

# Tumuruu Solar Newsletter

Vol 1 | January 2023



Australian Solar Enterprises' approach to the design and delivery of the Tumuruu Solar farm is underpinned by environmental sustainability, active community engagement, and the desire to leave a long-lasting positive legacy for all our stakeholders.

We would appreciate your time to help us better understand community feedback.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZVYZFKM>



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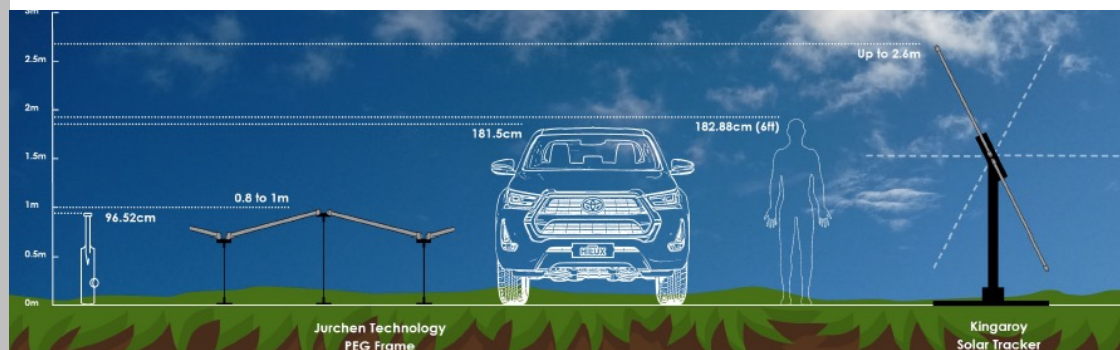
Welcome to the first newsletter for the Tumuruu Solar Project. We are committed to ongoing project updates and being available to answer any questions.

We are actively engaging with the Blackbutt community to discuss the proposed development, located at 341 Bowman Road, Taromeo, to determine potential opportunities, impacts and issues.

We are committed to delivering a high-quality solar farm development that makes a positive contribution to the surrounding area. We understand that development can create impacts on surrounding areas, and we'd like to work with you to ensure impacts are mitigated wherever possible. For this reason, the solar farm developer (ASE) is working with Plan C, a community development and engagement company to ensure we have a quality engagement process.

## Project Activity

- ASE and our expert partners have presented to the SBRC twice in 2022.
- We have actively been engaging with the community:
  - Total contacted: 112; letters issued to:
  - 90 nearby properties/15 businesses (11 Returned to sender)
  - Emailed 18 businesses and community groups
  - Face to face or phone meetings with Taromeo Rural Fire Brigade, Blackbutt Delights Festival Committee and direct neighbours
- A development application has been lodged with South Burnett Regional Council. The application and studies are published on the project website.
  - ASE will provide notification to community (through formal letters to adjoining neighbours, a sign on the site and advertisement in local paper) when the public notification phase has commenced. The public use the Public Notification process for their feedback to be formally considered by Council, within the development assessment (DA) process.
- A grid enquiry has been lodged with Powerlink to understand grid capacity to support the proposed project.



**Project Fact:** The proposed technology has a significantly lower visual impact than a single tracker proposal. This technology has been selected as it does not require cement footings and no inground cabling within the solar panel footprint. The diagram depicts how the PEG system compares to the height of other objects.



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Plan C are leading the community engagement for the Tumuruu Solar project on behalf of ASE.

Plan C are available to meet with you, or chat over the phone, about the proposed solar farm development and to hear your thoughts and concerns.

You can contact Plan C, register for project updates and complete a short survey via the QR code, or go to [surveyMonkey.com/r/ZVYZFKM](https://surveyMonkey.com/r/ZVYZFKM)



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## Frequently Asked Questions

### How long has the project been planned?

The project was initially conceived as an idea in late 2021. Throughout 2022 various studies required by Council and Powerlink were undertaken to assess the potential of the site.

These have now been submitted for assessment. Australian Solar Enterprises (ASE) has commenced community engagement via Plan C early in the process to ensure the community was informed and feedback could be captured. The actual period of development and construction is over 2-4 years.

### How is the project related to proposed Borumba Pumped Hydro Project?

Borumba Pumped Hydro Project transmission line study is being undertaken by Powerlink. There is no relationship between the transmission line study and the Tumuruu Solar project, proposed by ASE. Tumuruu is self-contained on the 341 Bowman Road site and utilises the existing 275Kv lines on site.

### How big is the project?

The project, as currently planned, will be approximately 270MW. It will cover around 400HA of the 700HA site at 341 Bowman Rd.

### Will I see the project from my property?

Given the unique topography of the site, the visual impact is limited to some adjoining neighbours. As part of the project design work has been undertaken on a detailed visual impact study (available on the website). ASE intends to include a dense 15m vegetation buffer to the boundary of the property where required to address visual impacts. The ground mount system selected is approx. 800mm high which helps to reduce the impact on surrounding neighbours.

### Will the site be cleared?

Since 2017 the site has been extensively cleared of trees, particularly within the project envelope. Since the 1960s the property has been completely cleared four times to allow agricultural activities.

There has been some regrowth of lantana however the site remains predominately open. Works will be undertaken to ensure that the site is cleared of all regrowth and select earthworks.

With the solar ground mounting technology selected the site can remain predominately grassed and ground covers will be selected that will improve the soil conditions during operating years. In the construction period the grass will need to be shortened to allow effective installation.

### Will the agricultural land be lost?

Whilst the project is operating the land can not be used for grazing. Efforts have been made to find a solution that requires no cement footing and limited in ground cabling that will ensure the land can be returned to agricultural purposes in the future. Agricultural studies undertaken has identified the land as Class C and past farming cropping endeavours have been abandoned.

If you have any questions not answered here or on the website, please reach out.