

Summary of Themes

Dear community member,

Thank you for attending the recent community drop-in sessions held in Glenrowan on 23 June 2026 regarding the proposed Nioka Solar Project.

The Planning Permit Application (PPA) is proposed for submission towards the end of the year. Over the next few months the technical studies will be completed, considering questions and concerns expressed by community members. There will be further opportunities for engagement once technical studies are complete.

Please find below a summary of **main** themes and concerns raised at the sessions. Please note this is a high-level summary, individual conversations or follow up actions have not been included.



Fire

Concerns related to:

- Bushfire risk associated with project infrastructure.
- Fire risks to areas beyond the immediate project area.

Potential opportunities that attendees would like to see further considered as the project progresses included:

- Ongoing engagement with Country Fire Authority (CFA).
- Need for training for CFA members/brigades on solar farm fire and battery energy storage system (BESS) risks and management responses.
- Funding for local CFA brigades.
- Project design to facilitate fire management.
- Consideration of lessons learned from other solar projects in the area to reduce potential impacts.



Biodiversity

Concerns related to

- Impacts on local environment and waterways.
- Project fencing restricting wildlife movement, resulting in reduced connectivity and impacts on local species (including Regent Honeyeater, Squirrel Glider, wombats and kangaroos).
- Increase in wildlife on neighbouring properties.

Potential opportunities that attendees would like to see further considered as the project progresses included:

- Retention of significant trees and vegetation, where possible.
- Vegetation screening type to be informed by community expertise.
- Ongoing involvement of Greta Valley Landcare and Regent Honeyeater Project.



Change to agricultural landscape

Concerns related to:

- Visual impacts, including glint and glare.
- Changes to amenity and sense of place related to living in open farmland.
- Industrialisation of landscape.



Cumulative impacts

Concerns related to:

- The location of the project in the proposed Central North Renewable Energy Zone (REZ).
- Cumulative impacts from solar projects in the region and perceptions of increased industrialisation of the landscape.

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Livelihood impacts (Property)

Concerns related to:

- Property devaluation and inability to sell.
- Public liability insurance and indemnity costs for neighbouring properties.



Health

Concerns related to:

- Impact on human and animal health.
- Impact on mental health and wellbeing.
- Accreditation for selling livestock.
- Contamination risks and ongoing management of pollution on the project site.
- Contamination risks associated with firefighting response, if required.



Construction

Attendees raised concerns associated with the construction phase of the project, including:

- Impact on local roads from construction traffic.
- Impacts on local road safety for local community and road users.
- Increase in noise.

Potential opportunities that attendees would like to see further considered as the project progresses included:

- Potential impacts on livestock / stock movements during construction to be included in relevant management plans.



Local employment

Attendees highlighted local employment opportunities as a potential positive impact of the project. To see this realised, stakeholder would like to see:

- A commitment to local jobs.
- Clear pathways for local people to express interest in employment opportunities.



Local Heritage

Attendees highlighted the importance of Kelly history to the local community, raising concerns associated with the impact of the project on local history.



Cultural Heritage

Attendees highlighted the importance of engaging with Traditional Owners, including the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation (the Registered Aboriginal Party responsible for the Cultural Heritage Assessment process for the project). There was also a suggestion to engage with Bangerang Aboriginal Corporation.

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Community benefits

Attendees recognised community benefits as a potential positive impact of the project. To see these realised, suggestions included:

- Community benefits focused on the local community.
- Opportunities for reduced energy costs and support for local community groups.
- Local involvement in administration of benefits and an accessible process for community groups.
- Establishment of a dedicated group with a clear governance structure to distribute funds associated with all solar projects in the area.



Community engagement

Concerns related to:

- The extent and nature of community engagement.
- Allowing sufficient timing for engagement before the PPA is submitted.

Potential opportunities that attendees would like to see further considered as the project progresses included:

- Ongoing engagement opportunities for neighbours living near the proposed project.
- Community engagement once technical studies are complete to present findings back to the community.



Waste management and decommissioning

Concerns related to:

- Decommissioning of projects and potential unknown impacts on the health of the local environment and waterways.
- Who will be responsible for decommissioning and if there will be commitments linked to this.
- Recycling of project components over the life of the project.

During the sessions, we heard requests for further opportunities to engage, including interest in a larger community session, while others noted the benefits of being able to engage via smaller group / individual conversations. We are currently considering the most appropriate format for ongoing community engagement.

Thank you for your attendance and raising questions and concerns with the proposed Nioka Solar project.

For further project information and updates please refer to the Nioka Solar website <https://niokasolar.com>