



PRESS RELEASE

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TO: Media Contacts

Proposed solar farm to be considered by Development Assessment Panel

A planning application for a solar farm on Patstone Road will be considered by a Development Assessment Panel rather than full Council due to the size of the application.

The Shire of Collie has received a Planning Application for a Solar Farm at 323 Patstone Road, Collie, for a 20MW photovoltaic solar facility.

The proposed 18 hectare facility involves the installation of five banks of fixed-tilt modules, upon which panels are installed. The panels are approximately 1.1m above ground level. The five banks of panels are connected to five inverter/transformer cabinets. The fixed-tilt system optimises the number of solar panels per hectare and is relatively easy to construct and maintain compared to the more complex and taller solar tracking systems. The proposed project includes provision for up to 10 shipping containers that would contain future battery storage. If approved it is to be developed in one stage, over approximately three to six months. Access for construction will be from Harris River Road.

The proposed site was selected by the proponents for its close proximity to the Western Power Collie Sub-Station, which reduces electricity losses. A solar facility is in accordance with the area's zoning objectives.

As part of the public consultation process, the Shire of Collie will advertise the proposal in the Collie Mail and on its website as well as writing to neighbouring properties. Plans are available for viewing at the Shire office or at the Shire's website.

Shire officers will carry out an assessment of the proposal against the provisions of the Shire of Collie Town Planning Scheme No. 5 as well as State regulations and policies, taking into consideration any submissions received.

As the proposed cost of the facility is more than \$10 million, State government legislation dictates that it be assessed by a Joint Development Assessment Panel rather than Council. This Panel is comprised of three specialist members appointed by the State government and two Shire councillors who are appointed by Council following each local government election process.

The Panel has the capacity to approve or refuse the application, or to approve it subject to various conditions.

The consultation period opens 15 February 2018 and closes 4:30pm, 01 March 2018.

For more information, visit www.collie.wa.gov.au or phone 9734 9000.

ENDS

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