

# View of the proposed area to be developed



# WHY NOW

- In response to the near statewide blackout in South Australia on 28 September 2016, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) held an extraordinary meeting of COAG Energy Ministers on 7 October 2016 and agreed to an independent review of the National Electricity Market (NEM) to take stock of its current security and reliability and provide advice to governments on a coordinated national reform blueprint.
- The Independent Review into the Future Security of the National Energy Market – *Blueprint for the Future* was released in June 2017. The Australian government has tasked the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Energy Ministers and the Energy Security Board to implement the recommendations. **49 of the 50 recommendations** accepted. (<https://www.energy.gov.au/sites/g/files#/net3411/f/independent-review-future-nem-blueprint-for-the-future-2017.pdf>)
- One of the key recommendations was for greater **strategic planning of transmission infrastructure and efficient development and connection of Renewable Energy Zones (REZ)**. See link below for the Finkel Report. It was also recommended that there should be an annual report into the health of the NEM. The first of these annual reports, The Health of the National Electricity Market 2017 Annual Report was released on 19 December 2017. One of the key points to note is that the present system was designed for another era and its evolution is inevitable but needs to look at ways to intergrate renewables without comprising the integrity of the system. [http://www.coagenergycouncil.gov.au/sites/prod.energycouncil/files/publications/documents/The%20Health%20of%20the%20National%20Electricity%20Market\\_19122017.pdf](http://www.coagenergycouncil.gov.au/sites/prod.energycouncil/files/publications/documents/The%20Health%20of%20the%20National%20Electricity%20Market_19122017.pdf)
- In conjunction with the reports mentioned above the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and Transmission Service Network Provider (TSNP) has been tasked with developing an Integrated Grid Plan (IGP) to determine the optimal transmission network design to enable the connection of renewable energy resources, including through inter connectors.
- The New South Wales government is part of COAG and is fully aware of these, so why the rush wouldn't taxpayers dollars be better spent where they will be of most benefit.

# Renewable Energy Zones

- <http://www.energynetworks.com.au/news/energy-insider/zone-finkels-hands-approach-planning-renewables>

# Yass Valley Council

- Kirsten Lawson's article in the Canberra Times on August 23, 2017 wrote about the Yass Valley Councils proposed change to zoning laws. The RU1 to RU6 transition zone would be a 5km no-development zone on ACT border. This would stop residents submitting development applications for 20 years.
- In the same article Yass Council planning director Chris Berry said the buffer zone was designed to preserve the separate identities of Canberra and Yass, and to stop ACT development "creeping over the border and up the highway" and "bleeding into our villages". The Yass Council was also considering further restrictions by banning intensive agriculture such as poultry farming and other uses like truck depots.
- It was also reported that the ACT government supports the buffer, it told Yass council a buffer would maintain routes for animals and plants along the northern border, minimise the risk of ribbon development ... and maintain a rural landscape on the approach to Canberra. The ACT government also urge the council to ban rural subdivision below 80 hectares.
- This development sits fairly and squarely in the 5 km "buffer" zone. To support this would fly in the face of what they are trying to protect. As for the ACT they want the rural border but want our community to give up that rural lifestyle so a solar power plant can be of benefit to them. Why should NSW do this.

# Benefit to community

- Benefit to Sutton – negligible at best. The proposed development is situated close to ACT i.e Gunghalin would be far more likely to provide food and lodging for workers during construction.
- Employment for locals- minimal. Being a new technology the number of people with the required skills would not necessarily be found in the region. Tendering for projects be it equipment or labour is very competitive and decisions on successful tenders is generally driven by cost, which means there is no loyalty to regions. It is not a given that everything to do with this project from ground breaking to decommissioning would be contained to the Sutton area.

# Why here, is it for NSW or ACT .....

- Renew Estate Springdale Solar Farm Preliminary Environmental Assessment September 2017
- Section 3 Proposal justification and alternatives
  - 3.2
    - ACT government official modelling (ACT Population Projections: 2017-2020, ACT Government 2016) shows the total Canberra population is projected to increase by 6% by June 2020. The fastest growth is projected in the northern suburbs of Gunghalin, Crace, Casey, Franklin and Bonner.
    - ... The project is located approximately 3.5 km north of the ACT; between Canberra and Queanbeyan substations under Transgrid's 132kV feeder 977. The site is uniquely located to provide the additional electrical demand in Canberra over the coming decades from clean renewable sources. Why does our community have to bear the brunt of the ACT governments 100% Renewable Energy Plan, perhaps this should have been figured into the planning of the newer suburbs in the north.

Springdale  
Solar  
layout as  
at Nov  
2017



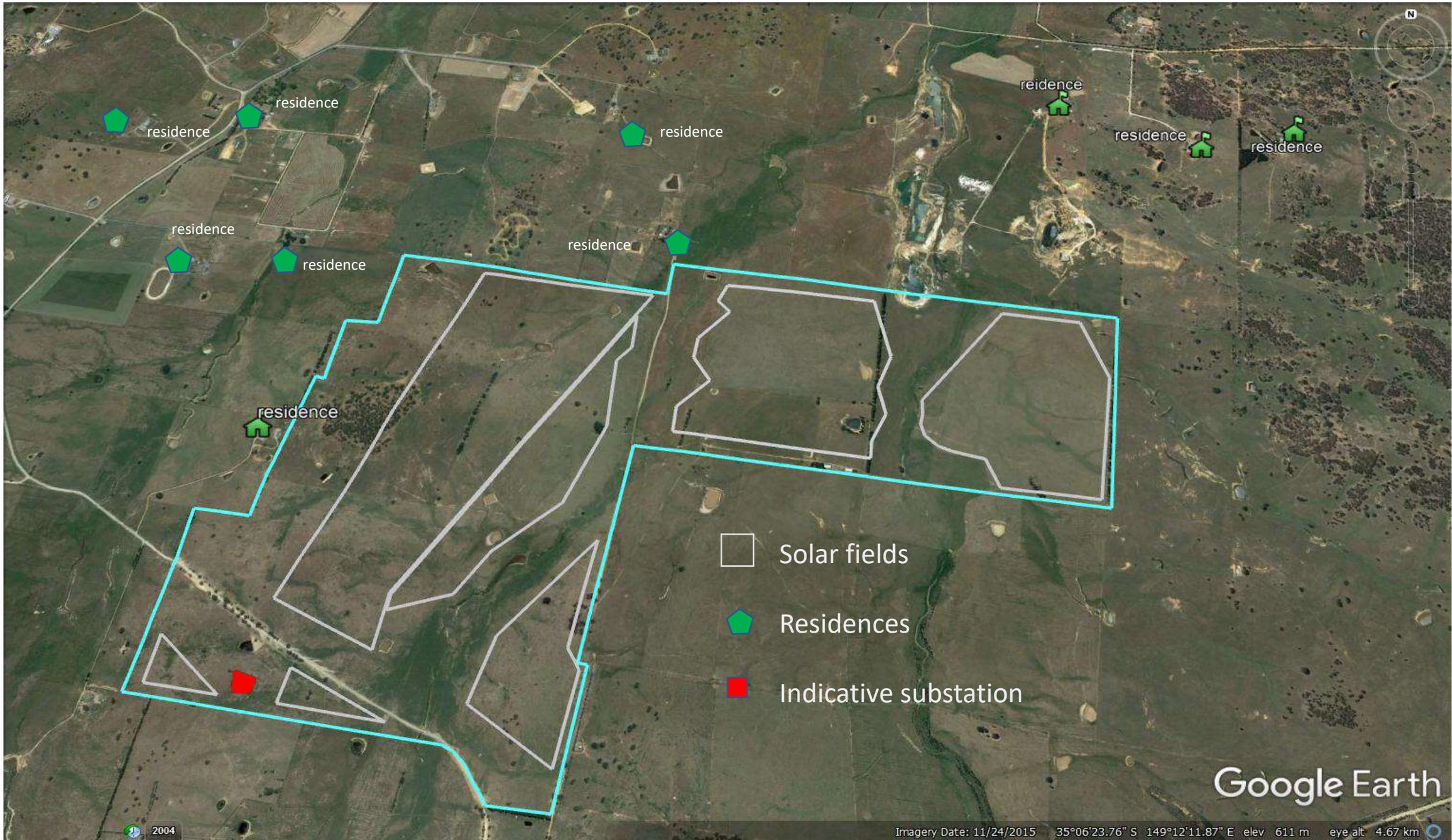
Bonner

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Google Earth

2004

Imagery Date: 11/24/2015 35°07'59.45" S 149°10'34.34" E elev. 653 m eye alt. 13.16 km



residence

Solar fields

Residences

Indicative substation

Google Earth

2004

Imagery Date: 11/24/2015 35°06'23.76" S 149°12'11.87" E elev 611 m eye alt 4.67 km

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.