

DATE: 16 November 2018
OUTLET: Queensland Times Print
PAGE: 2
READERSHIP: 36,000

Plans for solar farm revealed

A COMMERCIAL solar farm with the capacity to produce 1500mW of power on farmland near Ipswich is set to be approved.

Somerset Regional Council this week recommended plans to build more than five million solar panels on the 2055ha site between Harlin and Gregors Creeks to be allowed.

It's enough to power 1.5 million homes.

The plans show each solar panel has the capacity to produce about 300W of power.

The first stage will include 1000mW of solar generation, site access substations and battery storage locations, staff amenities and parking and have a development area of 823.11ha.

Stage two will include 500mW of solar generation and solar panels covering 259.42ha.

Energy produced by the solar farm will be transferred to the Powerlink substation before connection to the 275kV powerline running through the site.

Powerlink will construct two substations on behalf of Sunshine Energy Australia.

One substation will remain in the ownership of Sunshine Energy, while Powerlink will purchase and operate the other substation.

The land accommodating the Powerlink substation will be subdivided off as part of a future development application through the infrastructure designation process with state government.

The two-substation system allows for the transfer of electricity from private to public and for commercial distribution.

Both substations will be built on specially-designed pads that cover 16ha.

It will ensure they remain flood-free and can accommodate underground cabling networks.

Energy produced on site will be stored in 143 battery containers to provide additional distribution options.

Emma Clarke