



Armidale Tree Group
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Proposal - Updated Landscape Screening for Gunnedah Solar Farm

Background

Earthworks conducted by Armidale Tree Group to prepare the six planting lines on the border of the solar farm has resulted in sections of the earthworks straying outside the boundary of Lot 2 and thus partial encroachment of the landholder's property. Due to the placement of PCL's Asset Protection Zone and the solar farm fence, it is not possible to contain six planting lines within the boundaries of Lot 2, for the entire landscaping boundary.

Proposal Measures

The Armidale Tree Group would like to suggest the following measures to ensure that the landscape screening still meets Schedule 3, Condition 10, (d) of the Development Application - *"be effective at screening views within 3 years of commencement of construction"* while working within the physical onsite constraints.

The number of rip lines will need to be adjusted to fit within the site (this possibility was mentioned in section 5.1 page 6 of the Landscape Management Plan). Please refer to the map at the end of this document for the following section. "Central", "North Line 2" and "East Line" sections will be composed of four planting lines, while "North Line 1" will consist of three planting lines. To counter the slight decrease in total planting line length, we will increase the percentage of large shrubs to be planted onsite. As shrubs generally have a quicker growth rate and denser habit than trees, this will ensure the screening will be effective as required by the development approval. Each section will have one line of trees for its entire length.

The sections labelled "Remnant East" and "Remnant West" will be planted solely with large shrubs, to supplement the already existing remnant tree vegetation. We will use auger holes for planting in this area. This will allow us to plant close to the remnant trees without potentially disturbing their roots.

We currently estimate that we will be able to plant approximately **2,501 shrubs** at 2.5m spacing and **533 trees** at 4m spacing. We would like to draw attention to the fact that these numbers are **indicative only**, as there remains some areas around the remnant vegetation that are still undergoing changes by PCL, which might impact the numbers that are planted. When including the 10% extra for loss replacement, this brings the total number of plant seedlings to **3,337**.

If this proposal is acceptable to PCL, we can provide an amended quote to reflect the decrease in seedlings, and by association, tree guards and labour to plant.

Alicia Cooper

General Manager
Armidale Tree Group