

MORGAN SOLAR FARM PROPOSAL





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:

Wednesday, 12 August 2020

**Morgan Sports Complex
4 North East Complex
Morgan, SA 5320**

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 Morgan to provide information about a proposed solar farm development on 622 hectares of land at Stuart, approximately 8 kilometres north-east of Morgan.

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



167,000 tonnes of carbon emissions saved per year, equivalent to taking over 60,300 cars off the road



100MW installation capable of generating **259,897MWh** of electricity per year



Equivalent to the annual energy needs of **47,400 houses** assuming an average daily house consumption of 15kWh



Approximately **622 hectares** of land



Approximately **175 hectares** of native vegetation to be retained



200 construction jobs brought to the region



5 to 7 ongoing contractor jobs

THE PROPOSAL

Proposed solar installation for 103 Woods and Forest, Stuart

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. Clearance of some native vegetation will be required to accommodate the solar panels with a suitable Significant Environmental Benefit to offset this clearance to be negotiated with the Native Vegetation Council.

Water

A surface water assessment has been completed which confirms that the site is not at risk of flooding from the River Murray. However, the site contains several low-lying areas that are subject to inundation. These areas will be used as water storages with shallow swales to be installed to direct runoff to these storages in order to constrain runoff to pre-development levels. The layout of solar panels has been designed to accommodate the water storage areas 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 occur via Goyder Highway with a new access point to be constructed on the south-west corner of the site. Both the route and new access point are supported by the Mid Murray Council and the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) with Golden Invest to develop this access point in line with Council and DPTI requirements.



Project assessment

The proposed solar farm is to be assessed by the State Commission Assessment Panel against the relevant provisions of the Mid Murray Development Plan. Council will be provided with an opportunity to comment on the proposal and Golden Invest will continue to liaise with Council's planning and infrastructure staff to ensure they are informed of project status.



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.

Grid connection

A substation will be constructed as part of the solar farm and is to be located adjacent the existing high voltage transmission line to minimise the need for additional overhead lines to connect into the grid. Golden Invest has obtained approval from the Office of the Technical Regulator for the project.

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.

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 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. Given that the solar installation is to be sited some distance away from Goyder Highway, it will not cause any adverse visual impact with landscaping along the road frontage considered unnecessary in this case.

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 the approved access route along Goyder Highway. This route is supported by both the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure and Mid Murray Council.

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.

