



EXTRAODINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

**Held at 12:45pm
12 March 2019**

ROLL CALL

Councillors:

Cr M Pearce (Mayor)
Cr R Crouch (Deputy Mayor)
Cr R Bell
Cr M Disting
Cr N Ledger
Cr T O'Connor
Cr L Sampson
Cr I Strutt
Cr T Toomey

Staff:

Mr A Hopkins, General Manager
Mr T Seymour, Director Infrastructure & Regulation
Mr S Paul, Chief Financial Officer
Minute Clerk

MINUTES

Minutes of the Uralla Shire Council at an Extraordinary Meeting
held at 12:45pm on 12 March 2019

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The Meeting Commenced at: 12:46pm

ATTENDANCE

Present were the Chairperson Cr M Pearce (Mayor), Cr R Crouch (Deputy Mayor), and Councillors, R Bell, M Dusting, N Ledger, T O'Connor, L Sampson, I Strutt, and T Toomey, General Manager Andrew Hopkins, Director Infrastructure and Development (Mr T Seymour), Chief Financial Officer (Mr S Paul), and Minute Clerk.

1. OPENING OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING AND PRAYER

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

3. APOLOGIES

The Chair advised there were no apologies received.

4. DISCLOSURES & DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chair outlined details of the pecuniary and non-pecuniary Conflict of Interest Declarations received in relation to the 12 March 2019 Meeting.

COUNCILLOR	ITEM OR REPORT NUMBER	PECUNIARY OR NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST	NATURE OF INTEREST
Cr T O'Connor	Report 1	Non-Pecuniary	I was a member of the Community Reference Group for the UPC Community Benefit Sharing Initiative from the New England Solar Farm Project.
Cr T O'Connor	Report 2	Non-Pecuniary	I was a member of the Community Reference Group for the UPC Community Benefit Sharing Initiative from the New England Solar Farm Project.

5. PRESENTATIONS

Speaker 1:	Mr Hugh Sutherland
Subject:	For the proposed New England Solar Farm

The Chair introduced the Speaker, Mr Hugh Sutherland.

The Speaker made a presentation to Council in relation to the proposed New England Solar Farm.

The Chair invited questions from Councillors.

The Chair thanked the Speaker for his presentation to Council.

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Speaker 2:	Mr Mark Fogarty
Subject:	Against the proposed New England Solar Farm

The Chair introduced the Speaker, Mr Mark Fogarty.

The Speaker made a presentation to Council in relation to the proposed New England Solar Farm.

The Chair invited questions from Councillors.

The Chair thanked the Speaker for his presentation to Council.

Speaker 3:	Ms Abby Croft
Subject:	For the proposed New England Solar Farm

The Chair introduced the Speaker, Ms Abby Croft.

The Speaker made a presentation to Council in relation to the proposed New England Solar Farm.

The Chair invited questions from Councillors.

The Chair thanked the Speaker for her presentation to Council.

Speaker 4:	Mr John Peatfield
Subject:	Against the proposed New England Solar Farm

The Chair introduced the Speaker, Mr John Peatfield.

The Speaker made a presentation to Council in relation to the proposed New England Solar Farm.

The Chair invited questions from Councillors.

The Chair thanked the Speaker for his presentation to Council.

6. REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Department: Infrastructure & Development
Submitted by: Manager of Development & Planning
Reference/Subject: Report 1 / New England Solar Farm submission

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That Council resolve to make a submission to the Department of Planning and Environment in relation to the proposed New England Solar Farm stating that Council endorses sustainable development within the Shire, and expects the Development Application to be considered in the context of our Community Strategic Plan, particularly the following stated goals:

- To preserve, protect and renew our beautiful natural environment.
- Maintain a healthy balance between development and the environment.
- An attractive environment for business, tourism and industry.
- Growing and diversified employment, education and tourism opportunities.

Further:

- A 'cradle to grave' approach should be taken to ensure the project is environmentally sustainable during construction, operation, and decommissioning;
- Operation of the worker's village should be 'best practice' with regard to environmental impacts;
- Any upgrades to Council Infrastructure to service the construction and/or operation of the development should be at the developers expense;
- No Council infrastructure should be negatively impacted by the solar farm construction, and

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- Protection of the amenity of residents surrounding the solar farm and along transport routes should be the paramount consideration in the decision making process.

PROCEDURAL MOTION (Crs R Crouch / T Toomey)
To move to Committee of the Whole

X01.03/19 CARRIED

Councillors held a detailed discussion in committee regarding the report.

PROCEDURAL MOTION (Crs R Crouch / M Dusting)
To resume Standing Orders

X02.03/19 CARRIED

The Chair outlined details of the discussion held in committee.

MOTION (Crs T O'Connor / N Ledger)

That;

Council resolve to make a submission to the Department of Planning and Environment in relation to the proposed New England Solar Farm stating that Council endorses sustainable development within the Shire, and expects the Development Application to be considered in the context of our Community Strategic Plan, particularly the following stated goals:

- To preserve, protect and renew our beautiful natural environment.
- Maintain a healthy balance between development and the environment.
- An attractive environment for business, tourism and industry.
- Growing and diversified employment, education and tourism opportunities.

Further:

- A 'cradle to grave' approach should be taken to ensure the project is environmentally sustainable during construction, operation, and decommissioning through appropriate bonding arrangements with the NSW Government
- Operation of the worker's village should be 'best practice' with regard to environmental impacts;
- That local employment be preferred
- Systems be put in place to preserve environmental values
- Any upgrades and maintenance to Council Infrastructure to service the construction and/or operation of the development should be at the developers expense;
- No Council infrastructure should be negatively impacted by the solar farm construction and or operation

and

- Protection of the amenity of residents surrounding the solar farm and along transport routes should be the paramount consideration in the decision making process.

X03.03/19 CARRIED

Department: Infrastructure & Development
Submitted by: Manager of Development & Planning
Reference/Subject: Report 2 / New England Solar Farm technical submission

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That Council resolve to make a technical submission on infrastructure to the Department of Planning and Environment in relation to the proposed New England Solar Farm with the following recommended conditions of consent:

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Roads

- A Traffic Management Plan prepared by an accredited certifier with detail commensurate with the scale of the solar farm is to be submitted to Council and approved before any works are undertaken. The Traffic Management Plan is to detail specific routes for heavy vehicles and dust suppression maintenance standards.
- Project-related heavy vehicles are not to traverse any roads not specifically identified in the approved Traffic Management Plan.
- Any damage to Council's road infrastructure is to be rectified by the developer, at their cost, to the satisfaction of Council's General Manager or nominee.
- Local roads proposed to be used for project-related traffic are to be constructed, at the cost of the developer, to meet the current Austroads design standard at the time of construction, based on peak predicted traffic volumes outlined in the EIS prepared by EMM Consulting dated 16 November 2018.
- The subject roads are to be maintained to this standard, at the developer's cost, until the completion of construction and issue of an Occupation Certificate.

Services

- Any provision of normal municipal services by Council to the developer will be at Council's discretion.
- A Waste Management Plan with detail commensurate with the scale of the solar farm is to be submitted to Council and approved before any works are undertaken.
- Comingled recycling or any other waste products will not be accepted at the Uralla landfill without formal agreement.
- A Water and Waste Water Management Plan with detail commensurate with the scale of the solar farm and workers village is to be submitted to Council and approved before any works are undertaken.

Assets

- Location of any project related assets on Council controlled land will require approval of Council by resolution.

Rehabilitation

- All infrastructure and equipment, including underground cabling, is to be removed from the site during decommissioning.
- Rehabilitation of the workers accommodation site must be done prior to the issue of the occupation certificate.

PROCEDURAL MOTION (Crs R Crouch / M Dusting)
To move to Committee of the Whole

X04.03/19 CARRIED

Councillors held a detailed discussion in committee regarding the report.

PROCEDURAL MOTION (Crs I Strutt / L Sampson)
To resume Standing Orders

X05.03/19 CARRIED

The Chair outlined details of the discussion held in committee.

MOTION (Crs T O'Connor / M Dusting)

That;

Council resolve to make a technical submission on infrastructure to the Department of Planning and Environment in relation to the proposed New England Solar Farm with the following recommended conditions of consent:

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Roads

- A Traffic Management Plan prepared by an accredited certifier with detail commensurate with the scale of the solar farm is to be submitted to Council and approved before any works are undertaken. The Traffic Management Plan is to detail specific routes for heavy vehicles and dust suppression maintenance standards.
- The Traffic Management Plan is to be developed for each road prior to it being utilised by the developer.
- Any roads to be used for B Doubles are to be assessed using the RMS B double route assessment guidelines and, if upgrading is required, this work is to be undertaken by the developer.
- Roads to be used for Oversized/Overweight movements are to be assessed as per National Heavy Vehicle Regulator assessment.
- That gravel roads in front of residences be sealed for a length of 200m for dust suppression purposes.
- All roads need to be upgraded as per the standards set out in Table 4.2, Appendix K (of the EIS), as per future daily traffic assessment for project peak construction traffic by the developer prior to commencement of site works for each stage.
- Project-related heavy vehicles are not to traverse any roads not specifically identified in the approved Traffic Management Plan.
- Any damage to Council's road infrastructure is to be immediately rectified by the developer or operator, at their cost, to the satisfaction of Councils General Manager or nominee.
- Local roads proposed to be used for project-related traffic are to be constructed, at the cost of the developer, to meet the current Austroads design standard at the time of construction, based on peak predicted traffic volumes outlined in the EIS prepared by EMM Consulting dated 16 November 2018.
- The subject roads are to be maintained to this standard, at the developers cost, until the completion of construction and issue of an Occupation Certificate.

Services

- Any provision of normal municipal services by Council to the developer will be at Councils discretion.
- A Waste Management Plan with detail commensurate with the scale of the solar farm is to be submitted to Council and approved before any works are undertaken.
- Comingled recycling or any other waste products will not be accepted at the Uralla landfill without formal agreement.
- A Water and Waste Water Management Plan with detail commensurate with the scale of the solar farm and workers village is to be submitted to Council and approved before any works are undertaken.
- Adequate wash bays are provided and used.

Assets

- Location of any project related assets on Council controlled land will require approval of Council by resolution.

Rehabilitation

- All infrastructure and equipment, including underground cabling above 500mm depth, is to be removed from the site during decommissioning.
- Rehabilitation of the workers accommodation site must be done prior to the issue of the occupation certificate.

Environmental

- An environmental monitoring plan be developed and implemented to include:
 - On and off site pollution by heavy metals
 - Monitoring the impact of the panels on migratory birds

X06.03/19 CARRIED

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CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting was closed at: 2:45pm

COUNCIL MINUTES CONFIRMED BY:	
RESOLUTION NUMBER:	
DATE:	
MAYOR:	