

# AUSTRALIA PLAINS SOLAR FARM PROPOSAL

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Green Gold Energy Pty Ltd is a specialised company in the development, construction, operation and general contracting of solar farms. GGE is proudly solely owned by Golden Invest and has been since July 2020. Since its inception, it has maintained close ties with the local government and SA Power Networks and has become a pioneer in the renewable energy industry in South Australia. Green Gold Energy offers solar PV project services including project site selection, PV system design, equipment procurement, network connection application, development approval application, construction, operation and maintenance for customers and system owners.



Golder is an employee-owned, global organisation providing consulting, design and construction services in our specialist areas of earth, environment and energy through technical excellence, innovative solutions and award-winning client service. Operating in Australia since 1972, we bring a wealth of local knowledge and experience to our clients' projects, as well as an enthusiastic and energetic approach to all that we do.

## YOU'RE INVITED

It is important to us that the local community is fully informed of the plans for the site and have the opportunity to comment of the proposed solar farm development. We will be holding an information event to provide information about our project and we welcome any community feedback which may be used to improve the project design.

The information event will be held on:

**Tuesday, 11 August 2020**

**Eudunda RSL Hall  
2 Railway Parade  
Eudunda, SA 5374**

Drop in anytime between 12 noon and 6pm.

If you have any queries about this project, please contact **Vicky Zhang** of the Golden Invest project team by calling **0430 215 970** or **1300 129 976** or email **vicky.zhang@goldeninvest.com.au**

# ABOUT

Green Gold Energy and Golder - the consultancy appointed to undertake environmental planning and community engagement - are hosting a community information event in Eudunda to provide information about a proposed solar farm development on 429 hectares of land at Australia Plains, approximately 16.2 kilometres north-east of Eudunda.

Green Gold Energy wishes to give residents and interested parties an opportunity to find out more about the solar farm proposal and about the company.

If approved, construction of the solar farm will likely commence in the first quarter of 2022 and be operational by early 2023.

As plans for the proposed solar farm are being developed, a range of environmental assessments and engagement activities are being undertaken to inform the project design. A key part of this engagement is a community information event, where representatives from both companies will be on hand to answer questions about the solar farm and listen to community feedback.

## Facts



**250,000 tonnes** of carbon emissions saved per year, equivalent to taking over 90,250 cars off the road



**150MW** installation capable of generating **379,764MWh** of electricity per year



Equivalent to the annual energy needs of **69,363 houses** assuming an average daily house consumption of 15kWh



Approximately **429 hectares** of land



Approximately **50 hectares** of native vegetation to be retained



**300 construction jobs** brought to the region



**6 to 10 ongoing contractor jobs**

# THE PROPOSAL

## Proposed solar installation for: 315 Bower Road, Australian plains 309 Emmaus Road, Australia Plains

As our plans are in the early stages, we anticipate our design and planning of the solar farm will evolve as we gather information from the local community and stakeholders. A summary of the results of technical studies undertaken to date is presented below.



### Vegetation

The site contains some important stands of native vegetation that will be retained and protected during construction and operation of the proposed solar farm. In addition, some landscaping of the site periphery is planned to help screen the development and enhance the biodiversity values of the site.

### Water

A surface water assessment has been completed which indicates that the site contains several water flow paths and catchment areas, requiring the construction of six detention basins and small drainage swales on the site boundaries to constrain runoff to pre-development levels. The layout of solar panels has been designed to accommodate these detention basins and swales to prevent any off-site flooding impacts.

### Traffic

A traffic assessment of the solar farm site has recommended that access to the site be limited to two routes: the first via Worlds End Highway and Emmaus Road (to access the southern portion of the site) and the second via Worlds End Highway and Schulz Road (to access the northern portion of the site). Both routes are supported by the Goyder Council and the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure. Golden Invest will also improve the intersections of Worlds End Highway with Emmaus and Schulz Roads to allow for safe heavy vehicle movements that do not cross the centre line of each carriageway.



### Grid connection

A substation will be located near the solar farm and is to be connected to the 110kV voltage transmission line. Additional overhead lines will be installed to connect the Golden Invest site to the Technical Services Centre of the Technical Services Centre.

### Project assessment

The proposed solar farm is to be assessed under the Commission Assessment Panel provisions of the recently introduced Planning Code (Phase 2). Council will be invited to comment on the proposal and to liaise with Council's planning department to ensure they are informed of the project.



### Aboriginal Heritage

Under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988, Golden Invest is required to take all reasonable measures to ensure that the solar farm development has no adverse impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage. A desktop study and risk assessment of the site has been completed, indicating that there are no listed items of cultural heritage significance on the site and there is, as a result, a very low risk of project works encountering Aboriginal heritage.



### Off-site impacts

The operation of the solar farm will not disturb activities on adjacent land or the wider locality. By their very nature, solar farms are quite benign in terms of their off-site impacts and are highly unlikely to cause any nuisance associated with way of noise, dust, fumes or glare.

on  
will be constructed as part of the solar  
be located adjacent the existing high  
mission line to minimise the need for  
head lines to connect into the grid.  
has obtained approval from the Office  
al Regulator for the project.

to be assessed by the State  
el against the relevant  
oduced Planning and Design  
be provided with an opportunity  
and Golden Invest will continue  
ng and infrastructure staff to  
project status.

### Why is this project important?

Solar is a passive form of technology, generating electricity without creating any waste products or pollution during operation. This makes it an ideal energy source for South Australia where the State government has committed to securing 50% of its total energy needs from renewables by 2025. This project will make an important contribution to achieving this target while substantially reducing carbon emissions and diversifying our energy mix.

### Can agricultural activity continue on the site?

Solar farms are generally compatible with agricultural activities, allowing for dual land uses to provide landowners with an additional income source. This solar farm has been designed to allow for grazing activities to continue on the land during its operation.

### Can mining activity continue on the site?

The project site is subject to three mining exploratory licences and Golden Invest is currently negotiating an agreement with licence holders to enable co-existence of renewable energy and mining activities over the course of the project.

### How will the solar farm appear?

The solar farm will be enclosed by a 2 metre high security mesh fence which will incorporate a number of small openings to allow for the movement of wildlife. Some landscaping of the site along the frontages of Bower Road, Emmaus Road and Junction Road will also be provided to improve the appearance of the development. Given the relative isolation of the site, it is highly unlikely to cause any adverse visual impact.

### Do solar installations pose a health risk?

No – solar is a passive technology which does not produce any harmful by-products. All electrical equipment used meets the relevant standards and will not cause any ill-health to site personnel or visitors to the site.

### How are the panels kept clean?

Rainfall generally helps to keep the panels free of dust and dirt. The panels will be thoroughly cleaned as a regular maintenance activity using specialised equipment and water brought to the site on trucks to ensure the solar farm operates efficiently.

### Will the solar farm cause traffic disruption?

Once operational, the solar farm will require occasional maintenance by contractors who will access the site on a weekly/monthly basis. While the construction phase will see an increase in workers' vehicles accessing the site and heavy vehicles delivering materials to the site, it will not cause any disruption to the local road network. A traffic management plan will be put in place during construction to direct all traffic to one of two approved access routes: Worlds End Highway-Emmaus Road and Worlds End Highway-Schulz Road. These routes are supported by both the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure and Regional Council of Goyder.

### What happens if there is a fire?

We will be undertaking consultation with the Country Fire Service (CFS) and will prepare a bushfire management plan for construction and operational activities associated with the solar farm. We will work closely with the CFS to ensure an appropriate response plan and worker training is in place to safely address any fire threat.

