

## Gullen Solar Farm

Fact Sheet
Nov 2015

## **Project Description**

The Gullen Solar Farm is the proposed development of a 10 - 11 MW solar photovoltaic (PV) power plant. The project would be co-located within the existing Gullen Range Wind Farm and would occupy an area of approximately 30 - 50 hectares. Locating the solar farm at the same site as the wind farm would minimise required infrastructure (such as roads, power lines and telecommunications), meaning a reduction in environmental impact and project cost.

The solar farm would produce approximately 22,000 megawatt-hours of clean renewable energy each year, which is enough energy to supply approximately 3,100 NSW homes. The operating life of the solar farm would be 25 – 30 years.



### Typical Infrastructure

The project would consist of a large field of solar PV panels installed on support frames and connected by wiring to inverters. The inverters convert direct-current (DC) electricity to alternating current (AC) electricity. Underground AC cables would then connect the output of the solar farm to the existing wind farm electricity substation and grid connection point.

Construction of the project would take approximately six to nine months and involve up to 75 people on site during the peak construction period, on average 30 workers. Subcontracting opportunities would be widely advertised within the local community.

#### Site Location

The site that has been selected for the solar farm is adjacent to the Gullen Range Wind Farm project area. The land for the Gullen Solar Farm is owned by Goulburn Land Pty Ltd, which is in turn owned by Goldwind.

Based on similar size solar farms, the solar panels installed are not expected to exceed a maximum height of 3m. A landscape and visual assessment will form part of the development application and will assess any potential visibility to neighbouring residences.

## **Development Process**

A feasibility study has confirmed the viability of the project. Further surveys are underway to investigate the site in more detail including cultural heritage surveys, vegetation surveys and solar resource monitoring. These surveys will lead to the preparation of a development application to gain planning approval. The development application will be accompanied by a Statement of Environmental Effects outlining the results of investigations and assessment of the project. Planning approval will be sought from Upper Lachlan Shire Council with final determination made by the Southern Region Joint Planning Panel.

#### **Community Consultation**

Gullen Solar Farm is committed to community consultation throughout the project development and will provide opportunities for the community to be informed and involved. Further information will be made available on the project website, or contact Gullen Solar Farm staff. A series of public information sessions will be conducted to provide information, and staff are happy to attend face-to-face meetings to discuss any specific issues, and seek feedback on the proposed development.

# Anticipated Project Dates

Environmental Investigations & Community Consultation

Nov2014 - Nov 2015

Development Application (**DA**) submission

December 2015



Public exhibition of DA

Dec 2015 – Jan 2015



Pre-construct on design and contracting<sup>1</sup>

May 2016 – Sept 2016



Solar farm construction

July 2016 – Dec 2016

#### **Further Information**

Please contact: Clare Powell, Community Engagement Manager

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#### Email:

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1. If the Proposal receives Development Approval

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