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## 'SolarShare Proposal -Majura'

### FEEDBACK FROM MOLONGLO CATCHMENT GROUP

The Molonglo Catchment Group welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the *SolarShare proposal – Majura option*. We submit the following comments and look forward to participating in the review of future development planning processes as recommended below.

The community based Molonglo Catchment Group was established in 2003 to provide support to Parkcare, Landcare and community networks working to protect and manage natural resources in the cross border Molonglo Catchment. It is one of three catchment networks in the ACT Region, the other 2 being Ginninderra and Southern ACT catchment groups.

The Group's main aim is to implement the Molonglo Catchment Strategy [approved 2005] so as to guide stakeholders in achieving natural resource management targets set out in the ACT Natural Resources Management Plan and the Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan.

This strategy has been recently reviewed and adaptively amended in line with current planning policies and stakeholder consultation. This 2015 draft will shortly be put out for final stakeholder consultation prior to its formal adoption.

The 2015 draft Catchment Strategy aims to realise 5 key *long term outcomes* based on resilience thinking and a landscape based approach to catchment management. They are:

- Protection of; and improving healthy soils;
- Adoption of best practise environmental behaviour;
- Increased extent ,connectivity & condition of native vegetation managed for biodiversity;
- Sustainable hydrogeology;
- Viable & resilient communities;

At the landscape level our *immediate planned outcome* specific to this proposal is based on improved catchment management targets within the *Woolshed Creek Riparian Corridor* landscape. In due course an Action Plan will be developed for this priority landscape by the Molonglo Catchment Group which may guide further specific advice on this proposal.

## SUMMARY

The Molonglo Catchment Management Group provides in principle support to the proposal subject to the following points:

1. The property upon which the Majura solar share proposal is located upon generally represents a significantly modified and degraded landscape. The priority natural resource matters for attention in the general area include:
  - a. Weed Management. It is recommended that a weed management plan be formulated to manage existing weeds, potential weed incursions during the development phase and long term weed management.
  - b. Soil and water management. During the development phase a soil and water management plan should be implemented and phased to reduce soil and water impacts.
  - c. Terrestrial and riparian remnant vegetation corridors. Whilst the subject land is in a highly degraded condition, revegetation of boundary buffers using native species is recommended in proposed buffer zones. Similarly existing native grasses should generally be retained and enhanced.
  - d. Offsetting. While we understand there may not be a statutory offset requirement for this development we encourage the proponent to consider contributing to potential off property native vegetation [riparian and terrestrial] connectivity projects.
  - e. Aboriginal cultural heritage. Given the intrinsically integrated nature of cultural heritage and the natural environment we recommend close engagement with the local Aboriginal community be a significant priority in the design, planning and implementation phases of this project.
  
2. In addressing the above matters it is recommended that Molonglo Catchment Group be consulted for input into the proposed landscape plan, conservation management plan and construction & environmental plan prior to these documents being finalised and implemented

Yours sincerely,

  
Bernie Bugden  
Catchment Coordinator

31/3/15