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Culcairn CBD set for makeover with new solar farm funds



By [Layton Holley](#)
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 Neoen Australia's 128-megawatt solar farm in Numurkah. Picture by Mark Jesser

Culcairn central business district will receive a facelift as the first payment in a community benefit fund from a local solar farm arrives.

Neoen Australia has provided \$150,000 to projects within the Culcairn community as part of a voluntary planning agreement.

The \$636 million, 1039-hectare Culcairn solar farm was [announced in March 2021](#) and [began construction earlier this year](#).

The solar farm is capable of 350 megawatts of energy.

Neoen Australia, a French company, also owns a [128-megawatt solar farm in Numurkah](#).

The Culcairn Community Development Committee provided the Greater Hume Council with priority projects on which to spend \$150,000.

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Two projects on this list were the continuing upgrade of the Culcairn business district, including treatment of the median strip, and progress on accessing unused Australian Rail Track Corporation land.

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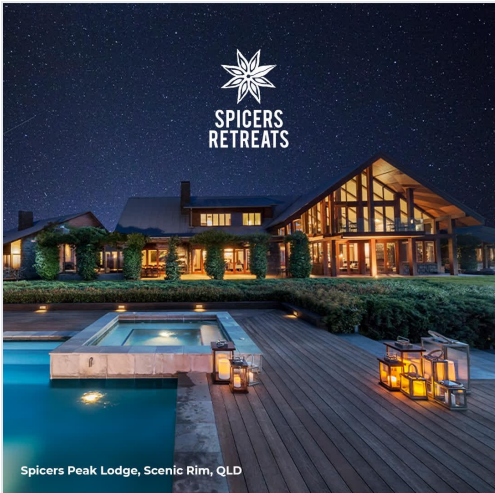
However, a key component of the ARTC project is establishing whether the land is suitable for recreation or community use.

To do this, a site contamination assessment must be completed on the proposed lease area, Railway Parade, Culcairn. This will cost \$50,000.

Greater Hume Council agreed to spend \$100,000 on Culcairn central business district beautification and \$50,000 on the contamination assessment for the ARTC project at Wednesday's council meeting, July 17.

The council also received a request from Culcairn Cricket Club for new cricket nets, which would have cost \$100,000.

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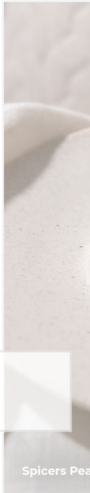
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However, the council rejected this.

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Layton is a journalist at The Border Mail. He is interested in profiles, features, and hard news. If you have a story please reach out to him at layton.holley@austcommunitymedia.com.au

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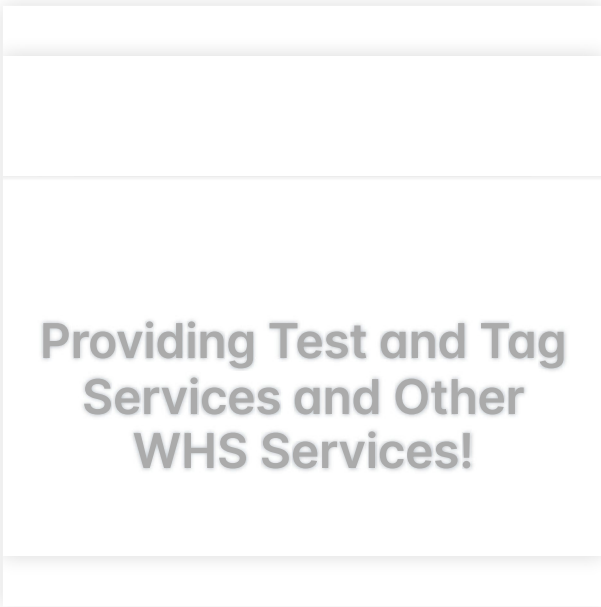
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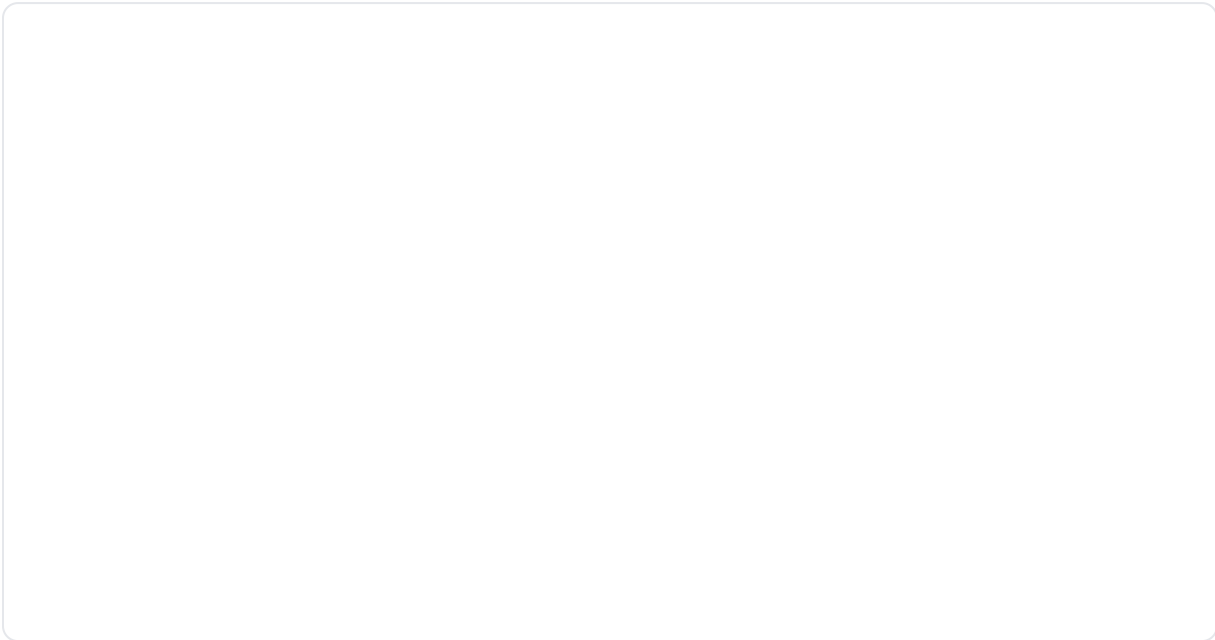
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