

Welcome to the *Dumaresq Solar Farm Newsletter – Edition 3*

This newsletter is the third in a series that aims to provide information and updates to local communities for a solar farm and battery storage development proposal, which will be located approximately 75km north of Inverell, NSW and as such will be located in the Inverell Local Government Area (“LGA”).

As an independent, Australian owned company, Halo Renewable Energy’s strategy continues to be to deliver a comprehensive and transparent engagement process with landowners, government and community stakeholders. We are committed to deliver a major solar project that can leverage the latest in technological advancements in addition to provide significant in region employment and business opportunities.

The development is taking place on the traditional lands of the *Ngarabal People*, whose input and insights into the Project are both appreciated and acknowledged.

COVID 19 and Project Progress

It has certainly been an interesting 12 month period.

The stop-start nature of COVID 19 lockdowns has been problematic. Particularly given many technical consultants have been required to travel considerable distances in order to complete their work programmes which in turn contribute to the final Environmental Impact Statement.

Fortunately, Halo’s focus on using regional consultants as much as possible has assisted to reduce the disruptive impact, whilst ensuring that as much investment as possible for the development of this project has been directed into the regional business community.

We have also been mindful of the rapid change in technology that has taken place over the last 12 months, and continue to monitor these developments in order to deliver a best in class project.

All things considered, Halo continues to be pleased with project progress.

Aboriginal and Heritage Cultural Studies

Detailed studies have been concluded on the project site, which have included extensive community consultation in accordance with both regulatory responsibilities and best practice. This included a detailed two day exploration of the project site on foot for evidence of Traditional Owner heritage. Given the presence of the Transgrid 330kV Interconnector, much of the project site had been investigated in 1999 before the erection of the Transmission Infrastructure.

Despite those previous studies, Apex Archaeology’s comprehensive investigation of the site area did produce a number of small discoveries – with one of the most impressive being the river pebble below right that had been used as a “tool” likely to sharpen other implements. In the centre of the pebble an indentation can be seen – caused by repeated striking in that area.

Halo is continuing its consultation with Traditional Owners (*whose time and input has been appreciated*) on alternative approaches that are acceptable to preserving the artefacts discovered – which will likely include image display in any final Site Office / Public Viewing Area.



Biodiversity Studies

The Biodiversity studies have now been completed, following a comprehensive investigation programme that has spanned an approximate 8 to 9 month period. This has included multiple field trips by Absolution Ecology, including a number of night time expeditions to investigate the presence of nocturnal wildlife.

The Biodiversity Investigation Programme has also been undertaken in such an approach to observe the changing nature of the project site across various seasons – and most recently through the impact of heavy rainfalls in a geographic area where drought had had a material impact.

The detailed draft report has now been received, which has been critical for the advancing of the project design – including location of infrastructure elements including the Battery Energy Storage System and associated Energy Infrastructure.



"Bat Caller" in Dam adjacent to project site

Technical Studies Advancing

During late 2020 Halo had engaged the services of various consultants to deliver specialist reports on multiple aspects of the project in compliance with the Government approval requirements. The work of each of those consultants is now able to be given the conclusion of the work in relation to Aboriginal Heritage and Biodiversity, and a clear understanding of areas of potential sensitivity on the project site.

In order to streamline the completion of all workstreams Halo has also engaged the services of a specialist consulting firm that is highly experienced in the delivery of Environmental Impact Statements.

Community Engagement and Opportunity

Halo has conducted extensive "general" distribution of information on the project via a number of initiatives, including extensive newspaper advertising in Inverell and Tenterfield, website updates, social media updates, the availability of a dedicated community email and a dedicated inquiry number. As the Environmental Impact studies draw to a close there will be additional consultation initiatives, including a number of town hall style briefing sessions likely in July/August/September 2021.

As an Australian owned developer Halo has been motivated to ensure as much of its investment as possible has been directed into regional consulting firms, and we are pleased that this objective is being achieved. Additional community initiatives will be announced across the June & July periods.

Revised Project Timetable

Given a number of continuing issues including COVID-19 disruptions and the challenges of global equipment supply at present due to disrupted supply chains Halo's objectives of obtaining project approval have been realistically refined to "***as soon as possible***".

Enquiries and communication welcomed

All questions – complex or straightforward – can be directed to :



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A 'Drop Us A Line' form is also available on the website:
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