



Submission on DA.2026.0113

Summary

This submission by Braidwood Clean Energy is in support of DA.2026.0113, which involves the construction of a solar farm, battery energy storage systems, landscaping and associated site works at 873 Wallaces Gap Road, Ballalaba NSW 2622.

Background on Braidwood Clean Energy (BCE)

BCE is an incorporated association run by volunteers from the Braidwood district. Since its formation in 2019, BCE has been pitched toward establishing renewable electricity generation for the town of Braidwood and the surrounding villages.

BCE can take credit in initiating this project and has worked with EDPR Australia (and its predecessor IDP) for some years to pursue options for a clean energy project for the local community.

This was formalised by a MOU signed in March 2022. Within this framework BCE has developed a Community Engagement Plan and is responsible for its implementation. As part of this, BCE had developed a [website](#) with a range of FAQ and links to developments, including this DA process. It also hosted two community meetings at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club on 19 March 2026 at 5pm and 7pm so interested residents could learn more about the project prior to the Development Application being put on public exhibition.

Why support the Development Application

The application is for a town-sized solar farm (4.99MW) and battery (5MW or 10MW hrs). While it is a relatively small renewable energy project, it will probably be the biggest project in the Braidwood district since the development of the Majors Creek Dargues gold mine.

A solar farm of this size is sufficient to meet most, if not all, of the electricity demands of the Braidwood district when the sun is shining. It will therefore make an important timely contribution to the necessary transition to away from fossil fuels and towards cheaper, cleaner, renewable energy. It also means the district will be generating its own electricity locally.

While not part of this Development Application, the overall project involves the establishment of an innovative microgrid. Should the necessary grant funding from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) be forthcoming, this microgrid is intended to make the supply of electricity in the Braidwood district much more resilient and self-reliant in the event of any future disasters which disrupt the electricity supply.

The [National Climate Risk Assessment](#) has concluded that we are likely to experience more intense and extreme climate hazards, including 'damage to energy infrastructure caused by fires and the increasing occurrence of megafires, as well as storms and extreme winds'. This project will therefore contribute to minimising such impacts in the Braidwood District. This aspect should also be considered when determining the merits of the solar farm and battery.

The microgrid aspect is aimed at allowing this solar farm and battery to operate both on the National Grid and also off the National Grid in the event of future grid outages (eg wires knocked out due to fires, winds or collision). This 'islandable' microgrid would be a first of its kind in Australia and would also provide a model for other communities in regional Australia to improve their power infrastructure, transition to renewables, and reduce their susceptibility

to the loss of their energy supply, particularly if like Braidwood they are reliant on only one transmission line supplying a district.

As part of the grant application process to ARENA, BCE obtained letters of support for the project from a range of interested parties, including our local federal member, local Council, key local community organisations and individuals. These party are listed in the attachment to this submission and may also make their own submissions to this DA process.

The project has gone to some lengths to find a relatively remote location and proposes vegetation plantings which should mean the project is not visible from the road. It is also small enough to operate on transmission lines, so it does not involve any new poles and wires.

The project will also make a positive economic injection into the local economy. The developer, EDPR is also committed to supporting local communities through its projects by using local services and engaging in local consultants and contractors as much as possible. This may include using local surveyors, electricians, plumbers, landscapers, cleaners, earthmoving and waste contractors and other available labour hire. This generates employment opportunities and supports the development of local expertise and skills. The local economy will also benefit from non-local employees who would stay, eat and spend locally.

Thank you for your consideration.



John Tuckwell,
Secretary, Braidwood Clean Energy
On behalf of the Braidwood Clean Energy Committee
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**Listing of interested parties providing letters of support to the
ARENA grant application for the Braidwood Microgrid**

1. Braidwood Clean Energy (BCE)
2. The Hon Kristy McBain Member for Eden-Monaro
3. Braidwood Community Association (BCA – 150+ supporters)
4. Braidwood and Villages Business Chamber (BAVBC – 100+ members)
5. Bateman Bay Local Aboriginal Land Council (BBLALC)
6. Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council Committee (1K followers on Facebook)
7. Two Fires Festival of Arts and Activism (500+ followers)
8. Sustainable Braidwood (400+ followers)
9. Braidwood Life Centre
10. Braidwood Radio (Braidwood FM)
11. Captains of all local volunteer emergency services based in Braidwood
12. Mongarlowe Volunteer Bushfire Brigade
13. Jerabat Springs Animal Refuge (700+ followers)
14. Clare Young Films Pty Ltd