

6.2 RENEWABLE ENERGY

SUMMARY

The report presents information to Council on renewable energy projects in the Yass Valley.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information presented in the report detailing renewable energy projects in the Yass Valley be noted.

REPORT

1. Background

At its ordinary meeting on 23 June 2025, Council resolved (Res.):226

That a report be provided to the Ordinary Council Meeting in July 2025 providing the following information:

- a. Number of renewable energy developments constructed in the Yass Valley local government area.*
- b. Number of renewable energy developments with approved consent in the Yass Valley local government area.*
- c. Number of 'known' renewable energy development companies currently undertaking investigations for potential further developments within Yass Valley local government area.*
- d. What Council's role is within the renewable energy development planning framework and what point within this framework does Council have an opportunity to request alteration to the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) or provide comment to a project.*
- e. What further advocacy work can be done for residents and existing local businesses that may be significantly impacted by the proposed renewable energy developments.*
- f. Council reflects on lessons learnt from previous proposed State Significant Developments that had been withdrawn or not proceeded.*

2. Renewable Energy Projects

Most renewable energy projects are considered state significant development (SSD) due to their size, economic value (e.g. a capital investment value of more than \$30 million) or potential impact. This means, they must undergo a development assessment process that is coordinated by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) and that council is not the consent authority.

Details of SSD applications in the Yass Valley can found on DPHI's website [here](#).

Table 1 details renewable energy projects in the Yass Valley in the following categories:

- *Constructed*
- *Approved* – SSD application has been approved
- *Application under assessment* – SSD application is lodged and the application is under assessment.
- *Projects under investigation* – council is aware of a project for which initial development of the project is being undertaken.
- *Withdrawn* – SSD application has been withdrawn

Table 1. Renewable energy projects in the Yass Valley

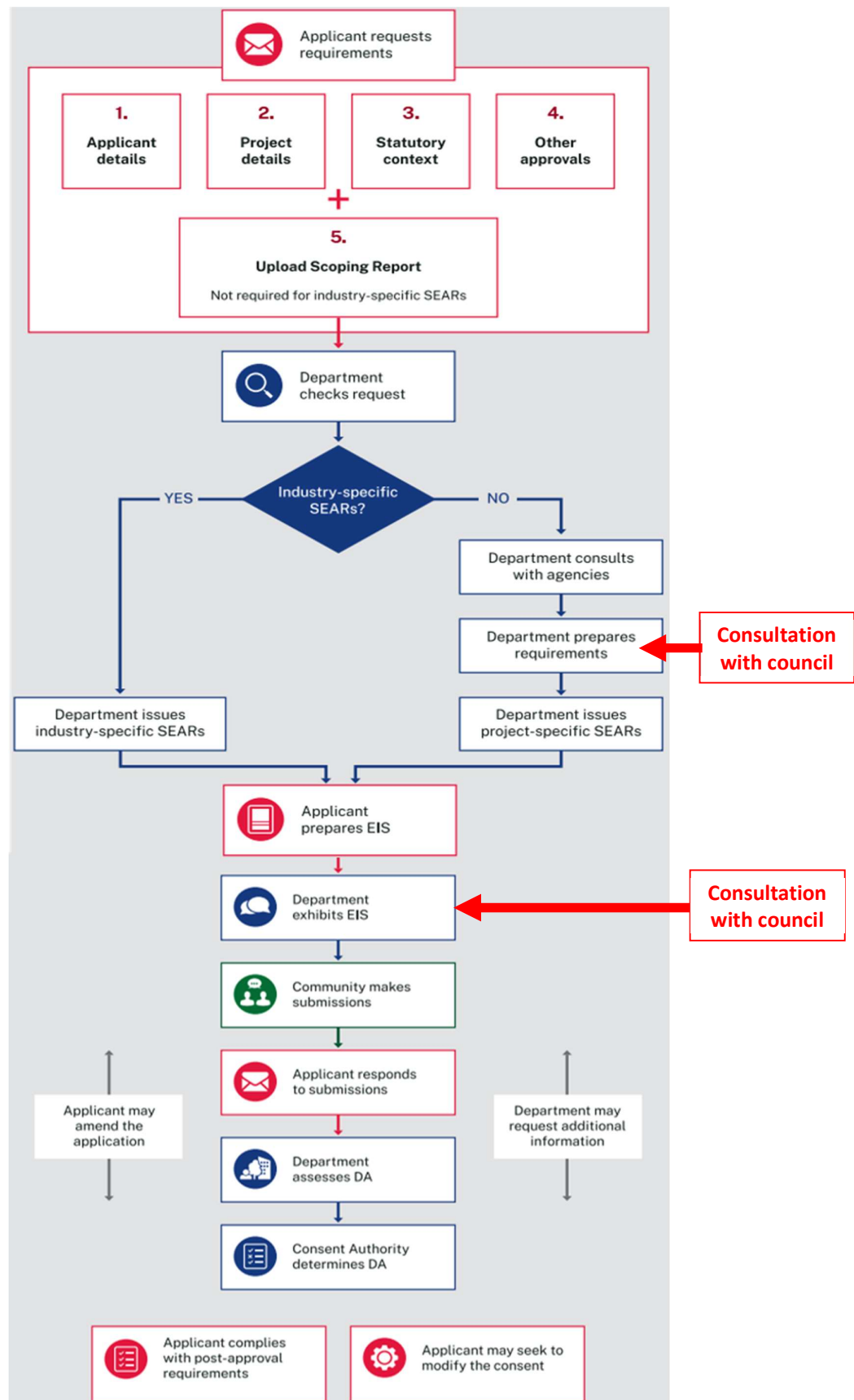
No.	Name	Development Type	Location	Status	Applicant/ Company
CONSTRUCTED					
1.	Bango	Wind	Lachlan Valley Way (Hilltops and Yass Valley LGAs)	Consent granted May 2018	Squadron
2.	Rye Park	Wind	Hilltops, Upper Lachlan and Yass Valley LGAs	Consent granted May 2017	Tilt Renewables Australia Pty Ltd
APPROVED					
3.	Walleroo	Solar	246-248 Southwell Road, Wallaroo	Consent granted September 2024	Walleroo Solar Farm Pty Ltd
4.	Coppabella	Wind	Bookham/Illalong area (Hilltops and Yass Valley LGAs)	Consent granted March 2016	Goldwind Australia
5.	Conroys Gap	Wind	Bowning/Bookham area	Consent granted May 2007	Epuron Projects Pty Ltd
6.	Springdale	Solar	Tallagandra Lane, Sutton	Consent granted February 2021	RES Australia Pty Ltd
APPLICATION UNDER ASSESSMENT					
7.	Bondo	Wind	Wee Jasper area (includes Snowy Valleys and Cootamundra-Gundagai LGAs)	Scoping report submitted (SEARs requested)	Neoen Australia Pty Ltd
8.	Bookham	Wind	Bookham area	SEARs issued March 2025 DA lodged June 2025 for geo-technical investigations	Bookham Windfarm Pty Ltd / Squadron
9.	Derringullen	BESS	Yass Valley Way, Yass	SEARs issued August 2024	BID Energy Partners Pty Ltd
10.	Turton Place <i>Regionally Significant Development</i>	BESS*	3 Turton Place, Murrumbateman	Southern Regional Planning Panel hearing – 29 July 2025	ACEnergy
PROJECTS UNDER INVESTIGATION					
11.	Bendenine	Wind	Between Bowning and Binalong	Applicant preparing scoping report	Wind Prospect
WITHDRAWN					
12.	Yass	Solar	Perry Street, Yass	Withdrawn (SEARs issued March 2020)	ENGIE / Tetris Energy Pty Ltd
13.	Yass	Solar	Perry Street, Yass	Withdrawn (SEARs issued December 2023)	International Power (Australia) Pty Ltd

*Battery energy storage system

3. State Significant Development (SSD) Assessment Process

The SSD assessment process is detailed in Figure 1. DPHI engages with council as a stakeholder at the stages identified. The role of council staff is to provide technical advice during the consultation stages of the SSD assessment process, whilst adhering to endorsed policies (*Renewable Energy Development Projects Policy*) and ensuring council's assets are protected and maintained.

Figure 1. State Significant development process



4. Future Advocacy

Councillors play a crucial role in advocating for the Yass Valley community by representing the needs and concerns of residents and facilitating communication between the community and industry.

5. Learnings

As the renewable energy industry grows, council needs to develop internal expertise to effectively respond. This includes understanding the technical aspects of renewable energy projects, navigating relevant regulations, and addressing potential community impacts.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

CSP Theme	Our Environment
CSP Strategy Objective	EN1: Our natural environment is maintained, protected and enhanced in line with community expectations
Strategies	EN1.1 - protect and enhance the existing natural environment, including flora and fauna native to the region
Delivery Program Action	Complete a flora and fauna management plan for the Riverbank Park in Yass as required by the Victoria Park Masterplan

ATTACHMENTS: Nil