



Murrumbidgee COUNCIL

Darlington Point Office
21 Carrington Street
PO Box 5
DARLINGTON POINT NSW 2706
Telephone: 02 6960 5500

Coleambally Office
39 Brolga Place
COLEAMBALLY NSW 2707
Telephone: 02 6954 4060

Jerilderie Office
35 Jerilderie Street
PO Box 96
JERILDERIE NSW 2716
Telephone 03 5886 1200

MEDIA RELEASE

12 December 2017

MURRUMBIDGEE PROMOTES LOCAL BUSINESS CAPABILITY

More than 70 representatives of local businesses recently took the opportunity to find out how they can benefit from the development of solar farms in the Murrumbidgee Council area. The event included collecting contact information to produce a database of local and regional firms to promote business capabilities.

The successful Big Opportunities for Small Business forum, held late November in Coleambally, saw a wide range of businesses attend. From accommodation, food and spray and weed control to heavy equipment hire, a good cross-section of different trades and services was represented. Businesses have now been entered into a Capability Database which has been referred to solar farm developers and to the Industry Capability Network. The database will be promoted through Council to generate small business leads for supply of local goods and services.

Businesses at the event heard from development industry presenters. This included supply chain networking and support agency the Industry Capability Network, developers of the approved Coleambally Solar Farm, Neoen, and contract managers for NSW Solar Projects, Bouygues Construction.

Council's Economic, Tourism and Community Development Manager Gerrie Carr-MacFie said she was delighted to see so many turn out for the event. "It was a great event especially for our small businesses looking for opportunities to supply services or provide trades to upcoming developments," Ms Carr-MacFie said. "I thank all of those who took the time to come along and the presenters for providing detailed information. "I have no doubt everyone went away knowing more about the potential these solar projects present."

The Coleambally Solar Farm site comprises approximately 550 hectares of land and will consist of approximately 560,000 solar panels.

The project is expected to create around 300 jobs during the construction phase which will commence in coming weeks. A further seven ongoing operational roles will be filled once construction is finished.

The construction of the Coleambally Solar Farm will be followed by a second development by Edify Energy in Darlington Point. Construction for this development is proposed for the second part of 2018 with the addition of 5 full-time positions post-construction.

Mayor of Murrumbidgee Council Cr Ruth McRae advised the opportunities for small business development in Murrumbidgee Council are strong.

"It is not just solar that is set for growth in Murrumbidgee. There has been a 10 per cent growth in manufacturing across our Council area in the last Census period," she said.

"Growth in employment has also increased in the construction and services sectors. Our data shows Murrumbidgee Council is the second fastest growing area in the Murray-Riverina region. I am urging all businesses to get behind our Capability Database initiative so we can promote our small to medium enterprise sector and make the most of all business opportunities that may present."

Businesses wanting to be included in the Murrumbidgee Business Capability Database can contact Council's Economic, Tourism and Community Development Manager Gerrie Carr-MacFie via email gerriec@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

ENDS