



# TOZERO TOGETHER

## DINGO LANE SOLAR FARM

### The Dingo Lane Solar Farm Project

The Dingo Lane Solar Farm project is a 4.95 megawatt solar farm currently proposed for Council-owned land, next to the Resource and Recovery Centre at Dingo Lane, Myocum.

In May 2019, Byron Shire Council committed to carrying out a detailed feasibility assessment for the solar farm project.

Once built, the Dingo Lane Solar Farm will generate enough electricity to:

- reduce Council's carbon emissions;
- offset Council's power usage; and
- send additional renewable power back into the grid.

The solar panels will be ground-mounted and occupy 6.3 hectares of the 73.53 hectare property.

#### Solar makes sense!

The Dingo Lane Solar Farm project will help Council achieve its goal of net zero emissions by 2025, with 100% renewable energy for its operations by 2027.

#### Making financial sense

The Dingo Lane Solar Farm will help the Byron Shire gain a competitive marketing edge to attract business investment and maximise consumer and business choice in the region.

By diversifying from a waste management centre



*Council has invested in other solar projects including rooftop solar installations at Council's solar carpark, Byron Bay Library, Sandhills Childcare Centre and the Cavanbah Centre.*



to a solar farm, Council is managing its assets in a more responsible and sustainable way, while maximising the value of its capital.

Council's annual electricity consumption in 2018/19 was approximately 6.4 megawatt hours. The Dingo Lane Solar Farm will supply approximately 11,460 megawatt hours of electricity per year, with the excess electricity providing financial return to the project and potentially offsetting Council's other emissions.

The surplus electricity equates to around 3,300 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent of emission reduction, or approximately \$2.8 million over the 25 year period.

As 68% of Council's carbon emissions come from its waste sector, it makes environmental and financial sense to reduce or offset emissions where possible.

Demand in the region is expected to grow, and grid prices are expected to increase even further.

Alternative electricity supplies, such as solar, will help stabilise future wholesale electricity costs.

Council will continually monitor the project to ensure it is receiving the greatest benefits for emissions reduction and energy efficiency, as well as financial return.

### **Making social sense**

There is a high rate of environmental awareness in the Byron Shire.

The Dingo Lane Solar Farm provides an opportunity for Council to reduce reliance on non-renewable energy and fossil fuels.

### **How will this solar farm work?**

The Dingo Lane Solar Farm will generate clean energy from the sun and send it into the grid.

Five megawatt solar farms can generate enough electricity for around 1000 households.



*Solar farms reduce reliance on fossil fuels.*

### Where will it be located?

The solar farm will be located at 1 Dingo Lane (Lot 15 on DP1178892), Myocum.

The Council owned land is currently buffer land adjacent to the Byron Resource Recovery Centre.

### Why is Dingo Lane a good site?

A site feasibility assessment of the site identified it is suitable for a photo-voltaic solar farm up to seven megawatt capacity. The proposed solar farm is 4.95 megawatt. The site is:

- currently buffer land for the Resource Recovery Centre and unavailable for other land use purposes;
- close to the local electricity grid;
- bound by the quarry immediately to the east and agricultural grazing land to the north, south and west;
- flat in nature (northern half), with ground surface levels ranging from 1 – 6m;
- situated within a floodplain, and
- largely cleared, historically used for agricultural grazing.

### How will neighbouring properties be affected?

Solar farms traditionally have a relatively low physical impact on community and environment.

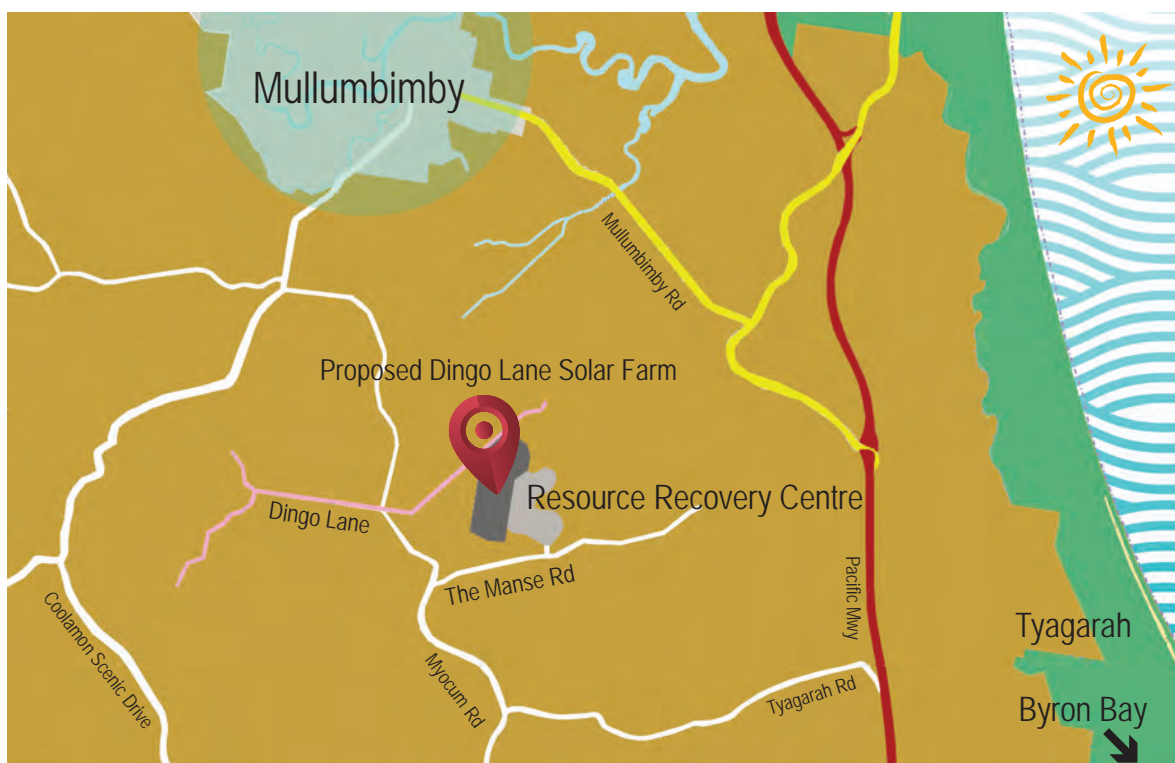
Council is looking to engage early with neighbouring properties and the community to ensure any impact can be reduced in the planning stage.

### Will there be more traffic?

Any increase in traffic to the site will generally be limited to construction of the solar farm. This may temporarily affect local traffic, but these movements will be confined to standard construction hours.

### Will there be glare or visual impact?

Photovoltaic panels are designed to absorb sunlight and convert it, rather than reflect it. While glare impacts are expected to be minimal, Council is currently undergoing a glare and visual assessment to better inform the community about the project.



Map of the proposed Dingo Lane site, to the left of the Resource Recovery Centre.



Vegetation screening to help minimise visual impacts will be considered in consultation with affected residents and properties.

### Is it noisy?

Solar farms are generally quiet. Low level ambient inverter noise may occur during daylight hours due to cooling fans for temperature regulation.

The inverter will be contained inside a building to reduce impact to the surrounding environment.

### Will it produce any emissions?

Solar farms typically have a low carbon footprint and are one of the cleanest energy sources available. They don't emit pollution, produce emissions during plant operation or use fossil-fuel resources once installed.

### What is the project timeframe?

Council is undergoing an assessment of the final costs and benefits of the project, including engagement with key stakeholders and neighbouring residents at Myocum, before construction is approved.

It is estimated a DA will be submitted in 2020. There are a range of further studies, procurement stages, development approval, funding availability and final Council considerations before construction could proceed.

### More information

- **Web:** [www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Services/Environment/Climate-change/Mitigation/Renewable-energy-projects#section-2](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Services/Environment/Climate-change/Mitigation/Renewable-energy-projects#section-2)

Community and stakeholders are invited to submit any questions or register for updates via:

- **Email: Project Manager, Andrew Swan**  
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- **Email:** [council@byron.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@byron.nsw.gov.au)
- **Phone:** 02 6626 7000



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## 3 benefits of solar

### 1 SAVES ENERGY & MONEY

Locally produced renewable energy will help offset Council's energy charges, saving money for ratepayers in the long run.

### 2 SUSTAINABLE LIVING

Solar will help our community transition to a more sustainable lifestyle and build resilience towards climate change.

### 3 SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY

Solar projects encourage other sustainable industry, bringing like-minded people and business into the area.

# solar makes SENSE