

Application for an Electricity Generation Authority

**Munna Creek Solar Farm Investments Pty Ltd
as Trustee for the Munna Creek Solar Farm**

Information Paper

May 2025

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Translating and interpreting assistance

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1. Background

Munna Creek Solar Farm Investments Pty Ltd as trustee for the Munna Creek Solar Farm Trust, (the applicant) has applied to the Regulator for a generation authority under section 179 of the *Electricity Act 1994* (the Act). Under the Act, the Regulator is the Under Treasurer being the chief executive of the department that administers the Act.

The application is for a proposed solar farm – the Munna Creek Solar Farm (MCSF) – located at Munna Creek, approximately 38 kilometres south-east of Gympie in the Fraser Coast Regional Council area of Queensland.

The generation authority, if issued, will authorise the operation of the generating plant and its connection to the distribution network via a 132kV (kilovolt) line which will connect into the nearby Ergon Energy network.

The generating plant will have a nameplate rating of 154MW (megawatt) with a maximum capacity of 120MW at the point of connection.

The owners of MCSF will be Munna Creek Solar Farm Investments Pty Ltd as trustee for the Munna Creek Solar Farm Trust and will also be the in-principal operator of the plant. The applicant is a special purpose vehicle and is a subsidiary of Metka EGN and has appointed third party contractors to provide the engineering, construction and procurement services (EPC) and ongoing operation and maintenance of the plant.

Subject to receipt of all necessary approvals (including this generation authority), the Applicant anticipates the MCSF will be complete and operational in November 2025.

2. Consideration of an Application

Section 180 of the Act provides that the Regulator may issue a generation authority only if satisfied:

- (a) the applicant will operate the generating plant stated in the application;
- (b) the generating plant will be able to provide electricity of a quality suitable for the transmission grid or supply network stated in the application;
- (c) the applicant is a suitable person to be a generation entity;
- (d) the owner or proposed owner of the generating plant (whether or not the applicant) is a suitable person to be the owner; and
- (e) the applicant meets the additional criteria prescribed under a regulation.
(Note that no additional criteria are prescribed by regulation.)

In deciding whether the applicant is a suitable person to be a generation entity, or the owner or proposed owner of the generating plant (whether or not the applicant) is a suitable person to be the owner, the Act states the Regulator may consider:

- (a) the person's previous commercial and other dealings and the standard of honesty and integrity shown in the dealings

- (b) any failure by the person to perform commercial or statutory obligations and the reasons for the failure;
- (c) the person's criminal history;
- (d) if the person is a corporation – the matters mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (c) for persons who are shareholders, directors or holders of other interests in the corporation;
- (e) for the applicant – the applicant's competence to be the operator; and
- (f) additional matters prescribed by regulation.
(Note that no additional matters are prescribed by regulation.)

Further, the Act provides that, in deciding whether to issue the generation authority, the Regulator must consider:

- (a) the objects of the Act;
- (b) relevant government policies about environmental and energy issues and the likely environmental effects of building and operating the generating plant; and
- (c) additional matters prescribed under a regulation.
(Note that no additional matters are prescribed by regulation.)

Section 179A of the Act also stipulates that, before issuing a generation authority, the Regulator must invite interested persons to make submissions about the application for the authority and the Regulator must consider the submissions made.

3. The Applicant

The information set out in sections 3 to 5 of this Information Paper was provided by the applicant as part of the formal application to the Regulator for a generation authority.

The applicant intends to be the owner and operator of the solar farm.

Munna Creek Solar Farm Investments Pty Ltd as trustee for the Munna Creek Solar Farm Trust is a special purpose vehicle with the parent company being Metlen Energy and Metals.

Metlen Energy and Metals is a global industrial and energy company specialising in Energy and Metallurgy. Metlen Energy and Metals is a private company active in the entire spectrum of energy, from the development, construction and operation of thermal units and renewable energy system projects. Metlen Energy and Metals assists with the design and construction of electricity infrastructure projects, retail supply of electricity and natural gas, supply and trading of natural gas including the provision of competitive energy products and services.

The applicant has appointed Metka EGN Australia (Qld) Pty Ltd as third-party contractor to provide engineering, procurement and construction services and ongoing operations and maintenance of the project when the solar farm commences operation. Metka EGN Australia (QLD) Pty Ltd is a subsidiary of the parent company, Metlen Energy and Metals.

The applicant has also appointed Quintas Energy Australia Pty Ltd (Quintas) to provide overall management services for the MCSF, including control room services. Quintas will also supervise the operations and maintenance contractor's responsibilities, including monitoring the performance of the MCSF energy settlements and cashflows.

Quintas was founded in 2008 and has expertise in the management and optimisation of renewable energy assets.

Quintas offers asset management, technical advice, financial, analytics and development services worldwide. Quintas Energy has experience in managing the operations of renewable energy projects in the National Electricity Market for Gunnedah, Suntop and Middlemount Solar Farm projects.

The applicant will be the operator of the Munna Creek Solar Farm for the asset's lifespan of 40 years.

4. The proposed generating plant

The proposed generating plant will be known as the Munna Creek Solar Farm.

The MCSF will be located on Lot 1 SP233609 and Lot 1161SP37659 on an area of land approximately 462 hectares about 38kms south-east of Gympie in the Fraser Coast Regional Council in the state of Queensland.

The MCSF will have a maximum capacity of 120MW at the connection point.

The applicant is currently working with Ergon Energy to execute a Generator Connection and Access Agreement. The MCSF is proposed to connect to the distribution network via an on-site substation located on the northern side of the solar farm which will then connect to the existing 132kV Woolooga/Mungar line operated by Ergon Energy.

The applicant is in the process of seeking generator registration with the Australian Energy Market Operator.

5. Approvals for construction of the generating plant

A generation authority issued under the Act authorises its holder to operate the MCSF and connect it to the transmission grid or supply network.

It should be noted that a generation authority does not authorise or approve the construction of the generating plant. Section 26(2) of the Act states:

'a generation authority does not relieve its holder or anyone else from complying with laws applying to the development, building, operation or maintenance of generating plant'.

The engineering and procurement contractor has the responsibility to obtain all approvals necessary for construction and ongoing operation of the solar farm, including relevant environmental, cultural heritage and local government approvals.

All relevant development approvals have been obtained for MCSF.

Munna Creek Solar Farm Pty Ltd applied to the Fraser Coast Regional Council for a development application for a renewable energy facility which was approved under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* on 13 January 2022.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Commonwealth) assessed the construction and operation of the MCSF and approved the application on 24 May 2023 in accordance with the provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The decision was determined to be a 'not controlled action' if measures were taken to avoid significant impacts on listed threatened species and communities.

The applicant has a Construction Environment Management Plan in place during the construction phase of the MCSF. The applicant also has an Operational Environmental Management Plan for

the day-to-day operations of the MCSF. Once the solar farm is operational this plan will assist to mitigate potential environmental impacts associated with the operational activities.

The applicant is currently negotiating a Cultural Heritage Management Plan with First Nations Gubbi Gubbi/Kabi Kabi People.

6. Submissions

Submissions are invited from interested persons in relation to the application for a generation authority from the Munna Creek Solar Farm.

In particular, the Regulator is interested in matters that may impact on the suitability of the applicant to be a generation entity, as well as the other issues the Regulator must consider under the Act.

Please note that private personal and commercial-in-confidence information contained within a submission may be provided to a third party for the purpose of consideration of the application. In the case where the Regulator provides an opportunity for an applicant to respond to matters raised in a submission, the private personal information and commercial-in-confidence information of the person making the submission will not be provided to the applicant.

The State of Queensland, through the Queensland Treasury, has taken steps to ensure the appropriate treatment of such information by departmental staff and contractors. By submitting a submission, you agree that your submission will be used by Queensland Treasury and its contractors in reviewing and processing the applications. All private personal and commercial-in-confidence information will be stored by Queensland Treasury, and in accordance with the relevant privacy legislation. Queensland Treasury's privacy statement can be found at: www.treasury.qld.gov.au/legal/privacy/.

If you have any questions, you can email Queensland Treasury's Privacy Unit at rtiadmin@treasury.qld.gov.au.

Submissions must be made in writing, and sent by email or mail to:

Mail

Attention: The Manager
Regulation
Energy Division
Queensland Treasury
PO Box 15456
CITY EAST QLD 4002
Phone: 13 43 87

Email

energy.regulation@epw.qld.gov.au

Closing date for submissions is 5.00pm on 30 May 2025