days.	Rangers are communicating with the community concerning lost and stray dogs. Social media plays a large role in this.		Development Services

Principal Activity 6.2.5: Provide and operate the Orange City Council Pound for impounded animals as required under the Act.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 6.2.5.1	Conduct an annual audit of the facilities and operations at the Orange City Council Pound to assess compliance with the Act and identify areas for improvement.	Bi-annual reporting on the results of the facility audit, including compliance status, improvements made, and plans for future enhancements to animal welfare practices.	Achieve 100% compliance against the Companion Animals Act and animal welfare standards.	Council maintains compliance with the Companion Animal Act through a continual audit process that ensures regular maintenance, adherence to procedures, and ongoing staff training. This proactive approach supports responsible pet management and community safety.		Development Services

CSP Objective 7: More for young people to do.

CSP Strategy 7.1: Provide play parks and spaces that meet the needs of a broad range of ages.

Principal Activity 7.1.1: Expand the range of play experiences, accessibility to park facilities and sporting fields and venues across the region.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 7.1.1.1	Develop, construct and install facilities to meet the accessibility demands to enable access to a range of facilities.	Bi-annual reporting on progress.	Two playgrounds upgraded/new per year and complies with NSW Everyone Can Play guidelines. Construct 400 lineal meters of linked shared pathways through parks and reserves.	The development of Anzac Park (new) and the refurbishment of Mulga Bill's Playground have been completed, with improved accessibility incorporated into the design of both sites.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services
Action on Principal Activity 7.1.1.2	Adventure Playground upgrade.	Bi-annual reporting on progress and alignment with allocated funding.	Construction completion.	The Orange Adventure Playground refurbishment project was completed in the second half of the year (H2), featuring the addition of a Splash Park and Water Play area as new recreational experiences for the community.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

CSP Strategy 7.2: Provide activities and program for young people.

Principal Activity 7.2.1: Develop programs and activities for young people across the region.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 7.2.1.1	Develop and present a diverse range of programs and activities targeted for young people across the region.	Bi-annual reporting of Youth Hub activities and programs to increase positive physical and mental health.	Youth Hub open five days a week and delivers three programs during vacation periods.	Youth Opportunities Walk on Country excursion included 8 young people, 6 Elders and Community Development staff spending a week travelling the Far West developing Cultural knowledge and identity. Youth Week programs included new events such as Debate night (4 teams of 3 young people) and Environmental exploration. Summer and Autumn School holiday programs for the Youth Hub included a variety of new, free activities selected by young people to participate in. Over 600 young people attended.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

CSP Strategy 7.3: Establish indoor attractions and venues that allow year-round, all-weather places for young people and their families to enjoy.

Principal Activity 7.3.1: Provide the Orange community with a year-round swim, play and fitness facility.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 7.3.1.1	Aquatic Centre Expansion.	Bi-annual reporting on design progress and grants identified / applied for.	Completion of design. Seek grant funding .	Key elements of the proposed Indoor Centre have been defined in consultation with Councillors. A Business Case is currently being prepared to support the project's strategic and financial justification. A formal report will be presented to Council for consideration.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

Principal Activity 7.3.2: Work with the community and industry to deliver an indoor play facility for Orange families and visitors.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 7.3.2.1	Facilitate the establishment and operation of the indoor play facility through partnership with a selected business provider.	Bi-annual reporting on progress.	Conduct expression of interest process, identify needs of business to provide facility, support business to implement and operate an indoor play centre.	The Expression of Interest (EOI) process has been finalised. Outcomes from the process will inform the next steps in project planning and stakeholder engagement.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

THEME 2
Preserve
HIGHLIGHTS
Brabham Way (The Southern Feeder Road project)
• Completed in early February, following delays caused by adverse weather conditions and contractor availability.
• The Road is now fully operational and performing well.
Climate Action Plan Implementation
• The Electrify Everything campaign was launched with a community event.
• A Low Emissions Fleet Transition Plan and Sustainable Council Building Policy Standard are in development.
MAJOR PROJECTS & PROGRAMS
Water and Sewer Capital Infrastructure Program. Key upgrades include:
• Completion of March Street water main renewal.
• Successful sewer main relining and manhole rehabilitation.
• The $6.5 million Sewage Treatment Plant Inlet construction project is in the final stages.
Gosling Creek Dam Safety Upgrade
• Concept and detailed design underway with engineering consultants.
SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS
46
Total Operational Plan indicators
39
Target Met
7
Target not Met

THEME 2:: PRESERVE

CSP Objective 8: Sustainable growth and respectful planning that values the natural environment.

CSP Strategy 8.1: Plan for growth and development that balances liveability with valuing the local environment.

Principal Activity 8.1.1: Provide a framework for development in the city through the Orange Local Environmental Plan 2011, Plans of Management and Development Control Plans for sustained growth.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 8.1.1.1	Review and update Local Environmental Plan, Plans of Management and Development Control Plans in response to evolving needs of the community.	Formal gazettal of an LEP amendment as required, Formal adoption of new DCP, Adoption of Plans of management as required and Completion of new strategic studies.	Prepare and implement a housekeeping LEP amendment as required by updated policies and local development priorities as they emerge. Update land use zoning in accordance with Council Policy (Housing Strategy /employment strategy). Update priority strategic policies (Heritage guidelines and heritage infill policy, Recreational needs strategy. Prepare new comprehensive DCP in line with LSPS Planning priorities. Plans of management subject to ongoing review and updating as required.	Various amendments to the Local Environmental Plan (LEP) have been gazetted including the amendment relating to 277 Cargo Road and the Redmond Place Affordable Housing Precinct. Council staff have prepared a draft Development Control Plan for both residential release areas. These plans are currently on public exhibition.		Development Services

Principal Activity 8.1.2: Provide efficient and effective development and certification service in a timely manner.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 8.1.2.1	Provide certification service for the purpose of issuing Construction Certificates and Complying Development Certificates.	Bi-annual reporting of turnaround time of Construction Certificates and Complying Development Certificates.	Construction Certificates issued within 28 days. Complying Development Certificates issued within 20 days. Plumbing and drainage applications determined within 14 days.	Construction Certificates and Complying Development Certificates lodgements have increased in number and complexity. Targets for turnover are being met when all required information is lodged. Legislative requirements for these applications are making the assessments more complicated and onerous.		Development Services

Principal Activity 8.1.3: Provide property information to vendors for conveyancing, financing, and sales.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 8.1.3.1	Provide Property Information Certificates upon request.	Bi-annual reporting of processing time.	90% of applications for Building Information Certificates and Outstanding Notices are provided in 7 days; 90% of Planning Certificates issued within a median processing time of four days; 95% of planning certificates are issued within a median processing time of 1.5 days where an urgency fee has been paid.	All Certificates are being issued within the timeframe following receipt of adequate information that allows for full assessment.		Development Services

Principal Activity 8.1.4: Develop and implement an education program to educate landowners about the negative impact weeds have on the environment, agriculture and human health.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 8.1.4.1	Promote events through social media and the Central Tablelands Local Lands Services (CTLLS) and host a minimum of four field days.	Bi-annual reporting of number of landholders attending events and number of enquiries made.	All events being successfully promoted through CT LLS and OCC media platforms and four events held.	11 events and engagement activities were held in this period, including workshops with the Biosecurity Commissioner.		Development Services

Principal Activity 8.1.5: Send out information packs to all new landowners of land greater than two hectares.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 8.1.5.1	Send out information packs to all new landowners of land greater than two hectares.	Bi-annual reporting of the number of information packs distributed and feedback from recipients.	Information packs provided to 95% of new property owners.	All Bi-Monthly targets meet with regards to information pack distribution.		Development Services

Principal Activity 8.1.6: Undertake property inspections in accordance with the Weeds Action Program.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 8.1.6.1	Undertake property inspections in accordance with the Weeds Action Program.	Bi-annual reporting of property inspections including findings and mitigation actions.	Complete the remaining number of inspections to ensure compliance with the Weeds Action Program guidelines and promptly identify areas requiring weed management interventions.	Road, Rail and Waterways Weeds Action Program (WAP) target was 335km Actual Achieved 771km. WAP inspection Targets 127 Actual Achieved 236. WAP Goal 3 Targets 230 Actual Achieved 253. BIS Reporting Data upload Target 12 Actual Achieved 12.		Development Services

CSP Strategy 8.2: Ensure best practice use of renewable energy options for Council and community projects.

Principal Activity 8.2.1: Implement and deliver the Climate Action Plan for Orange City Council to increase sustainability of Council's buildings and assets to reduce to emissions and implement new technologies that provide cost savings to Council.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 8.2.1.1	Monitor the Climate Action Plan.	Bi-annual reporting on progress.	Review Plan and make informed changes to achieve Plan's objectives.	Establishment and consolidation of the staff Green Team with several projects underway. An Electrify Everything campaign has been launched with a community event held in June.		Development Services
Action on Principal Activity 8.2.1.2	Identify emission reduction pathways and understand business as usual emissions trajectory.	Bi-annual reporting on progress, projects, comparisons to no action and implementation measures.	Produce a report to suggest available projects and projected emissions.	A Sustainable Council Building Policy Standard is being developed to reduce emissions and improve environmental outcomes for Council building projects. The draft Low Emissions Fleet Transition Plan is currently under final review for adoption next financial year.		Development Services

Principal Activity 8.2.2: Implementation of the Renewable Action Plan.

DP Principal Activity completed - Year 1

Principal Activity 8.2.3: Engage the community in the strategy and implementation of Council's Climate Action Plan.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 8.2.3.1	Deliver the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee Action Plan.	Bi-Annual Reporting on Action Plan Implementation.	Implement 100% of the ESCC Action Plan.	Environmental Sustainability Community Committee members have formed subgroups dealing with biodiversity and climate action. The groups are setting their own priorities and projects. Councils staff are supporting these groups.		Development Services

CSP Strategy 8.3: Enact policies and practices to protect the sustainability and security of water destined for potable supply from the water catchment area.

Principal Activity 8.3.1: Drinking water that meets health guidelines is provided through ongoing implementation and review of the Drinking Water Management System (DWMS).

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 8.3.1.1	Continue implementation and review of DWMS including participation in NSW Health Monitoring Program.	Compliance results from NSW Health Monitoring Program reported monthly in Current Works Report.	100% compliance with the Australian Drinking Water Guideline health targets.	100% of monitoring results, in period, met Australian Drinking Water Guidelines health targets with updates reported through the Infrastructure Policy Committee. An external audit Readiness Review was conducted on the Drinking Water Management System in March 2025, with excellent feedback provided.		Technical Services

Principal Activity 8.3.2: Deliver the Water and Sewer Capital Infrastructure Program in accordance with budgeted capital upgrades.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 8.3.2.1	Deliver the annual water main renewal.	Capital update Report to Council.	Commissioned by 30 June 2025.	The water main renewal along March Street (McLachlan to Autumn) has been successfully completed.		Technical Services
Action on Principal Activity 8.3.2.2	Deliver the annual Sewer Main Relining Program and Annual Manhole Rehabilitation Program.	Capital update report to Council.	Commissioned by 30 June 2025.	The contract facilitated through the Central NSW Joint Organisation was signed and executed, resulting in the successful renewal of the 150mm and 225mm sewer mains.		Technical Services
Action on Principal Activity 8.3.2.3	Deliver new Inlet Works at Orange Sewerage Treatment Plant.	Upgrade delivered.	Commissioned by 30 June 2025.	Project well advanced, though currently on hold waiting for warmer, optimal conditions for repainting concrete structure.		Technical Services

CSP Strategy 8.4: Take action to ensure greater stewardship and enjoyment of Mount Canobolas (Gaahna Bulla) and Lake Canobolas.

Principal Activity 8.4.1: Implement the Lake Canobolas Precinct masterplan for the Scout Camp to attract additional groups and visitors to the Orange Region.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 8.4.1.1	Deliver the BBRF-funded upgrade program for the Canobolas Scout Camp.	Bi-annual progress reports.	Complete funded upgrade project in 2024/25	DA content contained additional requirements that exceeded the available BBRF budget and Council co-contribution. Further funding or grants will be required to re-start this project.		Corporate & Commercial Services

CSP Objective 9: Managing our resources wisely.

CSP Strategy 9.1: Identify and deliver essential water, waste and sewer infrastructure to service the community into the future.

Principal Activity 9.1.1: Reduce pollutant concentrations in Orange Sewerage Treatment Plant final effluent, through ongoing monitoring and the implementation of requisite capital upgrades.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 9.1.1.1	Refine and re-schedule the re-use Capital Infrastructure Program in consultation with stakeholders.	Capital update Report to Council.	Capital program updated.	Consultation with primary Orange Sewage Treatment Plant re-use stakeholder, Newmont, conducted through March 2025 meeting and ongoing liaison.		Technical Services

Principal Activity 9.1.2: Operations, maintenance and capital upgrades for all Council owned dams comply with Dam Safety Act 2015, Dam Regulations 2019 and associated guidelines.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 9.1.2.1	Ongoing implementation and review of the Dams Safety Management System (DSMS).	Annual Dams Safety Standards Report submitted to Dams Safety NSW by 31 March 2025.	100% compliance with Dams Safety Management System (DSMS).	The Dams Safety Management System (DSMS) was implemented in accordance with the Dams Safety Act 2015, Dam Regulations 2019 and associated guidelines.		Technical Services
Action on Principal Activity 9.1.2.2	Commence concept and detailed design of the Gosling Creek Dam Safety Upgrade Project following options report.	Update report to Council.	Completion by 30 June 2025.	The contract for the Gosling Creek Dam Safety Upgrade Project was signed with engineering consultants GHD for design, and the project is progressing in accordance with the established program. Completion is scheduled for the end of 2025.		Technical Services

Principal Activity 9.1.3: Improve Water Supply Security for Orange to cater for potential increased population growth rates.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 9.1.3.1	Complete preliminary business case for purified recycled water, subject to funding.	Update Report to Council.	Complete Regional Town Water Strategy and Recycled Water Detailed Business Case.	The National Water Grid Funding Deed has been finalised, along with the NSW Government Funding Deed with Orange City Council. The project has commenced, and the team is currently developing the Project Management Plan and Project Brief to guide implementation and delivery.		Technical Services
Action on Principal Activity 9.1.3.2	Deliver the East Orange Harvesting Wetland (Blackmans Swamp Creek Stormwater Harvesting Stage 2) project.	Delivered by 30 June 2025.	Project delivered in accordance with Project Management Plan and pending approval conditions.	Delivery of the East Orange Harvesting Wetlands has been delayed. Following several conciliation conferences with the applicant, the matter has now been formally referred to the Land and Environment Court for determination in December 2025.		Technical Services

Principal Activity 9.1.4: Effectively plan and implement the Water Conservation Strategies.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 9.1.4.1	Monitor water usage, water restriction levels and dam levels to ensure continued compliance with Council's Water Restriction Policy.	Update report to Council.	Community compliance with water restrictions and water use targets.	Water usage and dam storage levels are continuously being monitored and reported on Council's website. Currently on Permanent Water Saving Measures (equivalent to Level 2 Water Restrictions).		Technical Services
Action on Principal Activity 9.1.4.2	Design and implement Water Conservation Strategies.	Annual water conservation program delivered.	Program delivered by 30 June 2025.	Water conservation strategies continually being implemented through media articles, rainwater tank rebates, water audits.		Technical Services

Principal Activity 9.1.5: Service areas identified in the Orange Local Housing Strategy with water and sewer infrastructure.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 9.1.5.1	Plan, design and deliver Shiralee Water Supply Augmentation.	Project delivered in accordance with Project Management Plan.	Delivered by 30 June 2025.	Shiralee Water Supply Augmentation Strategy is still being reviewed with alternate options being considered.		Technical Services

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 9.1.5.2	Plan, design and deliver March Road Sewer Pump Station Storage.	Project delivered in accordance with Project Management Plan.	Delivered by 30 June 2024.	The switchboard for the March Road Sewer Pump Station Storage has been delivered to the Sewerage Treatment Plant. Installation and commissioning are scheduled to follow as part of the next phase of works. In preparation for these upgrades, a reassessment of the required sewerage storage volume is currently underway.		Technical Services

CSP Strategy 9.2: Develop and promote initiatives to reduce water, energy and water waste in consultation with the community.

Principal Activity 9.2.1: Organise and host environmental community engagement events in collaboration with the local community and schools.

DP Principal Activity Completed - Year 2.

Principal Activity 9.2.2: To encourage the community to participate in the Tidy Towns Sustainability Program to promote the Environmental and Cultural Programs being undertaken into the city.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 9.2.2.1	Actively utilise social media and publish monthly stories to promote Tidy Towns the general community and schools to raise awareness of the program and awards.	Number of articles published and enquiries received. Number of Schools accepting offer of visit from Tidy Towns Committee members. Number of annual award submissions.	Effective promotion of the Tidy Towns program; All schools accepting offers of visit from Tidy Towns Committee Members; Submissions received from community members and Schools.	Despite its success, the Tidy Towns 2024/2025 campaign saw reduced engagement, likely influenced by the Council election period.		Development Services

Principal Activity 9.2.3: Prepare and host clean up events to reduce litter in the region.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 9.2.3.1	Host Clean Up Australia Day and Clean Up Orange event with active community participation.	Number of local residents attending and amount of rubbish collected.	Host the annual Clean Up Australia Day event at one council site.	Event and sites registered with Keep Australia Beautiful Event held in March annually.		Development Services

Principal Activity 9.2.4: Plan infrastructure development based on wastes required to be managed that cannot be diverted from landfill.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 9.2.4.1	Model waste generation and diversion rates through ongoing survey, auditing, and community collaboration	Monthly and quarterly reports are monitored and reviewed for performance in accordance with contracts.	Quarterly contractor meetings to review contract performance KPI's.	Ongoing monthly and quarterly reports from waste contractors are actively monitored and reviewed to assess performance in line with contractual obligations. Bin audits are regularly conducted, and community outreach initiatives are undertaken to evaluate public engagement and understanding of effective waste minimisation strategies.		Technical Services

Principal Activity 9.2.5: Plan development of new landfill cell in alignment with Waste Model Financial Plan and in accordance with annual waste generation rates.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 9.2.5.1	Regularly review waste data generation reports to ensure infrastructure and financial model is fit for purpose.	Monthly reports are considered in consultation with contractors to review performance against contract KPI's.	Monthly reports demonstrate waste and recycling performance is aligned with contract terms and objectives.	Waste data reports and the waste financial model are regularly reviewed and aligned to support the coordinated development of infrastructure and the efficient allocation of resources.		Technical Services
Action on Principal Activity 9.2.5.2	Monitor scheduled works against allocated budget and engage contractors to complete works.	Monthly review and quarterly reporting against KPI's.	Works are identified within the Waste Services financial model and budget.	The newly completed cell four is operating to 100%. Phytocapping cells one and two is nearing completion, with final re vegetation and topsoil layers scheduled for June and July 2025. Installation of four gas biofilters on cell one is expected to be completed in July 2025. Adverse weather conditions have delayed the original target completion date for these programmed works which were completed on 11 July.		Technical Services
Action on Principal Activity 9.2.5.3	Completion of a new landfill cell at the Euchareena Road Resource Recovery Centre (ERRRC).	Bi-annual progress reporting.	Completion by 31 December 2024 in alignment with Waste Model Financial Plan and in accordance with annual waste generation rates.	Cell Four was constructed during the 2024 calendar year and officially opened for waste receival on 18 November 2024, in alignment with the planned development schedule.		Technical Services

Principal Activity 9.2.6: Manage abandoned articles within the city.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 9.2.6.1	Investigate complaints and regularly inspect known dumping areas, impounding trolleys and contacting owners.	Bi-annual reporting of the number of abandoned trolleys and use of trolley tracker to encourage regular pickups.	Report complaints from the public to trolley owners within 24 hours.	Routine patrols identify and report abandoned trolleys.		Development Services

Principal Activity 9.2.7: Enforce environmental pollution breaches.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 9.2.7.1	Promptly investigate complaints regarding environmental issues.	Time to investigate complaints, spills and dangerous situations.	Investigate pollution complaints within four days. Investigate urgent spills and dangerous situations within four hours.	Several significant incidents have been managed over this time period and pollution complaints are routinely received and investigated.		Development Services

CSP Strategy 9.3: Invest in a broader range of local reuse and recycling services.

Principal Activity 9.3.1: Become regional leader in waste management.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 9.3.1.1	Maintain current levels of service with existing contracts and demonstrate leadership with NetWaste by working closely with the Environmental Protection Agency on new project initiatives that deliver on enhanced resource management.	Bi-annual reporting of waste contract performance and statistics.	Implement Annual Plan initiatives and current contracts.	All projects and service contracts are strategically pre-planned and reported annually to the EPA. They undergo quarterly reviews by NetWaste Steering Committee and Forum members, and are monitored against contract KPIs in close consultation with the contractor.		Technical Services

Principal Activity 9.3.2: Complete local and regional contract initiatives and projects as per annual NetWaste Contract Plans.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 9.3.2.1	Council and NetWaste staff to undertake project initiatives in accordance with endorsed contracts and educational plans.	Bi-annual reporting of waste contract performance and statistics.	Implement Annual Plan initiatives and current contracts.	All project initiatives and education strategies undergo monthly review, with implementation progress and outcomes reported quarterly to the NetWaste Council Steering Committee and Forum.		Technical Services

Principal Activity 9.3.3: Promote the enhancement of waste collection performance within the community.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 9.3.3.1	Provide educational resources and information sources to the community to assist with appropriate utilisation of waste collection services.	Annual Plan reported with project outcomes.	Annual Plan adopted within respective contracts.	Ongoing educational strategies and resources are delivered to the community through EnviroCom, Council's contracted service provider, under the relevant waste service contracts. These efforts are also supported by Council's communications team, as required, to enhance outreach and engagement.		Technical Services
Action on Principal Activity 9.3.3.2	Offer free annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection service with licenced service provider.	Service rendered annually with waste volumes collected and recycled reported to Council and EPA.	Service contracted annually through NetWaste contract.	Target met in half one with the Service provided to the community in November 2024.		Technical Services

Principal Activity 9.3.4: Manage Ophir Road and Euchareena Road Resource Recovery Centres in full compliance with management plans and licences.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 9.3.4.1	Monitor scheduled works against allocated budgets and engage contractors to complete works.	Quarterly KPI's reported to Council.	Budget reviewed quarterly.	The Waste Services budget and financial model are regularly monitored and aligned to ensure that all scheduled works and capital infrastructure projects are effectively coordinated with the appropriate contractors.		Technical Services

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 9.3.4.2	Monitor collected inventory of household hazardous wastes and record volumes on a weekly basis.	Weekly monitoring and recording of HHW volumes and servicing of CRC by contractor performed as storage stillages are filled.	Community Recycling Centre operating in accordance with EPA guidelines.	Council's Community Recycling Centre (CRC) is managed by Council staff and monitored daily to ensure safe and efficient operations. Inventory of household hazardous waste is reported weekly to the EPA-appointed contractor to facilitate the coordinated removal of materials in compliance with regulatory requirements.		Technical Services

CSP Objective 10: Infrastructure for our growing communities.

CSP Strategy 10.1: Construct and maintain a road network that meets the community's transport and infrastructure needs.

Principal Activity 10.1.1: Avoid further projected escalation in the net present value of the infrastructure backlog.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 10.1.1.1	Maintain and update the Transport Asset Management Plan with associated programmes of work.	Adopted plan exists.	Plan reviewed annually.	Road condition assessment data has been received as part of the periodic road revaluation process. This data will be used to inform the development of the 2025/2026 Asset Management Plans.		Technical Services

Principal Activity 10.1.2: Road Reseal and Rehabilitation Programs to be undertaken in accordance with the Transport Asset Management Plan.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 10.1.2.1	Deliver all projects outlined in the Road Rehabilitation and Reseal Program within allocated budget.	Variance from approved budgets.	Program budget cost variance +/- 10%.	Road Rehabilitation and Reseal Program projects were completed in the period.		Technical Services

Principal Activity 10.1.3: Deliver Stage 4 of the Southern Feeder Road from Anson Street to Pinnacle Road.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 10.1.3.1	Completion and opening of Southern Feeder Road Stage 4.	Monitor and report on the percentage of project milestones achieved on schedule, culminating in the project's completion by 31 December 2024.	Completion by 31 December 2024.	Southern Feeder Road Stage Four was completed in early February, following delays caused by adverse weather conditions and contractor availability. Although the original deadline of December was not met, the system is now fully operational and performing well.		Technical Services

Principal Activity 10.1.4: Confirm alignment for Southern Feeder Road at Cargo Road.

DP Principal Activity complete - Year 2

Principal Activity 10.1.5: Accelerate the construction of flood mitigation projects.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 10.1.5.1	Upgrade the East Orange Drainage Channel from McLachlan Street to March Street, subject to funding.	Tenders advertised.	Go to public tender for works.	No further funding opportunities for this upgrade. Funding submissions for this financial year were unsuccessful.		Technical Services

Principal Activity 10.1.6: Increase understanding of the infrastructure network conditions.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 10.1.6.1	Update Asset Management Plan with condition data.	Continued review of asset conditions with regular reporting	Undertake inspections of at least 5% of the network	The Asset Management Plans Road revaluation was completed. Inspections completed for 60% of rural culverts. Urban CCTV inspection program completed.		Technical Services
		Length of network inspected. Continued review of asset conditions with regular reporting.	Undertake inspections of at least 3% of the urban piped network and 50% of rural piped culverts. Undertake inspections of at least 5% of the network.			

CSP Strategy 10.2: Ensure that sufficient car parking spaces are available to support growth.

Principal Activity 10.2.1: Review parking restrictions within the City to accommodate the evolving dynamics of the City.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 10.2.1.1	Carry out parking patrols in accordance with patrol schedule and Council's adopted parking rules.	Bi-annual reporting on the number of parking warnings and infringement notices to measure community compliance with parking regulations.	Provide efficient and effective compliance service in a timely manner and meet all service obligations with all privately contracted carparks.	Parking enforcement patrols continue to be conducted in accordance with established patrol schedules and Council's adopted parking regulations.		Development Services

Principal Activity 10.2.2: Review and implement Council Enforcement Policy to ensure consistent decision making.

DP Principal Activity Completed - Year 2

CSP Strategy 10.3: Develop a vibrant, comfortable and clean civic and commercial precinct as a centre for the community.

Principal Activity 10.3.1: Deliver the Future City tranches.

DP Principal Activity Completed - Year 2

CSP Objective 11: Celebrate our cultural, social, natural and built heritage assets.

CSP Strategy 11.1: Ensure plans for growth and development are respectful of our heritage.

Principal Activity 11.1.1: Increase the knowledge of building owners about the value of protecting and enhancing the heritage of the city.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 11.1.1.1	Engage with the community to ensure plans for growth and development are respectful of our heritage.	Fund and provide Heritage and Design advice service by a qualified Heritage Architect.	A minimum of 12 Heritage visits provided per year.	Council continues to deliver a monthly heritage advisory service to support the City's growth and development in a manner that respects and preserves its significant heritage attributes.		Development Services

CSP Strategy 11.2: Preserve our diverse social and cultural heritage.

Principal Activity 11.2.1: Preserve the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the region.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 11.2.1.1	Expand Outreach and Education on Cultural Heritage.	Conduct of local heritage assistance fund; Annual review of the heritage strategy; Bi-annual reporting on outreach and education program effectiveness.	Develop and implement outreach and education program on cultural heritage.	The 2024/2025 round of Local Heritage Assistance Fund was acquitted in May 2025. A new round of funding was advertised in February with nine applications received. The Heritage Advisor assisted with 59 Development Applications and 45 site visits.		Community Recreation & Cultural Services

CSP Strategy 11.3: Celebrate and conserve the diverse cultural heritage of the urban, village and rural communities.

Principal Activity 11.3.1: Support the Spring Hill, Clifton Grove and Lucknow Community Committees.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 11.3.1.1	Deliver the Spring Hill, Clifton Grove and Lucknow Community Committee Action Plans.	Action Plan Implementation.	100% of each Action Plan Implemented.	Progress on projects in the period include: Clifton Grove: Pull-in area works being finalised; Initial plans being considered for Mud Hut refresh. Spring Hill: Beautification of new pull-in area cross from Railway Hotel (signage, heritage trail etc); Additions to Anzac Memorial. Lucknow: Updated signage design of sign at viewing platform at Mine; Ongoing engagement with TfNSW on future Highway modelling and upgrades.		Corporate & Commercial Services

THEME 3

Prosper

HIGHLIGHTS

Vibrant Events Program Delivered

- Council successfully hosted events including Zest Fest, Rainbow Festival, Carols by Candlelight, New Year's Eve, and Citizenship Ceremonies.

Live Music Activation

- Events like Night in Nashville, Bandlands and Backroads, Homegrown Sounds: The Fire Set and Zest Fest were delivered.
- The sold-out Tones and I concert highlighted strong regional support for live music.

Tourism Strategy Implementation

- The Orange Region Destination Management Plan was actively delivered in collaboration with Orange360, Cabonne, and Blayney.

MAJOR PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

Colour City Caravan Park Improvements

Despite losing grant funding, upgrades included:

- Construction of a storage shed.
- Removal of old caravans.
- Installation of a concrete path.
- Launch of an online booking system.

These improvements aim to enhance accessibility and visitor experience.

Business Development Initiatives

- The McNamara Lane Pop-up Pods continued to support local startups.
- The Economic Development Strategy was endorsed, and a new Business Incentive Program is ready for launch to attract and grow local businesses.

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

25
Total Operational Plan indicators

23
Target Met

2
Target not Met

THEME 3:: PROSPER

CSP Objective 12: Sustainable tourism, events and visitor experiences.

CSP Strategy 12.1: Capitalise on the character and lifestyle of Orange to remain a destination of choice.

Principal Activity 12.1.1: Implement the Orange Region Tourism Strategy to continue to support and maintain Orange's visitor economy.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 12.1.1.1	Delivery of the Orange Region's Destination Management Plan and associated actions.	Bi-annual reporting of the implementation of actions from the Orange Regions DMP and relevant tourism metrics.	Achieve an increase in visitor numbers in line with Orange360 metrics.	Council continues to collaborate with Orange360, Cabonne, and Blayney to deliver the Orange Region Destination Management Plan. Progress is ongoing across signage, infrastructure programs, and the development of marketing collateral, including the Orange Region Visitor Guide. However, Council's application for Active Transport funding to support the next phase of the cycle trail was unsuccessful. The overall intent of the DMP has been achieved in FY 2025.		Corporate & Commercial Services

Principal Activity 12.1.2: Manage Orange Visitor Information Centre and online channels to encourage visitors to stay longer and engage with more experience across the Orange region.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 12.1.2.1	Effective management of Council's contract with Orange360. Effectively Manage and Operate the Orange Visitor Information Centre.	Bi-annual reporting of updates from Orange360; The implementation of actions from the Orange Regions DMP; Length of stay statistics released by the National Visitor Survey; and footfall visitation to the Orange Visitor Information Centre.	Increase the average length of visitor stays as measured by National Visitor Survey data; Increase footfall to Orange Visitor Information Centre.	The Orange Visitors Centre roster was restructured, and a new supervisor was employed this period. The new supervisor continues to make improvement in visitor experience with the use of IPad Kiosk with the Orange360 website being the call to action along with developing a diverse offering of local produce for sale.		Corporate & Commercial Services

CSP Strategy 12.2: Develop and attract a variety of events, festivals, venues and activities for locals and visitors, ensuring accessibility for all.

Principal Activity 12.2.1: Deliver an annual program of Council-run events to create vibrancy and liveability for residents and visitors to the city.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 12.2.1.1	Deliver a program of Council run civic events including 'Welcome to Orange', 'Citizenship Ceremonies', 'Carols by Candlelight' & a 'New Year's Eve' event.	Bi-annual reporting of Council run civic events and outcomes achieved.	Deliver six civic events each year.	All planned events delivered (Zest Fest, Carols, NYE, Rainbow Festival, 4 x Citizenship Ceremonies, Welcome lunch, Japanese Speaking Cup, new Experience Orange event), with strong attendee numbers and positive feedback.		Corporate & Commercial Services

Principal Activity 12.2.2: Support community organizations to stage community-run events through the administration of Council's Event Sponsorship Programs.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 12.2.2.1	Administer Council's Event Sponsorship Program.	Bi-annual reporting of administration of Council's Events Sponsorship Program.	Deliver four rounds of funding through the Events Sponsorship Program totalling an annual investment of $100k.	All funding dispersed. Strategic Policy Approved by Council in June - Event Funding Model restructured to three streams Liveability, Visitor Economy and Flagship Funding - open for applications in July 2025.		Corporate & Commercial Services

Principal Activity 12.2.3: Support and encourage major events to be held in Orange for locals to enjoy and to attract visitors to the city.

DP Principal Activity Completed - Year 1

Principal Activity 12.2.4: Manage Council's event applications to assist groups deliver safe and well managed events on Council property.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 12.2.4.1	Assess applications and provide advice for events held on Council property.	Bi-annual reporting of number of applications assessed within agreed timeframes.	80% of Applications approved within agreed timeframes.	The Events team effectively managed event application this period with 100% of applications approved on time and the booking process was moved to an online and paperless system. In addition, they have attracted broader a range of events that will be held on Council property. The Events team also introduced and on-call system to support event organisers outside of usual business hours.		Corporate & Commercial Services

Principal Activity 12.2.5: Maintain and improve the Colour City Caravan Park (CCCP) to provide a variety of accommodation and outdoor activities.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 12.2.5.1	Maintain a three-star rating.	Bi-annual reporting of occupancy rates.	Maintain 50% occupancy rate across the year.	Caravan park occupancy declined to 48% in the second half of the year. Standard cabins averaged 62% occupancy, budget cabins 54%, and powered sites 47.2%. The cottage continued to underperform, with occupancy at just 24%. To improve accessibility and convenience, efforts were made to enable online bookings, which will be available from the beginning of July.		Corporate & Commercial Services
Action on Principal Activity 12.2.5.2	Deliver the BBRF-funded capital improvement program.	On-time on budget delivery.	Funded upgrade program to be completed by 30 June 2025.	Despite losing the funding, a storage shed was built, and old caravans were removed in June 2025. Concrete Path was installed between Ablution block and Camp Kitchen. Online booking system has been implemented and along with staff and roster review.		Corporate & Commercial Services

CSP Strategy 12.3: Strengthen the food culture and night-time economy within Orange.

Principal Activity 12.3.1: Implement the Live Music Action Plan.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 12.3.1.1	Deliver Live Music Action Plan activity.	Bi-annual reporting.	Delivery of Live Music Action Plan.	Council continued to deliver the Live Music Action Plan this period, including a Rainbow Festival concert and the well-attended 'Night in Nashville'. Privately organised events, such as the sold-out Tones and I show, further showcased regional support for live music. Funding for Zest Fest 2025 was approved, with the event set for November in the CBD.		Corporate & Commercial Services

CSP Objective 13: A smart, innovative and resilient industry sector.

CSP Strategy 13.1: Attract and grow strategic investment.

Principal Activity 13.1.1: Encourage and facilitate inward investment to grow the number of new inbound businesses to the city.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 13.1.1.1	Implement a targeted Business Incentive Program that offers financial and logistical incentives specifically designed to attract one new business to Orange each year and to support the expansion of an existing local business.	Bi-annual reporting of enquiries and progress of business and industry attraction.	Attract one new business to orange per year and support one existing business to grow and expand.	A new incentive program has not officially launched, but options for McNamara Pod, and Summer St retail audit presented to the Community Committee. In addition, the Economic Development Strategy was endorsed by Council this period. The program is ready following the commencement of the new Economic Development Manager.		Corporate & Commercial Services

Principal Activity 13.1.2: Deliver Business Development Initiatives as part of Future Cities Program.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 13.1.2.1	Support startups to operate their new businesses by providing McNamara Lane Pop-up Pods for lease.	Bi-annual reporting of lease agreements, rent received and business activation.	Four start ups supported through the rental of McNamara Lane Pop-up Pods.	The McNamara Pods continued to be used by businesses on a short-term basis. The were some gaps in tenancy at the end of the summer period of 24/25, with both pods occupied in the last quarter.		Corporate & Commercial Services

Principal Activity 13.1.3: Support the development of key industry sectors and/or precincts to support long-term growth.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 13.1.3.1	Unlocking the Bloomfield Health Precinct Business Case.	Bi-annual reporting.	Secure funding to enable Masterplan Development.	Business Case completed in previous year (28/06/2024).		Corporate & Commercial Services
Action on Principal Activity 13.1.3.2	Finalise Subdivision design and staged development following commercial advice.	Sales Results. Bi-annual reporting on design.	Sale Yards to market. Clergate Road subdivision design.	Saleyards DA approved. Moving to site preparation		Corporate & Commercial Services

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 13.1.3.3	Finalise sale of the old Conservatorium Site.	Bi-annual reporting on sales results.	Old Conservatorium site to market.	Property to market and call option issued with a finalisation date of 30 June 2026.		Corporate & Commercial Services

CSP Strategy 13.2: Support innovative industry sectors.

Principal Activity 13.2.1: Explore avenues to assist business development in the City in conjunction with the Orange Business Chamber and other peak industry and Government bodies.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 13.2.1.1	Deliver Economic Development Community Committee Action Plan.	Bi-annual reporting.	Action plan delivered.	All actions outlined in the Action Plan are progressing, including the assessment of pod relocation viability, development of the Sale Yards, and exploring the feasibility of repurposing vacant main street shops.		Corporate & Commercial Services

CSP Strategy 13.3: Support educational and training opportunities that retain young people, attract new workers and provide local employment.

Principal Activity 13.3.1: Establish a Recruitment Engagement Program focused on younger members of the local community.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 13.3.1.1	Continue a Recruitment Engagement Program focused on younger members of the local community.	Bi-annual reporting of increase engagement with schools and community events focused on recruitment.	Three events per calendar year.	We have held a 2025 Apprentices and Trainee Career information night, Career Information sessions for all local schools and attend the 2024 Jobs Expo.		Corporate & Commercial Services

CSP Strategy 13.4: Enhance opportunities for local business to grow and prosper.

Principal Activity 13.4.1: Provide relevant and up to date information to local businesses about grants, relevant programs and policy changes.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 13.4.1.1	Develop and distribute electronically distributed mail newsletter to local businesses.	Bi-annual reporting to Economic Development Community Committee.	Four electronically distributed mail newsletters per year.	Decision taken to utilise the Business Orange and Orange 360 newsletters to business rather than creating additional mailing lists. Councill is providing up to date information to our businesses via these two resources.		Corporate & Commercial Services

CSP Objective 14: Transport services, connectivity and infrastructure that support community, tourism, business and industry.

CSP Strategy 14.1: Access to connected and affordable public transport within the city.

Principal Activity 14.1.1: Maintain existing public bus stops within the Council road reserves.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 14.1.1.1	Install new, and upgrade existing, bus stops at the request and funding of Transport for NSW.	Number of bus stops maintained.	20% of all bus stops maintained/updated per year.	Department of Transport grant funding was fully utilised during the first half of 24/25 with the Wentworth Lane bus stop completion.		Technical Services

Principal Activity 14.1.2: Approve through recommendations of the Traffic Committee the extension and enhancement of the public bus routes proposed by Transport for NSW.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 14.1.2.1	Provision of recommendations to the City of Orange Traffic Committee for extension or enhancement requests to existing public bus routes from Transport for NSW.	Number of requests reviewed.	100% of requests from Transport for NSW provided to the City of Orange Traffic Committee for determination.	Recommendations have been submitted to Orange Traffic Committee.		Technical Services

Principal Activity 14.1.3: Support the maintenance of the existing bus services operating throughout Orange, Mt Canobolas, Spring Hill, Millthorpe, Lucknow and Molong.

DP Principal Activity Completed - Year 2

CSP Strategy 14.2: Strengthen public and private rail, coach and air services.

Principal Activity 14.2.1: Operate the Orange Airport.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 14.2.1.1	Ensure the airport meets requirements of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority and the Office of Transport Security.	All annual safety surveys are completed and Airport Security is upheld.	100% compliance.	The Orange Airport continues to meet CASA and Office of Transport security requirements.		Technical Services

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 14.2.1.2	Annual technical inspection.	Survey has been undertaken and copy sent to CASA.	One Annual Survey to be completed.	Annual Technical inspection which was started in in the previous period and completed this reporting period.		Technical Services
Action on Principal Activity 14.2.1.3	Obstacle-limitation survey.	Survey has been undertaken and copy sent to CASA.	One annual survey to be completed.	Completed and submitted to CASA in the first half of 24/25.		Technical Services
Action on Principal Activity 14.2.1.4	Annual emergency-training exercise.	Design and conduct annual emergency exercise.	One annual exercise to be under taken.	The annual emergency training exercise had to be postponed in the first half of the year due to weather. It was successfully completed this period.		Technical Services

Principal Activity 14.2.2: Undertake upgrades of Airport precinct.

DP Principal Activity Completed - Year 2

CSP Strategy 14.3: Support initiatives for improved connectivity between Orange and capital cities and regional towns.

Principal Activity 14.3.1: Lobby relevant Government authorities for improved private sector and public transport linkages.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 14.3.1.1	Report on meetings and interactions for improved transport linkages with ORAG.	Bi-annual reporting of meetings held and recommendations implemented.	At least four ORAG meetings per year.	Council continued provide support to ORAG and report to Council on outcomes. The Minister has announced a $2million feasibility study into extending daily passenger rail services to Orange.		Corporate & Commercial Services

Principal Activity 14.3.2: Support the Orange Rail Action Group.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 14.3.2.1	Council provision of a delegate and venue for each ORAG Meeting.	Bi-annual reporting of meeting discussions, action items, and progress on implemented recommendations.	Participation in a minimum of four meetings per year.	Council continues to support the Orange Rail Action Group. The Minister visited Orange in April 2025 and announced $2million investment in a viability project for the stabling of the NSW Rail Fleet in Orange. Council will continue to advocate for improved rail services to the region in addition to the advocacy work done by Member for Orange, Phil Donato.		Corporate & Commercial Services

Principal Activity 14.3.3: Advocate for connected and affordable public transport within the city directly with Transport for NSW in Strategic and Operational Regional Transport Forums in partnership with the Central Joint Organisation (JO).

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 14.3.3.1	Advocate for connected and affordable public transport within the city directly with Transport for NSW in Strategic and Operational Regional Transport Forums in partnership with the Central Joint Organisation (JO).	Number of Regional Transport Forums attended.	Council representation at all Regional Transport Forums.	The Mayor, Chief Executive Officer and Director met with Regional Transport Minister, Local Member and senior TfNSW staff at both the Integrated Transport Session and Orange Passenger Rail Forum, noting the improvements to bus services within the city and advocating for improved rail links and services to Sydney.		Technical Services

THEME 4
Collaborate
HIGHLIGHTS
Strong Community Engagement via Digital Channels
• Council reached 749,924 people on Facebook and 67,836 on Instagram between January and July 2025.
• Published 812 social media posts and 60 news articles, with 207,981 website sessions.
Improved Customer Service Performance
• Customer Service answered 14,136 calls with a 73% Grade of Service (answered within 30 seconds).
• 6,853 CRMs were entered, showing responsiveness and efficiency in service delivery.
Extensive Public Engagement Activities
• Over 30 matters exhibited for public feedback.
• Engagements included surveys for the Rainbow Festival, Waste Contract, Budget/ CSP, and Electrify Everything event.
MAJOR PROJECTS & PROGRAMS
Service Review Program Implementation
• A new Service Review Framework was established and overseen by the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC).
• The Service Review Program remains a critical mechanism for promoting continuous improvement and reinforcing organisational accountability.
SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS
45
Total Operational Plan indicators
43
Target Met
2
Target not Met
Delivery Program/Operational Plan Progress Report – H2 – 2024/2025
52

THEME 4:: COLLABORATE

CSP Objective 15: An informed community.

CSP Strategy 15.1: Deliver communication that is open, accessible, meaningful and regular across a range of media.

Principal Activity 15.1.1: Increase community engagement across communication channels by delivering rich content that encourages audiences to follow and share information and positively positions Orange City Council work to its communities and visitors.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 15.1.1.1	Inform the Community about Council's activities through advertising in the local media, boosting social posts on Council's social media channels and updating information on Council's website.	Frequency and audience reach of advertising and engagement with boosted social media posts. Monthly reporting of activity (frequency and reach) of communication activity and channel engagement.	The Community is informed of Council activities; Achieve an annual percentage increase in engagement across all social media channels.	At June 30 2025, Council had 17,453 Facebook followers and 3971 Instagram followers. In the six months from January to July 2025, Council's Facebook had a reach of 749,924 and 67,836 on Instagram. Across the platforms there were 812 posts. During the period Council published 60 news articles. The Council website attracted a total of 207,981 sessions, as recorded by Google Analytics, demonstrating a high level of user engagement and interaction over the given period.		Corporate & Commercial Services

CSP Strategy 15.2: Promote organisational culture that delivers excellent customer service and continuous improvement.

Principal Activity 15.2.1: Develop Customer Service Charter and Service Delivery Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 15.2.1.1	Finalise and implement the Customer Service Charter across all departments. Investigate an integrated system for real-time tracking of service delivery KPIs, including customer satisfaction, call and email response times, and after-hours calls.	Bi-annual reporting of customer satisfaction and call response efficiency.	Meet or exceed all established service delivery KPIs by 30 June 2025.	Principles and standards in the Customer Service Obligation Policy were met over the period. Totals for the reporting period: Total number of CRMs entered was 6853 (1 Jan - 30 Jun 25), The total number of calls answered by Customer Service: 14,136, Grade of Service (answered within 30 seconds): 73%, Average talk time: 1:18 minutes. The Customer Service Charter was de-prioritised across all departments following a change of Director.		Corporate & Commercial Services

Principal Activity 15.2.2: Implement consistent customer centric language across all Council's correspondence and touch points.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 15.2.2.1	Monitor implementation of the Style Guide to ensure consistent use of customer-centric language in all Council communications and interactions.	Bi-annual reporting of staff performance in utilising customer-centric language.	Achieve an increase in staff compliance with using customer-centric language in Council communications within the first year of implementation.	The development of a Style Manual for writing and editing is under way.		Corporate & Commercial Services

Principal Activity 15.2.3: Refurbish Civic Centre foyer to be more accessible and welcoming to customers and support positive and proactive interactions.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 15.2.3.1	Secure funding for concept design.	Bi-annual reporting on refurbishment progress.	Concept Design for Civic Centre foyer and business case for funding.	Design phase completed and provided to Executive Leadership Team.		Corporate & Commercial Services

Principal Activity 15.2.4: Improve Development Application Process to businesses and the Orange community to facilitate sustainable growth of the city.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 15.2.4.1	Improve assessment turnaround for Development Application by reviewing procedures for Council's pre-lodgement advisory service.	Bi-annual reporting of percentage of DA's determined within statutory timeframe.	Development applications determined within a median time of 35 days.	Assessment turnaround times have improved over the past six months. Council's Pre-Development Application advisory service continues to support applicants with valuable guidance throughout the planning process.		Development Services

Principal Activity 15.2.5: Provide improved internal property information systems.

DP Principal Activity Completed - Year 2

CSP Strategy 15.3: Provide opportunities for widespread and quality engagement and, where appropriate, shared decision making.

Principal Activity 15.3.1: Engage with the community to facilitate shared decision making on the services and works delivered by the Orange City Council.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 15.3.1.1	Continue public exhibition of matters put to Council.	Bi-annual reporting of community engagement activities conducted.	Exhibit issues to meet legislative requirements as well as high public interest or impact matters.	Council exhibited more than 30 matters during the period including Strategic Policy reviews, planning matters and plans of management for open space.		Corporate & Commercial Services
Action on Principal Activity 15.3.1.2	Undertake engagement activities to involve the community in Council decision making process.	Bi-annual reporting of community engagement activities conducted.	Community views are provided to council as part of the decision making process following Councils Engagement Policy.	Engagement for the period included: Rainbow Festival post event surveys for both attendees and vendors; Waste contract - more than 1700 participants; Budget/CSP adoption; Experience Orange post event surveys for both attendees and vendors; Orange Active Transport Strategy; Open Space and Recreation Strategy; Electrify Everything post event survey.		Corporate & Commercial Services

Principal Activity 15.3.2: Develop a stakeholder engagement approach to build relationships and ensure key stakeholders are informed of Orange City Council activities.

DP Principal Activity Completed - Year 2

CSP Objective 16: Leaders in our community.

CSP Strategy 16.1: Encourage and support residents to pursue leadership roles at Council.

Principal Activity 16.1.1: Implement Leadership Upskill and Employee Speak Up Programs.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 16.1.1.1	Continuous improvement in leader lead conversations on career.	Bi-annual reporting of career conversation documents and action plans developed.	10% increase in career advancing learning and development.	100% of employees are given the opportunity for career conversations. There was 14% more on learning and development relating to professional development training than the previous financial year.		Corporate & Commercial Services

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 16.1.1.2	Develop and implement leadership and employee training based on the needs analysis and outcomes from the Employee Engagement Survey conducted by 30 June 2025.	Bi-annual reporting of training completed.	25 leaders (managers and directors) complete training.	All Managers and Directors completed Leaders Guide to Managing Performance.		Corporate & Commercial Services

CSP Strategy 16.2: Support community organisations and groups to deliver services and programs.

Principal Activity 16.2.1: Deliver Council's Small Donations Fund to support the community to deliver services and programs.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 16.2.1.1	Administer Council's Small Grants Program.	Bi-annual reporting of administration of Council's Small Grants Program.	Deliver the remaining rounds of funding through the small grants program.	The Small Donations Program was completed in full for FY2025, with identified improvements made to the program ready for implementation on 1 July 2025.		Corporate & Commercial Services

CSP Strategy 16.3: Engage and train young people to develop our future leaders.

Principal Activity 16.3.1: Apprenticeship, Traineeship, Cadetships and Sponsorship Programs for local young employees to have a continuous pipeline of development within Council.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 16.3.1.1	Apprenticeship, Traineeship, Cadetships and Sponsorship Programs for local young employees to have a continuous pipeline of development within Council.	Bi-annual reporting; Bi-annual comparison of employee participation to local employee population in younger age groups.	Two Trainees engaged per annum; To have an employment % of council employees which is at least 0.5% higher than the comparative percentage of the average Orange population. Target for employment % is therefore currently 12.5% (15-25 year olds) and 14.5% (26-35 year olds).	Six additional trainees and apprentices commenced this period.		Corporate & Commercial Services

CSP Strategy 16.4: Develop and encourage staff to pursue leadership within Council.

Principal Activity 16.4.1: Implement Leadership Upskill program as part of the Council Culture Program.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 16.4.1.1	Continue Leadership Upskill Program as part of the Council Culture Program.	Bi-annual reporting of Leadership Programs and activities.	70% of leadership (Managers and Supervisors) involved in at least one element of Leadership Development.	Succession Planning, Performance Management and Performance Review Training were all held in 2024 and 2025 - over 70% of leadership attended these courses. Rural Management Challenge and Inspiring Leaders courses were also held.		Corporate & Commercial Services

CSP Objective 17: Strong relationships.

CSP Strategy 17.1: Work in partnership with other councils, regional organisations and State and Federal Governments.

Principal Activity 17.1.1: Support the Local Emergency Management Committee.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 17.1.1.1	Support local emergency planning in conjunction with key agencies.	Chair quarterly meetings and record meeting minutes and distribute.	Attend four meeting per year.	Staff continue to support local emergency planning through the Local Emergency Management Committee and other agencies.		Technical Services

Principal Activity 17.1.2: Support the Rural Fire Service.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 17.1.2.1	Provide ongoing support and advice to quarterly Bush Fire Management Committee meetings and Bush Fire Liaison Committee meetings.	Bi-annual reporting on meetings.	Attend four meetings per year.	Support and advise was provided to the quarterly Bush Fire Management Committee meetings and Bush Fire Liaison Committee meetings.		Technical Services
Action on Principal Activity 17.1.2.2	Attend Rural Fire Service Management Committee and Bush Fire Liaison Committee quarterly meetings.	Bi-annual reporting on meetings.	Attend four meetings per year.	Continuing to support Rural Fire Service at committee meetings.		Technical Services

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 17.1.2.3	Provide financial management assistance to Rural Fire Service.	Bi-annual reporting. Council to provide assistance through their Financial Department - Debtors/Creditors.	Service Provided.	Council's Finance Team continued to provided support to the RFS during this period.		Financial Services

Principal Activity 17.1.3: Engage with State and Federal Governments on funding and policy matters.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 9.1.3.3	Drought Resilience Project.	Bi-annual reporting.	Implementation of recommendations.	Commenced implementation phase. End date 28 November 2025.		Corporate & Commercial Services
Action on Principal Activity 17.1.3.1	Report activities of the Council showing advocacy on emerging strategic matters important to the City and region.	Report acknowledged by Council.	Half yearly report to Council on advocacy activities.	Council received a report went at its meeting on 18 February 2025 outlining Advocacy and Engagements.		Office of the Chief Executive

Principal Activity 17.1.4: Continue to support emergency services.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 17.1.4.1	Attend, chair, and provide support for the Local Emergency Management Committee meetings as the designated Chair and Local Emergency Management Officer, including offering backup and leadership in emergency situations.	Council appoints LEMO; LEMO to Chair meetings and provide support as required.	Appointment by Council; Four meetings to be attended.	Continuing to support Local Emergency Management Committee.		Technical Services

Principal Activity 17.1.5: Maintain sister-cities relationships with: Timaru, New Zealand, Orange, California and Mt Hagen, Papua New Guinea.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 17.1.5.1	Support opportunities for cultural exchange.	Bi-annual reporting of cultural exchange activities.	Hold at least two Sister City Community Committee meetings per year.	Draft MOU sent to intended Sister City link Zaporizhzhia in Ukraine. Invitation sent to High Commissioner of Papua New Guinea for visit to Orange in September. Letters sent to all Sister City links exploring ways to revitalise relationships as we move into a new Council term.		Corporate & Commercial Services

CSP Strategy 17.2: Attract external funding to deliver services, facilities and programs.

Principal Activity 17.2.1: Maintain membership of key lobby groups to advance regional priorities.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 17.2.1.1	Report on meetings and interactions with key lobby groups - including, but not limited to: * Central NSW Joint Organisation * Regional Development Australia * Regional Cities NSW * Orange 360 * NetWaste * Association of Mining-related Councils * Local Land Services * Government Ministers and Department Officers * LGNSW.	Bi-annual reporting of State & Federal Government lobbying activities.	Report acknowledged by Council.	A report was provided to Council at its Meeting on 18 February 2025, concerning Council's advocacy activities, incorporated details of engagements with key lobby groups.		Office of the Chief Executive

CSP Objective 18: Responsible Governance.

CSP Strategy 18.1: Provide representative, responsible and accountable community governance.

Principal Activity 18.1.1: Maintain the Delegations and sub-Delegations register.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 18.1.1.1	Review Sub-Delegations to Staff.	Published on Website by 30 June 2025.	Approved Sub-Delegations published on Council's Website by 30 June 2025.	The Review of Staff Sub-Delegations is complete pending finalisation with Directors and the Chief Executive Officer. The completion has taken longer than anticipated due to availability of suitably skilled staff. On review it was not intended to place these delegations on the Website, however it is noted that the Delegations to the CEO and specific appointments to staff has been published on Council's Website in late 2024.		Corporate & Commercial Services
Action on Principal Activity 18.1.1.2	Council Delegations and Sub-Delegations to the Chief Executive Officer reviewed and approved following 2024 Local Government Elections and new incoming Council.	Published on Website by 31 December 2024.	Approved Council Delegations and Sub-Delegations to the Chief Executive Officer published on Council's Website by 31 December 2024.	Delegations to the CEO and Specific Staff Delegations adopted 17 December 2024 and published on Council's Website.		Corporate & Commercial Services

Principal Activity 18.1.2: Co-ordinate with the Mayor and Councillors Training and Development Plans in accordance with requirements under the Local Government Act.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 18.1.2.1	Coordinate and implement Councillor Training and Development Plans, including induction training for the new Council.	Bi-annual reporting of Councillor attendance at identified training courses.	100% attendance and completion of Annual Training Plan by Councillors.	Professional development plans for Councillors were developed, and scheduled training sessions were delivered to those who elected to participate in professional development activities.		Office of the Chief Executive

Principal Activity 18.1.3: Investigate the digitisation of relevant hard copy files currently stored at Council's repository.

DP Principal Activity Completed - Year 1

Principal Activity 18.1.4: Develop and implement the suit of Integrated Planning and Reporting documents (IP&R).

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 18.1.4.1	Deliver IP&R documents for public exhibition and adoption.	IP&R documents considered by Council for 28-day exhibition and adopted by 30 June 2025.	Delivery of the State of the City Report, Annual Review, reviewed Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035, Delivery Plan 2025-2029, Operational Plan 2025-2026, Resourcing Strategy with 3 components: Longterm Financial Plan (10 years), Workforce Management Plan (4 years), Asset Management Plan (10 years), Community Engagement Strategy.	Council's IP&R Suite was adopted by Council in June 2025 following a public exhibition period. The contributions of key staff were instrumental in shaping the enhanced versions of the Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program, and Operational Plans including delivering a balanced budget for the coming financial year.		Corporate & Commercial Services
Action on Principal Activity 18.1.4.2	Develop a Service Review Program.	Reporting to ARIC on Service Reviews undertaken or in-progress, and implementation of the Service Review Framework.	Implementation of the Service Review Framework; conduct 1 Service Review; publish the Service Review Program in the Delivery Plan.	Council established a comprehensive Service Review Program, supported by a newly implemented review framework and overseen by the ARIC. One service review has been successfully completed, with an additional review in the planning stage.		Corporate & Commercial Services

Principal Activity 18.1.5: Develop the Business Continuity Plan for Council including the Business Continuity Policy, Framework and Business Impact Analysis.

DP Principal Activity Completed -Year 2

Principal Activity 18.1.6: Maintain a framework of relevant policies and procedures.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 18.1.6.1	All Strategic and Operational Policies reviewed in accordance with the review schedule.	Bi-annual reporting on progress.	All Strategic and Operational Policies reviewed in accordance with the review schedule.	Council has in place relevant policies and procedures which are periodically reviewed and updated. 22 Strategic Policies and four Operational Polices were approved during this period.		Corporate & Commercial Services

Principal Activity 18.1.7: Maintain Council's Corruption Prevention Framework.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 18.1.7.1	Review Corruption Prevention Framework and provide recommendations for continuous improvement.	Bi-annual reporting on progress.	Corruption Prevention Framework reviewed and 25% of recommendations for continuous improvement implemented.	Quarterly reporting to the ARIC on the Fraud & Corruption Prevention Framework continued during this period. Specific elements making up the framework were reviewed and outcomes reported to the ARIC. There were no outstanding items as at 30 June 2025.		Corporate & Commercial Services

Principal Activity 18.1.8: Review opportunities and areas for improvement through the controls review during the risk and controls self-assessment process and the risk in change process.

DP Principal Activity Completed - Year 2

Principal Activity 18.1.9: Embed the Enterprise Risk Management Framework and monitor that all risks remain within tolerance and that there is a strong control environment in place.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 18.1.9.1	Implement and Embed the Risk Management Framework.	Quarterly ELT and ARIC reporting on risk and control self-assessments.	All risks and controls reviewed by risk owners each quarter.	This period saw a continued positive implementation of the Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) framework across several high-profile projects and operational areas. This suggests that the framework is being applied effectively in key areas and this growing awareness and implementation of Council's risk framework is encouraging.		Corporate & Commercial Services

Principal Activity 18.1.10: Complete the four-year Internal Audit Program and implement any mandatory Internal Audit guidelines from the Office of Local Government.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 18.1.10.1	Complete the 2024/2025 Internal Audit Program.	Internal audits completed per the 2024/2025 plan.	Two audits completed by 30 June 2025.	One Internal Audit was completed during the period in accordance with the Internal Audit Program.		Corporate & Commercial Services

Principal Activity 18.1.11: Ensure that appropriate safety accreditation is achieved by Council.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 18.1.11.1	Completion of actions arising from ISO 45001 accreditation audit and maintenance of the Safety Framework (OP84) with continuous improvement.	Bi-annual reporting of ISO 45001 accreditation and audit improvement activities.	ISO 45001 accreditation maintained and 85% of improvement recommendations actioned.	Following the audit, accreditation for ISO 45001 was obtained. All actions identified were completed.		Corporate & Commercial Services

Principal Activity 18.1.12: Improve management of contractor safety.

DP Principal Activity Completed - Year 2

Principal Activity 18.1.13: Develop and resource an IT Operational Roadmap ensuring that Operational Projects reflect the goals and milestones of the IT and Spatial Strategies.

DP Principal Activity Completed - Year 1

Principal Activity 18.1.14: Continue to upgrade and implement core business, infrastructure and spatial systems as per the IT Operational Roadmap, ensuring that systems are current and fit-for-purpose while supporting business programs.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 18.1.14.1	Deliver IT Operations (Infrastructure), IT Business Systems (Applications), IT Spatial, and IT Cyber Roadmap Projects.	Bi-monthly reporting to the IT Steering Committee.	Roadmap projects delivered within agreed timeframes and on budget with stated business opportunities realised at delivery.	Microsoft Teams Calling, Voice Service Redesign, and CXOne Contact Centre were delivered on time and within budget. Timesheeting, Employee Kiosk, and BeSafe systems were also successfully deployed on time and within budget. The Spatial Strategy System replacement is on track for August 2026. Development of the E8 platform and Cybersecurity Roadmap is underway.		Corporate & Commercial Services

Principal Activity 18.1.15: Maintain strong internal communities or reference groups specifically to inform the IT and Spatial Strategies and foster digital engagement.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 18.1.15.1	Maintain and enhance internal communities or reference groups within MS Teams and the Intranet to facilitate ongoing discussions and input on IT and Spatial Strategies, fostering digital engagement among staff.	Frequency of engagement and participation within internal communities or reference groups dedicated to IT and Spatial Strategies.	Achieve at least 80% active participation from staff members in internal communities or reference groups within MS Teams and the Intranet dedicated to IT and Spatial Strategies.	Our internal communities across MS Teams and the Intranet are thriving, with strong staff engagement and seamless collaboration driving meaningful input into the IT roadmap and Spatial Strategies.		Corporate & Commercial Services

Principal Activity 18.1.16: Adopt Asset Management Strategies to align with Integrated Planning and Reporting documents.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 18.1.16.1	Compile strategies and report to Council.	AMS delivered to Council with draft budget for adoption each year.	AMS delivered to Council with draft budget for adoption each year.	The Asset Management Strategy was endorsed by Council in June 2025.		Technical Services

Principal Activity 18.1.17: Provide timely revaluation of capital value of assets.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 18.1.17.1	Undertake condition surveys and running models.	Review condition rating for the following years, 22/23 Buildings, 23/24 Gap year (no revaluation), 24/25 Roads and Drainage, 25/26 Parks, Open Spaces and Other Assets.	External valuation of Roads and Drainage in 2024/2025, Internal adjustment of asset model on all other asset classes.	Roads and Drainage condition surveys and models were completed on 30 July.		Technical Services

Principal Activity 18.1.18: Implement and enforce relevant Food Safety Legislation through inspections and education.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 18.1.18.1	Carry out food shop inspections within the city boundaries.	Assess food shops in accordance with the requirements of the Food Act and Regulations and Food Standards Codes.	Complete 100% of the food shop inspections.	100% of food shops were inspected with a majority achieving a five star result.		Development Services

CSP Strategy 18.2: Ensure financial stability and support efficient ongoing operation.

Principal Activity 18.2.1: Maintain and improve storage and facilities for assets at Council's Works Depot.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 18.2.1.1	Regularly maintain and clean storage and facilities.	To maintain and clean Works Depot on a regular basis.	% Compliant.	Standard maintenance and cleaning operations were carried out throughout this reporting period.		Technical Services

Principal Activity 18.2.2: Introduce and utilise automated payroll system with payroll staff having minimal manual keystroke entry and manual checking.

DP Principal Activity Completed - Year 2

Principal Activity 18.2.3: Provide a consistent, supportive and innovative work environment for all Orange City Council employees.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 18.2.3.1	Improve onboarding programs.	Survey results from new employees and their supervisors.	80% positive outcomes to questions within the new employee onboarding survey.	All employees were offered the opportunity to provide feedback through an online survey and/or in person at the Employee Reconnect Morning Tea with the Executive Leadership Team (ELT). Feedback was very positive.		Corporate & Commercial Services
Action on Principal Activity 18.2.3.2	Provide improvements based on the outcomes of the Employee Engagement Survey to identify areas where additional support can be provided.	Implementation of Cultural improvement project as identified by the Employee Engagement Survey results.	100% of project work completed.	100% of the Employee Strategy Actions from the survey were complete by the end of the review period.		Corporate & Commercial Services

Principal Activity 18.2.4: Monitor and review the core needs of the Council Service throughout the four year Cycle of Workforce Strategy.

DP Principal Activity Completed - Year 2

Principal Activity 18.2.5: Monitor patterns of use to identify employee transition possibilities.

DP Principal Activity Completed - Year 1

Principal Activity 18.2.6: Conduct Employee Safety & Wellbeing Programs.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 18.2.6.1	Conduct Wellbeing Program.	OCC Wellbeing Program is reviewed and completed on an annual basis.	8 Wellbeing activities are provided to employees each calendar year.	Wellness Week conducted July 2024 that hosted numerous events and businesses that support wellness across our business. Managing your own wellbeing. Managing for team wellbeing was held for our leaders. As well as R U Ok day, D&A, Flu Vaccinations, Hearing Tests, Fitness Passport, Manual Handling Training, Mental Health First Aid Training.		Corporate & Commercial Services

Principal Activity 18.2.7: Develop and maintain centralized, high-level IT and Spatial Strategies that ensure IT programs, systems and services support enterprise-wide needs.

DP Principal Activity Completed - Year 2

Principal Activity 18.2.8: Maintain Council's fleet in accordance of the manufacturers specifications using Council's workshop and contractors.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 18.2.8.1	Maintain Council's Fleet in accordance with the Manufacturers specifications using Council's workshop and contractors.	Maintenance of Council's fleet, available for use when required.	96% availability of Fleet and Plant when required.	The fleet is maintained in accordance with manufacturers' specifications.		Technical Services

Principal Activity 18.2.9: Replace fleet and plant as required.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 18.2.9.1	Replace fleet and plant as per the 2024/2025 Capital Works Schedule.	Fleet and plant purchased in alignment with the 2024-2025 Capital Works Schedule.	Purchases are completed and within budget.	Continued management of Councils Plant & Fleet replacement schedule.		Technical Services

Principal Activity 18.2.10: Design and deliver programmed maintenance, inspection and testing programs to ensure all buildings fulfil relevant statutory compliance obligations. Includes essential building services such as fire, electrical and asbestos.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 18.2.10.1	Design and deliver programmed maintenance, inspection and testing programs to ensure all buildings fulfil relevant statutory compliance obligations. Includes essential building services such as fire, electrical and asbestos.	Complete five-year asbestos register condition survey. Complete review of all statutory requirements across building portfolio. Undertake full audit of building portfolio to ensure RCD compliance.	Full portfolio compliance during 2024/2025.	Programmed maintenance, inspection and testing program delivery continued on track this period.		Technical Services

Principal Activity 18.2.11: Deliver contracted programmed maintenance and facility services that ensure continued effective operation of the building portfolio. Includes functions such as HVAC, auto doors, security and cleaning.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 18.2.11.1	Deliver contracted programmed maintenance and facility services that ensure continued effective operation of the building portfolio. Includes functions such as HVAC, auto doors, security and cleaning.	Develop tender scope and documentation for cleaning and HVAC contract renewals. Complete monthly contractor performance reviews for HVAC, security, and cleaning and fire services.	Ensure effective delivery of contractor services across portfolio.	All scheduled contracted maintenance and facility services were successfully completed during the reporting period.		Technical Services

Principal Activity 18.2.12: Plan and deliver Building Capital Renewal Programs that prioritise the available budget to projects addressing safety, compliance and operational risks.

OP Code	Operational Action on Principal Activity	Performance Measure	Target	Comments	Status	Responsible Division
Action on Principal Activity 18.2.12.1	Plan and deliver Building Capital Renewal Programs that prioritise the available budget to projects addressing safety, compliance, and operational risks.	Bi-annual reporting of projects identified and completed.	Deliver all projects identified as priority works for term.	Building Capital Renewal Programs were successfully completed during the reporting period.		Technical Services

ORANGE
CITY COUNCIL
Orange City Council
Wiradjuri Country
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Orange NSW 2800
P 02 6393 8000
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5.8 Children's Services Books

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/1958
AUTHOR: Scott Maunder, Director Community, Recreation and Cultural Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the Council Meeting of 19 August 2025, Cr Duffy requested a list to be provided of books made available to students at Council owned Early Learning Centres and Preschools.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "4.1 Provide a diverse range of creative and cultural facilities, services and programs that meet community needs".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the report on Children's Services Books.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council's key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

Service/Project Delivery	Nil
Financial	Nil
Reputation/Political	Nil
Environment	Nil
Compliance	Nil
People & WHS	Nil
Information Technology/Cyber Security	Nil

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Council staff were requested to provide a list of titles of books held at Council's Early Learning Centres that were available for children and parents to access.

I have been advised that Council does not hold a catalogue of these books. This is a common practice across early childhood facilities and school-based libraries. Books that are in the services include educator resource books, service owned books, and books on loan from Central West Libraries.

5.8 Children's Services Books

To compile a catalogue of books would require many 100's of hours of staff time and would require purchase (or licence expansion) of a management system to do so.

To my knowledge Council staff have not received a complaint regarding any titles held.

Councillors are very welcome to attend any of the services to view the books at any time. Should they wish to do so these visits can be arranged.

Some images of the holdings follow.

Spring Street

5.8 Children's Services Books

Courallie Park

5.8 Children's Services Books

Yarrawong

5.8 Children's Services Books

Occasional Care

5.9 The Resilience Project School Wellbeing Program

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/1913
AUTHOR: Kate Shepherd, Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2021 Council has been working with the Resilience Project to deliver a School Wellbeing Program for local schools.

Funding support has been provided through various grant projects, direct student contribution to the cost of the project of $20 per participant and also $50,000 support from the Orange Aboriginal Medical service.

Support from Grant programs ceases at the end of 2025.

Council has not contributed any direct funds to the project since its inception in Orange.

This report seeks Council's consideration of continuing support in 2026 under a co-funding model between Council, the participating Schools and The Resilience Project themselves.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "2.1 Deliver sport and recreational facilities, programs & activities that are accessible and affordable to service the community into the future".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1 **In principal support the continued partnership with The Resilience Project to deliver the School Wellbeing Program across participating schools in 2026.**

2 **Consider allocation of $27,500 to support the program's delivery in local schools for 2026 in the Quarterly Budget.**

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council's key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

Service/Project Delivery	Nil
Financial	No long term impact.
Reputation/Political	Perceived Risk of not supporting Schools/Community.
Environment	Nil.
Compliance	Nil.
People & WHS	Nil.
Information Technology/Cyber Security	Nil.

5.9 The Resilience Project School Wellbeing Program

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Resilience Project (TRP) has been a transformative initiative for schools in the Orange region, delivering evidence-based mental health education that fosters resilience, emotional literacy, and wellbeing among students, educators, and families.

With Orange City Council's support, TRP has reached thousands of young people, embedding positive mental health strategies into classrooms and communities. As external grant funding ceases, continued investment from Council is essential to sustain this impactful program.

The Resilience Program is linked directly to the Australian Schools Curriculum framework, will support schools' capacity to teach and embed positive mental health strategies for students to become happier and more resilient. In addition, it provides parents and caregivers ideas on how best to support themselves and their children in building resilience, leading to a more resilient wider community.

What's in the Wellbeing Program

- Digital presentations & Staff Professional Development
- Teaching and Learning Curriculum
- Wellbeing Survey and Analysis
- School Partnership Manager

Project Objectives

- Continue to work with eight schools across Orange and the surrounding areas to deliver a positive wellbeing program. Provide opportunity for broader community participation in the program.
- Continue to offer the program to schools that teaches young Australians to be mentally healthy and develop personal tools and strategies to build individual resilience.
- Create a preventative and proactive platform to build personal and emotional resilience among young people and the broader Orange community.

The eight schools who participated in the program in 2025 were Borenore Public School, Orange Public School, Millthorpe Public School, Orange High School, Orange East Public School, Clergate Public School, Bletchington Public School and Manildra Public School.

Project Outcomes

Research from the Monash University has found after six years with the program, TRP students showed a:

- 47% reduction of depressive symptoms
- 34% reduction of anxiety symptoms
- Higher scores across all positive mental health outcomes, including life satisfaction, hope and coping skills.

Student Wellbeing and Emotional Literacy

TRP's curriculum is designed to foster lifelong habits that support mental health. Students engage with age-specific lessons, digital presentations, and personal wellbeing journals that promote emotional awareness and regulation.

Educator and Family Engagement

- TRP supports educators through professional development and wellbeing resources, helping build resilient school cultures. Families are also engaged through video series and practical tools to reinforce GEM principles at home.
- Teachers have adopted daily gratitude practices and emotional check-ins.

5.9 The Resilience Project School Wellbeing Program

- Staff wellbeing initiatives, such as GEM-focused morning teas, foster supportive environments.

The Resilience Project Program Investment Proposal

As external funding is no longer available, TRP have proposed a funding model that ensures the financial responsibility is spread evenly across all three stakeholders (TRP, Orange City Council and the Schools), while still guaranteeing that the program remains accessible to each of the 8 proposed schools and 2,630 students.

Service	Quantity	Unit price	Contribution Spilt			Total
			TRP	Orange Council	School	
Inspire – Professional Development & Digital Presentations	8	3,500	28,000			28,000
Engage – Teaching & Learning Curriculum	2,630	20		26,300	26,300	52,600
Shipping & Handling	1	1,200		1,200		1,200
Contribution Split Total			**$28,000**	**$27,500**	**$26,300**	**$81,800**

The Resilience Project has delivered measurable, meaningful improvements in student wellbeing, educator resilience, and community mental health across Orange. Continued funding from Orange City Council will ensure that this momentum is sustained, allowing more young people to thrive emotionally and socially.

ATTACHMENTS

1 The Resilience Project - Orange City Council proposal - August 2025, D25/103428⇩

2026 School Wellbeing Program

Orange City Council Proposal

August, 2025

Our mission is to teach positive mental health strategies to help communities become happier and more resilient.
Through evidence-based presentations, workshops, events, wellbeing resources and programs we share the benefits of Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness (GEM) to support mental health in classroom, staffroom and family home.

Why TRP?

We're proud to partner with **1,100+ school communities in rural, regional and metro areas across Australia** to provide practical, evidence-based programs that support students, educators and families through a preventative approach.

Based on the evidence-based principles of **Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness (GEM) and Emotional Literacy**, our program equips students with lifelong wellbeing habits, builds educator resilience and empowers families to support wellbeing at home.

Through **multiple independent evaluations,** students participating in our School Wellbeing Program have shown measurable improvements compared to students at schools that aren't involved. Click on the logos below for further information on each evaluation.

THE UNIVERSITY of ADELAIDE

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

MONASH University

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

The Resilience Project - School Wellbeing Program

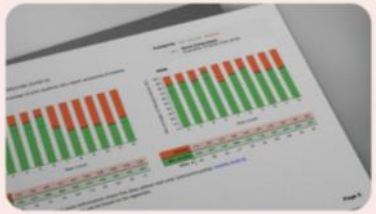
What's in our wellbeing program?

Digital Presentations & Staff PD

Age specific videos for students (F-12), a video series for parents and professional development for staff.

Teaching and learning curriculum

A year long program with lessons tailored to every year level, accessed via a dedicated online teaching hub, and individual student journals.



Wellbeing Survey and Analysis

An annual survey providing you with a benchmark to track the resilience of your students each year.

School Partnership Manager

A dedicated support teacher to provide year-round assistance, helping you implement the program in your specific school setting.

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

Participating Orange Schools

Over the past three years, **Orange City Council's** support has enabled local schools to access The Resilience Project (TRP) Wellbeing Program, embedding positive mental health education into classrooms and reaching thousands of students and families.

In 2023/2024, this funding supported **11 schools and 2,943 students**, with **8 schools and 2,630 students continuing in 2025**. This is an outstanding achievement that we can all be proud of, reflecting the significant impact on the wellbeing of young people in the Orange community.

2023/24 Participating Schools

1. Borenore Public School
2. Orange Public School
3. Millthorpe Public School
4. Orange High School
5. Orange East Public School
6. Clergate Public School
7. Bletchington Public School
8. Manildra Public School
9. Molong Central School
10. Spring Terrace Public School
11. Canobolas Public School

2025 Participating Schools

1. Borenore Public School
2. Orange Public School
3. Millthorpe Public School
4. Orange High School
5. Orange East Public School
6. Clergate Public School
7. Bletchington Public School
8. Manildra Public School

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

What Schools in the Orange City Council region love about us...

"We've had a huge win with one of our students that joined us in 2025. School refusal and reluctance to leave their parents was really challenging. In one of our Emotional Literacy lessons we discussed our emotions. We spoke about our feelings in the morning and what that looks and feels like. The next day, for the first time, the student entered the school grounds from the gate by themselves, with no tears. The day after that, the student walked themselves from the car to the school without any tears, and I 100% put that down to the lessons we have been delivering. We are loving the lessons, looking forward to continuing the consistency of the delivery each week."
Borenore Public School

"Creating connections between the students and their Year Advisor"

"Students showing empathy and helping others access support when they need it. "
Orange High School

"It's wonderful to see that there has been an increase in conversations, particularly around gratitude.."
Clergate Public School

"To witness a previously skeptical colleague who has now instigated daily gratitude conversations in the classroom"

"Teachers doing regular GEM chats in addition to teaching Lessons has helped to keep the concepts of TRP in front of mind"
Millthorpe Public School

"We'll be hosting a staff morning tea focused on teacher wellbeing. This will be a wonderful chance for us to check in with one another, share experiences, and foster a supportive environment among our team. Regularly connecting in this way is essential for ensuring that we all feel supported and valued, which ultimately benefits both our staff and our students."
Orange Public School

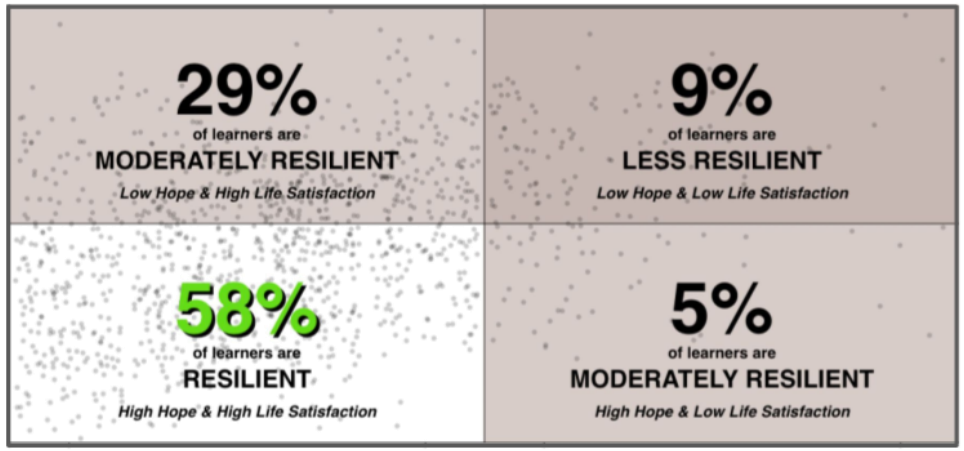
THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

Attachment 1 The Resilience Project - Orange City Council proposal - August 2025

Current State of Play
Orange Community

As part of The Resilience Project School Wellbeing program, Students in years 3-12 complete the **Resilient Youth survey**, which provides a wellbeing profile specific to each school. The non identified responses have been captured across all schools and collated to provide a snapshot of students resilience across all participating schools

Only half of participating students, from schools in the Orange City Council region, fall into the 'Resilient' quadrant which provides a compelling reason for continued support.



Proven impact

An independent evaluation by **Monash University** examined the effectiveness of our TRP School Wellbeing Program using a sample of over 40,000 secondary school students across Australia.

The findings speak to the **significant benefits of its long-term implementation** for the mental health of school communities. The longer students and communities remain in the program, the stronger and more lasting the outcomes.

The eight schools supported by Council have been engaged with the TRP program for three or more years and with continued involvement and support are well placed to experience the same positive mental health outcomes.

MONASH University

After six years with the program, TRP students showed a:

- 47% reduction of depressive symptoms.
- 34% reduction of anxiety symptoms.
- Higher scores across all positive mental health outcomes, including life satisfaction, hope and coping skills.

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

Program Investment

$3,500 + $20 per student (excl. GST)

Understanding that external grant funding is no longer available, we are proposing a model that will see shared financial investment from TRP, the schools and Orange City Council to support ongoing implementation of the program into 2026.

Service	Quantity	Unit price	Contribution Split			TOTAL
			TRP	Orange Council	Schools	
Inspire - Professional Development & Digital Presentations (TRP pays 100%)	8	$3,500	$28,000			$28,000
Engage - Teaching & Learning Curriculum (Council pays 50% and Schools pay 50%)	2630	$20		$26,300	$26,300	$52,600
Shipping and handling (Council pays 100%)	1	$1,200		$1,200		$1,200
Contribution Split Total:			$28,000	$27,500	$26,300	$81,800

We are seeking a contribution of $27,500 plus gst from Orange City Council.

This funding model ensures the financial responsibility is spread evenly across all three stakeholders, while still guaranteeing that the program remains accessible to each of the 8 proposed schools and 2,630 students.

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

Next steps

1. Reach out to us with any questions you may have. We're here to help!

2. Confirm your participation as a School funder by emailing

We are so grateful for the opportunity to work with Orange City Council over the past few years and for your generosity in providing funds to allow us to collectively support and impact the schools in your region in such a positive way. We hope to continue this partnership into 2026.

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

5.10 Grieving Mother Statue Update

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/1773
AUTHOR: Kate Shepherd, Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In response to a question taken on notice from Councillor Mileto in 2024, Council staff were requested to engage with the Country Women's Association (CWA) regarding potential options to recognise the 'Grieving Mother'. This followed feedback from the Orange RSL Sub-Branch and Council's subsequent resolution not to proceed with the proposed 'Grieving Widow' statue.

Council has since liaised with the CWA and their formal response is attached for Council's consideration.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "14.1 Work in partnership with other councils, regional organisations and State and Federal Governments".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council acknowledge the correspondence from the Country Women's Association.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council's key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

Service/Project Delivery	Nil
Financial	Nil
Reputation/Political	Nil
Environment	Nil
Compliance	Nil
People & WHS	Nil
Information Technology/Cyber Security	Nil

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Following review of the options proposed by the Country Women's Association (CWA), staff have assessed the potential costs associated with implementation, based on Council's current Fees and Charges document.

5.10 Grieving Mother Statue Update

Should Council wish to proceed with any of the suggested options, consideration must be given to the necessary approvals for the installation of garden furniture and its placement within public spaces.

Location	Description	Fee (incl. GST)
Orange Botanic Garden	Steal frame timber slated seat, with OBG (*Orange Botanic Garden*) designed into the leg casting at each end	$3,130
Cook Park	Furphy seating (park bench)	$2,980

Subject to approvals, the cost of a commemorative plaque would vary depending on several factors, including:

- Plaque size
- Engraved wording
- Location and surface for installation
- Whether a monument is required for mounting

If a monument is deemed necessary to support the plaque, the estimated cost for its provision is $245, with plaque costs additional to this amount.

ATTACHMENTS

1 Mayoral Correspondence - Country Women's Association - Proposed Memorial, D25/105349⇩

Country Women's Association of NSW
Orange Branch PO Box 621 Orange NSW 2800
Email: ABN No.82 318 909 926

Attn: Kate Shephard
Executive Assistant
Orange City Council

7 August 2025

Dear Kate

Thank you for your invitation to contribute to the discussion about Councillor Mileto's proposal for a permanent memorial to the mothers and families who experienced grief and anxiety as a consequence of war. We would like to commend Councillor Mileto's sentiments in proposing this tribute. War continues to take an enormous toll on women in their many and varied roles, civilian and military, and this is often not recognised or appreciated.

The proposal for a monument was discussed at Orange Branch's June meeting. As you probably know the Country Women's Association of NSW aims to improve conditions for women and children. Since our inception in 1922 we have sought to encourage and empower women to advocate and achieve positive change for their communities. Given this aim our preference is to direct any funds we raise into practical projects that directly support communities. In general, we would prefer that money was spent giving assistance to women now living in Orange.

If Council is able to attract cultural or arts funding for a monument, we would be happy to take part in further consultation. Members made the following points:

- Our preference is that any tribute should not just be to grieving mothers but to the wartime contribution of all local women, and their courage, resilience and stoicism in the face of loneliness and loss.
- We would prefer the symbolism to be positive, strong and hopeful rather than grief stricken.
- Instead of an expensive new monument we would support Council investigating dedication of an existing site such as a garden at Cook Park as a tribute to women who "kept the home fires burning". Alternatively, we would support something like the erection of a plaque at the gates to Orange Botanic Gardens, or a garden seat, dedicating the gardens to peaceful reflection on the contribution of women in all wars. Newer sites may provide further or more suitable opportunities.

Yours sincerely

Secretary
CWA Orange Branch
PO Box 621
Orange NSW 2800

Pride in our past – Faith in our future

5.11 Register of Delegations - Specific Appointments Update

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/1768
AUTHOR: Janessa Constantine, Manager Corporate Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report requests additional positions be added to the delegations register where Council, as the regulatory authority/body, appoints Authorised Officers, Enforcement Officers or other specific appointments.

Each appointment has been reviewed and approved by the relevant Directors, Manager Corporate Governance and the Chief Executive Officer.

The Appointment delegations were added to the Register of Delegations adopted by Council at its meeting of 17 December 2024. This was to ensure Council was meeting legislative and regulatory compliance with regard to specific positions and the activities undertaken as identified in the relevant legislation.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "15.1 Provide representative, responsible and accountable community governance".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Sections 226 and 337 of the Local Government Acts 1993 (which sets out functions that Council cannot delegate) is a requirement to observe.

The following legislation outlines the appointment requirements of authorised persons and officers, along with allowable actions relevant to the suggested additions:

- The Biosecurity Act 2015
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

RECOMMENDATION

That Council appoint the specific positions outlined in the report and that the Register of Delegations be updated accordingly.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council's key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

Service/Project Delivery	Incorrect or unclear delegations may disrupt operational efficiency or service delivery.
Financial	Delegated authority may result in financial decisions with budgetary or procurement risks.
Reputation/Political	Misuse or misunderstanding of delegated powers could lead to reputational damage or political scrutiny.

5.11 Register of Delegations - Specific Appointments Update

Environment	Delegated decisions may influence environmental outcomes or compliance with sustainability goals.
Compliance	Inaccurate appointments may breach legislative or governance requirements.
People & WHS	Delegations may affect staff responsibilities, accountability, or safety-related decision-making.
Information Technology/Cyber Security	Delegated access to systems may introduce risks to data security or IT governance.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The following appointments are proposed and the Register of Delegations will be updated to reflect as such:

Position	Delegation Code	Delegation	Legislation
Biosecurity Officer	APP-BSA-1	Appointment - The position holder is appointed as an authorised officer within the meaning of the Biosecurity Act 2015.	Biosecurity Act 2015
Senior Planner Town Planner Coordinator Development Assessments Coordinator Strategic Planning Senior Strategic Planner	APP-EP&A-1	Appointment - The position holder is appointed as an investigation officer under the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979.	Environmental Planning& Assessment Act 2016
	APP-LGA-1	Appointment - The position holder is authorised to act as an authorised person within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1993, including for the purposes of section 679 of that Act.	Local Government Act 1993

5.12 Strategic Policy Review - Post Exhibition

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/1900
AUTHOR: John Thompson, Chief Financial Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents Strategic Policy ST42 – Concealed Water Leaks policies which has been on Public Exhibition from 16 July 2025 – 29 August 2025. No submissions were received during the Exhibition Period. It is recommended that the Policy be adopted.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "15.3 Ensure financial stability and support efficient ongoing operation".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications are measured and fair. They are not included in our annual budgeted expenditure. For council accepted applications for a reduction in water costs council will apply a 40% reduction to the water consumption component. Council will also only charge the first step tariff and will waive the second step tariff where applicable.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Council's Strategic Policies are reviewed and amended to ensure ongoing compliance with legislation and industry best practice.

Policies of Council are of two types – Strategic Policies are determined by Council, and relate to Councillors, required by Legislation or Regulation and/or have an impact on the Orange community. The Local Government Act 1993 requires the public exhibition of Policies (if new or include significant changes) and adoption by Council. Operational Policies are determined and implemented by the Chief Executive Officer and relate to staff and the operations of the organisation.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts Strategic Policy - ST42 - Concealed Water Leaks.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council's key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

Service/Project Delivery	Unclear policy implementation may lead to inconsistent handling of leak-related service requests.
Financial	Increased claims or rebates under the policy could result in unanticipated financial impacts.
Reputation/Political	Perceived unfairness or lack of transparency in policy application may attract public or political criticism.
Environment	Delayed detection or reporting of concealed leaks may contribute to unnecessary water loss and environmental harm.
Compliance	Failure to align with Council's Risk Management Framework and relevant legislation such as the Local Government Act 1993 may result in regulatory breaches and undermine governance integrity.
People & WHS	Leak-related infrastructure issues may pose safety risks to staff or the public if not promptly addressed.

5.12 Strategic Policy Review - Post Exhibition

Information Technology/Cyber Security	Inadequate data handling or system integration may compromise leak tracking or customer privacy.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The following policy has been drafted to provide a framework in the circumstance of property owners seeking consideration from a concealed water leak. The policy has been placed on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days to allow for Council and public review and submissions. No such submissions have been received. It is recommended that Council adopt Strategic Policy ST42 – Concealed Water Leaks.

ST42 – Concealed Water Leaks

Reference	Update
General	• New Policy

ATTACHMENTS

1 FOR ADOPTION - Strategic Policy - ST42 - Concealed Water Leaks, D25/79655⇩

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Strategic Policy – ST42

Concealed Water Leaks

FOR ADOPTION

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ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

STRATEGIC POLICY – ST42

1 PURPOSE

1.1 This policy is to provide property owners with an option for an adjustment to their water and sewerage/trade waste charges, in circumstances where water has passed through the water meter and been lost due to a proven concealed (undetected) leak on the customers property, resulting in abnormally high consumption charges (water and/or sewerage/trade waste charges).

2 APPLICABILITY

2.1 This policy will apply to property owners of residential and non-residential rated properties within the Orange Local Government area.

3 DEFINITIONS

Term	Description
Water Meter	The Water Meter and adjoining joints, fittings and couplings within 50cm of the meter.
Digital Smart Meter	A digital meter that automatically measures and transmits data providing more accurate and frequent readings than traditional meters.
Concealed Leak	Water escaping on the customer's side of the water meter, which is hidden from view, be it underground or within concrete, or underneath a building, and where an owner or occupant could not reasonably be expected to know of its existence, as determined by Council.
Excess Water	For the purposes of this policy, this is the difference in water consumed during the period of the water leak (or other high consumption period), compared to the normal consumption by the property occupants.
Financial Hardship	A residential customer who is experiencing financial hardship.
Increased Sewerage Trade Waste Charge	The difference between the sewerage/trade waste charges during the period of the water leak (or other high consumption period), and the average sewerage/trade waste charge.
Non-Residential	Property defined by its land use as being any other use than residential.

4 GENERAL

4.1 It is Council's intention to support property owners in these circumstances and manage a proactive program of identification of high-water usage, where possible.

4.2 Council will also actively promote to customers to monitor water use and read the water meter located at the subject property.

4.3 Customers should not solely rely on Council to advise of water leaks, but should monitor their water consumption through their water meter to check for water leaks.

4.4 The property owner/s has primary responsibility for water leaks and associated losses on their property from the meter.

FOR ADOPTION

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

STRATEGIC POLICY – ST42

4.5 This policy applies to concealed leaks only and does not apply to water loss from:

- leaking taps, toilet cisterns, hot water systems or other water appliances
- faulty plumbing or human error resulting in the filling of a rainwater tank
- property sprinkler or other irrigation systems including taps and hose connections, or
- swimming pools, spas, ponds and other outdoor water features, or their related fittings.

4.6 An adjustment will not be provided if a water leak adjustment has already been provided to that property owner at that property in the past five (5) years.

4.7 An adjustment may be granted to a maximum of two (2) billing periods, the billing period during which the leak was repaired and the period immediately prior to or post the repair (whichever is greater in $ value).

4.8 Applications for adjustments must be received by Council no more than six (6) months after the leak repair date.

4.9 Applications will only be considered if the ratepayer acted to permanently repair the leak within 14 calendar days of being made aware of the leak, or as otherwise approved on a case-by-case basis by the Chief Executive Officer.

4.10 Where the property is tenanted and a Council officer advises the tenant of a potential water leak or high-water consumption, it is considered that the property owner or their agent will be informed by the tenant.

4.11 The leak must have been repaired as a permanent repair (e.g. running a temporary water service is not considered a permanent repair). The leak should be repaired by a licensed plumber.

5 ADJUSTMENTS

5.1 The adjustment process is considered an educational activity and the customer, by receiving an adjustment the first time, is made aware to regularly check for leaks and maintain plumbing.

5.2 All adjustments will be applied to the Council water and sewerage account for the property where the matter occurred.

5.3 The adjustment is on the account only - EFT refunds will not be issued.

6 PROCEDURE

6.1 Council will apply an adjustment to the customer's water and sewerage account in accordance with the criteria and rules set out in this policy and related documentation.

6.2 Council will only consider a rebate for concealed water leaks that resulted in an increased water and/or sewerage/trade waste charge in writing to Council and must be the landlord or managing agent for that property.

6.3 The applicant must complete a Concealed Leak Application Form and submit this together with a licensed plumber's invoice to support the application.

6.4 Where the work was not performed by a licensed plumber, a statutory declaration must be submitted with the application, along with supporting evidence to confirm that the leak has been satisfactorily repaired. It should be noted that all pipe work repair, should be completed by a licensed plumber. Where the customer completes the repair, they should arrange

FOR ADOPTION

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

STRATEGIC POLICY – ST42

for a licensed plumber to check the repair to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and plumbing standards.

6.5 Council will apply a reduction of 40% to the water consumption component of the account for successful residential customers.

6.6 In cases whereby the concealed water leak results in the second step tariff being charged, all water consumption charges for that billing year will be reduced to the first step tariff and reduced as detailed in 6.5.

6.7 In situations where the applicant is an eligible pensioner, water consumption charges will be reduced pro-rata to normal consumption. Normal consumption is an average of the previous billing year or the registered consumption following the repairs to the concealed water leak.

6.8 Council will apply a reduction of 30% to the water consumption component of the account successful for non-residential customers and reduce Sewerage and Trade Waste Charges pro-rata to normal consumption if applicable.

7 APPLICATIONS

Reasons Council May Decline an Application

The property is fitted with a digital smart meter and the owner or agent is registered with *MiWater* https://orange.aqualus.com and the water meter is receiving adequate data to identify the water leak.

7.1 A water leak is detected and the owner has previously advised Council, they **do not** permit the installation of a digital smart meter. Council may decline the application.

Reasons Council May Accept an Application

7.2 Council has installed a digital smart meter, and the owner/agent has not been advised on the registration process with *MiWater* https://orange.aqualus.com.

7.3 Council has installed a digital smart meter; however the data quality is/was not satisfactory to detect the water leak.

8 STRATA/COMMUNITY TITLE

8.1 Where the leak has occurred within a Strata/Community Title Scheme (S/CTS) the application for an adjustment must be submitted as follows:

- Where the S/CTS is individually sub-metered and the sub-meters have been approved to be read and billed by Council, and the leak occurred on private property, i.e. the leak consumption registered on the individual sub-meter, the property owner must submit the required documentation.
- Where the S/CTS is individually sub-metered, and the sub-meters have been approved to be read and billed by Council, and the leak occurred on common land, the Body Corporate/Strata Manager must submit the required documentation.
- Where the S/CTS is not individually sub-metered, or the sub-meters have not been approved to be read and billed by Council the body corporate acting on behalf of all property owners must submit the required documentation.

FOR ADOPTION

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

STRATEGIC POLICY – ST42

9 ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Role	Responsibility
Ratepayer	Responsible for the maintenance, integrity and operation fixtures and plumbing on their property, but not including the water meter or water meter fittings.
Revenue Officer – Water Billing	Responsible for ensuring the implementation of this policy. When extenuating circumstances exist and following a report to Council is authorised to vary the application of policy. Will attempt to alert the owner/ managing agent if a probable leak exists following the quarterly water meter reading cycle. But is not obligated to.
Chief Executive Officer	Review & determine applications on a case-by-case basis up to a maximum of $5,000 on report from the Chief Financial Officer.
Council	Review & determine applications referred to it by the Chief Executive Officer.

10 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- ST01 - Code of Conduct
- Local Government Act 1993
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
- MiWater - MyH2O - https://orange.aqualus.com/
- Application Form – Concealed Water Leak – Application for Adjustment

FOR ADOPTION

All policies can be reviewed or revoked by Council, at any time.		
ST42 - Strategic Policy - Concealed Water Leaks		
Review Due: November 2028	Version V1_25	Last Revision: July 2025
Approved By:	Minute Number:	Approval Date:

Concealed Water Leaks

APPLICATION FOR ADJUSTMENT

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Do not apply if the water leak was the result of:
- leaking taps, toilet cisterns, hot water systems or other water appliances
- faulty plumbing or human error resulting in the filling of a rainwater tank
- property sprinkler or other irrigation systems including taps and hose connections, or
- swimming pools, spas, ponds and other outdoor water features, or their related fittings.
- evidence of negligence, such as failure to renew pipe work in poor condition (rusted galvanised pipe) or poor quality (rural poly pipe material)

Local Government Act 1993
Strategic Policy ST42 - Concealed Water Leaks

FOR ADOPTION

APPLICANT DETAILS

Name

Address

Phone

Pension/Concession

Email

Signature

Date

SUBJECT LAND (REFER TO RATES NOTICE FOR ASSISTANCE)

Street Address

City/Town

Lot Number

Section

DP

Assessment Number

Property Type: Residential/Non-Residential

Additional Information:
Are you the Property Owner? Yes/ No?

Have you applied for an allowance in the past 5 years – Yes/No?

If not the Property Owner, relationship with property/landlord:

LEAK DETAILS

Where was the Water Leak?

What caused the Water Leak?

What work was carried out?

Date Leak Detected:

Date Leak Repaired:

Name of Repairer of Leak:

☐ Attach Copy of Repair Invoice

☐ Attach Copies of Relevant Photos

Water Meter Reading after Repair Complete: Attach Photo ☐

OFFICE USE ONLY

Application # PR # Assessment

Date Rec Date Approved/Declined

Outcome

Determined by Adjustment Processed

FOR ADOPTION

5.13 Strategic Policy Reviews - Exhibition

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/1752
AUTHOR: Janessa Constantine, Manager Corporate Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents Strategic Policies which are recommended for placement on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "15.1 Provide representative, responsible and accountable community governance".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Council's Strategic Policies are reviewed and amended to ensure ongoing compliance with legislation and industry best practice.

Policies of Council are of two types – Strategic Policies are determined by Council, and relate to Councillors, required by Legislation or Regulation and/or have an impact on the Orange community. The Local Government Act 1993 requires the public exhibition of Policies (if new or include significant changes) and adoption by Council. Operational Policies are determined and implemented by the Chief Executive Officer and relate to staff and the operations of the organisation.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to place the following Strategic Policies on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days:

- **ST44 – Use of the Council Logo**
- **ST51 – Central West Libraries**
- **ST52 – Itinerant Trading**
- **ST53 – Whiteway Lighting**
- **ST54 – Climate Change**
- **ST55 – Ageing and Disability Services**
- **ST56 – Disability Support – Service Provision**

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council's key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

Service/Project Delivery	Public feedback may delay implementation or require changes to planned services.
Financial	Exhibition may lead to cost implications if significant revisions or additional consultation are required.
Reputation/Political	Public disagreement or backlash could affect Council's reputation or political standing.

5.13 Strategic Policy Reviews - Exhibition

Environment	Community input may highlight overlooked environmental impacts or concerns.
Compliance	Failure to exhibit policies appropriately may breach statutory consultation requirements.
People & WHS	Feedback may raise workforce-related risks or highlight gaps in safety-related provisions.
Information Technology/Cyber Security	Online exhibition platforms may be vulnerable to data breaches or cyber threats.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The following policy has been drafted to provide a framework in the circumstance of property owners seeking consideration from a concealed water leak. It is recommended the policy be placed on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days to allow for Council and public review and submissions.

Strategic Policy ST44 – Use of the Council Logo

Reference	Update
General	Amendments: • Updated numbering from ST112 to ST44 • Formatting updates • Re-written policy

Strategic Policy ST51 – Central West Libraries

This policy has combined the following strategic and operational policies to consolidate and to align with the guidelines regarding strategic policies, and to provide transparency and accountability, along with clear guidance to the community regarding usage of the Central West Libraries.

Reference	Update

General	Amendments:
	• Combination of strategic policies ST002 & ST091 with no specific updates.
	• The following operational policies included in this strategic policy:
	  ○ Central West Libraries Code of Conduct – OP037
	  ○ Central West Libraries Exclusion – OP038
	  ○ Central West Libraries Tutoring in the Library – OP040
	  ○ Central West Libraries Internet Public Use – OP039
	• Updated numbering from ST002 and ST091 to ST51
	• General formatting update

Strategic Policy ST52 – Itinerant Trading

Reference	Update
General	• Updated policy numbering from ST043 to ST52 • Added clear definition of 'small-scale coffee van' – cl4.1(a) • General formatting update

5.13 Strategic Policy Reviews - Exhibition

Strategic Policy ST53 – Whiteway Lighting

Reference	Update
General	• Updated policy numbering from ST114 to ST53 • General formatting update

Strategic Policy ST54 – Climate Change

Reference	Update
General	Amendments: • Update of policy number from ST148 to ST54 • General formatting update. • Added 'industry and businesses' to cl3.1(a). • Added 'procurement' to cl3.1(c). • Added 'establishment of community Climate Change Management Plan' – cl4.1(b). • Added 'industry, businesses not-for-profits' to Integrated and Collaborative – cl4.4. • Removed 'Clean Energy Act' (repealed) – cl6. • Removed 'Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 and Regulations' – replaced by • Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 – cl6. • Added following related legislation and policies – cl6 ○ Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act NSW (2023) ○ NSW Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2024 ○ NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2021 ○ Orange City Council Emissions Reduction Plan.

Strategic Policy ST55 – Ageing and Disability Services

Reference	Update
General	Amendments: • Update of policy number from ST101 to ST55 • General formatting update • Applicability text updated • Added 'related documents' section • Inclusion of strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards focus areas, aligned with New Aged Care Act 2024.

Strategic Policy ST56 – Disability Support – Service Provision

Reference	Update
General	Amendments: • Update of policy number from ST102 to ST56 • General formatting update • Applicability text updated • Minor grammatical changes • Added 'Related Documents' section • Inclusion of information related to NDIS compliance and standards • Included 'Supported Independent Living' terminology.

5.13 Strategic Policy Reviews - Exhibition

ATTACHMENTS

1 FOR EXHIBITION - Strategic Policy - ST44 - Use of Council Logo, D25/107287⇩
2 FOR EXHIBITION - Strategic Policy - ST51 - Central West Libraries, D25/106885⇩
3 FOR EXHIBITION - Strategic Policy - ST52 - Itinerant Trading, D25/106912⇩
4 FOR EXHIBITION - Strategic Policy - ST53 - Whiteway Lighting, D25/106924⇩
5 FOR EXHIBITION - Strategic Policy - ST54 - Climate Change, D25/106948⇩
6 FOR EXHIBITION - Strategic Policy - ST55 - Ageing and Disability Services, D25/107012⇩
7 FOR EXHIBITION - Strategic Policy - ST56 - Disability Services - Support Provision, D25/107149⇩

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Strategic Policy – ST44

Use of Council Logo

FOR EXHIBITION

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ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

STRATEGIC POLICY – ST44

1 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this policy is to establish clear and consistent guidelines for the use of the Orange City Council logo. The logo is a registered trademark and a key visual representation of Council's identity. This policy ensures that the logo is used appropriately, consistently and professionally to protect and enhance the reputation of Orange City Council.

1.2 Inappropriate or unauthorised use of the Council logo may result in reputational damage, public confusion, and legal implications. This policy mitigates these risks by enforcing controlled and consistent use of the logo.

2 APPLICABILITY

2.1 This policy applies to all areas of Orange City Council including Staff, Councillors, Contractors, Council Delegates, Committee Members and any other person who performs official functions of behalf of Council such as Volunteers.

2.2 External organisations, partners, and individuals seeking to use the logo in any form, including those receiving Council support through donations, sponsorships, or small grants.

2.3 All mediums including print, digital, signage, uniforms, merchandise, and promotional materials.

2.4 This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Orange City Council Code of Conduct.

2.5 The logo must not be used for electioneering purposes or by candidates in any form.

3 OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of this policy are:

- To ensure the Council logo is used consistently and correctly across all applications.
- To protect the integrity and reputation of Orange City Council.
- To provide a framework for internal and external use of the logo.
- To minimise the risk of misuse or misrepresentation of Council's brand.
- To support Council's visual identity as outlined in the Orange City Council Branding Guidelines.

4 PROCEDURE

Application Process

4.1 Submit an Application Form:

- All requests to use the Orange City Council logo must be submitted via the official Application for Use of Logo Form to: council@orange.nsw.gov.au

Review and Approval

4.2 The application will be reviewed by the Brand and Digital Team within the Communications and Engagement unit. Approval is based on:

- Purpose and context of use
- Alignment with Council's values and branding guidelines
- Visual clarity and reproduction quality

5 LOGO PROVISION

5.1 Upon approval, the appropriate logo file format (EPS, PNG, JPEG) and colour version (CMYK, Pantone, black and white, reversed) will be provided, along with reproduction instructions.

FOR EXHIBITION

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

STRATEGIC POLICY – ST44

6 CONDITIONS OF USE

6.1 The logo must not be altered, distorted, cropped, or used with additional graphic elements.

6.2 Clear space and minimum size requirements must be maintained.

6.3 The logo must not be used in a way that brings disrepute to Council.

6.4 Council reserves the right to revoke permission at any time.

7 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Orange City Council Branding Guidelines
- Orange City Council Wayfinding Strategy and Guidelines
- Strategic Policy ST19 - Media
- Strategic Policy ST32 - Donations and Grants
- Strategic Policy ST18 -Social Media
- Strategic Policy ST36 - Banners
- Certificate of Registration issued by Intellectual Property Australia for the 'Orange City Council' logo Trade Mark No. 1957187 (TRIM Ref: IC19/12694)

8 LOGO ENQUIRIES

8.1 For all enquiries, approvals, and support regarding logo use, contact:
Email: brand@orange.nsw.gov.au
Phone: 02 6393 8000

FOR EXHIBITION

All policies can be reviewed or revoked by Council at any time.		
ST44 - Strategic Policy - Use of Council Logo		
Amendments: • Updated numbering from ST112 to ST44 • Formatting updates • Re-written policy		
Review Due: November 2028	Version V1_25	Last Revision: September 2025
Approved By:	Minute Number:	Approval Date:

Use of Council Logo

APPLICATION FORM

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

APPLICANT DETAILS

Applicant Name

Organisation (if applicable)

Phone

Email

LOGO USE

Purpose of Logo Use

Medium (eg print, digital, signage)

Proposed Date(s) of Use

Draft Material (attach if available)

FOR EXHIBITION

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

☐ I agree to comply with the Orange City Council Branding Guidelines and understand that unauthorised use may result in withdrawal of permission.

Signed Date

OFFICE USE ONLY

Record Number Comments

Approval Y/N Approver Name Date

FORM APPLICATION FOR USE OF COUNCIL LOGO PAGE 1 OF 1

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Strategic Policy – ST51

Central West Libraries

FOR EXHIBITION

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ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

STRATEGIC POLICY – ST51

1 PURPOSE

1.1 Central West Libraries is a regional library service constituted under Section 12 of the Library Act 1939 (NSW). Services are delivered to the Local Government areas of Orange, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes and Weddin through a service level agreement between Orange City Council and the participating Councils.

1.2 Central West Libraries provides a free, accessible and high-quality service for the information and recreational needs of our communities.

1.3 Central West Libraries are committed to providing welcoming and safe environments for all people from the community.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.2 The objective of this policy are to:

- Outline operational and community use guidelines for libraries within the service.
- Outline customer expectations and conformation to the conditions contained in the Library Regulation 2018.
- Identify the conditions under which library clients may be removed or excluded from branches of Central West Libraries.
- Ensure paid and unpaid tutors are aware of their rights and obligations in relation to the use of library facilities.
- Provide a framework for the use of public internet and Wi-Fi at Central West Library branches.

3 APPLICABILITY

3.1 This policy applies to all residents and users of Central West Libraries within the Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Orange and Weddin Council areas.

4 GENERAL

4.1 Public libraries in NSW operate under the Library Act 1939, the Library Regulation 2018 and the Local Government Act 1993.

4.2 As prescribed in the Library Act 1993:

a. Residents and ratepayers of all participating Councils are entitled to free membership

b. Any person (whether or not a member of the Library) is entitled free of charge to access any library material of the library and any information forming part of the information service of the Library (other than information excepted from free access by guidelines issued by the Council) for use on the Library premises

c. Any person who is a member of the Library is entitled to borrow free of charge from the Library for use away from the Library premises any library material of the Library which has been classified by the librarian of the Library as being of literary, informative or educational value or as being fiction

d. No charge is to be made for the delivery to a member of the Library of any library material or information that the member is entitled to borrow free of charge if the member for reasons of ill health or disability cannot reasonably be expected to attend the Library in person

e. Any person who is a member of the Library is entitled to be provided free of charge with basic reference services (being any service classified by guidelines issued by the Council as a basic reference service), including assistance in locating information and sources of information

f. Proper use of and behaviour in the Library is prescribed in the *Library Regulation 2018* and outlined in this policy.

FOR EXHIBITION

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

STRATEGIC POLICY – ST51

5 COMMUNITY

5.1 Occasionally, the Libraries receive requests from community groups and agencies to use the libraries' public spaces for event launches, presentations etc. which are independent of the Libraries' operations.

5.2 Intending users must meet the following criteria:

a. Be a department of the relevant Council, a community group, not-for-profit organisation or a government department/agency.

b. Make the request to the Manager Central West Libraries with adequate lead time of at least two months.

c. The staging and development of the venture must not interfere with normal public use of the Library and the time and duration of the event is to be mutually agreed upon between the Library and the user.

d. The conditions of use will be negotiated between the Library and the user. The user is responsible for:

- Set up and break down
- Equipment hire and operation
- Catering
- Any staff costs incurred
- Any additional cleaning
- Any damages

e. All publicity pertaining to such occasions maintains the integrity of the Library and is developed in partnership with the Library, and approved by the Manager Central West Libraries or their delegate.

f. The nature of the project reflects and adds value to the Libraries' programs and activities as detailed in the relevant *Community Strategic Plan*.

g. No admission fee is to be charged and an invitation to attend must be extended to all members of the community.

h. A launch of books and other resources will be permitted when they have local content, are by a local author or relate to the libraries' collection goals.

i. The use must comply with all Library policies and procedures.

6 CUSTOMER CODE OF CONDUCT

6.1 Users of Central West Libraries must adhere to the following Customer Code of Conduct:

a. Understand that our libraries are public spaces available to all in the community.

b. Treat fellow customers and library staff with respect and courtesy. Unsociable behaviour, including harassing customers or staff, is not acceptable.

c. Meet acceptable levels of personal hygiene or dress, in the interests of your health and safety and the interests of other customers using Library facilities.

d. Keep conversation and other noise to acceptable levels.

e. Understand that Library services, programs, activities and events limit our ability to always provide quiet spaces. We will provide advance notice of Library events and activities.

f. Be mindful of others when using mobile telephones or personal audio devices such as electronic games, pagers, tablets, laptops etc. in public areas.

g. Take care of library collections, equipment and furniture.

h. Ensure Library material is not hidden or deliberately misplaced.

i. Refrain from taking food or drink into identified areas.

j. Request permission from the Library Officer in charge before moving any

FOR EXHIBITION

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

STRATEGIC POLICY – ST51

furniture or equipment. Relocate items safely and place them back in their original position/s after use.

k. Not unplug any of the Library's electrical equipment including computers and photocopiers.

l. When using your own equipment, only use power points provided for this purpose and ensure that power cords do not create a trip or other hazards.

m. Keep personal items with you at all times. The Library is not responsible for your personal belongings.

n. Leave the Library when requested at closing time and during emergency procedures.

o. Inform Library staff promptly of any concerns you have relating to the behaviour of other customers.

6.2 Disruptive behaviour is not acceptable in our Library spaces.

6.3 The Library is a smoke free environment and smoking on Library premises is not permitted.

6.4 Central West Libraries promotes the safe, smart and responsible use of technology.

6.5 Customers who do not comply with the Library Regulation 2018 and the Code of Conduct may be asked to leave the Library or may be excluded from the Library.

7 EXCLUSION

7.1 The Library Regulation 2018 makes provisions for acceptable behaviours by people who use libraries and identifies measures to exclude persons who breach the regulations. Central West Libraries has a responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of library clients, visitors, staff and volunteers and to maintain the security of the collections, buildings and facilities. People have the right to use the Library's services, facilities and collections in safety and without being unnecessarily distracted or disturbed by other people.

7.2 This policy supports the administration of the provisions of the *Library Regulation 2018 Part 2, Division 2, 6* Local Library Rules; and *Part 3*, Use of libraries and library materials. In particular the policy provides guidelines to assist staff in implementing the provisions of the *Library Regulation 2018 Part 3, clause 17* with regard to asking a person to leave the Library's premises. It includes periods of exclusion of a person, the delegations and the process to be followed.

7.3 All Library staff are responsible for ensuring that the provisions of the *Library Regulation 2018* are implemented with regard to the use of Central West Libraries, its collections, services and facilities. Staff who identify that a person has breached the Regulation will advise the person of the breach and that compliance with the Regulation is required. The matter may be resolved by advising the person that a breach of the Regulation has occurred and offering the person a copy of the *Library Regulation 2018*. Which is on public display within the Library.

7.4 Many incidents are resolved through library clients adjusting their behaviour once their breach of the Regulation has been advised by a staff member. A decision to ask a person to leave the Library can be made if there is a breach of the Regulation or if a person does not accept or refuses to accept the requirement to comply (Clause 17(1)).

7.5 A library staff member may direct any person to leave the library and not re-enter the library for such a period as directed if the staff member is of the opinion that:

a. The person's condition, conduct, dress or manner is likely to give offence to any other person's use of the library.

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b. Disruptive behaviour, which includes disorderly conduct, unsupervised children, noise, or activity that interferes with the rights of others, physical abuse, abusive or threatening language and misuse of library furnishings.
c. Soliciting, selling or canvassing (for example soliciting signature for a petition) other than library approved activities.
d. Theft, vandalism or other illegal acts.
e. Being in a state of intoxication that causes a public disturbance or interferes with others' use or enjoyment of library facilities and resources by other clients.
f. Loitering on the premises under circumstances that warrant alarm for the safety or health of any person or property in the vicinity.
g. Personal hygiene issues that disrupt others' use of facilities.
h. Intimidation and/or harassment of library clients or staff.
i. Deliberately breaching the security of the library computer network.

7.6 Some offences should result in a warning and a request to desist, rather than a request to leave the Library. Examples of this include but are not restricted to:

a. Smoking
b. Gambling
c. Bringing animals other than recognised support companion animals into the library (including the foyer)
d. Consuming beverages and/or hot food in a manner that could damage library property
e. Inappropriate use of resources, equipment
f. Talking in a quiet study area
g. Using mobile telephones to distraction of other clients
h. Littering
i. Monopolising library space to the exclusion of other clients
j. Conducting business for profit, other than tutors following guidelines set in 8.1.e of this policy.

7.7 Any staff seeing library clients engage in minor offences can ask the client to desist. This must then be reported to the Desk Supervisor who will decide if any further action is required including:

a. A client may be requested by the Desk Supervisor to leave the library because of prohibited behaviours. If, following a request, the client fails, or refuses, to comply or responds in an abusive fashion, they will be required to leave the building for the balance of that calendar day. If they fails to leave, they are considered a trespasser, and the Police will be called.
b. The Police may be called at any time where a client is involved in illegal activity or when staff have a fear for their own safety or that of other library clients. Whether the client is notified that this action has been taken will depend on the circumstances at the time.
c. Parents and guardians will be notified where possible after the second recorded instance of a child or young adult being asked to leave the library.
d. The staff member requesting the client to leave will complete an incident report. The WHS Team should be notified immediately by telephone.
e. If the client is asked to leave the library, the Manager Central West Libraries will determine if any further action is required or, if a recommendation of exclusion is to be made to the Director Community, Recreation & Cultural Services, Orange City Council.

FOR EXHIBITION

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STRATEGIC POLICY – ST51

f. Upon a second recorded instance (whether the client has been required to leave the library premises or not) the Director Community, Recreation & Cultural Services, Orange City Council shall be notified and, barring exceptional circumstances, the client will be excluded from the library. The period between incidences and the gravity of the incident will inform the exclusion period. As a general guide:

Period between offences	Exclusion period
30 days	12 month
3 months	6 month
6 months	3 month
12 months	1 month
24 months	A further verbal warning

g. Where there is a two-year gap between incidents, the incident will be treated as a first offence.

h. All exclusions will be notified in writing. In the case of minors, this will include a letter to parents or guardians. Exclusion from the Library means all branches of Central West Libraries.

i. Library staff will deal firmly and courteously with clients who engage in prohibited behaviours. Where possible, all interaction with the offending client will be undertaken by the Desk Supervisor or other senior staff.

j. All clients will be treated fairly and with sensitivity.

Enforcing the exclusion policy

7.8 In the event a client barred from the use of the library attempts entry to the library during any period of exclusion, the Police will be called.

Repeat offenders

7.9 If a client persists with abusive conduct or behaviour following a period of exclusion, the Manager Central West Libraries will consider long-term exclusion.

Letter of exclusion

7.10 Where a person has been excluded from Central West Libraries for a breach of the Regulation, a letter of exclusion will be delivered to the person, either by post or in person.

7.11 A letter of exclusion for a breach of the Regulation will be signed by the Manager Central West Libraries. All letters of exclusion will include reasons supporting the decision to exclude and a summary of events. The summary will include the date(s), description of the incident(s) and the clause(s) of the Regulation breached.

Reviews and appeals

7.12 A person may seek a review of the period of exclusion by writing to the Director Community, Recreation & Cultural Services, Orange City Council who will determine whether the period of exclusion will be reduced, maintained or extended.

8 TUTORING

8.1 Central West Libraries is widely recognised as an encompassing, safe and accessible community space. In this role the Library's branches are used by tutors, both paid and unpaid, as places in which to work with students either individually or in small groups. This policy has been developed to protect the best interests of the Library and its clients, at the same time acknowledging the need for flexibility in service delivery within a regional environment.

8.2 Tutoring is allowed in the open study and readings areas only if this does not disturb library users or staff. Library activities and requirements take precedence over private tutoring arrangements.

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8.3 Tutoring is not allowed in Orange City Library's Local Studies/Genealogy Room. This applies even if no other users are present in the quiet study area as it would deter users of this specialised space.

8.4 Library staff will not assume the role of supervisor or messenger when tutors are unable to meet their students in the library.

8.5 All tutors using the library must:

- Lodge their contact and tutoring details with the Manager Central West Libraries using the prescribed form. This notification is to be in writing before any tutoring activities are undertaken and is to be renewed every 12 months.
- When the tutor is tutoring persons under 18 years of age, they must include a letter of consent from the parents/guardians of the child/young person.

8.6 Tutors using the Library for financial gain must:

- Pay the prescribed hourly fee as advertised in the Fees and Charges
- Provide evidence of public liability insurance on an annual basis.

8.7 The Chief Executive Officer, Orange City Council, will review use of the library as a tutoring venue and can limit the availability of the facility or exclude and/or their clients if they abuse the use of the library facilities or cause undue disruption to users of the Library.

8.8 Tutors may not advertise the library as their place of business or otherwise imply library sponsorship of their activity.

8.9 Volunteer tutors, including parents and carers, are not required to pay the hourly fee.

8.10 The Library does not sponsor, recommend, assure the quality or assume liability or responsibility for the work and/or activities of tutors who use library space.

8.11 Separate rooms are available for a fee in some Central West Libraries/Member Councils. Enquiries should be made at the appropriate branch.

9 INTERNET USE

9.1 This Policy applies to all branches of Central West Libraries. Central West Libraries does not practise censorship control over the information available on and through the internet and therefore cannot be held responsible for its content and use, however, individual CWL participating council's may choose to install filtering software. The Library supports the safe, smart and responsible use of technology.

9.2 All clients over the age of 18 must sign the Central West Libraries Internet Public Use Policy Form before using the internet.

9.3 Clients under the age of 18 must have parents/guarantors sign this Internet Public Use Form before using the internet. Thereafter, as with other library materials, restriction of a child's access to the internet is the responsibility of the parent/guarantor.

9.4 The internet will be available during library opening hours. Time restrictions of one hour per session may apply to provide equitable access.

9.5 There will be a charge for any printing done at the standard rate levied for copying from computers. Other charges for internet use will be at the discretion of participating councils.

9.6 Central West Libraries does not take any responsibility for technical problems or issues relating to devices or other equipment in accessing sites on the internet, as this is beyond the Library's control

9.7 Clients must not use the Library's computers or network to access offensive objectionable/

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obscene material or for any unlawful or inappropriate purpose.

9.8 Privacy and confidentiality cannot be totally assured in the use of any online resource and the security of data and networks cannot be guaranteed. Computers are for general use and should not be regarded as secure.

9.9 Clients are responsible for complying with all copyright and software licencing requirements and any relevant laws and regulations when accessing, printing or downloading material.

9.10 Misuse of the computer or Internet access may result in the loss of internet privileges.

10 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- ST01 - Code of Conduct
- Library Act 1939
- Library Regulation 2018
- Local Government Act 1993
- Community Strategic Plan

All policies can be reviewed or revoked by Council at any time.

ST51 - Strategic Policy – Central West Libraries

Amendments:

- Combination of strategic policies ST002 & ST091 with no specific updates.
- The following operational policies included in this strategic policy:
  - Central West Libraries Code of Conduct – OP037
  - Central West Libraries Exclusion – OP038
  - Central West Libraries Tutoring in the Library – OP040
  - Central West Libraries Internet Public Use – OP039
- Updated numbering from ST002 and ST091 to ST51
- General formatting update

Review Due: November 2028	Version V1_25	Last Revision: September 2025
Approved By:	Minute Number:	Approval Date:

FOR EXHIBITION

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Strategic Policy – ST52

Itinerant Trading

FOR EXHIBITION

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ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

STRATEGIC POLICY – ST52

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Council staff and the community that Council is generally opposed to the use of Council-owned land for use by private Itinerant Traders except for those areas outlined as exempt in 4.1 of this policy.

2.1 This policy applies to all private itinerant traders who wish to utilise council-owned land for retail purposes.

3 PROCEDURE

3.1 When members of the public make enquiries regarding the use of Council-owned land for retail purposes by private itinerant traders, Council staff are to advise them of Council's policy.

4 EXEMPTIONS TO POLICY

4.1 The Chief Executive Officer, or nominee, may grant exemptions to the policy, on written application, for the following areas/situations:

a) Small scale mobile coffee vans are permitted to operate outside the Central Business District and not less than one hundred (100) metres from an existing premises selling coffee.
'Small-scale coffee van' means: A single, self-contained, light vehicle selling only coffee and prepackaged food. Trailers and caravans do not qualify.

b) Orange Function Centre, Orange Botanic Gardens, Orange Showground, Robertson Park, Cook Park, Civic Centre Forecourt and Northcourt.

c) Seasonal local fruit selling, subject to relevant approval being obtained under the Local Government Act 1993.

5 BREACHES

5.1 The use of Council land for retail purposes by private itinerant traders without Council approval may result in legal action being taken by Council.

6 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Local Government Act 1993 (Section 68)

FOR EXHIBITION

All policies can be reviewed or revoked by Council, at any time.		
ST52 - Strategic Policy - Itinerant Trading		
Amendments: • Updated policy numbering from ST043 • Added clear definition of 'small-scale coffee van' (cl 4.1(a)) • General formatting update		
Review Due: November 2028	Version V1_25	Last Revision: September 2025
Approved By:	Minute Number:	Approval Date:

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Strategic Policy – ST53

Whiteway Lighting

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ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

STRATEGIC POLICY – ST53

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To ensure that all connections to the Whiteway lighting system under awnings in the CBD area are made with Council approval.

2 APPLICABILITY

1.2 To all premises in the central business district area.

3 PROCEDURE

1.3 Where applications for connection to the Whiteway lighting system are made for premises which are contiguous to the existing system, approval will be granted for such connections.

1.4 Where applications to connect to the Whiteway lighting system are made for premises which are not contiguous to the existing system, these will be referred, with cost estimates, to Council for decision.

1.5 Where development or re-development of a property contiguous to the existing system takes place, any repair, replacement or relocation costs made necessary by the development proceeding, shall be the responsibility of the developer.

FOR EXHIBITION

All policies can be reviewed or revoked by Council, at any time.		
ST53 - Strategic Policy – Whiteway Lighting		
Amendments: • Updated policy number from ST114 • General formatting update		
Review Due: November 2028	Version V1_25	Last Revision: September 2025
Approved By:	Minute Number:	Approval Date:

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Strategic Policy – ST54

Climate Change

FOR EXHIBITION

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ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

STRATEGIC POLICY – ST54

1 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this Strategic Policy is to outline how Orange City Council will respond to the challenges of Climate Change.

2 APPLICABILITY

2.1 All Council staff, Council insurers, community members.

3 OBJECTIVES

3.1 The Climate Change Policy identifies how Council will manage, mitigate and adapt to the impacts of Climate Change, including to:

a) Lead, encourage and work with our community, industry and businesses to reduce greenhouse gas emissions,
b) Adapt our existing activities and practices to realise the economic opportunities and benefits that Climate Change action can provide,
c) Consider the potential implications associated with Climate Change when making operational, strategic planning, procurement and management decisions,
d) Reduce the risk from natural hazards, including the projected effects of Climate Change, by establishing adaptation strategies to minimise vulnerability to Climate Change,
e) Comply with applicable legal requirements and implement any relevant State government policies, guidelines and/or directives,
f) Develop and implement adaptation and mitigation actions as a response to Climate Change,
g) Provide effective and strong leadership to the Orange community to respond to Climate Change and build sustainability by modelling and communicating Councils response to Climate Change,
h) Provide commitment to be innovative, flexible and adaptive in our approach to Climate Change, and
i) Provide commitment to facilitate applicable programs, promote opportunities and assist the Orange community, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

4 GENERAL

Action Plans

4.1 Orange City Council will establish the following actions plans to meet the challenges of Climate Change:

a) Establish a Climate Change Operational Management Plan
b) Establish a Community Climate Change Management Plan

Review of Current Plans

4.2 Council will:

- Regularly review its plans, strategies, policies and benchmarks, where their content may be affected by Climate Change, to ensure they remain current as the science of Climate Change develops.
- Ensure that actions, decisions and policy response to Climate Change remains current and reflects Council's operational capacity, community expectations and changes in Climate Change scenarios.

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STRATEGIC POLICY – ST54

Risk Assessment

4.3 Council will:

- Progressively undertake detailed risk assessments of Climate Change hazards consistent with Federal and State Government guidelines, such as increasing temperatures, flooding, bushfires, storms and drought.
- Embed Climate Change-related risks within Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

Integrated and Collaborative Approach

4.4 Council will complement, collaborate and establish strong partnerships with community, industry, businesses, not-for-profits, key stakeholders, other Local Councils and other tiers of government that strengthen Council's adaptive capacity in response to Climate Change.

Funding and Resources

4.5 Council will:

- Pursue grant and other funding opportunities to further examine and respond to Climate Change issues as they affect council and the community.
- Ensure availability of appropriate resources for Climate Change initiatives.

5 DEFINITIONS

Title	Description
Climate Change	A change in the state of the climate that can be identified (e.g. using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties, and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer.
Mitigation	Actions that can be taken to reduce the degree of climate change that may occur.
Adaptation	Actions that can be taken to prepare for the impacts of climate change.
Greenhouse Gas emissions	Various gases such as carbon dioxide and methane which are emitted into the atmosphere and contribute to the greenhouse effect.

6 RELATED DOCUMENTS

Legislation and Guidelines

- Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and regulations
- Local Government Act 1993
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 and Regulations
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- Orange City Council Local Environmental Plan (2011)
- NSW Climate Change Policy Framework (2016)
- Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act NSW (2023)
- NSW Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2024
- NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2021

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STRATEGIC POLICY – ST54

Policies and Plans

- Community Strategic Plan – 2025 - 2035
- Strategic Policy – ST15 – Risk Management
- Orange City Council Climate Change Management Plan
- Orange City Council Emissions Reduction Plan

All policies can be reviewed or revoked by Council, at any time.

ST54 - Strategic Policy - Climate Change

Amendments:

- Update of policy number from ST148 to ST54
- General formatting update.
- Added *'industry and businesses'* to cl3.1(a).
- Added *'procurement'* to cl3.1(c).
- Added *'establishment of community Climate Change Management Plan'* – cl4.1(b).
- Added *'industry, businesses not-for-profits'* to Integrated and Collaborative – cl4.4.
- Removed *'Clean Energy Act'* (repealed) – cl6.
- Removed *'Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 and Regulations'* – replaced by Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 – cl6.
- Added following related legislation and policies – cl6
  - Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act NSW (2023)
  - NSW Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2024
  - NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2021
  - Orange City Council Emissions Reduction Plan

Review Due: November 2028	Version V1_25	Last Revision: September 2025
Approved By:	Minute Number:	Approval Date:

FOR EXHIBITION

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Strategic Policy – ST55

Ageing & Disability Services

FOR EXHIBITION

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ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

STRATEGIC POLICY – ST55

1 PURPOSE

1.1 Council works in partnership with the community and community organisations to identify appropriate responses to the recognised needs of older people, people with disability and their carers in line with the objectives of the Community Strategic Plan.

2 APPLICABILITY

2.1 Council aging and disability staff, carers and community members.

3 OBJECTIVES

3.1 To provide a range of quality services for older people, people with disability and their carers, that complies with requirements of the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, NDIS Quality and Safety Framework and other funding body standards and regulations.

4 GENERAL

4.1 Council's Home and Community Care Program policies and procedures will reflect the requirements of the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, NDIS Quality and Safety Framework and other funding body standards/regulations and the identified needs of the local community.

5 PROCEDURE

5.1 Council's Services to be provided will incorporate the following standards:

- Access to services
- Information and consultation
- Efficient and effective management
- Co-ordinated, planned and reliable service delivery
- Privacy, confidentiality and access to personal information
- Complaints and disputes
- Advocacy

5.2 Direct focus areas that underpin aged care services are:

- The individual
- The organisation
- The care and services
- The environment
- Food and nutrition

5.3 To meet these objectives, service specific policies and procedures have been developed to cover:

- Service management
- Staff management
- Service delivery

6 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- ST01 – Code of Conduct
- ST56 – Disability Services – Support Provision
- Community Strategic Plan (CSP)
- Disability Inclusion Action Plan
- NDIS Quality and Safety Framework

FOR EXHIBITION

All policies can be reviewed or revoked by Council at any time.

ST55 - Strategic Policy – Ageing and Disability Services

Amendments:

- Update of policy number from ST101 to ST55
- General formatting update
- Applicability text updated
- Added 'related documents' section
- Inclusion of strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards focus areas, aligned with New Aged Care Act 2024.

Review Due: November 2028	Version V1_25	Last Revision: September 2025
Approved By:	Minute Number:	Approval Date:

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Strategic Policy – ST56

Disability Services – Support Provision

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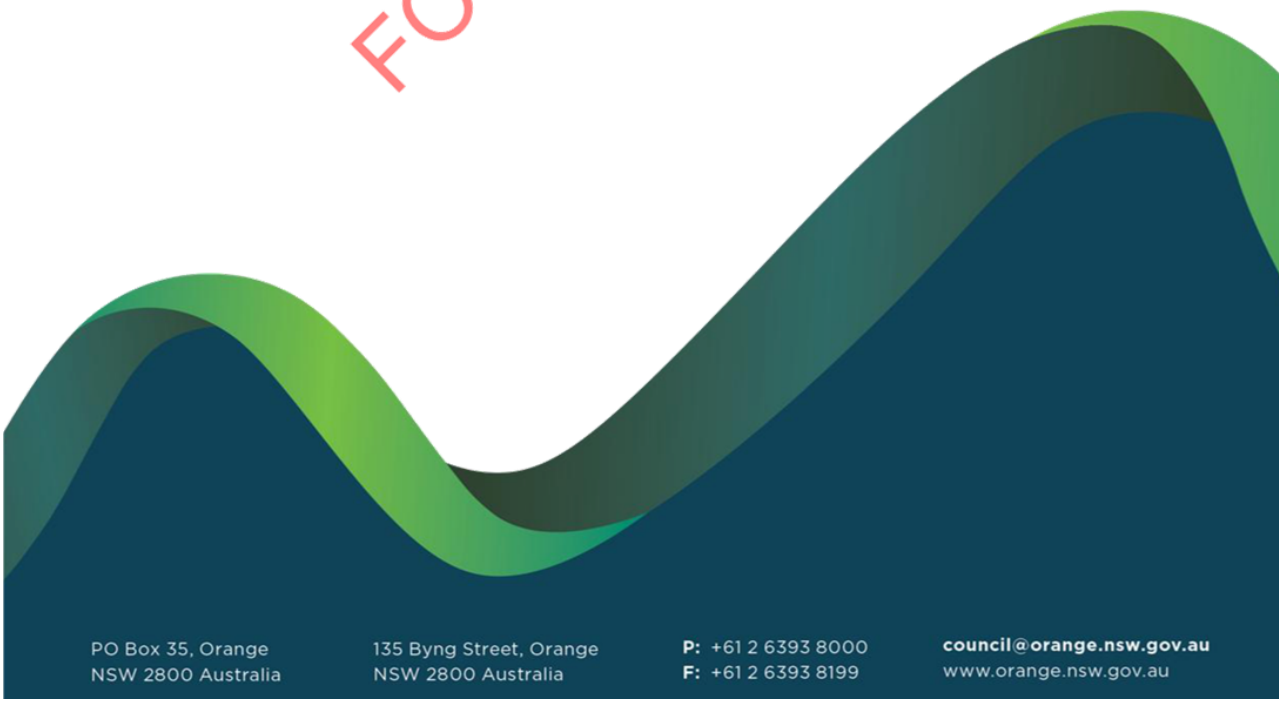

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

STRATEGIC POLICY – ST56

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To guide the support provided to people who have a permanent and significant disability requiring support to enhance their ability to take part in every-day activities within the Orange local government area.

2 APPLICABILITY

2.1 Council disability services staff, carers and community members.

3 OBJECTIVES

3.1 To provide a range of disability support services for people with disability by delivering the following initiatives:

- Providing assistance with and/or supervising activities of daily life in Supported Independent Living, with a focus on developing individual skills to live as autonomously as possible.
- Supporting people with disability living in Supported Independent Living to pursue their goals and maximise their independence, social and economic participation.
- Developing capacity of people with disability to participate in the community and in employment
- Providing supports to people with disability to engage in community, social and centre based activities.

3.1 The NDIS Practice Standards specify the quality standards that need to be met by registered NDIS providers delivering supports and services to an NDIS participants.

3.2 For clients that receive funding other than NDIS, there are standards and policies associated for registered providers when providing supports e.g. Disability Support for Older Australians (DSOA).

4 GENERAL

4.1 When delivering services or conducting business in relation to the delivery of supports to people with disability, Council will comply with each of the following:

- The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Act 2013, the NDIS Rules, all relevant NDIS guidelines and all policies issued by the National Disability Insurance Agency.
- The requirements and guidelines set out in the Continuity of Support Program provided by Commonwealth Department of Health.
- Council's Code of Conduct and all relevant policy and procedures.
- Any relevant Commonwealth, State or local government laws, and other requirements, which are applicable, including, but not limited to the Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW), Privacy Act 1988 (Cth), the Australian Consumer Law and any relevant Frameworks, including the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework.
- Work within NSW Disability Service Standards.

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ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

STRATEGIC POLICY – ST56

5 PROCEDURE

5.1 Services provided require compliance with the NDIS Practice Standards:

- Rights and Responsibilities
- Provider Governance and Operational Management
- Provisions of Supports
- Provisions of Supports Environment
- High Intensity daily personal activities
- Specialist Behaviour Support
- Early Childhood Supports
- Specialist disability accommodation

6 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- ST01 – Code of Conduct
- ST55 – Ageing and Disability Services
- NDIS Practice Standards
- National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Act 2013 and NDIS Rules
- NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework
- Continuity of Support Program
- Disability Inclusion Action Plan
- Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)
- Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)

FOR EXHIBITION

All policies can be reviewed or revoked by Council, at any time.		
ST56 - Strategic Policy – Disability Services – Support Provision		
Amendments: • Update of policy number from ST102 to ST56 • General formatting update • Applicability text updated • Minor grammatical changes • Added 'Related Documents' section • Inclusion of information related to NDIS compliance and standards • Included 'Supported Independent Living' terminology.		
Review Due: November 2028	Version V1_25	Last Revision: September 2025
Approved By:	Minute Number:	Approval Date:

6 CLOSED MEETING - SEE CLOSED AGENDA

The Chief Executive Officer will advise the Council if any written submissions have been received relating to any item advertised for consideration by a closed meeting of Orange City Council.

The Mayor will extend an invitation to any member of the public present at the meeting to make a representation to Council as to whether the meeting should be closed for a particular item. In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, in the opinion of the Chief Executive Officer, the following business is of a kind as referred to in Section 10A(2) of the Act, and should be dealt with in a Confidential Session of the Council meeting closed to the press and public.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adjourn into a Closed Meeting and members of the press and public be excluded from the Closed Meeting, and access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Closed Meeting be withheld unless declassified by separate resolution. This action is taken in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993 as the items listed come within the following provisions:

6.1 National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress - 11-12 November 2025 - Call For Councillor(s) Attendance

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (f) matters affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property.

6.2 Submission Redaction Report 16 September 2025

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (e) information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law.

6.1 National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress - 11-12 November 2025 - Call For Councillor(s) Attendance

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/1910
AUTHOR: Georgina Wheeler, Executive Support Officer

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY
This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (f) matters affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property.

6.2 Submission Redaction Report 16 September 2025

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/1777
AUTHOR: Janessa Constantine, Manager Corporate Governance

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY
This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (e) information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law.

7 RESOLUTIONS FROM CLOSED MEETING