



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

The Heart of Gippsland

**COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
ORDINARY MEETING**

Meeting to be held at

Wellington Centre – Wellington Room

Foster Street, Sale

Tuesday 2 February 2021, commencing at 3:00 PM

**or join Wellington on the Web:
www.wellington.vic.gov.au**

**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
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COUNCIL MEETING INFORMATION

Members of the Public Gallery should note that the Council records and publishes Council meetings via YouTube to enhance the accessibility of Council meetings to the broader Wellington community. These recordings are also archived and may be published on Council's Website for viewing by the public or used for publicity or information purposes. At the appropriate times during the meeting, members of the gallery may address the Council at which time their image, comments or submissions will be recorded.

Members of the public who are not in attendance at the Council meeting but who wish to communicate with the Council via the online webform should lodge their questions or comments early in the meeting to ensure that their submissions can be dealt with at the end of the meeting.

Please could gallery visitors and Councillors ensure that mobile phones and other electronic devices are turned off or in silent mode for the duration of the meeting.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

"We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Gunaikurnai people, and pay respects to their Elders past and present"

PRAYER

"Almighty God, we ask your blessing upon the Wellington Shire Council, its Councillors, officers, staff and their families. We pray for your guidance in our decisions so that the true good of the Wellington Shire Council may result to the benefit of all residents and community groups."

Amen

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT/S OF INTEREST

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING/S

3.1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

ACTION OFFICER: GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

PURPOSE

To adopt the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 15 December 2020.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 15 December 2020.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

ACTION OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ITEM	FROM MEETING	COMMENTS	ACTION BY
Item 15.2 Review of External Marketing Budget Allocation	15 December 2020	Council moved that this item lay on the table until Council resumes in 2021	General Manager Development

5. ACCEPTANCE OF LATE AND URGENT ITEMS

6. NOTICE/S OF MOTION

7. RECEIVING OF PETITION OR JOINT LETTERS

7.1. OUTSTANDING PETITIONS

ACTION OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ITEM	FROM MEETING	COMMENTS	ACTION BY
NIL			

7.2. RESPONSE TO PETITION: OBJECTION TO PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION P388/2020

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER LAND USE PLANNING

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider and respond to a petition presented at the Ordinary Council meeting of 15 December 2020, raising objection to Planning Permit Application P388/2020 (use and develop land to keep and breed up to 40 dogs at 970 Heyfield Seaton Road, Heyfield).

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

RECOMMENDATION

That in response to the petition presented at the Ordinary Council meeting of 15 December 2020, Council advise the head petitioner that Planning Permit Application P388/2020 has been withdrawn.

BACKGROUND

On 30 September 2020, Council received a planning permit application (P388/2020) to use and develop land at 970 Heyfield Seaton Road, Heyfield to keep (and breed) up to 40 fox hounds.

Following public notice of the planning permit application being given, a petition objecting to the planning permit application was received at the Ordinary Council meeting of 15 December 2020.

The petition stated that:

Petition to object to the issue of a Planning Permit application reference number P388/2020.

We, the undersigned residents of the Wellington Shire Council, in accordance with the Notice of an Application for a Planning Permit for the property known as 970 Heyfield-Seaton Rd, Heyfield Vic 3858 hereby object to the issue of this permit to the Responsible Authority by way of group submission.

The planning permit application has, however, been withdrawn by the permit applicant. On this basis, it is recommended that Council advise the head petitioner that the application has been withdrawn.

It is noted that a new planning permit application is expected to be lodged with Council in 2021, at which time the head petitioner may elect to lodge a new petition with Council as deemed appropriate.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

OPTIONS

Council has the following options:

1. That in response to the petition presented at the Ordinary Council meeting of 15 December 2020, Council advise the head petitioner that Planning Permit Application P388/2020 has been withdrawn; or
2. That Council seek further information for consideration at a future Council meeting prior to responding to the head petitioner.

PROPOSAL

That in response to the petition presented at the Ordinary Council meeting of 15 December 2020, Council advise the head petitioner that Planning Permit Application P388/2020 has been withdrawn.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COUNCIL PLAN IMPACT

The Council Plan 2017-21 Theme 2 Services & Infrastructure states the following strategic objective and related strategy:

Strategic Objective 2.3: *“Wellington Shire is well planned, considering long term growth and sustainability.”*

Strategy 2.3.3: "Recognise and advocate for best practice land development which considers energy efficiency and sustainability for housing."

This report supports the above Council Plan strategic objective and strategy.

RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time given that the permit application has been withdrawn.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

8. INVITED ADDRESSES, PRESENTATIONS OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

9. QUESTION/S ON NOTICE

9.1. OUTSTANDING QUESTION/S ON NOTICE

ACTION OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ITEM	FROM MEETING	COMMENTS	ACTION BY
NIL			

10. DELEGATES REPORT

11. GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

11.1. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS

ACTION OFFICER: GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

OBJECTIVE

To report on all assembly of Councillor records received for the period 7 December 2020 to 24 January 2021.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note and receive the attached Assembly of Councillor records for the period 7 December 2020 to 24 January 2021.

BACKGROUND

Section 80A of the *Local Government Act 1989* required a written record be kept of all assemblies of Councillors, stating the names of all Councillors and Council staff attending, matters considered and any conflict of interest disclosures made by a Councillor. These records were required to be reported at an ordinary meeting of the Council and recorded in the minutes. Under the new *Local Government Act 2020*, this requirement is no longer provided for however, under Council's good governance framework, Council will continue to provide records of assemblies of Councillors to ensure that the community are kept informed of Councillors activity and participation.

Following is a summary of all Assembly of Councillor records received for the period 7 December 2020 to 24 January 2021.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Assembly of Councillors - Cameron Stadium Redevelopment Project Reference Group - 11 December 2020 [11.1.1 - 1 page]
2. Assembly of Councillors - Council Workshops - 15 December 2020 [11.1.2 - 2 pages]
3. Assembly of Councillors - SLUPP Review Group - 8 December 2020 [11.1.3 - 1 page]

OPTIONS

Council has the following options:

1. Note and receive the attached assembly of Councillors records; or
2. Not receive the attached assembly of Councillors records.

PROPOSAL

That Council note and receive the attached assembly of Councillors records during the period 7 December 2020 to 24 January 2021.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

The reporting of written records of assemblies of Councillors to the Council in the prescribed format complied with Section 80A of the *Local Government Act 1989* however, without prescription under the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council will continue to provide these records as part of Council's good governance framework.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COUNCIL PLAN IMPACT

The Council Plan 2017-21 Theme 6 Organisational states the following strategic objective and related strategy:

Strategic Objective 6.3: *"Maintain a well governed, transparent, high performing, ethical and accountable organisation."*

Strategy 6.3.3: *"Ensure sound governance processes that result in responsive, ethical, transparent and accountable decision making."*

This report supports the above Council Plan strategic objective and strategy.

RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS – 11 December2020

ATTACHMENT 11.1.1

MEETING	COUNCILLORS, OFFICERS AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE (NAME AND POSITION)					
Cameron Stadium Redevelopment Project Reference Group	Councillor Name	Attendance	Conflict of Interest	Officer Name	Attendance	Item No.
	Cr Ian Bye	Yes		D Morcom, CEO	No	
	Cr Carolyn Crossley	No		A Skipitaris, GMCS	No	
	Cr Alan Hall	No		S Houlihan, GMC&C	Yes	
	Cr Malcolm Hole	Yes		C Hastie, GMB&NE	No	
	Cr Darren McCubbin	No		B McAlister, GMD	No	
	Cr Gayle Maher	No				
	Cr Carmel Ripper	No				
	Cr Scott Rossetti	No				
	Cr Garry Stephens	No				
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE (NAME AND POSITION)			MATTERS/ITEMS CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING			
Peter Anderson, CoM			Construction progress update			
Maffra Amateur - Basketball Ass Bill Whelan			Opening Event update			
Maffra Gymnastic Club - Robyn Dowse			Media released, updates to the community update			
Maffra Volleyball - Jodie Underwood			Signage design update			
Latrobe Valley Authority - Laurie Paton			Funding agreement milestones update			
			Project status update			
WSC Julie Baker (Minutes), Sam Matthews,			Facility Management Plan update			

Please email completed form to Council's Governance Officer immediately following the meeting for the purpose of recording in Council's register.

ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS – 15 DECEMBER 2020

MEETING	COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE (NAME AND POSITION)				CONFLICT/S OF INTEREST OR ACTION ITEMS
	Name	Attendance	Name	Attendance	
IT / Diary Meeting	Cr Bye	Yes	Cr Stephens	Yes	N/A
	Cr Crossley	Yes	Cr Tatterson	Yes	N/A
	Cr Hole	Yes	Cr Wood	Yes	N/A
	Cr McKenzie	Yes	David Morcom, CEO	Yes	N/A
	Cr Maher (<i>on leave</i>)	No	Leah Carubia, EA CEO	Yes	N/A
	Cr Rossetti	Yes	Damian Norkus, Business Systems Officer	Yes	N/A

MEETING	COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE VIA SKYPE (ONLINE MEETING ONLY)				CONFLICT/S OF INTEREST OR ACTION ITEMS
	Name	Attendance	Name	Attendance	
Workshops	Cr Bye	Yes	Cr Tatterson	Yes	
	Cr Crossley	Yes	Cr Wood	Yes	
	Cr Hole	Yes	David Morcom, CEO	Yes	
	Cr McKenzie	Yes	Arthur Skipitaris, GM Corporate Services	Yes	
	Cr Maher (<i>on leave</i>)	No	Sharon Houlihan, GM Community & Culture	Yes	
	Cr Rossetti	Yes	Chris Hastie, GM Built & Natural Environment	Yes	
	Cr Stephens	Yes	Brent McAlister, GM Development	Yes	

	MATTERS/ITEMS CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING	OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE VIA SKYPE (ONLINE MEETING ONLY)
Workshops (cont.)	1. NEW COUNCIL AGENDA FORMAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arthur Skipitaris, General Manager Corporate Services • Denise Teo, Governance Officer <p><i>Conflict of Interest: Nil</i></p>
	2. PERRY BRIDGE SOLAR PROJECT UPDATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • King Arthur, Executive Director Solis RE (external presenter) • Michael Bugelly, Executive Director Solis RE (external presenter) • Brett Singh, Marathon Electrical (external presenter) <p><i>Conflict of Interest: Nil</i></p>
	3. COUNCIL PLAN 2021/25 BRIEFING PART 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jane Leslie, Principal Consultant Aerium (external presenter) <p><i>Conflict of Interest: Nil</i></p>
	4. MAFFRA MEN'S SHED UPDATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brent McAlister, General Manager Development • Mark Benfield, Coordinator Community Facilities Planning <p><i>Conflict of Interest: Nil</i></p>
	5. PORT OF SALE PRECINCT MASTERPLAN CHARRETTE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Morcom, CEO • Brent McAlister, General Manager Development • Arthur Skipitaris, General Manager Corporate Services • Bodye Darvill, Manager Community Wellbeing • Asela Kaluararachchi, Corporate Planning and Business Excellent Officer <p><i>Conflict of Interest: Nil</i></p>
	6. DELIBERATIVE ENGAGEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bodye Darvill, Manager Community Wellbeing • Brent McAlister, General Manager Development <p><i>Conflict of Interest: Nil</i></p>
	7. COUNCIL'S ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DURING A PANDEMIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIKE McSTEPHEN, Coordinator Emergency Management <p><i>Conflict of Interest: Nil</i></p>
	8. STRATEGIC PLANNING - WORK PROGRAM PRIORITIES 2020 - 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JOSHUA CLYDESDALE, Manager Land Use Planning • BARRY HEARSEY, Coordinator Strategic Planning <p><i>Conflict of Interest: Nil</i></p>

ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS – 8 DECEMBER 2020

MEETING	COUNCILLORS, OFFICERS AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE (NAME AND POSITION)					
STRATEGIC LAND USE PLANNING PROJECT REVIEW GROUP	Councillor Name	Attendance	Conflict of Interest	Officer Name	Attendance	Item No.
	Cr Ian Bye	Yes	NONE DECLARED	D Morcom, CEO	No	
	Cr Carolyn Crossley	No		A Skipitaris, GMCS	No	
	Cr Malcolm Hole	No		S Houlihan, GMC&C	No	
	Cr Marcus McKenzie	No		C Hastie, GMB&NE	Yes	LEFT MEETING AT 11.AM
	Cr Gayle Maher	Yes	NONE DECLARED	B McAlister, GMD	Yes	ALL
	Cr Scott Rossetti	No				
	Cr Garry Stephens	No				
	Cr John Tatterson	Yes	NONE DECLARED			
Cr Jill Wood	No					
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE (NAME AND POSITION)			MATTERS/ITEMS CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING			
Josh Clydesdale (Manager Land Use Planning)			Meeting Agenda 8 December 2020			
Dean Morahan (Manager Assets and Projects)			Strategic Planning Priorities			
Barry Hearsey (Coordinator Strategic Planning)			Incoming Correspondence			
Paul Johnson (Manager Business Development)			Rezoning Requests			
John Traa (Principal Planner)			Other Business			
Sam Pye (Coordinator Infrastructure Development)						
Anthony Greenfield (Strategic Planner)						

12. GENERAL MANAGER DEVELOPMENT

12.1. PERRY BRIDGE SOLAR FARM PROJECT SUBMISSION

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER LAND USE PLANNING

PURPOSE

For Council to endorse a submission to the State Government's exhibition of the Perry Bridge Solar Farm project.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the attached submission to the Perry Bridge Solar Farm project.

BACKGROUND

Solis RE is proposing to develop a \$125 million Perry Bridge Solar Farm on 93ha of land located at 1775 Bengworden Road, Perry Bridge (*see map extract below*).

The solar energy facility (the facility) will comprise over 100,000 solar panels generating 44 megawatts provided with ancillary battery storage. The facility will play an important role in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, avoiding 72,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions each year for 30 years of operation.

The site layout has been guided by the 'Solar Development Guidelines' (DELWP 2019), CFA parameters, site context including nearby properties, location of easement and powerlines and location of native vegetation.

The proposed facility will provide economic and community benefits to the local Gippsland region, with opportunities for local jobs and businesses. The facility is forecast to provide approximately 88 jobs during the construction phase, which in the context of the 2019/20 bushfires and COVID-19 will provide a stimulus for the local economy. The facility will also provide an important electricity source that will assist in stabilising the supply of power between Sale and Bairnsdale.

Whilst the site sits within the Farming Zone (FZ) it is noted that due to the soil characteristics and the annual rainfall, the land is of lower agricultural value. Notwithstanding this, it is expected that the facility will have minimal disturbance on the soil and that the site will be remediated to its former condition at the end of its life cycle.



Full details, including all supporting technical reports associated with the facility can be found at the following website: <https://www.perrybridgesolar.com.au/>

The responsible authority for the planning permit application (PA2000959) is the Minister for Planning and as such approval falls under the responsibility of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). Public notification is currently being undertaken until 5 February 2021.

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the attached submission, which has been prepared to ensure that Council's main interests are appropriately considered prior to the State Government's determination of the planning permit application.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Perry Bridge Solar Farm Project PA2000959 [12.1.1 - 1 page]

OPTIONS

Council has the following options available:

1. Endorse the attached submission to the Perry Bridge Solar Farm Project; or
2. Not endorse the attached submission to the Perry Bridge Solar Farm Project and seek further information for consideration at a future Council meeting.

PROPOSAL

That Council endorse the attached submission to the Perry Bridge Solar Farm Project.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

The Council submission will be lodged with DELWP in accordance with relevant statutory requirements and timeframes.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

Wellington 2030

'Change energy use within Council, by residents, business and industries to reduce impact on the environment.'

'Increase renewable energy resources in Wellington to combat the decline in energy produced from fossil fuels.'

'Maximise economic output whilst ensuring the natural environment is protected.'

'Support business to promote sustainable environmental practices in Wellington.'

'Leverage new business opportunities through the expansion of technologies such as high-speed broadband networks.'

COUNCIL PLAN IMPACT

The Council Plan 2017-21 Theme 2 Services & Infrastructure states the following strategic objective and related strategy:

Strategic Objective 2.3: *"Wellington Shire is well planned, considering long term growth and sustainability."*

Strategy 2.3.3: *"Recognise and advocate for best practice land development which considers energy efficiency and sustainability for housing."*

The Council Plan 2017-21 Theme 3 Natural Environment states the following strategic objective and related strategy:

Strategic Objective 3.1: *"Conserve and protect our natural environment through*

responsible and sustainable management practices."

Strategy 3.1.2: *"Work in partnership to protect and preserve Wellington Shire's natural environment, biodiversity, resources and environmental heritage."*

The Council Plan 2017-21 Theme 3 Natural Environment states the following strategic objective and related strategy:

Strategic Objective 3.2: *"Demonstrate leadership in waste and water management, and energy efficiency."*

Strategy 3.2.3: *"Advocate for and provide leadership toward a low carbon economy."*

The Council Plan 2017-21 Theme 5 Economy states the following strategic objective and related strategy:

Strategic Objective 5.2: *"Use a targeted approach to attract new business investment to Wellington Shire, to support population growth."*

Strategy 5.2.1: *"Create a supportive investment environment that encourages new development and job growth."*

This report supports the above Council Plan strategic objectives and strategies.

RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

To support the ongoing community and stakeholder engagement undertaken by the proponents over the past 18 months, a formal period of community consultation was completed between 13 July 2020 and 15 September 2020 by independent consultants 'Spence Consulting Group'.

The response to the process undertaken was understood to be generally positive. In total twelve (12) businesses expressed interest to work on the project and ten (10) enquiries were received from community members and community groups. The enquiries received covered a range of topics including:

- Energy supply opportunities in the local area;
- Support for the project and broader dissemination of project details;
- Local workforce preparedness and training; and
- Project impacts, including traffic, setbacks and visual amenity, noise and energy supply interruptions.

Formal public notification of the planning permit application is now being undertaken at the request of DELWP. The closing date for submissions to the current planning permit application is 5 February 2021.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The key environmental impacts associated with the proposed facility include noise disturbance and native vegetation removal. The proposed mitigation approaches to both issues are outlined and addressed in the technical reports supporting the planning application. Potential impacts will be controlled through appropriate conditions applied to the planning permit should the facility be approved.

Noise

An Acoustic Report has been prepared, which concludes that subject to noise attenuation measures, the proposal will meet the relevant Environment Protection Authority (EPA), *'Publication 1411: Noise from Industry in Regional Victoria Recommended Maximum Noise Levels from Commerce, Industry and Trade Premises in Regional Victoria (NIRV)'*.

The purpose of the noise assessment was to consider any potential noise emissions associated with the proposed facility which may affect residential receptors located in the vicinity of the subject site.

Native Vegetation

The majority of native vegetation has been retained on site including a large portion of native grassland and 23 trees. Native grassland to be removed is considered low quality. Appropriate offsets will be provided for the native vegetation to be removed.

The supporting technical report details that the current facility footprint will also not have a significant impact on any habitat for any rare or threatened species.

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

Community engagement has been undertaken by the proponent in accordance with DELWP's *'Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing in Renewable Energy Development, A Guide for Renewable Energy Developers'*. The current planning permit has been subject to a period of public exhibition, which commenced on 16 December 2020 and ends on 5 February 2021.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

Perry Bridge Solar Farm Project PA2000959
development.approvals@delwp.vic.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

SUBMISSION TO THE PERRY BRIDGE SOLAR FARM PROJECT - PLANNING APPLICATION REF: PA2000959

Thank you for the opportunity for the Wellington Shire Council ('Council') to lodge a submission to the proposed Perry Bridge Solar Farm Project (the Project) as part of the formal statutory planning process.

Council is of the view that the Project is consistent with the current land use planning policies contained within the Wellington Planning Scheme, including advocating for the facilitation and greater use of renewable energy supply and technologies in appropriate locations.

This sentiment is supported by strategic objectives contained within the '*Wellington Shire Council Plan 2017-21*' and '*Wellington 2030*', both of which recognise the instrumental role that the greater use of renewable energy developments have in supporting and stimulating economic growth and facilitating more sustainable development outcomes within the Wellington Shire.

Should the Minister for Planning approve the planning permit application, Council would welcome surety that where any concerns relating to potential social and environmental impacts have been raised, appropriate statutory measures and/or conditions are put in place to mitigate against any future issues or conflict arising as a direct consequence of the development.

On behalf of Council, I would like to acknowledge the extensive consultation and detailed technical work which has been undertaken by the proponents in support of the planning permit application. The views of the local community, particularly those residents in close proximity to the proposal are an important component in the decision-making process and as such, must be recognised and afforded a commensurate degree of consideration in the final assessment of the application.

Council welcomes your final assessment and prompt determination of the permit application, with the hope that further solar energy investment will be realised in the Wellington Shire to support future environmental and economic prosperity.

Yours sincerely,

CR GARRY STEPHENS
Mayor

13. FURTHER GALLERY AND ONLINE COMMENTS

Gallery comments are an opportunity for members of the public to raise any particular matter they wish. This allows those in the gallery to speak directly to Councillors but is not a forum designed for open discussion or debate. We will listen respectfully to what you have to say and make the commitment that if your query requires a written response, we will advise you that a response will be forthcoming, and a copy of that response will be circulated to all Councillors.

This is not a forum for members of the public to lodge complaints against individuals, including Councillors and staff, particularly as that individual gets no public right of reply to any matter raised. We take complaints seriously, and in line with the guidance from the Victorian Ombudsman and the local Government Inspectorate, we request that any specific complaint against an individual be put in writing. This way, your concern can be properly dealt with while ensuring fairness to all parties concerned.

If you wish to speak, we remind you that this part of the meeting is being recorded and broadcast on our website. Council's official Minutes will record that you have spoken to Council and the subject you spoke to Council about but will not record specific comments. We ask you to state your name in full, where you are from, and you have three minutes.

ONLINE COMMENTS –

GALLERY COMMENTS –

Meeting declared closed at:

The live streaming of this Council meeting will now come to a close.

14. IN CLOSED SESSION

COUNCILLOR

That the meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Section 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020 to consider matters under Section 66(5)(b) as defined by Section 3(1) being:

- a) Council business information***
- b) Security information***
- c) Land use planning information***
- d) Law enforcement information***
- e) Legal privileged information***
- f) Personal information***
- g) Private commercial information***
- h) Confidential meeting information***
- i) Internal arbitration information***
- j) Councillor Conduct Panel confidential information***
- k) Information prescribed by the regulations to be confidential information***
- l) Information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989***

IN CLOSED SESSION

COUNCILLOR

That Council move into open session and ratify the decision made in closed session.