

11.3 Solar Array Progress Report

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY

TO 17 APRIL 2024 ORDINARY MEETING
GOV400103, ENE100032

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report by the Director Community on the Solar Array Progress Report.

Executive summary

At the 19 April 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting, Council provided endorsement of Stage 3 of a 5MW (battery ready) Solar Array. Stage 3 includes onsite the construction, commissioning, and energisation of the solar array. The attached report sets out the progress of the Solar Array Project.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil

Detailed report

The Solar Array project continues to progress. Works continue to take place, cut and fill has been completed, fencing is almost complete, and conduit for the main electrical have been run to the point of connection.

At time of writing this report, the Solar Array design has been completed. The components required for the solar array (transformer, panels and tracking mechanisms) have been ordered and we are awaiting delivery so that construction of the solar array can take place.

Progress has been made with the retail aspect of the project as well as arrangements with Essential Energy for the agreements required to operate the solar array and feed back to the grid. We are hoping to have these contracts in place over the next month to allow further work to progress with the augmentation of the existing Essential Energy infrastructure.

At this stage, we are expecting finalisation of the construction phase between July and September with commissioning of the array shortly after this. The project timeline remains focused on an end date in October 2024. However, there are still potential delays relating to works related to the Essential Energy infrastructure upgrades.

Community Plan implications

Theme	Good Government
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Goal	An effective and efficient organisation
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Strategy	Pursue efficiencies and ongoing business improvement
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Strategic implications

Council Strategies

Community Plan
Operational Plan and Development Plan

Council Policies

Not Applicable

Legislation

Not Applicable

Financial implications

Council has provided a budget of \$8.4 million for the Stage 3 works. While a potential request for additional budget is foreshadowed, this is dependent on further discussions with contractors as we move through the project.

Associated Risks

There are numerous contracts to manage with this project which is exposing Council to potential issues and cost overruns. These contracts are being carefully managed to ensure minimal impact on the budget and on the project timeline. Ultimately, each delay in the project has potential cost impacts contractually as well as the ongoing requirement of Council to continue its existing electricity arrangements.

Regular reporting to Council provides an opportunity to communicate and manage any ongoing or unexpected risks that emerge with this project.

SIMON JONES
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY

3 April 2024

Attachments: 1. Solar Array Project Progress Update - April 2024.

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER



SOLAR ARRAY PROGRESS REPORT

3 APRIL 2024

MID-WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMUNITY

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Project Update

As of 3 April 2024, the overall project progress of the Solar Array Project was approximately 20%.

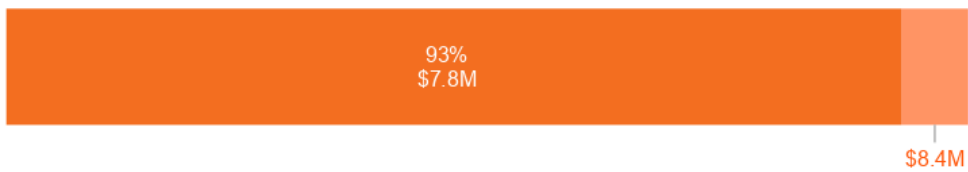
OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS



PROJECT EXPENDITURE



PROJECT EXPENDITURE COMMITTED



Achievements and Highlights

- Cut and fill for the Solar Farm has been completed.
- The Solar ray design has been completed.
- Fencing is almost completed.
- Conduit for the mains electrical have been run to the point of connection.

Works still to be completed

- Design elements for the Essential grid are yet to be completed.
- Construction of Solar Array
- Network Upgrades

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