



MATES GULLY SOLAR FARM



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Community Newsletter 1 – February 2022

The proposal: Mates Gully Solar Farm

The Mates Gully Solar Farm is a proposed solar farm development to be located approximately 30km east of Wagga Wagga, between Borambola and Tarcutta (Wagga Wagga City Council Local Government Area).

The solar farm is being developed by Spark Renewables, a leading developer and long-term owner and operator of renewable energy projects.

Launch of community consultation

The project is in early stages of development and must undergo a rigorous planning and assessment process. We will undertake extensive community consultation prior to formal development application to planning authorities, and invite all stakeholders and community members to get involved and voice their questions or concerns.

We are holding virtual community meetings via Zoom on the 22nd of February 2022. Please see page 3 of this newsletter for further details. To register, go to www.matesgullysolarfarm.com.

Scan to visit the website:



KEY FACTS

Why this site?

- Excellent solar resource
- Proximity to grid via existing 132kV transmission lines that cross site

Technology

- Solar photovoltaic (PV) panels
- Battery energy storage system

Capacity

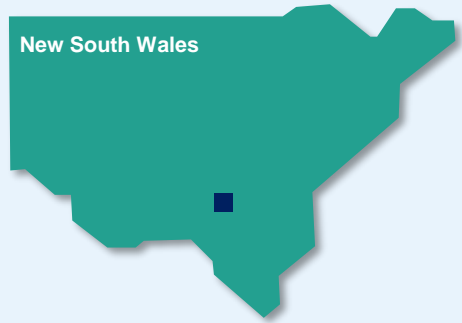
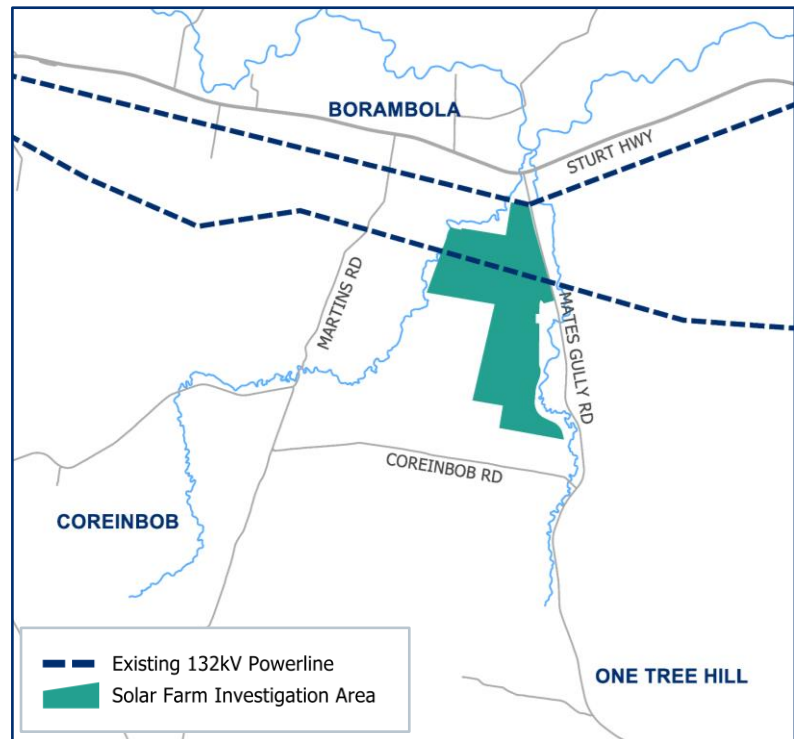
- Solar generation: ~160MW
- Storage: ~100MW for 4 hours

Community

- Electricity benefit scheme
- Community fund
- Neighbour agreements

Project status

- Proposal announcement
- Next virtual community meetings: 22 Feb 2022



What is proposed?

The proposed solar farm would consist of photovoltaic (PV) panels mounted onto single axis trackers that slowly rotate and follow the sun each day.

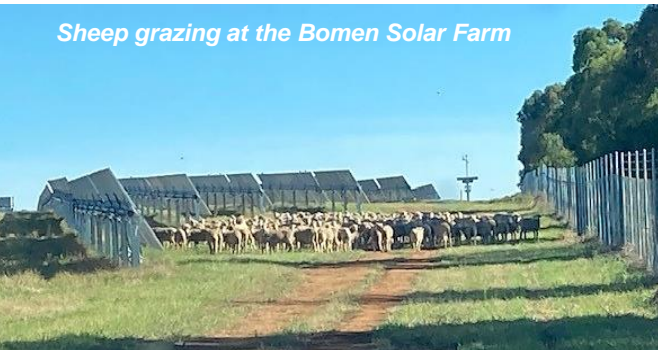
The proposal includes a containerised battery energy storage system, which will provide 'on demand' generation or 'firming' to the electricity grid.

The battery system would store electricity from the solar panels when the sun is at its peak, and then distribute this energy into to the electricity grid at other times of the day.

What is the planning approval process?

The project will be considered a State Significant Development under NSW planning policy. The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) will assess the proposal and the consent authority will be either the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces or the Independent Planning Commission.

Sheep grazing at the Bomen Solar Farm



TECHNOLOGY OVERVIEW

Solar Farm

Panels: ~2x1 metres and 500-600 watts each.

Panel mounting: Single axis trackers ~90 metres long and 80-90 panels per tracker.

Inverters: Containerised power conversion stations to convert DC to AC power.

Materials: Responsibly chosen low-impact materials and environmentally safe maintenance.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Chemistry: Lithium-ion or similar.

Dimensions: Either 40-ft container or smaller units.



Land use

We will develop strategies to reduce impacts on the land and plan to graze sheep within the solar farm, like at Bomen Solar Farm. Fencing and water infrastructure will allow for the rotation of stock across the site and to maximise productivity.

Planning process – there is time to have your say



We are here

Staying informed

A range of options is available for you to receive project information and ask the Spark Renewables team questions.



Receive phone calls from the team



Sign up to project updates



One-on-one meetings

Stay informed



Attend public meetings



Online surveys



Participate in forums

Community benefit sharing

Long-term, distributed benefits for hosting the Mates Gully Solar Farm would be offered to the community in accordance with the level of impact on residents. These include an electricity benefit scheme, a large community fund, and neighbour agreements. We look forward to discussing ideas on benefit sharing with community members to ensure that the scheme has meaningful benefits for this area.



Virtual community meetings

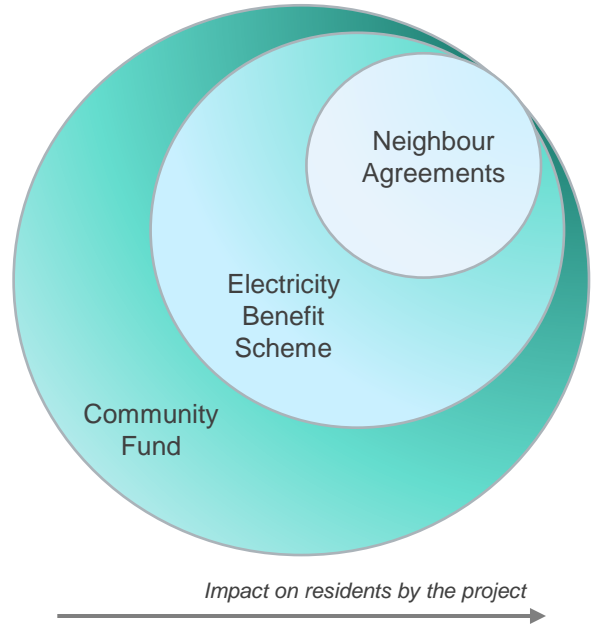
Due to the challenges of COVID-19, we understand it is not always safe or comfortable for everyone to join in-person community meetings. We would like to invite you to either a lunch-time or after-work virtual community meeting via Zoom. The format will be in a presentation followed by an open Q&A forum. The meetings will take place on:

TUESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2022 at

- 12.30-1.45 PM
- 6-7.15 PM



Scan the QR code to register and receive details on how to participate:



Indicative development timeline



✓ Project identification



Lodge Development Application and Environmental Impact Statement



Construction commences

2022

2023

2024



Launch Community Consultation and Preliminary Studies



Development Consent



Bomen Solar Farm (near Wagga Wagga)

MATES GULLY SOLAR FARM PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project scope: 160MW solar generation & 100MW firm energy (4 hours)

- Site selection:
- Excellent solar resource with one of the highest irradiance areas in the state.
 - Connection to the existing 132kV TransGrid transmission lines that cross the site.

Socio-economic and environmental impacts

- Direct benefits:
- An electricity benefit scheme and community fund available to all residents.
 - Individual neighbour agreements.
 - Prioritise procurement of goods and services from nearby townships and Aboriginal-owned businesses.

- Employment:
- Estimated 200 jobs across the construction and 3-5 operations and maintenance jobs.
 - Training, apprenticeship and employment opportunities.
 - Increasing First Nations income and employment opportunities – aligned with 20% long-term goal.

- Land use:
- Solar farm land available to be grazed by sheep and other agricultural activities.
 - The land to be restored at the end life of the project.
 - Disturbance of native vegetation and species habitat avoided wherever possible.

- Power:
- Potential to power around 90,000 Australian homes per year.
 - Offset the emissions of around 360,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.

Who is Spark Renewables?



Spark Renewables is a developer and long-term owner and operator of renewable energy generation assets. Our operational portfolio comprises the 100MW Bomen Solar Farm near Wagga Wagga which commenced operations in 2020. Our development portfolio includes wind, solar and storage projects in the National Electricity Market.

Spark Renewables is owned by the Spark Infrastructure Group – an owner of leading essential energy infrastructure, including generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure across Australia.



Spark Renewables is a member of the Clean Energy Council (CEC) and a signatory to the CEC’s Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Developments.

Spark Renewables is committed to delivering diverse benefits to the community. This includes giving training and employment opportunities to local men and women and prioritising local procurement of goods and services. Spark Renewables has a particular focus on engaging Aboriginal people and businesses to support the construction and operation of the Project and intends to set targets to measure its performance against this commitment.