

Clarke Creek Community Information Session 25th July 2017: Summary

Topics	Response/approach/mitigation
Mobile reception	Pacific Hydro will work directly with Telstra (the internet service provider) to ensure that there is ample connectivity during construction should PH go ahead with the solar farm project.
Road dilapidation	A traffic assessment has been completed as part of our feasibility studies and this will inform any traffic management plans which may be required. Typically, traffic management plans are implemented by the contractor selected to deliver the project and Pacific Hydro will work closely with them to ensure that plans are adhered to and take consideration of other road users, key stakeholders and the community.
Freight and traffic increases	Freight and traffic increases are both taken into account in the development and implementation of formal traffic management plans.
Port constraints	A port of entry has not yet been selected but feedback provided by the community regarding the Port of Mackay is being considered as part of the project planning process.
Ensuring opportunities for the community to respond or provide input to the process of approvals for solar projects in the region	Pacific Hydro advocates strongly for good community engagement practices across the industry and encourages continuous improvement both internally and externally. We are committed to working collaboratively with all our stakeholders, including community, local, state and federal government departments.
Visual impacts and character of the rural landscape	A glare assessment has been undertaken which concludes that there will be no impact to surrounding rural dwellings. Notwithstanding this, Pacific Hydro is committed to being a good neighbour and will work with neighbours to mitigate any other visual impacts should they be identified.
Length of staged process possible	Pacific Hydro will seek permission from Isaac Regional Council to build a solar farm with a capacity of 350MW and it is anticipated that the project would be delivered in stages of up to 100MW. Pacific Hydro has a vested interest in developing future stages as quickly as possible in order to maximise the return on its considerable investment in critical infrastructure such as the substation. Currently, it takes approximately one year to deliver a 100MW project. Notwithstanding this, investment decisions are multi-faceted and while Pacific Hydro would like to deliver subsequent stages as quickly as possible to limit any employment “gaps,” this cannot be guaranteed at this time.
Influx of school aged children with construction crews and capacity of the school to take them / family accommodation on	If the Clarke Creek Solar Farm is approved, Pacific Hydro will work with its selected contractor and collaborate with the school to ensure that the school would be able to accommodate children who may be eligible to attend.

site?

FIFO/Economic opportunities for Clarke Creek

It is likely that the skills and numbers of workers required to deliver Clarke Creek Solar Farm may not be available locally or from close proximity to the site. Pacific Hydro will work with its selected contractor to examine the potential for local employment and to identify areas where learning and upskilling can occur to maximise the possibility. Other possible indirect opportunities to create economic benefit from the project may include property rental, catering, coffee carts and other enterprises subject to council approval.

Transmission lines, where poles will go and safety relating to these poles

The positioning of transmission lines and associated infrastructure will be determined in close consultation with the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) as the custodian of the state-controlled road network and other stakeholders identified in the process. Any infrastructure built will be done so to comply with relevant standards and conditions determined in the permit which might be issued. These permit conditions would include TMR requirements.

There may be an opportunity for the community to provide feedback once an alignment has been determined and any matters raised in that process will be carefully considered.

Ecological issues in gullies and waterways

Pacific Hydro will work closely with the Department of Fisheries (DAF) to identify any potential impact to waterways and gullies. Pacific Hydro and its contractors must comply with all legislation in this regard and receive approval from DAF prior to works commencing.

Alleged or perceived health impacts of solar panels

Solar power is a safe, effective and sustainable form of energy generation. Pacific Hydro is a responsible organisation and we take our obligations to the community extremely seriously. With all our activities we are guided by statutory requirements and by advice from leading authorities such as peak bodies. The solar panels that will be installed at the Haughton Solar Farm are essentially the same as solar panels that are used for domestic energy production in millions of homes across Australia, and are not considered to present any health risks to neighbours or to the community at large.

Ownership of Pacific Hydro Australia

Pacific Hydro was acquired by the State Power Investment Corporation (SPIC) through State Power Investment Overseas of China (SPIC Overseas) in January 2016, after obtaining approval from the Australian Government's Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) and participating in a highly competitive international sale process.

SPIC is one of the top five power generation groups in China, with US\$113 Billion total assets and a total installed capacity that exceeds 100 GW.
