

SUTTON SOLAR ACTION GROUP
Community meeting 2 August 2018
Our Objections to Renew Estate's
Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIS)

- **Overview of the EIS**
- **Site**
- **Environment**
- **Traffic and Transport**
- **Socio-economic**
- **Lodging submissions**
- **Next steps**

Springdale Solar ~~Farm~~ Electricity Generation Facility



Q. Days since the Preliminary Environmental Assessment ?

A. 295 days or approx. 10 mths

Q. How many people worked on the final documents ?

A. 19 – varying qualifications and paid employees

Q. How many pages are in the EIS ?

A. 8 parts totalling 678 pages

Q. How many days does the public get to provide a submission ?

A. 30 days or 1 month - till 15 August 2018

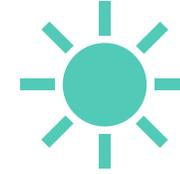
Q. How many people will time to digest this and respond ?

A. We can use all the help we can get but at least 25 responses – objections

SITE



LOCATION



RENEWABLE
ENERGY ZONES



VISUAL



NOISE













Proposed site



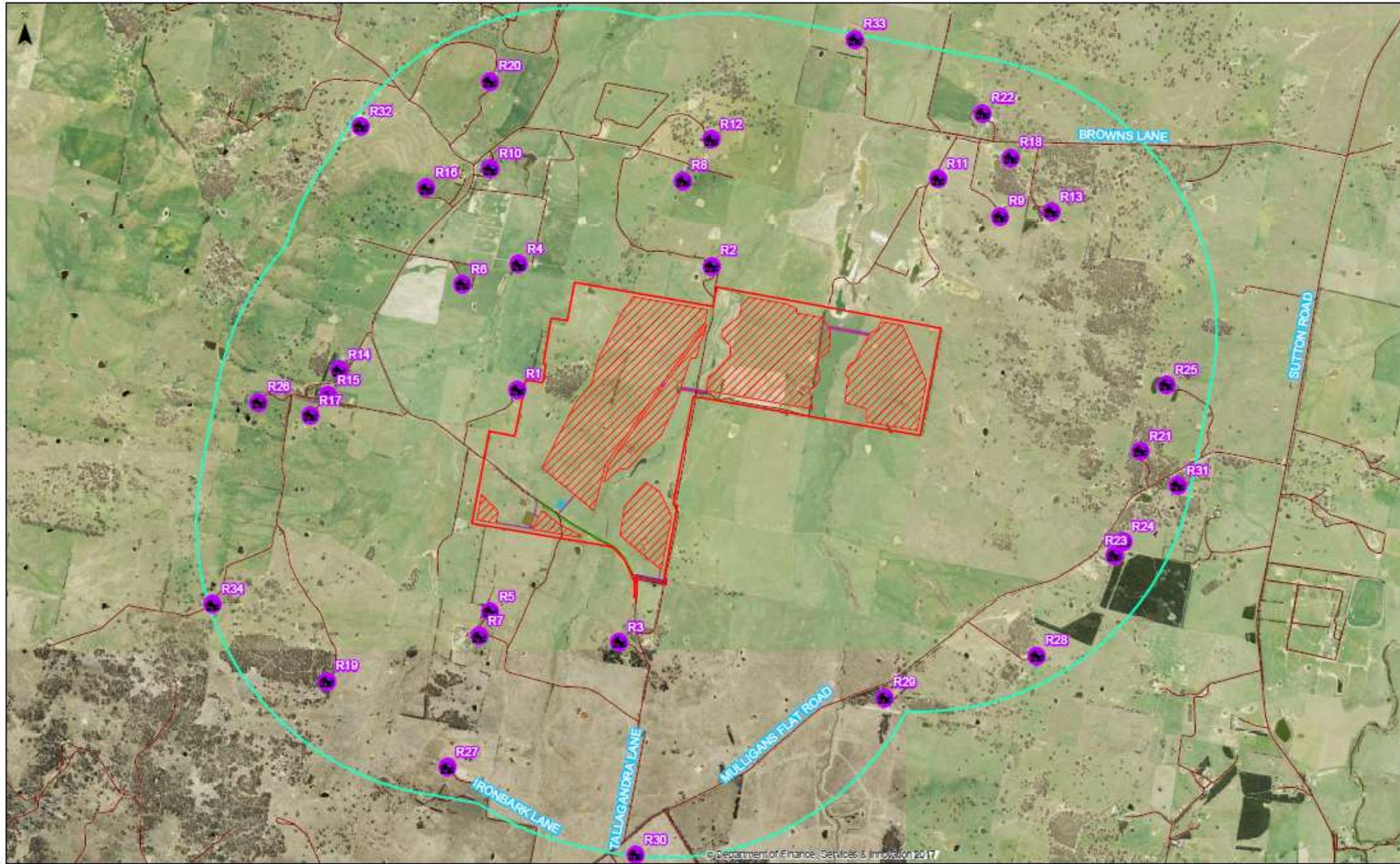
Proposed site



Proposed site



Proposed site



- House
- 2km site buffer
- Control building area
- New public road
- ▨ Solar field area
- Roads
- ▭ Site boundary
- Internal road area
- Road upgrade area
- Substation area

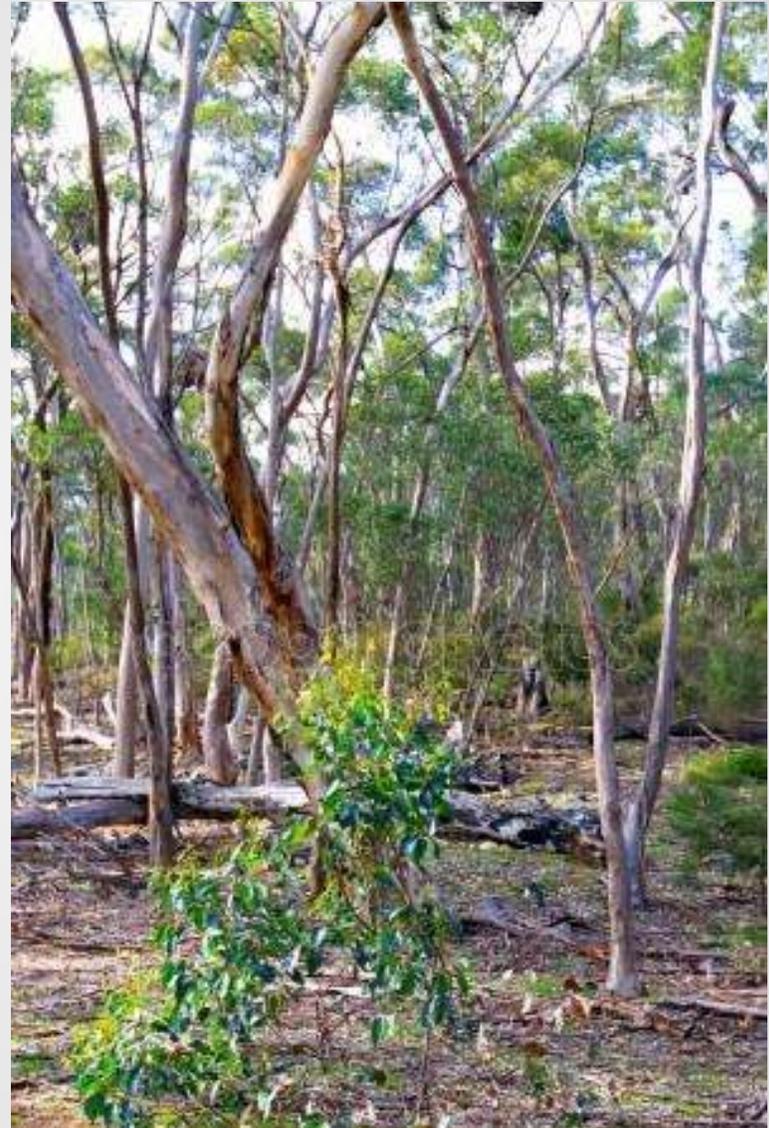
Springdale Solar Farm
Springdale Solar Farm Site Map
0 250 500 1,000 m
Feb 2018
60555008

Figure 24 Springdale Solar Farm noise sensitive receivers

proposed screening



≠







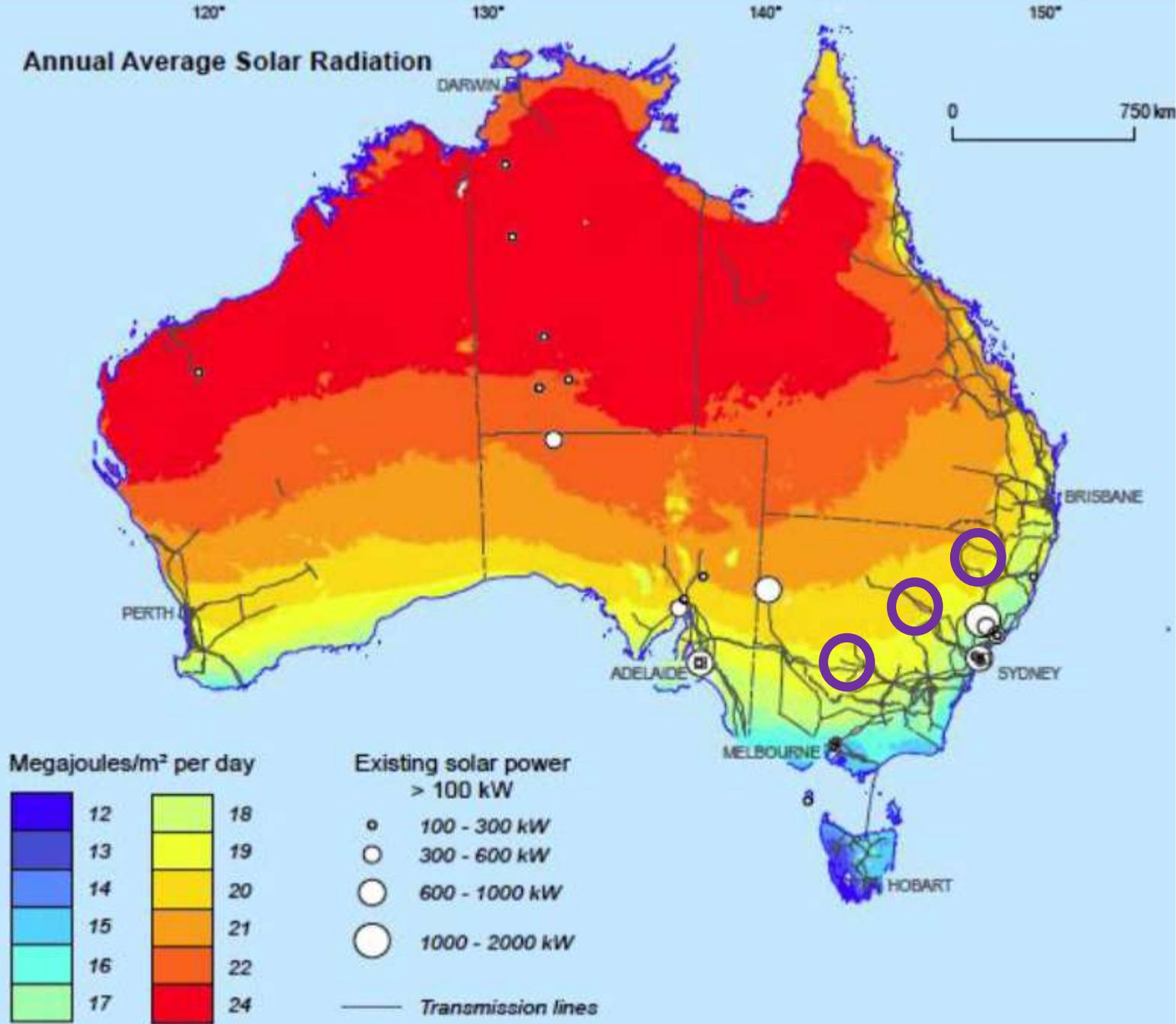
No-one should have to endure this



Pot Size Comparison



Annual Average Solar Radiation



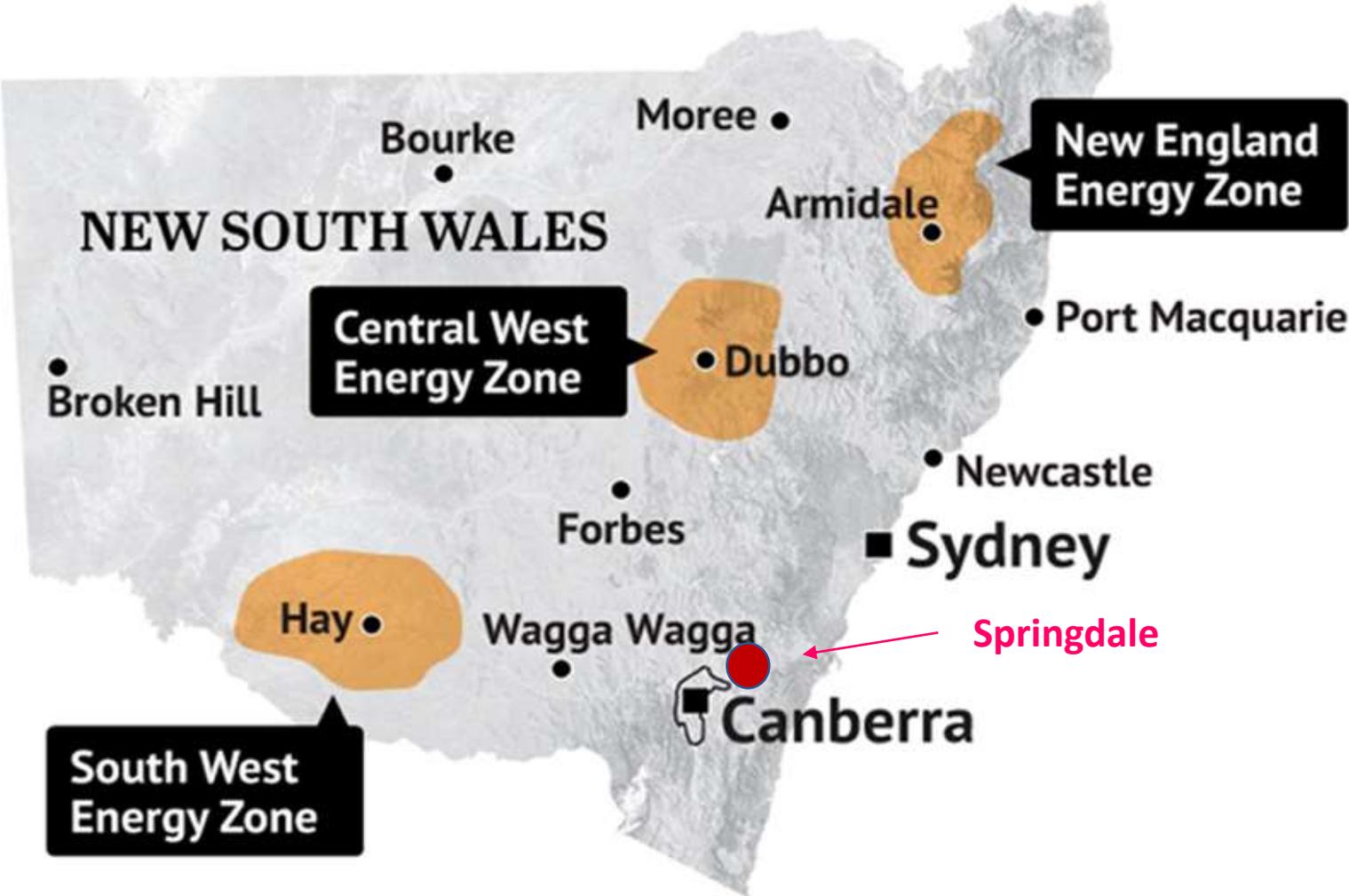
Average solar radiation and currently installed solar power stations with a capacity of more than 10 kW.
Source: Bureau of Meteorology 2009; Geoscience Australia

○ Proposed NSW Renewable Energy Zones (approx.)

NSW government's power plan reveals huge renewable energy resources

The Sydney Morning Herald

Peter Hannam, 22 March 2018



Key considerations for site, selection and constraints

[NSW DPE Guidelines draft-large-scale-solar-energy-guideline-2017-11](#)

Preferable site conditions

- **optimal solar resources** energy generation can be **maximised** for a facility of a given size;
- minimize impacts by:
 - no native vegetation
 - using **previously cleared land and utilised for industrial-type purposes** (brown-field sites) in rural settings,
- sites that are **not conspicuous** or don't attract attention and **with flat, low-lying topography**,
- sites with **potential to be screened**, such as those that can be readily vegetated along boundaries, **to reduce visual impacts**,
- **localities identified by Government as optimal for renewable energy development**; and
- proximity to the electricity network and connection capacity available at the anticipated connection point.

Areas of constraint, constraints may be early indicators of potential land use conflicts

- areas of **native vegetation**,
- habitat of **threatened species or ecological communities within and adjacent to the site**, including **native forests, woodlands, grasslands**,
- **proximity to dwellings and potentially affected properties**,
- sites with **high visibility**, such as those on prominent or high ground positions, or
- **sites located in a valley with residences with elevated views looking toward the site**,

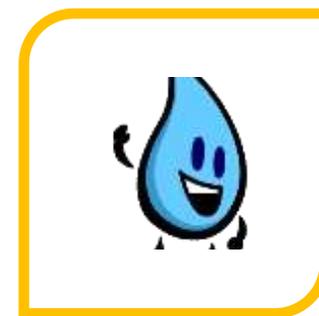
ENVIRONMENT



BIODIVERSITY

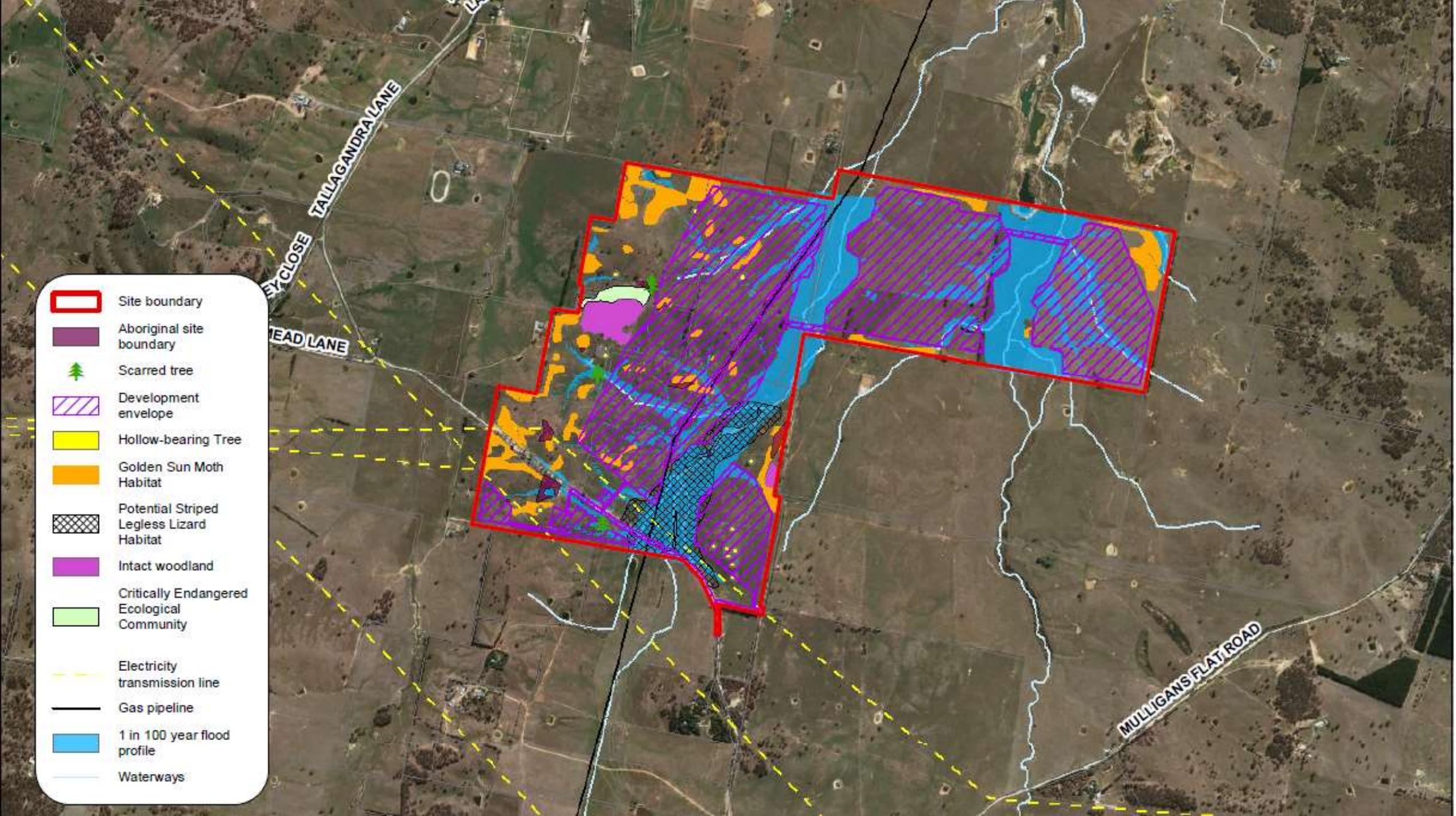


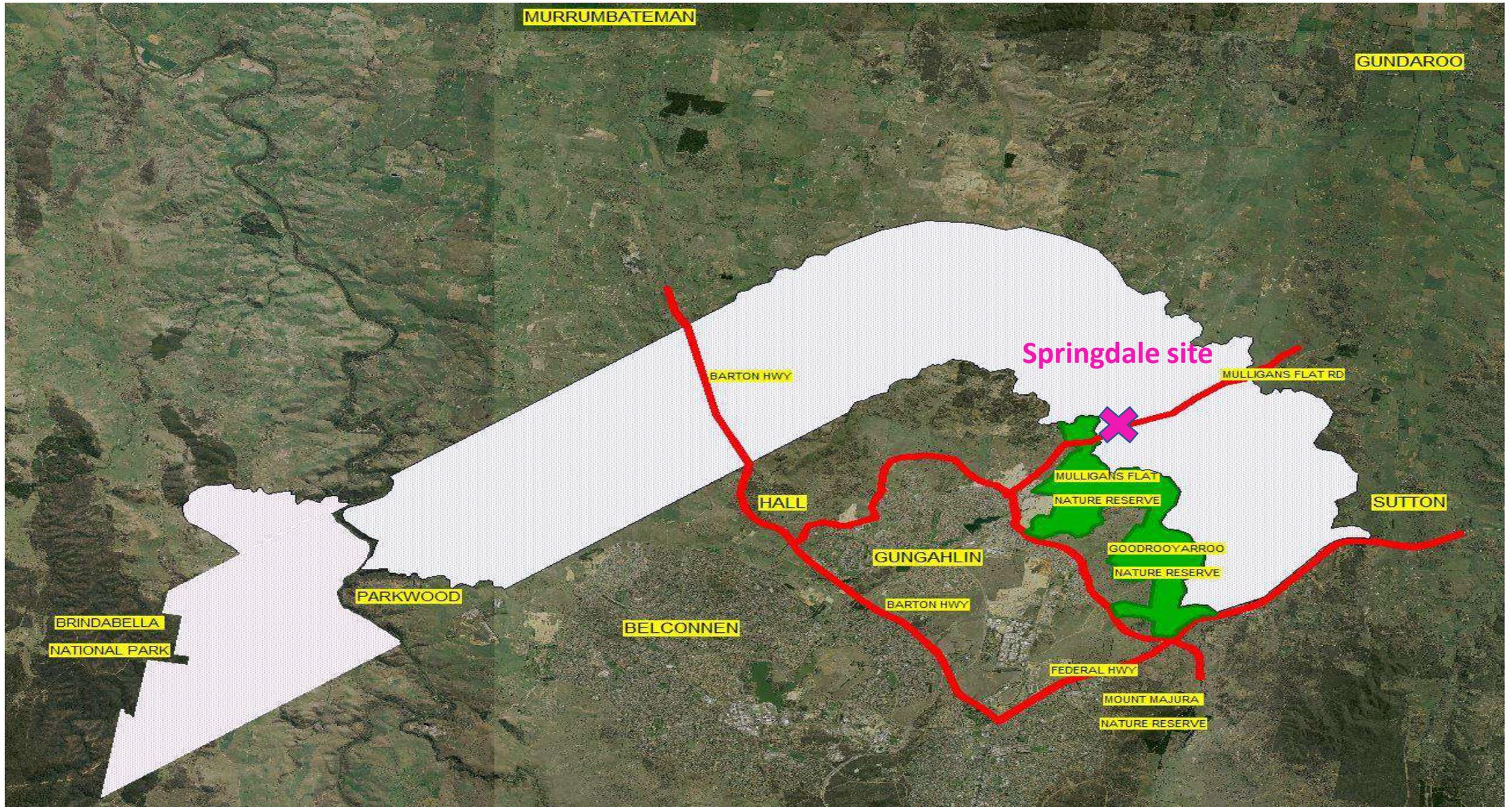
LAND



WATER

-  Site boundary
-  Aboriginal site boundary
-  Scarred tree
-  Development envelope
-  Hollow-bearing Tree
-  Golden Sun Moth Habitat
-  Potential Striped Legless Lizard Habitat
-  Intact woodland
-  Critically Endangered Ecological Community
-  Electricity transmission line
-  Gas pipeline
-  1 in 100 year flood profile
-  Waterways





Source: Yass Valley Settlement Strategy October 2017



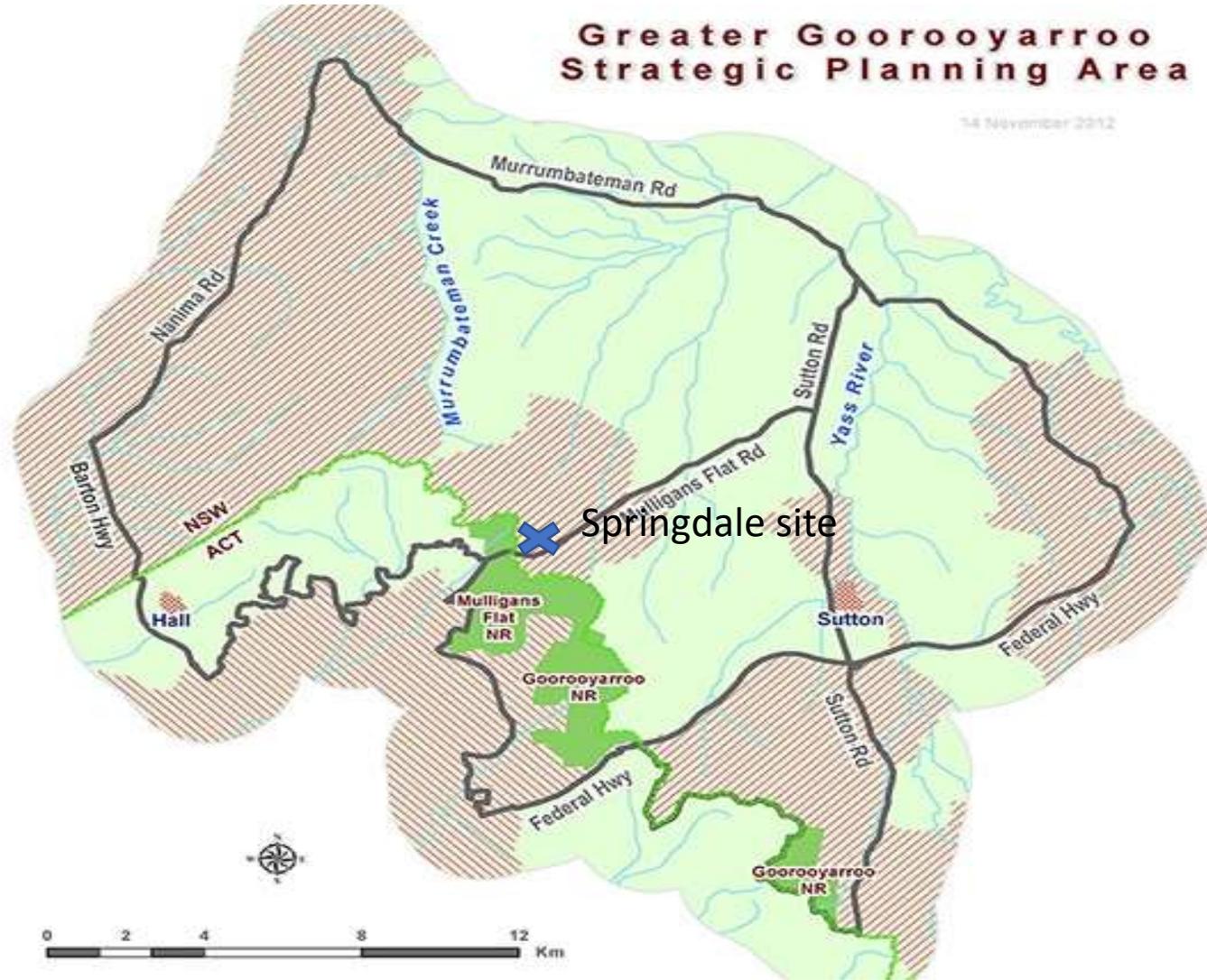
Greater Gorooyarroo Strategic Planning Area

14 November 2012

Legend

- Greater Gorooyarroo
- Nature Reserves
- Rural Residential
- Urban
- Villages & Industry
- ACT - NSW border
- Rivers and Creeks
- Major Roads

The 'Building restored, resilient landscapes in the ACT & Greater Gorooyarroo' project is supported through funding from the Australian Government's Clean Energy Future Biodiversity Fund.



Source: YVSS 2016-2036



This is the from the front page of the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report prepared by Niche Environment and Heritage for AECOM and Renew Estate

Taken direct from Renew's EIS,

18.2 Impact assessment

• 18.2.1 Construction

- *“During the construction phase, **dust would potentially be generated by earthworks activities such as levelling and grading, excavation and trenching, as well as from vehicles movement on unsealed roads during dry weather....***
- *... “The main earthworks would be for construction of the internal roads, **levelling and grading for the construction of the solar trackers, trenching for cable installation, and levelling the ground for the power conversion stations, substation and the control building. Due to the relatively flat terrain** of the Site, there would be no major cut and fill works or significant stockpiling of earth..”*
- *“While levelling and grading may be undertaken to achieve more consistent gradients,...”*



Photos courtesy Jacqui Hassall



This is Spring Creek, this water runs through the western side of the site

Photo courtesy of Andy Hardwicke



A common occurrence in autumn and winter, can hang around in the valley for a good part of the day.



The photo on the left is the proposed area of the development.

TRANSPORT



ROUTE

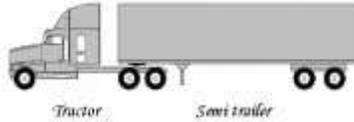


SAFETY



ROAD CONDITIONS

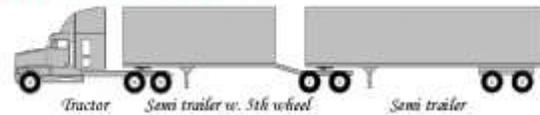
Tractor / semi trailer



A-Train



B-Train (B-Double in Australia)



ROUTE

- The developers of the proposed Springdale Solar development have confirmed that there will be:
- “Up to approximately 75 heavy vehicle movements per day during the peak material delivery period...”. More than twice as many as initially advised.
- Traffic will enter the **site via Sutton Road, Sutton Village, East Tallagandra Lane, Mulligans Flat Road and Tallagandra Lane.**
- “Heavy vehicle movements are generally expected to be within the standard construction hours which are:
 - **7am to 6pm Monday to Friday** and
 - **8am to 1pm Saturday**
- These are extended hours to most building/construction sites.
- Heavy vehicles are typically a mixture of flat bed trucks, truck and dogs, A doubles, B doubles, water tankers and low loaders and the small number of oversize truck movements, is now 16

Safety of children and village

Sutton Village showing 40 km School Zone



777 metres from causeway to edge of village (pale blue line) with 3 90° bends



Causeway

It should also be recognised that these additional vehicle movements are on top of the existing traffic load.

The developer has also confirmed that, “...**traffic and transport during construction can be managed without the need for any significant road infrastructure upgrades**”.

SOCIO- ECONOMIC



WORKERS



REAL ESTATE

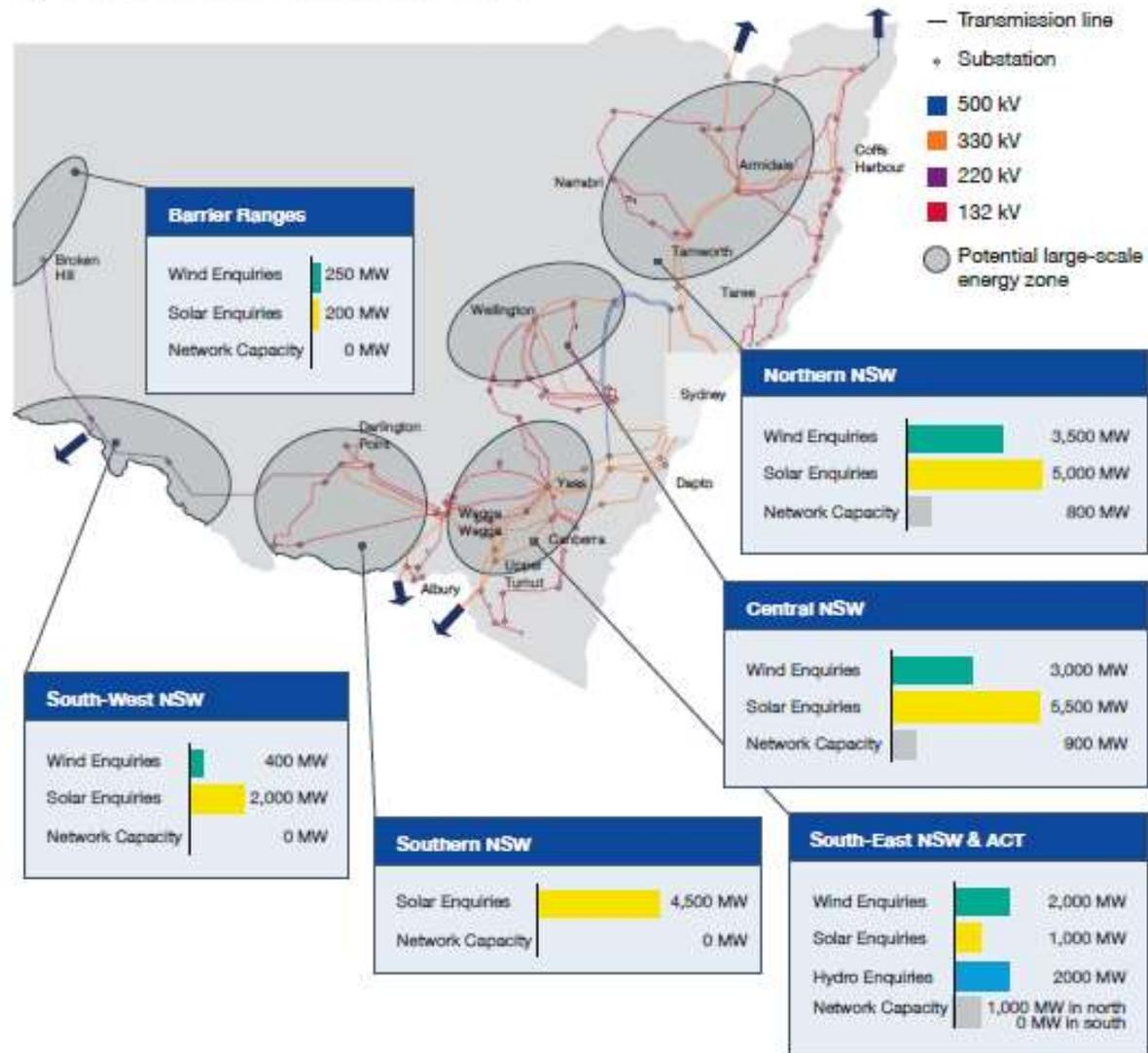


WHO BENEFITS

What Renew uses as justification...

- In order to maintain and enhance **future significant new capacity** would be **needed** over the medium to long term to **compensate for** the **retirement** of several emissions intensive **coal-fired power plants** and to help achieve emissions reduction targets.
- .. Over **8,000MW** of new generation capacity will be **needed** to replace to **replace** exiting **coal-fired plants**...
- **Without** the introduction of **new supply**, these aging assets would likely pose a continuing, and increasing, risk of energy security for our nation....
- What Finkel actually said was, “*Australia needs to increase system security and ensure future reliability in the NEM. Security and reliability have been compromised by poorly integrated variable renewable electricity generators, including wind and solar*”

Figure 7: Current connection enquiries to TransGrid network



WHO BENEFITS ACT or NSW ?

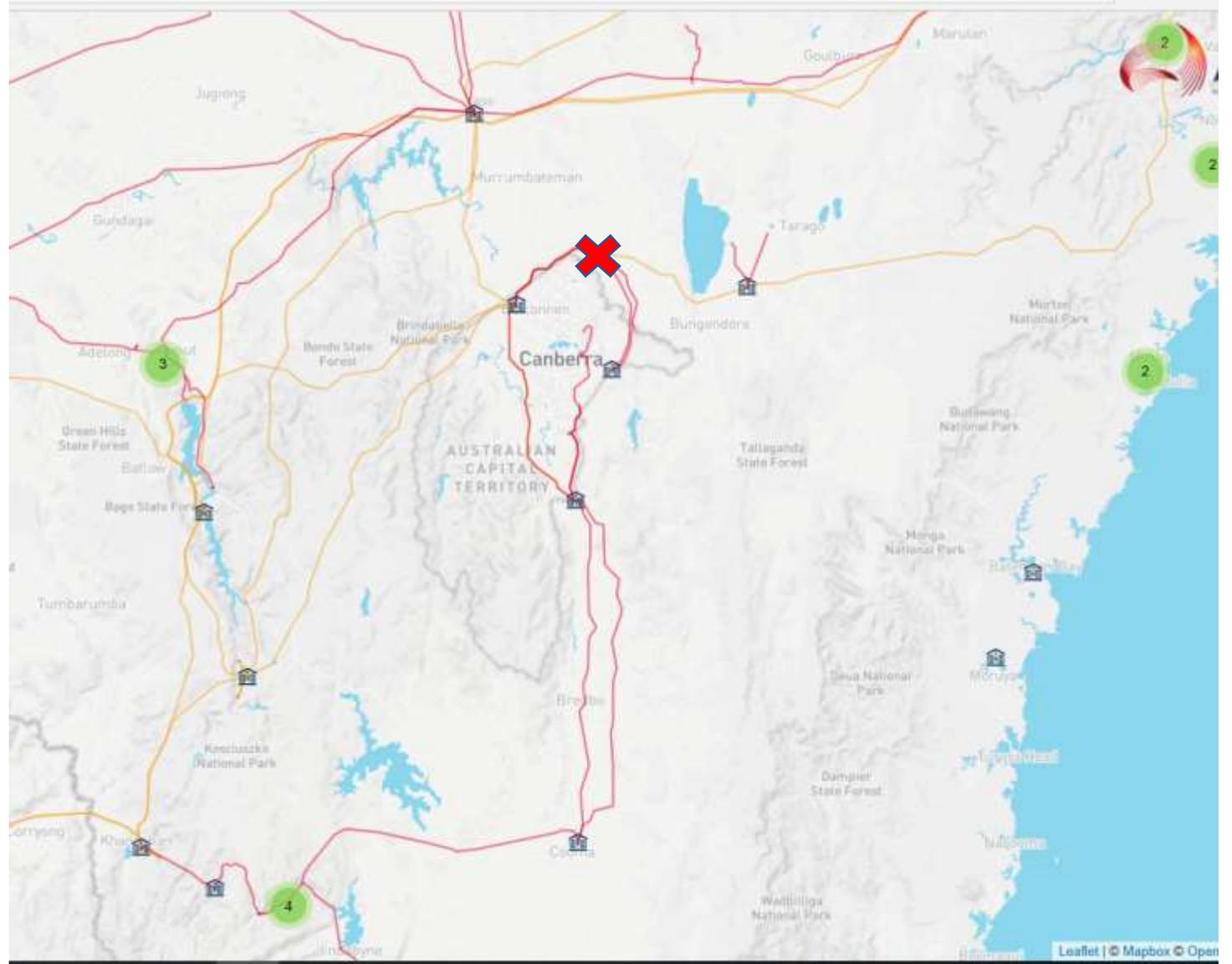
Partners in the Springdale development

Renew
estate.

WIRSOL
THE BRAND BELONGING TO WIRCON GROUP

BEAST
SOLUTIONS

**energy
estate**



- The company mentioned in this article is **RCR Tomlinson** who is building this facility on Daydream Island for Edify Energy.
- Key stakeholders in **Edify Energy** are **Wirsol**. *Name sound familiar*
- **Wirsol** are partners with **Renew Estate** in the Springdale Development.
- Now it doesn't say they are using illegal immigrants, it is suggested they are using **457 visas workers**, which in itself isn't illegal, but it will mean **locals may not be employed**. The company did not respond.
- One could safely assume that once these workers have the skills to do the work, then they are **highly mobile** and can follow projects around.



13 Jun 2018
Bowen Independent, Bowen QLD

Author: John Andersen - Section: General News - Article Type: News Item
Audience : 1,849 - Page: 14 - Printed size: 567.00cm² - Market: QLD - Country: Australia
ASR: AUD 940 - words: 889 - Item ID: 968241211

isentia.mediaportal

Licensed by Copyright Agency. You may only copy or communicate this work with a licence.

Page 1 of 2

Foreigners cash in on jobs

JOHN ANDERSEN
TOWNSVILLE BULLETIN

FEDERAL and state government politicians and officials have been accused of turning a blind eye to the hundreds of foreign workers employed in construction jobs on North Queensland solar farms.

Critics say promises that the renewable energy sector encompassing wind and solar developments represented thousands of job opportunities for Australians have not materialised.

Instead jobs are being taken by workers from countries like Spain, France, Bulgaria and Chile.

This week, the LNP Member for Burdekin Dale Last labelled the situation which was seeing Aussie workers denied jobs "a disgrace".

He said it made a mockery of the boast that there were "massive increases" for locals in jobs in the renewable energy sector.

Mr Last said North Queenslanders and Australians were missing out on jobs and that the federal and state governments should be held accountable.

He said he was advised that contractors were receiving \$47 an hour for each worker and that the foreign workers were only being paid \$10 an hour. He said the lack of transparency was a concern.

"We need to know what is going on."

"It's disgraceful, the fact that North Queenslanders are missing out on jobs," he said.

Mr Last could only conclude there might be "thousands" of foreign workers employed on solar farms in Queensland and in other parts of Australia.

"You have to question the government's agenda. It is hanging its hat on jobs in renewables and here, not far from Bowen, we have around 400 foreigners on the job."

Federal Minister for Jobs and Innovation, Michaelia Cash said that under Australian workplace and equal opportunity laws, all job vacancies must be available for Australians to fill.

Ms Cash said that in the case of worker shortages, temporary visa holders could be employed to help local businesses and the employment of backpackers by farmers during peak harvest times was one example of how the system worked.

Member for Mundingburra and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland, Coralie O'Rourke said last year the state Labor government had "kickstarted the renewable energy boom".

Ms O'Rourke said there were 17 projects financially committed in Queensland providing 2200 construction jobs with the promise of more on the way.

Ms O'Rourke said she could not have foreseen what lay ahead when it came to those 2200 jobs.

Asked this week about jobs on solar farms going to overseas workers, she said the Palaszczuk government would "always urge employers" to give local workers the first opportunity to fill local jobs.

Federal Member for Dawson, George Christensen, has sheeted the problem home to Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs Minister Alan Tudge. Mr Christensen said Australian Border Force officers were looking at the allegations and

had visited solar job sites.

He and Ms O'Rourke both said it was not illegal for companies to employ foreign workers who were in Australia legally and who had appropriate visas.

In March this year, Australian Border Force officers inspected several North Queensland solar farms in response to allegations foreign workers were illegally being employed ahead of locals.

The Townsville Bulletin understood at the time that ABF officers visited the Hayman and Daydream solar farms managed by engineering firm RCR Tomlinson.

A ABF spokeswoman confirmed "employer awareness visits" had taken place.

RCR Tomlinson was invited to respond to this story at the time, but declined. This week when contacted for comment on these latest concerns about foreign employment, a spokesman for RCR Tomlinson said he had been advised by company staff on-site one month ago they were "packing up" and work was finished.

This contradicted follow-up advice to the Townsville Bulletin from Whitsunday Regional Council sources this week.

They said RCR Tomlinson still had an office in Collinsville's main street.

Further, they said the company had only recently put on an extra 100 staff in order to try and have the project finished by October.

RCR Tomlinson did not return a call to discuss the matter further.

Ms O'Rourke said the issue of foreign workers employed on solar sites was a "federal government matter".

Whitsunday Regional Council representative, Cr Mike Brunker said Queenslanders were available to do the solar farm construction work.

He said it was "ridiculous" to suggest the jobs could not be filled from the local and national workforce. He said flying in foreign workers and employing holidaying backpackers instead of locals was "not on".

Cr Peter Ramage represents the greater Collinsville district on the council.

He said the influx of foreign workers into the area was "extremely disappointing".

"All of the money is going out of the local economy," he said. Mr Last said there should be someone in government with oversight employed on large projects.

"If there is, they should be ensuring locals are getting jobs," he said.

Ms Cash said foreign workers with correct accreditation were covered by Australian workplace law regarding salary and employment conditions.

She said foreign workers who met visa and certification requirements received the same protection as Australian workers.

"All foreign workers are covered by Australian workplace law regarding salary and employment conditions, and receive the same protection as Australians," she said.

Anyone with evidence of illegal recruitment practices should contact the Fair Work Ombudsman or in the case of suspected visa violations, the Department of Home Affairs.

Real Estate

NSW towns the most popular regional areas in Australia for rural property investment

July 20, 2018

[Pauline Morrissey](#)

According to Yass Real Estate's Sales Manager, Edwina Brown, "buyers are drawn to Yass and the surrounding areas as they are able to have a rural lifestyle, within easy reach of Canberra, Sydney and other regional hubs throughout NSW, while still being part of a fully functioning rural town."

1. **Yass, NSW**
2. Goulburn, NSW
3. Mildura, VIC
4. Bathurst, NSW
5. Cooma, NSW
6. McLaren Vale, SA
7. Orange, NSW
8. Dubbo, NSW
9. Mudgee, NSW
10. Singleton, NSW

NEXT STEPS

- Submissions close on 15 August 2018
- A minimum of 25 objections is needed to secure a public meeting the Independent Planning Commission, where we can present to the Commission on issues we object to in the Departments assessment.
- The Department of Planning and Environment collates all the submissions and sends them off to Renew to address.
- Renew responds to the Department of Planning and Environment.
- Department of Planning and Environment assesses the application and objections and makes a recommendation to the Commission.
- The public meeting is held here and usually involves a site visit at the same time.
- How long does this take? We will keep you informed of progress.

**Submissions/objections must be lodged with the
Department of Planning
by close of business on 15 August 2018.**

Lodging your objection:

- **Online:**

http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=8703

- **In writing**

Planning Service

Department of Planning and Environment

GPO Box 39

SYDNEY 2001

ATTENTION: Director – Resources and Energy Assessment

- You can remain anonymous