

Community Update

Muswellbrook Solar Farm

A Development Application was submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) in August 2023. The application was exhibited on the Major Projects website for 28 days and 61 submissions were received from the public.

A Response to Submissions report prepared by the proponent, ESCO (a joint venture between OX2 and Idemitsu), is now available on the Major Projects website.

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/muswellbrook-solar-farm>

The Next Steps

Due to the number of submissions received, the application will now be decided by the Independent Planning Commission (IPC).

Once a proposed development is assessed by the DPHI and provided to the Commission for decision, the Chair of the Commission will appoint a panel, typically comprised of between one and three Commissioners, that will:

- hold targeted meetings with the developer, DPHI, the local council, and others,
- hold a public meeting where appropriate, or a public hearing if directed by the Minister,
- take and consider written public submissions on the proposed development,
- make a determination based on legislation and policy to either refuse or approve the development,
- publish a Statement of Reasons explaining the reasons for the decision.

OX2 will distribute a newsletter to neighbouring properties once the panel has been appointed and further information is available regarding a public meeting or hearing. If you wish to receive this communication via email, please contact us with your details.

Acknowledgement

The project is located within the Traditional lands of the Wonnarua people. We wish to acknowledge them as traditional custodians of the land and pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people past and present. We acknowledge their continuous connection to Country.

Contact Us:

Helen Kennedy
Community and Stakeholder Manager
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Community Benefits

OX2 are working closely with Muswellbrook Shire Council to deliver a **Community Benefit Program** for Muswellbrook and near neighbours to the project. An annual fund of over \$114,000.00 will be delivered via Council through community grant programs, training and scholarships and a neighbour benefit contribution. Further details will be available as the project progresses.

Local Economic Development

OX2 aim to maximise investment in the regional economy through the engagement of local businesses. We work towards utilising local contractors wherever possible throughout the construction and operation of the project.

We would welcome contact from local businesses and service providers to register their interest in the project to grow our current database. Businesses and the local community will be advised once the solar farm receives approval, and how to find out more about potential business opportunities.



Community Consultation

OX2 wish to continue an open dialogue with the community as the project progresses and welcome the opportunity to discuss the project further with near neighbours. If you would like to meet with a member of the team, please reach out to Helen Kennedy on 0403 920 098 or at helen.kennedy@ox2.com.

To ensure you receive future Community Updates, please provide your email address to helen.kennedy@ox2.com

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