[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 4 October 2023 1:56 PM
To: Community Engagement Review
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Fwd: Lack of SLO and Community Engagement - Meadow Creek Solar Farm
Attachments: [redacted]

Hi CE Review team
This submission is on behalf of [redacted]. This is a detailed email with attachments outlining exactly how our community has been treated and lack of engagement and social licensing. We completed a Survey shortly after the only Drop In session [redacted], to capture how our community felt, because as time goes on, sometimes we forget exactly how we felt at that time and were treated by Meadow Creek Solar Farm Proponents.

Please take the time to review all information and data below, as this is very important to our group.

Thank you kindly
[redacted]

---------- Forwarded message ---------
[redacted]
Date: Fri, Apr 21, 2023 at 8:46 PM
Subject: Lack of SLO and Community Engagement - Meadow Creek Solar Farm
To: [redacted]

Dear [redacted]

Our community, Meadow Creek and Surrounds, would like to make you aware of the lack of social licence to operate (SLO) and lack of social engagement the [redacted] have demonstrated in our community.
We refer to the document Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing in Renewable Energy Development in Victoria, and later the DELWP Solar Energy Facilities Guidelines.

The proposed solar farm is to be one of Victoria's largest, and yet we only found out about it in September 2022, due to a neighbouring farmer [redacted] speaking to an SP Ausnet Representative who was stopped on the road next to his property.

The Ausnet Rep gave him a Meadow Creek Solar Farm pamphlet, and explained they were looking at possible hosts for a transmission line connecting the proposed solar farm to the grid.
The Ausnet Rep then organised a meeting with [redacted] and family to discuss the proposal by [redacted].

From here, local farmer [redacted] held a [redacted] Community meeting to inform the community of the proposed solar farm and our community nominated 8 members to represent the community moving forward known as our Community Representative Group (CRG).

Meadow Creek Solar Farm Pty Ltd (ABN 76650485635) was registered with ASIC on 5th May 2021 which confirms this project has been in the pipeline for almost 2 years now, and yet the **first** interaction our community has had from the proponents was 6 months ago, on 20th October 2022 when the CRG requested a meeting with the Proponents.

Summary of interactions to date:
20th October 2022 - **1st meeting was requested by CRG (not initiated by the Proponents).** The Proponents delivered the roadmap for the project. The CRG presented the Proponents with over 30+ questions and concerns about MCSF. The majority of questions asked could not be answered satisfactorily and the Proponents were very experienced on how to skip to the next question to avoid providing an answer.
The Proponents advised that any unanswered questions would have an answer within a 2-week period. We did not hear from the Proponents until 4 months later when a second meeting was scheduled and still most of our questions had no answers ....

2nd March 2023 - **2nd meeting** - This meeting was attended by 3 RCOW councillors, the Proponents and CRG.
The meeting began with the CRG going back over the unanswered questions from meeting 1, and yet the Proponents still could not provide answers on nearly all of the questions asked. At this point, it is becoming evident that the Proponents are showing a lack of transparency and knowledge regarding the solar project and are not taking the community seriously. This meeting ended with CRG very frustrated and unimpressed with the Proponents.

23rd March 2022 **- "Drop-in" information session (4 hours on Thursday only).**
The Proponents had organised a "Drop-in" information session for the community.
This was on one day only, and was 2 x 2hour sessions.
The Proponents did not openly communicate through their advertising methods that community members would be able to lodge Feedback which forms part of the application process to be presented to the Minister for Planning regarding community feedback.
At least 128 community members attended the Drop In session (refer attendance attachment) with the majority hearing about this session through the CRG Bobinawarrah Meeting on Tuesday 21st **before** the drop in session, whereby the CRG advised that all community members could give feedback via written forms and they would be heard.
It felt like the proponents wanted minimal community members to attend; this is evident through:
1. One email with subject "Meadow Creek Solar Farm" was sent on Tuesday 21st March 2023 at 4:12:03 pm AEDT, giving members less than 1 ½ days to organise themselves to try and get to the session on Thursday 23rd March.
2. Two small advertisements in local paper on March 17 and March 22.
3. [redacted] (a Proponent) actually said to one of the CRG members, that he would not need to attend as he already had all the information regarding the project. [redacted] did not openly suggest that he could provide feedback though… **a vital part in the MCSF planning process one would have thought.**

Based on the general uneasiness and no trust in the application process from our community, we conducted a Survey around **"Community Engagement from The Proponents 'Drop In" Session** and awareness around **Mental Health and Well-being** for our Community. 68 community people have completed the 9 Questions.

Attached is the Survey Report and Comments from our community members.
We encourage you to take the time to read each comment to really understand what is going on in our regional community and how our community is being treated by the Proponents of the MCSF.

In summary, our community feels that the Proponents have not gone about SLO or community engagement in a genuine, trustworthy, respectful manner.
This is people's livelihoods that they are dealing with and they have shown no empathy, no respect, no willingness to listen and take on board what the people of Meadow Creek and surrounds are communicating to them.

It is very clear that the Proponents work for the Stakeholder, [redacted], who own and operate a significantly large concreting company based in Melbourne. They do not reside here yet the MCSF brochure says they are a "local farming family" (refer Newsletter#1 attached). They are not part of our local community, but instead are looking for a massive financial return on this farm (far greater return than any agricultural venture could profit) over a period minimum of 30 years. Although the Meadow Creek Solar Farm website deceitfully states "The solar farm is being designed to operate for up to 30

years. Decommissioning the site would involve removing solar panels and relevant infrastructure and reinstating the land. A decommission plan will be prepared ahead of any decommissioning and rehabilitation."

This solar facility is likely to be sustained for as long as the business model remains viable, as the lease will no doubt have options attached, and if the infrastructure is existent, it would make financial sense to replace the panels instead of facing the massive costs of returning the land to its former state (which will not be achievable) by decommissioning the site (FAQs — Meadow Creek Solar Farm).

Due to the high financial returns on offer they are telling our community that they can work around the DELWP guidelines to ensure the project will go ahead.

They show no regard for either of the Government's Energy Victoria's Guidelines of Community Engagement & DELWP Solar Facilities Guidelines.

We request a meeting with the Minister to understand why such a large scale project shows no regard for the Government's guidelines?
And as a result, puts immense stress and pressure on our community's mental health and wellbeing due to the Government's lack of framework.

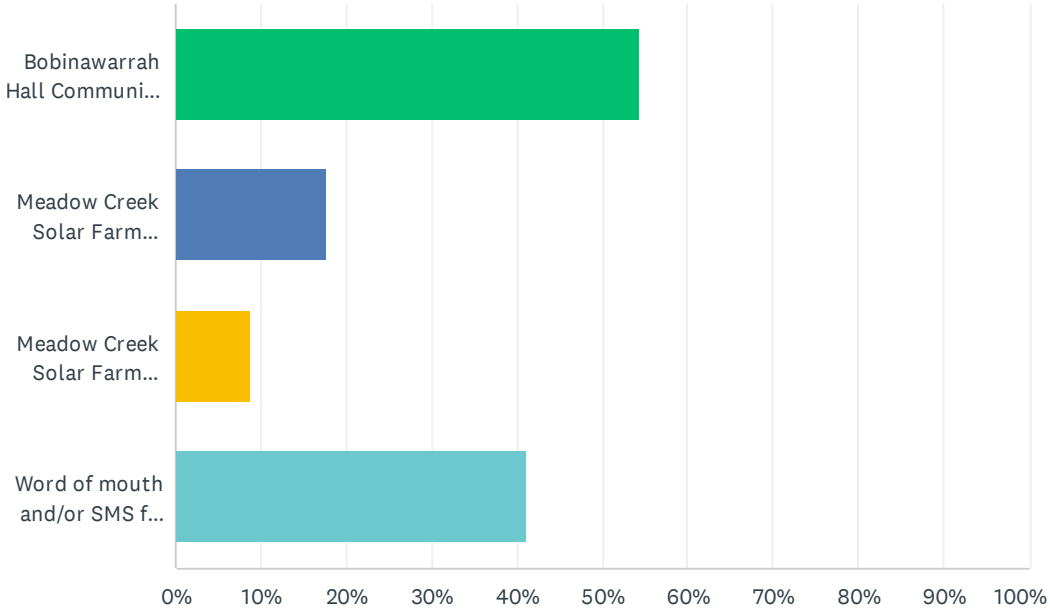
Thankyou for your time.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Q1 How did you hear about the Proponents MCSF "drop in' session?

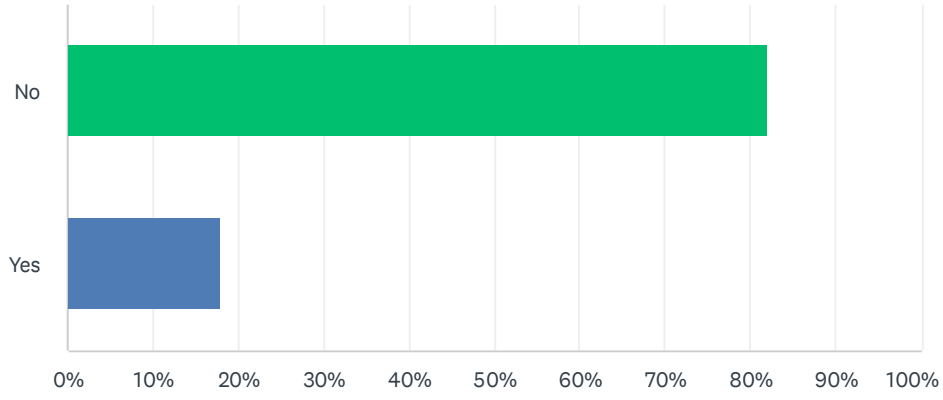
Answered: 68 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Bobinawarrah Hall Community Meeting organised by the Steering Committee (Community Reference Group) on 21/3/2023 at 7pm	54.41%	37
Meadow Creek Solar Farm advertisement in The Chronicle paper (March 17 page 7 & March 22 page 5)	17.65%	12
Meadow Creek Solar Farm email: Subject Meadow Creek Solar Farm (Sent: Tuesday, 21 March 2023 at 04:12:03 pm AEDT)	8.82%	6
Word of mouth and/or SMS from the local community	41.18%	28
Total Respondents: 68		

Q2 Did you feel the Proponents genuinely listened and were transparent in their answers provided about MCSF?

Answered: 67 Skipped: 1



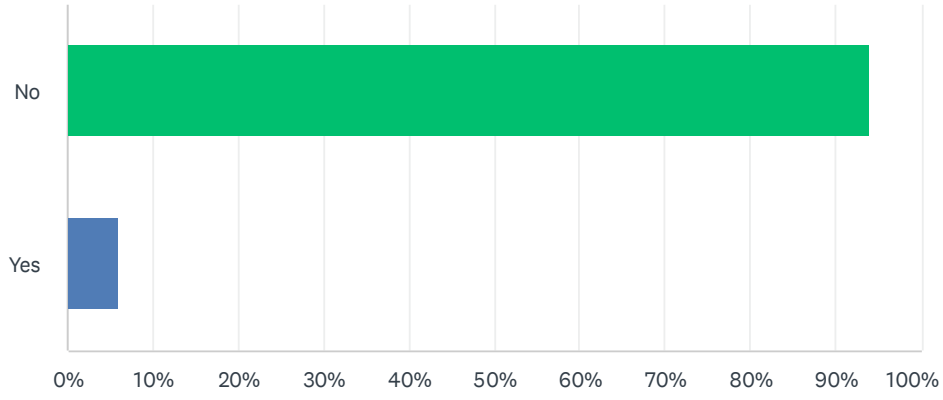
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	82.09%	55
Yes	17.91%	12
TOTAL		67

#	PLEASE PROVIDE COMMENT (OPTIONAL)	DATE
1	Lack of transparency by proponents	4/6/2023 8:23 PM
2	Placating us very evasive answer for everything but not true answers	4/6/2023 12:07 PM
3	Proponents evasive and unable to answer some questions satisfactorily	4/6/2023 11:14 AM
4	The site plan was lacking in detail	4/5/2023 7:56 AM
5	How can it be meaningful community consultation when it is undertaken by the developer?????????????	4/4/2023 10:31 PM
6	People present were not engaging or empathic with local concerns or experiences. Zero empathy with farming communities likely based on zero rural experience.	4/4/2023 8:50 PM
7	I think the proponents were just following a script and did not understand fully what the objections were about.	4/4/2023 8:44 PM
8	Bigwigs from the city who genuinely don't care how country people feel or their concerns. It's all about money, greed, power & ego!	4/4/2023 4:23 PM
9	Didn't listen at all, we're very rude when I asked questions and sounded like they didn't have a clue what they were saying	4/3/2023 9:10 PM
10	Like the fed gov they only put the yes case forward	4/3/2023 7:01 PM
11	Couldn't answer the questions clearly	4/3/2023 5:33 PM
12	They continue to not answer legitimate concerns.	4/3/2023 4:06 PM
13	They did not have enough information to answer questions	4/3/2023 4:02 PM
14	Too busy to talk to us	4/3/2023 2:54 PM

15	I think they did listen but there was still a lot of "we are looking into that" responses	4/3/2023 10:44 AM
16	Appeared to be disinterested to community members voiced concerns and appeared to have there agenda only	4/2/2023 7:00 PM
17	They were very broad and claimed not to know about the controversial topics	4/2/2023 2:46 PM
18	However they didn't answer all the questions, especially how many trees they are removing	4/2/2023 2:19 PM
19	Completely oblivious to to local communities and land owners	3/31/2023 11:35 PM
20	very passive listening, then moved to another of their topics	3/31/2023 9:12 PM
21	No I feel they hear you but it doesn't seem to go any further and especially Cameron finds a way to divert the answer and moves on to avoid the question. Very tactical and intentional.	3/31/2023 2:04 PM
22	Listened but didn't give clear answers.	3/31/2023 12:59 PM
23	Insufficient detail available to be of any use	3/31/2023 10:27 AM
24	A couple of the staff I spoke with took down notes of things to be further addressed.	3/31/2023 9:58 AM
25	Answers to questions very generic. Insufficient details available currently	3/30/2023 11:00 PM
26	Very vague, seemed unwilling to answer question about project, process and timelines	3/30/2023 9:45 PM
27	I felt their answers were mostly dishonest	3/30/2023 8:58 PM
28	It was a fact finding mission they where clueless and got the answers they needed	3/30/2023 8:11 PM
29	They just don't care	3/30/2023 7:55 PM
30	They were unable to answer many questions and gave minimum detail.	3/30/2023 7:51 PM
31	I feel as though they gave very little information when asked any question, i kept being told its only early days in their assessments but then i was told they only have one more assessment to carry out before they put their application in.	3/30/2023 6:32 AM
32	They seem to listen but don't seem to take on board what I am telling them.	3/29/2023 8:15 PM

Q3 Did the information session alleviate any of your original concerns about the project?

Answered: 66 Skipped: 2



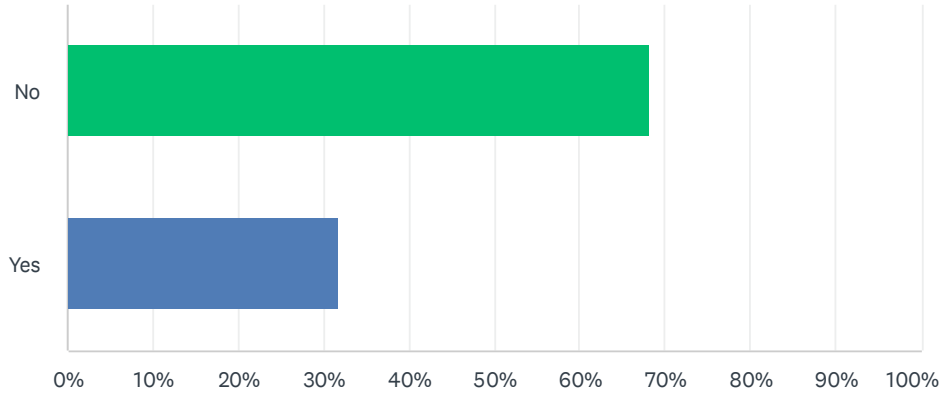
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	93.94%	62
Yes	6.06%	4
TOTAL		66

#	PLEASE PROVIDE COMMENT (OPTIONAL)	DATE
1	Lithium batteries cause fires and cannot be put out therefore should be illegal to use them potential murder of people i north east	4/6/2023 12:07 PM
2	Had no idea how many trees would be removed	4/5/2023 7:56 AM
3	Why is an industrial power plant being proposed in a location that has not been zoned for industrial use in a the water catchment for the Wangaratta. Everyone will end up drinking contaminated water.	4/4/2023 10:31 PM
4	Info was dictatorial and did nothing to allay local concerns and objections. Nothing was mentioned of significant indigenous affects and or engagement with indigenous groups	4/4/2023 8:50 PM
5	I am more sceptical and worried on what is coming our way. The proponents do not care.	4/4/2023 8:44 PM
6	It's horrifying...	4/4/2023 4:23 PM
7	More concern was created by the short comings of the proposal identified through questions raised	4/3/2023 7:22 PM
8	I still think it's in the wrong place	4/3/2023 7:01 PM
9	They only wanted to speak to people supporting them.	4/3/2023 4:06 PM
10	They are aware of issues but it is still yet to be seen if they will take appropriate actions around them.	4/3/2023 10:44 AM
11	Only heightened my concerns and really highlighted that the proponents local knowledge of the land and its caretakers was left wanting	4/2/2023 7:00 PM
12	Original concerns: oversized development, loss of trees & biodiversity, industrialisation of land, water quality impacts, visual amenity, neighbouring land values, loss of ag land.	4/2/2023 2:19 PM

13	They don’t seem interested in local concerns	3/31/2023 11:35 PM
14	Unsure exactly what we do actually need to know	3/30/2023 11:00 PM
15	The proponents severe lack of knowledge on the project was very concerning	3/30/2023 8:58 PM
16	Size of project & location of Battery plant	3/30/2023 8:11 PM
17	Definitely not, i find this very frustrating as I am still asking the same questions as I did at the beginning , our concerns as a community are not been met on any level .	3/30/2023 6:32 AM

Q4 Did you think the Proponents displayed adequate mapping and information for you to view?

Answered: 66 Skipped: 2



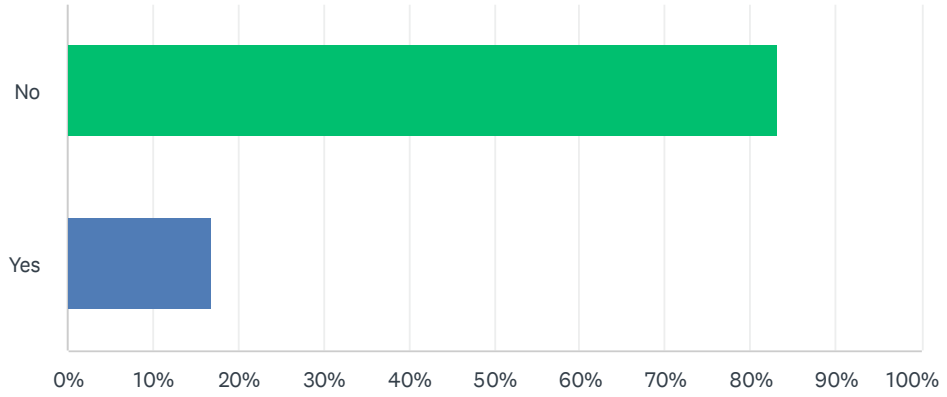
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	68.18%	45
Yes	31.82%	21
TOTAL		66

#	PLEASE PROVIDE COMMENT (OPTIONAL)	DATE
1	Wasn't to scale and left off residential houses. My house is directly on the corner and I feel if it goes ahead I couldn't live there anymore. I have been in my home 58 years.	4/7/2023 11:59 AM
2	Proponents not there to represent community, just toget project over the line to suit Star Govt	4/6/2023 8:23 PM
3	But that means nothing	4/6/2023 12:07 PM
4	Not enough information on waterways through property. No mapping of existing trees that may be removed	4/6/2023 11:14 AM
5	Neighbouring houses (our house adjacent) wasn't shown on the plan.	4/5/2023 8:48 AM
6	No, again the proponent is only after the financial outcome of proposing an industrial power plant in strategic agricultural land for the state government and strategic agricultural and tourism land under the local government planning scheme. State government should be doing more strategic planning and community consultation for appropriate locations. It cannot be left to proponent chasing money with no interest in the region or community.	4/4/2023 10:31 PM
7	They showed us their plan to proceed with little if any ability for locals to challenge	4/4/2023 8:50 PM
8	The maps did not display any of the Hume growth plan overlays.	4/4/2023 8:44 PM
9	Water ways were out by a lot	4/3/2023 9:10 PM
10	Mapping yes but information was questionable... looked good but was it true and trustworthy	4/3/2023 2:54 PM
11	This made me so angry thinking of the proposed destruction of our way of life .	4/2/2023 7:00 PM
12	Colours on the map could be misinterpreted, it was a concept design, failed to show trees being removed, failed to show water exit flows, failed to show neighbours houses, did not show setbacks or vegetative screening	4/2/2023 2:19 PM

13	Very shady in what they want to do	3/31/2023 11:35 PM
14	No scale, no key, no resident houses shown…. It was very poorly detailed	3/31/2023 2:04 PM
15	The maps were ok but the information was of a very shallow nature it was more of a whitewash public relations event	3/31/2023 10:27 AM
16	Their mapping was too limited to the 'site only' and not connected to the surrounding area.	3/31/2023 9:58 AM
17	They showed initial design proposed at the meeting, but I left the meeting with feeling that design finalised and potential impacts not identified. It was concerning the a project team member stated that some adjoining landholders not consulted in the initial phases of the projet	3/30/2023 9:45 PM
18	Mapping ok but but problems arising not addressed	3/30/2023 8:22 PM
19	Not detailed	3/30/2023 8:11 PM
20	But they also advised that anything and everything could change.	3/30/2023 7:51 PM
21	3 maps for the crowds of concerned community members to try and get a look at, also the maps were not to scale , had no waterways or even roads marked and had no key , i was left waiting to talk to one of the proponents just to find out what the symbols on the map meant. The display they had was completely inadequate .	3/30/2023 6:32 AM

Q5 Did you feel the Proponents allowed adequate time for the community (2 x 2 hour sessions) to answer your questions and address your concerns?

Answered: 65 Skipped: 3



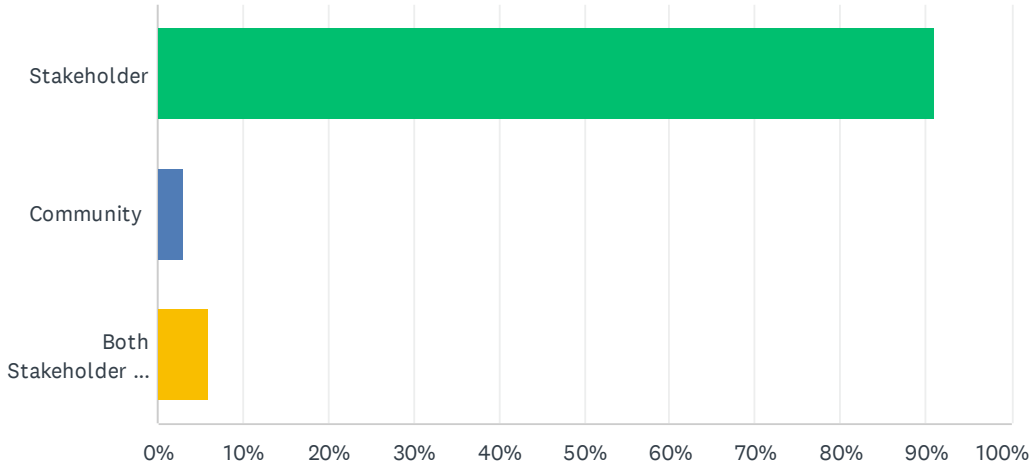
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	83.08%	54
Yes	16.92%	11
TOTAL		65

#	PLEASE PROVIDE COMMENT (OPTIONAL)	DATE
1	Limited time availability which limited opportunity to engage in questioning proponents.	4/15/2023 3:48 PM
2	There was not enough time allowed. They only did it to tick the box.	4/7/2023 11:59 AM
3	Proponents more concerned with getting community members to leave as soon as they could: very rude	4/6/2023 8:23 PM
4	Two hours to get through all those people wasn't enough time but I take that back because they just recited off the same talk repeatedly for everyone they have rehearsed their answers	4/6/2023 12:07 PM
5	Relatively high attendance of community members, not enough time for everyone to ask questions	4/6/2023 11:14 AM
6	The number of people may have affected that	4/5/2023 7:56 AM
7	What modifications are the proponent proposing to make resultant from the community consultation?	4/4/2023 10:31 PM
8	This is a huge development and if this is what community consultation is... What a joke...!	4/4/2023 8:44 PM
9	As the proponents were unable to provide answers to reasonable questions asked, the sessions left you with more unanswered questions than you had upon arrival.	4/3/2023 7:22 PM
10	At this stage I believe it was ok	4/3/2023 7:01 PM
11	Should have had much longer, it limited the number of people that could have gone.	4/3/2023 5:33 PM
12	Key contact staff were not at both sittings and could not answer queries	4/3/2023 4:02 PM
13	We waited to speak to them but they were too busy to see us	4/3/2023 2:54 PM

14	Only doing this on one day of the week would have limited who could attend. Other consultations I am aware of provide at least a couple of day options.	4/3/2023 10:44 AM
15	To me it was a box ticking exercise and got the hurry up lots of times.	4/2/2023 7:00 PM
16	Shortage of people to answer questions and have involved discussions and explain the map.	4/2/2023 2:19 PM
17	This needs to be advertised through out the local area	3/31/2023 11:35 PM
18	When 7pm came around the proponents wanted to leave even though the community was heavily engaged in conversation. At one point, [redacted] tried to kick the community members out who were in deep conversation. [redacted] was checking her watch constantly which gave me the feeling she wanted the session to end. They needed to provide more Time to address our communities questions and concerns	3/31/2023 2:04 PM
19	But only if they had relevant information on fire ,chemical heavy metal contamination and methods of containment of these in a catastrophic fire event	3/31/2023 10:27 AM
20	I attended the evening session after speaking to one of the project team, was insufficient timing to speak to lead project manager regarding some un answered questions. On filling out the questionnaire sheeting was getting prompts to leave as its was end of the session. But ended up starting and completing sheet	3/30/2023 9:45 PM
21	They were there to tell not listen	3/30/2023 8:22 PM
22	If individuals were away on Thursday there was no otger alternative provided.	3/30/2023 7:51 PM
23	4 hours to answers questions from at least 100 concerned community members was not enough time.	3/30/2023 6:32 AM

Q6 After the drop-in session, did you feel the Proponents had the stakeholder, community or both parties best interests in mind?

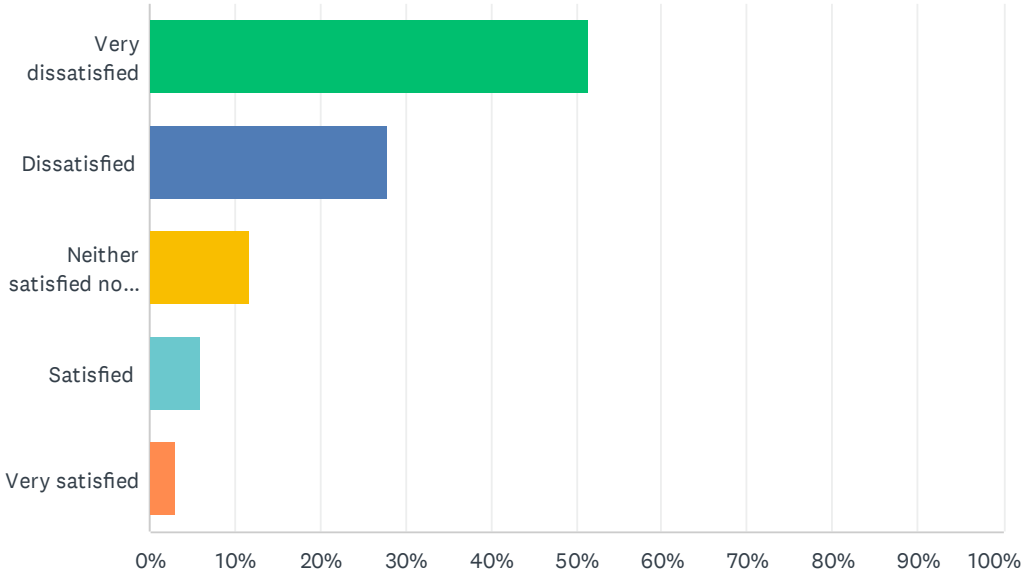
Answered: 67 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Stakeholder	91.04%	61
Community	2.99%	2
Both Stakeholder and Community	5.97%	4
Total Respondents: 67		

Q7 How would you rate the community engagement from the Proponents?

Answered: 68 Skipped: 0

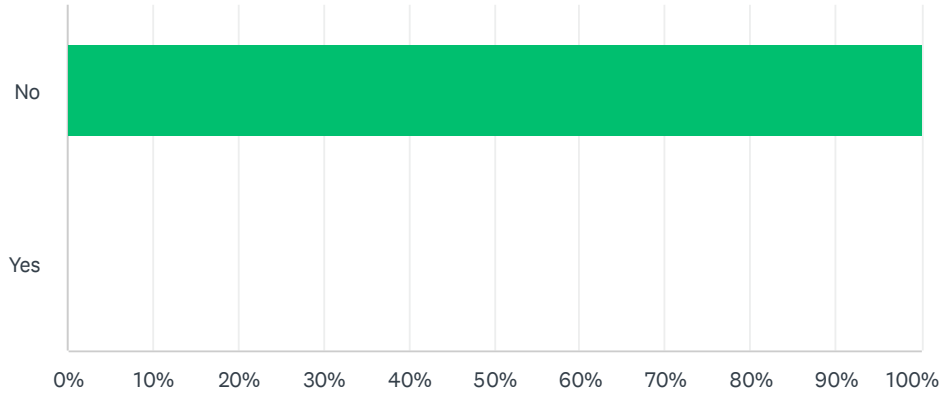


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very dissatisfied	51.47%	35
Dissatisfied	27.94%	19
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	11.76%	8
Satisfied	5.88%	4
Very satisfied	2.94%	2
TOTAL		68

#	PLEASE PROVIDE COMMENT (OPTIONAL)	DATE
1	The lack of community engagement has been a concern from day 1. It seems that our concerns as a community are not being heard and if they are they don't care enough to give us answers	3/29/2023 11:30 AM

Q8 Have the Proponents shown awareness for the communities mental health and well-being in regards to the MCSF?

Answered: 65 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	100.00%	65
Yes	0.00%	0
TOTAL		65

#	PLEASE PROVIDE COMMENT (OPTIONAL)	DATE
1	It's causing me a lot of stress, worried and hard to sleep at night. This is just devastating for me and my family.	4/7/2023 11:59 AM
2	Proponents very concerned about their own mental health and couldn't care less about community wellbeing	4/6/2023 8:23 PM
3	It's fact lithium batteries burn and that is no concern of theirs also they don't have their backyards filled with the eyesore of these panels not to mention the destruction of beautiful farming land it's vandalism at its worst because it's being done for greed and money not climate	4/6/2023 12:07 PM
4	Proponents have definitely not even thought of mental health & well-being of community members, especially nearby residents	4/6/2023 11:14 AM
5	The Community Engagement Team (MCSF) demonstrated a lack of awareness of the sensitivities of the neighbouring community. One in particular was scripted and lacked awareness of project milestones - it really was terrible. I found myself providing a project update to the MCSF Community Engagement Team member.	4/5/2023 8:48 AM
6	The proponent is chasing cash, not interested in the community.	4/4/2023 10:31 PM
7	Solar farm promoters care zero for local concerns but wish to proceed for the money it will generate for them at the expense of the local community's wishes for the project to be moved elsewhere perhaps interstate or to desert country not bounding on agricultural lands and local farming communities nor should it travers through a water catchment	4/4/2023 8:50 PM
8	Once again community feeling is disregarded, and we are left to cope with it.	4/4/2023 8:44 PM
9	I don't believe they have any idea the impact it's going to have. They'll make their money and run	4/3/2023 7:01 PM

10	They have noted their absolute disregard for the community and advised this is all about money making.	4/3/2023 4:06 PM
11	This was not discussed.	4/3/2023 10:44 AM
12	If there was an ounce of care factor it would not even be proposed .The stress and worry is very draining on the community.	4/2/2023 7:00 PM
13	They are intent on doing the development and going through the process of community engagement. They are not consulting with the community, they are telling us what they want to do and then telling us. They did proactively write down some concerns on their feedback sheets as we talked, but that took a lenghty & persistent discussion for that to happen.	4/2/2023 2:19 PM
14	Would they stand for it if it was to be developed in the street	3/31/2023 11:35 PM
15	what has this got to do with a solar farm	3/31/2023 6:57 PM
16	Sadly the proponents have no concern for our mental health, we are having to spend hours on end to find out information about the proposal, as the proponents are not transparent and by giving us little information they are trying to railroad the process. We do all of this extra work outside of our normal working hours, we are stressed, worried, tired and frustrated. We have a DELWP guidelines yet this proposal goes against majority of the guidelines around Solar farm locations and it doesn't seem to matter. We are wearing the stress of poor engagement and poor decision making.	3/31/2023 2:04 PM
17	The wishes of the community not considered	3/30/2023 8:22 PM
18	Total disregard	3/30/2023 8:11 PM
19	Railroading - cloaks, smoke and mirrors....	3/30/2023 7:51 PM
20	No and the stress on our community in regard to this proposed solar factory was made a point at a meeting with the proponents but once again no answers or even a mention of this at their drop in session, this is of high concern for our community members and seems to be of no concern to the proponents.	3/30/2023 6:32 AM

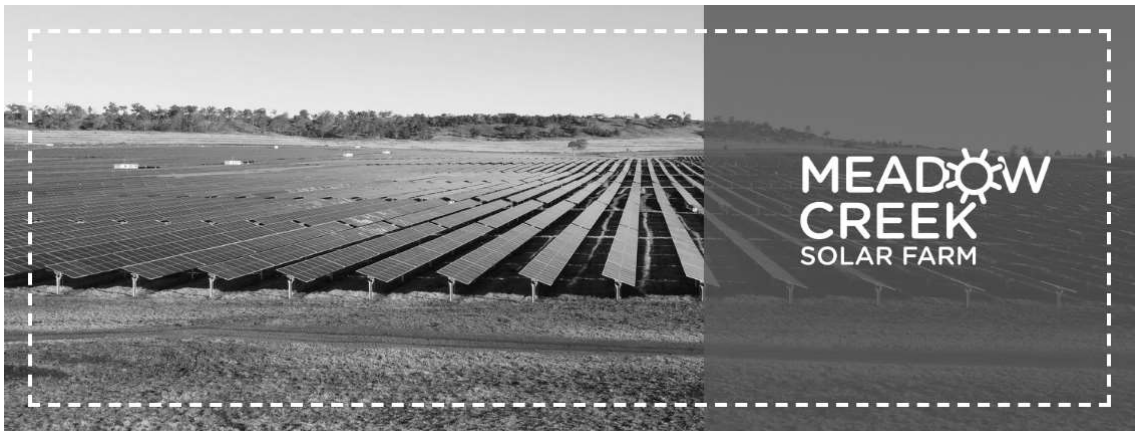
Gmail [redacted]

Fw: Meadow Creek Solar Farm

1 message

[redacted] Mon, Mar 27, 2023 at 5:57 PM

----- Forwarded message -----
From: Meadow Creek Solar Farm <info@meadowcreeksolarfarm.com.au>
[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 21 March 2023 at 04:12:03 pm AEDT
Subject: Meadow Creek Solar Farm



Speak to the Meadow Creek Solar Farm project team

The Meadow Creek Solar Farm is a proposed renewable energy development located around 27km south-east of Wangaratta.

The project is in the early stages of design and planning, and we've started to prepare environmental reports and concept designs to support the development of the project.

Speak to the project team

We're hosting two drop-in information sessions for community to meet the team, ask questions and find out more about the proposal.

Thursday 23 March
From 12pm - 2pm and 5pm - 7pm
Milawa Hall, 181 Milawa-Bobinawarrah Road, Milawa

Can't make the session?

Contact us at info@meadowcreeksolarfarm.com.au and someone from our project team will be in touch.

Find out more about the project at
www.meadowcreeksolarfarm.com.au

23/03/23 : MILAWA HALL 12 - 2pm

MEADOW CREEK SOLAR FARM DROP IN SESSIONS

TIME	NAME	TOWN	FOR	AGAINST	UNSURE
12noon until 2pm	[redacted]	Moyhu		✓	
		Wangaratta / Bobinawarrah		✓	
		Oxley		✓	
		Wang / Bobinawarrah		✓	
		Oxley		✓	
		Oxley		✓	
		Docker		✓	
	[redacted]	Docker		✓	
		Milawa		✓	
		Docker		✓	
		Markwood		✓	
		Bobinawarrah		✓	
		Milawa		✓	
		Milawa		✓	
		Milawa		✓	
		Docker		✓	
		Docker		✓	
		Milawa		✓	
		Milawa		✓	
		Bobinawarrah		✓	
	[redacted]			✓	
		Milawa		✓	
		Oxley		✓	
	[redacted]	Wang		✓	
		Wang		✓	
		Bobinawarrah		✓	
		Oxley		✓	
		Milawa		✓	
		Markwood		✓	
		Markwood		✓	

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23/03/2023 : MILAWA HALL 12 - 2pm.

MEADOW CREEK SOLAR FARM PROPOSAL : DROPIN SESSION

NAME	TOWN	FOR	AGAINST	UNSURE
[redacted]	DOCKER		✓	
	BOB'H PADDOCK		✓	
	" "		✓	
	WANGARATTA			
	MILAWA		✓	
	WANG / BOBINAWARRAH		✓	
	" "		✓	
	OXLEY		✓	
[redacted]	WHOROULY		✓	
	MILAWA		✓	
	MEADOWCREEK		✓	
	"		✓	
	MILAWA		✓	
	WANGARATTA			✓
	Wang Sth.	✓ but with concerns that need addressing		
	BOBINAWARRAH		✓	
	OXLEY		✓	
	LACEBY		✓	
[redacted]	BOBINAWARRAH		✓	
	MEADOW CREEK		✓	
	BOBINAWARRAH		✓	
	"		✓	
	"		✓	
	MILAWA		✓	
25	"		✓	
	MARKWOOD			✓
	MILAWA		✓	
[redacted]	LACEBY		✓	
	MARKWOOD		✓	

29 TOTAL THIS PAGE

23/3/23 : MILAWA HALL MCSF Drop-in 5pm - 7 pm.

NAME	TOWN	FOR S.F.	AGAINST SF.	UNSURE
[redacted]	MILAWA		✓	
	"		✓	
			✓	
	Bobinawarrah		✓	
	GRETA		✓	
	~~Milawa/Bobinawarrah~~		✓	
	EVERTON		✓	
	MOYHU		✓	
	MOYHU		✓	
	MOYHU		✓	
	Bobinawarrah		✓	
	MILAWA		✓	
	BOBINAWARRAH		✓	
	WHOROULY		✓	
	OXLEY		✓	
[redacted]	OXLEY		✓	
	MILAWA		✓	
	MILAWA		✓	
	MEADOWCREEK		✓	
	DOCKER		✓	
	"		✓	
	MARKWOOD		✓	
	MILAWA		✓	
	MILAWA		✓	
[redacted]	BOBINAWARRAH		✓	
	"		✓	
	"		✓	
	BOBINAWARRAH		✓	
	DOCKER		✓	
	OXLEY		✓	
	MARKWOOD		✓	
	MARKWOOD		✓	

23/03/2023 : MILAWA HALL 5-7pm.

MEADOW CREEK SOLAR FARM DROP-IN SESSION 5-7pm

NAME	TOWN	FOR	AGAINST	UNSURE
[redacted]	Meadow Creek		✓	
	Wang		✓	
	Wang		✓	
	Bobinawarrah		✓	
	Bobinaw		✓	
	Everton		✓	
	Milawa		✓	
	Markwood		✓	
	Docker		✓	
	Milawa		✓	
	Milawa		✓	
	"		✓	
	"		✓	
	"		✓	
	Bobinawarrah		✓	
	"		✓	
	Oxley		✓	
	Whorouly		✓	
	Docker		✓	
	"		✓	
	"		✓	
	"		✓	
	Carboor		✓	
	Bobinawarrah		✓	
	Moyhu		✓	
	Moyhu		✓	
	Milawa		✓	
	Milawa		✓	
	Carboor		✓	
	CARBOOR		✓	

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MILAWA HALL. Drop-in. 5-7pm.

NAME	TOWN	FOR	AGAINST	UNSURE
[redacted]	MILAWA P.O.		✓	
	MILAWA PHARMACY		✓	
	MILAWA		✓	
	MILAWA	Took form home.	✓	
	MILAWA - BOBINAWARRAH RD		✓	
	MILAWA		✓	

6 TOTAL

TOTAL 5 PAGES : 128 ATTENDEES

MEADOW CREEK SOLAR FARM

Community newsletter #1

February 2023

This is the first newsletter for the Meadow Creek Solar Farm, a proposed solar energy facility located around 27 kilometres south-east of Wangaratta and East of Moyhu. New solar projects like this significant project are vital to ensure more of our energy comes from renewable sources to reduce the damaging impacts of climate change.

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

The Meadow Creek Solar Farm is currently in the early stages of planning. The project is being developed by a local farming family, and renewable energy specialists DNV.

Feedback from local residents and the community will be used to shape final plans for the solar farm. We've been speaking with project neighbours and key stakeholders and will ramp up consultation in 2023 to give community members opportunity to review concept plans and provide their feedback.

This project investigation area is indicative only and subject to change.

PROJECT TIMELINE

WE ARE HERE

- Feasibility and concept planning
- Environmental assessments
- Planning Application submitted
- Public Exhibition and assessment
- Construction and commissioning
- Operation

HOW TO BE INVOLVED

In the coming months, we'll share more information about the proposal and concept design. To share your feedback on the proposal or speak to someone from the project team you can contact us at info@meadowcreeksolarfarm.com.au or visit our website for more information about the proposal.

meadowcreeksolarfarm.com.au

WHAT IS PROPOSED?

If approved, the solar farm would be built on a 566-hectare site that is currently used for grazing and could produce up to 330 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy – enough to power around 110,000 homes. The project will also include a 250MW, 2-hour AC battery on the site to store excess energy for dispatch to customers when demand for power is high.

The solar farm would connect to the existing high voltage transmission system via a new powerline – expected to be around 2 kilometres long. We're currently exploring options for this transmission line.

The final footprint of the solar farm, its installed capacity and design will be determined following detailed technical and environment assessments.

We're looking at how we could maintain the site as an 'agrisolar' facility – meaning farming activities such as sheep grazing, will be able to continue once solar panels and infrastructure are installed.

We need to do some more work to understand local ground conditions and how this could be managed, and could involve rotating grazing around the site during different seasons and weather conditions.

We're encouraged by existing solar farm operations in the North East that are now successfully hosting both solar and agriculture, and we see this only becoming more common in the industry.

WHY HERE?

North East Victoria receives abundant sunlight making the region ideal for large scale solar energy. The proposed site is closely located to a nearby high voltage transmission line and would mean less new transmission infrastructure would need to be built.

We've completed significant work to understand available grid capacity and potential network constraints in the region and ensure the project can connect to the grid.

DELIVERING BENEFITS TO THE REGION

The Meadow Creek Solar Farm is committed to delivering benefits to the region. We're looking at opportunities to share the benefits of the project through a community benefit fund. Let us know what kind of local projects or community initiatives you'd like to see supported.

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

Independent specialists have been engaged to prepare technical and environmental reports to inform the planning and design of the project. These assessments cover a range of topics including potential impacts to:

- Flora and fauna, native vegetation, and waterways
- Agricultural land use
- Surface water
- Landscape and visual amenity of the immediate region
- Traffic and transport impacts on local roads
- Cultural Heritage

We'll also complete an economic impact assessment, to map the regional investment, jobs and community benefits the solar farm will provide. A noise and vibration assessment will be prepared to investigate potential impacts and mitigation measures associated with the construction and operations of the project.

Once the project has completed detailed technical assessments, sought feedback and a design has been finalised, a Planning Application will be prepared and submitted to the Department of Transport and Planning, formerly Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, to assess the planning permit application on behalf of the Minister for Planning.

The Planning Application will be publicly exhibited, and provide community a formal opportunity to have their say on the proposal.

MEADOW CREEK SOLAR FARM

meadowcreeksolarfarm.com.au
Contact us: info@meadowcreeksolarfarm.com.au
FEBRUARY 2023