**Cover letter to the Editor**

Manuscript Title: Modelling and Performing a Life Cycle Assessment of a Prospective Stage Pre-FEED Solar Farm

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Type of Manuscript: Full Length Article

This manuscript is appropriate for Energy for Sustainable Development as to this author’s knowledge, there are limited publications available which consider a life cycle analysis and emissions of an entire solar farm from materials to logistics and construction, and finally to operation.

We believe the early-stage life cycle assessments highlighted in this manuscript can be a useful tool for many in the energy industry including engineers, project managers, investors, and analysts. This underscores the importance of our work and makes this journal in particular the appropriate avenue to publish it, given the similar profile of readers the journal appeals to.

As practicing energy professionals, we are interested in sharing our experience and insights from performing and modelling this life cycle assessment with readers. Crucially, batteries add significantly to the emissions of solar farms due to their associated manufacturing and decommissioning emissions. This is important to developers who will potentially have to weigh additional emissions against operational flexibility and costs. Given projected growths in solar energy, we believe the lessons gained from this modelling could be useful in improving the sustainability and success of future solar developments.

The manuscript has been checked by a native English speaker with a general scientific background. In this author’s opinion, this work would appeal to both a popular audience and scientific audience.

The manuscript has not been previously rejected by Energy for Sustainable Development or any other Elsevier journal. The manuscript, or its contents in some other form, has not been published previously by the author and is not under consideration for publication in another journal at the time of submission. The manuscript does not have any supporting information and/or Review-Only Material.

Yours sincerely,

Ryan Isaac Lazaroo

19th October 2023