



PROPOSED MATES GULLY SOLAR FARM

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING


22 FEBRUARY 2022

 1300 271 419

www.matesgullysolarfarm.com

 info@sparkrenewables.com

 [linkedin.com/sparkrenewables](https://www.linkedin.com/company/sparkrenewables)

 [instagram.com/sparkrenewables](https://www.instagram.com/sparkrenewables)



Renewable energy. It's in our nature.

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING AGENDA

1. Acknowledgement of Country
2. Introductions and housekeeping
3. Overview of Spark Renewables
4. Overview of the proposed Mates Gully Solar Farm project
5. Planning process
6. Q&A

INTRODUCTIONS AND HOUSEKEEPING

Questions are answered by the Spark Renewables team and the meeting is facilitated by NGH

Answers by the Spark Renewables team:

- Will Stone, Head of Development
- Claire Dawson, Head of Legal & Community
- Andrew Bomm, Advisor – Community & Agriculture

- Anthony Marriner, Head of Spark Renewables
- Elaine Aldridge, Development Manager
- Marcos Venegas, Senior Development Engineer
- John Zammit, Project Manager
- Marju Tonisson, Communications

NGH Consultants – meeting moderator:

- Breannah Jeffries, Senior Consultant, Communications and Engagement
- Les Seddon, Principal Environmental Planner

ONGOING CONSULTATION

There are different options available to stay informed, raise concerns and ask questions



One-on-one meetings
(face-to-face & online)



Participate in forums



Attend public meetings



Online surveys – let us know
your concerns and questions



Receive phone calls from the
Spark Renewables team



Sign up to project updates at
www.matesgullysolarfarm.com

*Scan to visit the
website:*



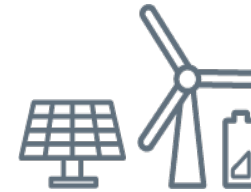
Project news, documents, feedback form and surveys are available at www.matesgullysolarfarm.com or via the QR code.

SPARK RENEWABLES

Developer, long-term owner, and operator of renewable energy generation assets

- Development portfolio in excess of 3GW includes wind, solar and storage projects in the National Electricity Market.
- Our 100MW Bomen Solar Farm near Wagga Wagga is fully operational – commenced operations in 2020.
- Owned by the Spark Infrastructure Group – an owner of essential energy infrastructure, including generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure across Australia.
- Member of the Clean Energy Council (CEC) and signatory to the CEC’s Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Developments.
- We are committed to working with and giving back to the communities in which we operate, and to source supplies and workforce locally wherever we can.
- We are committed to promoting responsible sourcing and upholding high ethical standards in all aspects of our working practices.

Spark Infrastructure Group



Spark Renewables

100% of Bomen Solar Farm
>3 GW Development Portfolio



Transmission

15% of Transgrid



Distribution

49% of Victoria Power Networks
49% of SA Power Networks

MATES GULLY SOLAR FARM – PROJECT OVERVIEW

The proposed Mates Gully Solar Farm would have a generation capacity of ~160 megawatts and storage capacity of ~100 megawatts for four hours



~160MW solar generation &
~100MW firm energy
(4 hours)

Potential to power
~90,000 NSW homes
per year

Offset the emissions of
~360,000 tonnes of
CO₂ per year

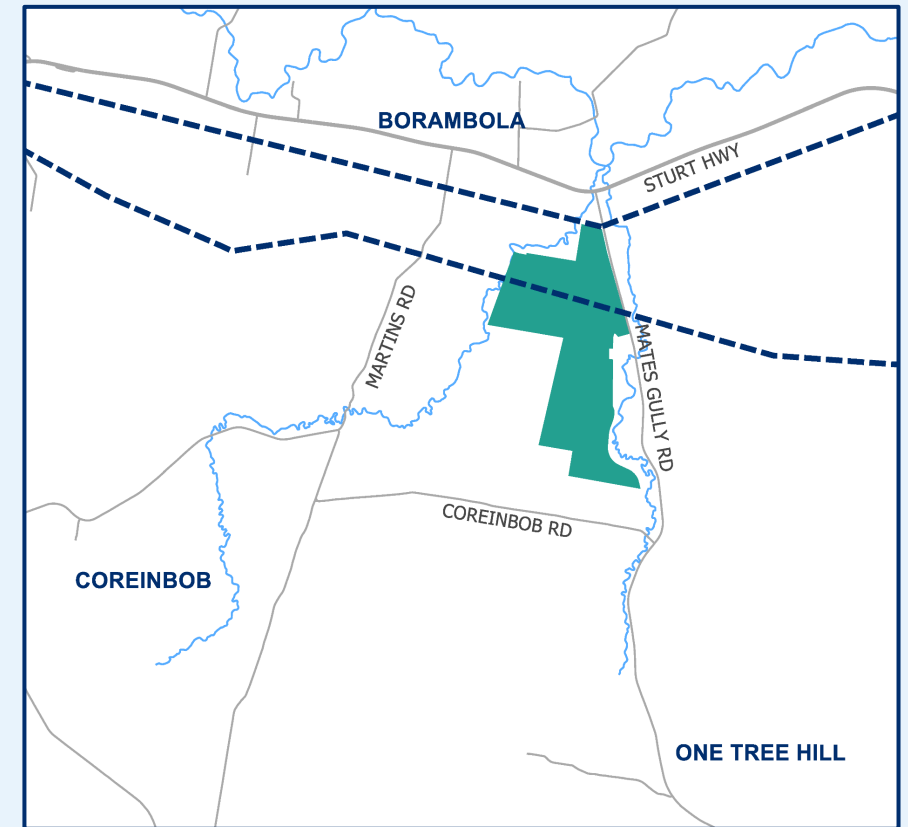
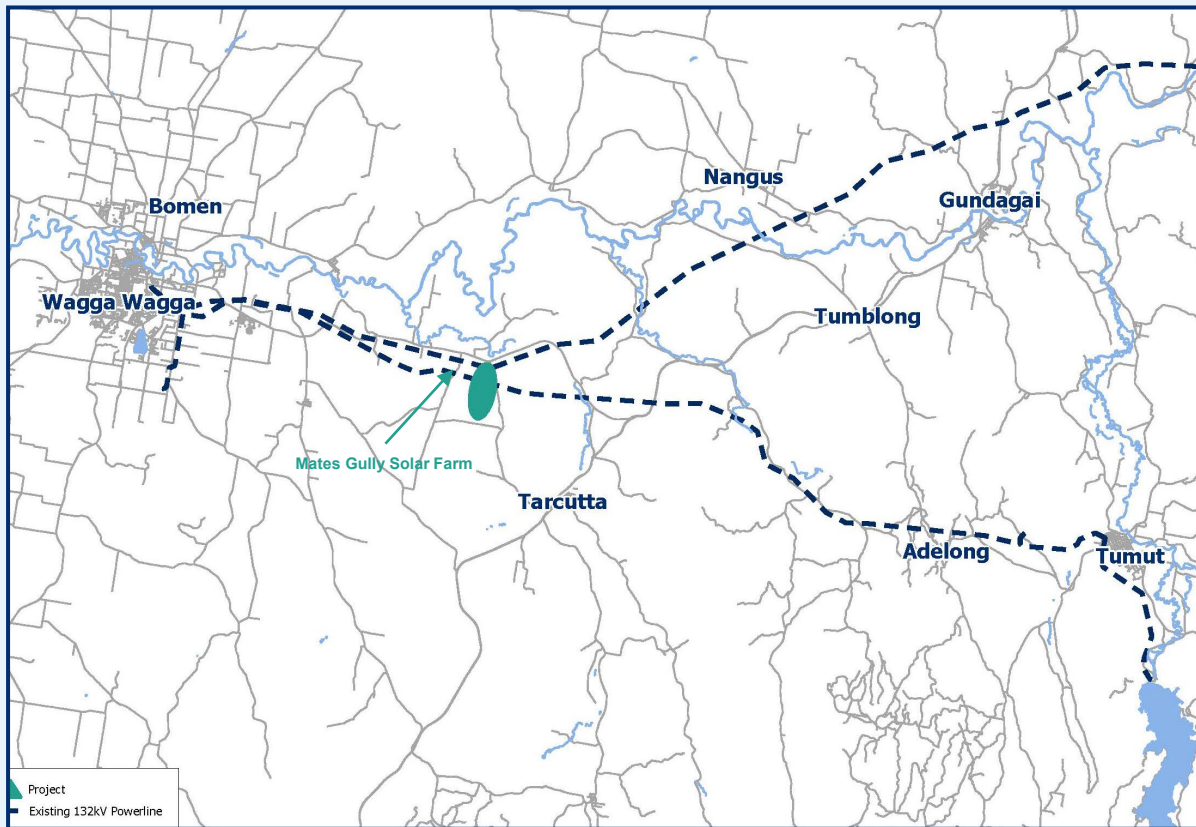
~200 jobs during
construction and 3-5 jobs
during operations and
maintenance

The project would have a capital investment value over \$30 million and would be deemed a State Significant Development under NSW planning policy.

LOCATION OF THE PROJECT


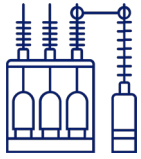

Renewable energy is a key part of Wagga Wagga 2040 – the Local Strategic Planning Statement

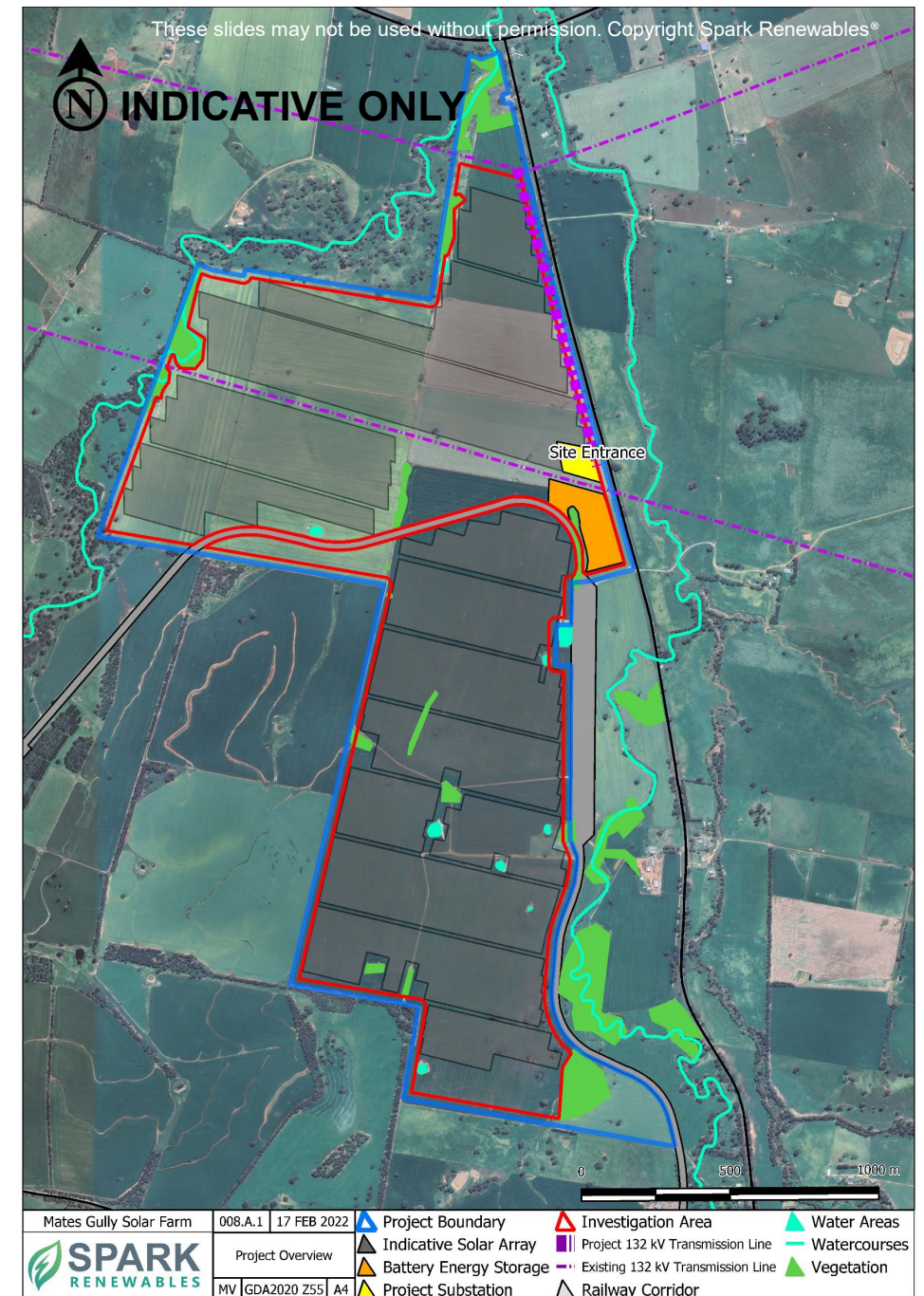
- The proposed location of Mates Gully Solar Farm is between Borambola and Tarcutta, 30 km east of Wagga Wagga.
- The proposed site has excellent solar resource and access to existing 132kV TransGrid transmission lines.



INDICATIVE PROJECT LAYOUT

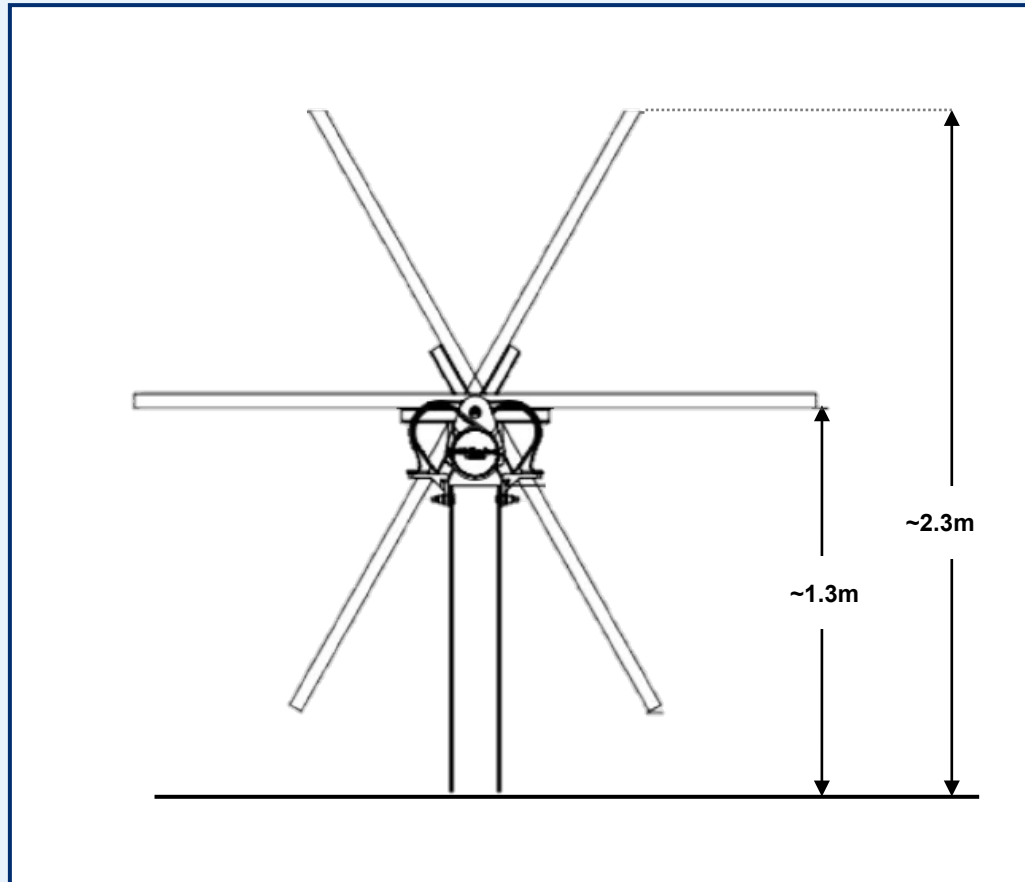
Indicative Footprint

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Solar Panels | ~350,000 panels (500-600 Watts each) ~740 acres (~300 hectares) |  |
| Substation | ~5 acres (~2 hectares) |  |
| Battery Energy Storage System | ~15 acres (~6 hectares) |  |
| Total Land Parcel Area | ~1135 acres (~460 hectares) | |
| Environmental | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Disturbance of native vegetation and species habitat avoided wherever possible and mitigated to reduce impacts ✓ The land will be restored at the end of the project lifetime ✓ Relatively low impact of ground works | |

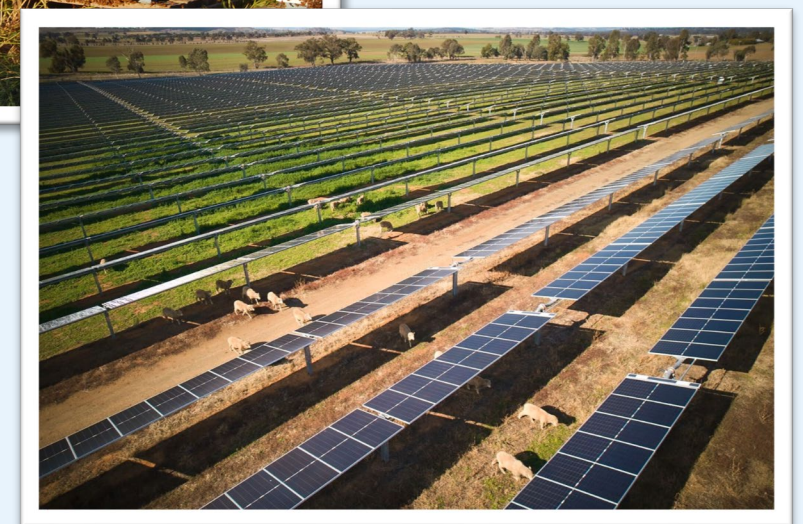


PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR TECHNOLOGY

We will utilise ~2x1 metre solar panels along single-axis trackers (similar to Bomen Solar Farm). Trackers are ~90 metres long and can hold 80-90 solar panels

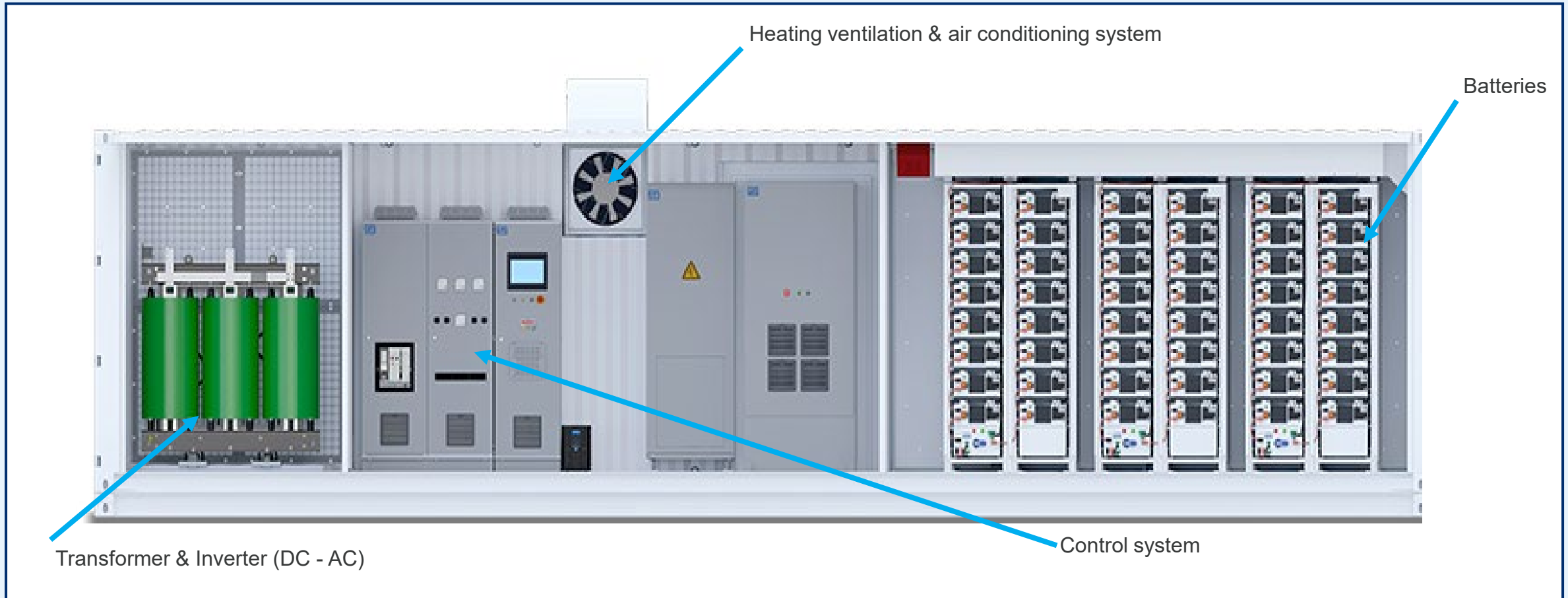


Beehives and 'solar grazing' at the Bomen Solar Farm



BATTERY TECHNOLOGY OVERVIEW

An example of a 40-foot container housing a battery energy storage system



PATHWAY TO CONSTRUCTION

If Development Consent is awarded, the project would be constructed in an 18-24-month period

- Operation lifetime of ~30 years, and decommissioning time of ~18 months with materials recycled at end-of-life of the project.
- Focus on engaging Aboriginal people and businesses to support the project construction and operation.
 - Our track record at Bomen Solar Farm: ~25% of the mechanical construction team (39 out of 157) were of Aboriginal heritage.
- Prioritise local procurement of goods and services.
 - Over 50 local businesses were engaged during the construction of the Bomen Solar Farm.



SUITABILITY WITH ‘SOLAR GRAZING’

Solar panels reduce exposure to the sun, reduce water evaporation and can improve plant performance



Source: Australian Guide to Agrisolar for Large-scale Solar: For proponents and farmers, Clean Energy Council, March 2021

- ✓ Sheep production and solar farm can be co-located in the same paddock.
- ✓ Sheep grazing helps to keep pastures at manageable levels, reducing fire risk.
- ✓ Pastures within solar arrays generally produce as much feed across the year as in open paddocks.
- ✓ Shading from panels can help protect pasture growth during periods of heat and drought.
- ✓ We would implement lessons learnt from solar grazing at Bomen Solar Farm, so that at Mates Gully Solar Farm we will be ready for agistment from the start.
- ✓ Solar grazing would be set up with optimal pasture mix for local conditions and shading, fencing for cell grazing and lanes, and suitable water points.

8-STEP PLANNING PROCESS

Spark Renewables has launched community consultation and is compiling the Scoping Report

1. Proposal announcement

Project announced to industry, government and community



3. SEARs issued

Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs)



5. EIS released

Public exhibition for agency and community comment



7. Assessing the proposal

Assessment and recommendation by the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment



2. Scoping report

Consultation and preliminary technical studies undertaken



4. EIS preparation

Community engagement and technical studies to inform the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)



6. Response to submissions

Addressing comments and issues raised about the EIS in a Response to Submissions report



8. Determination of the proposal

The Minister for Planning or the Independent Planning Commission decides the proposal



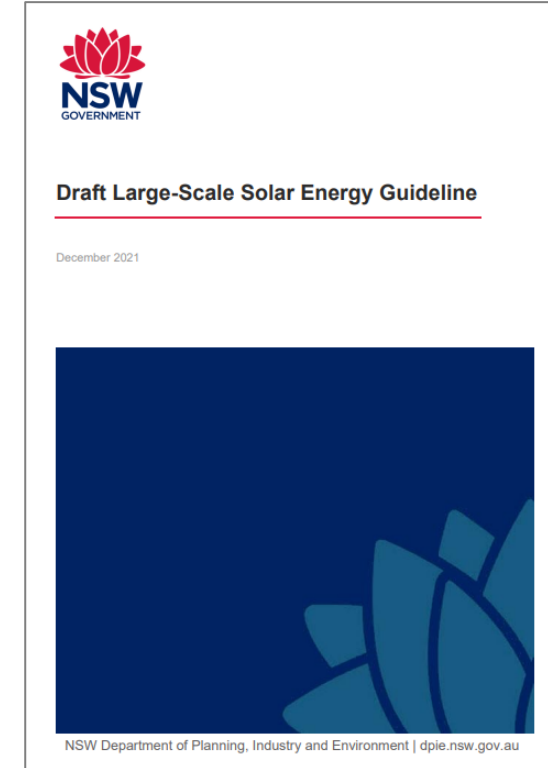
All project documents will be uploaded on the website of the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment at www.planning.nsw.gov.au

ASSESSMENT PROCESS: ANTICIPATED SPECIALIST STUDIES

Next steps: lodging the Development Application and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) taking into account the updated Draft Large-Scale Solar Energy Guidelines (2021)

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Biodiversity | 9. Soils* |
| 2. Visual amenity | 10. Bushfire |
| 3. Aboriginal heritage | 11. Waste |
| 4. Non-Aboriginal heritage | 12. Air quality |
| 5. Traffic and access | 13. Utilities |
| 6. Contamination | 14. Electromagnetic fields |
| 7. Flooding and hydrology | 15. Land use |
| 8. Noise and vibration | |

* As per the revised “Large-Scale Solar Energy Guidelines”, these are subject to change, however, there will be a new thorough assessment process for visual and agricultural / soil assessment



Currently on exhibition: “Revised Large-Scale Solar Energy Guidelines” at <https://pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/solar-guidelines>

CALLING OUT FOR SUGGESTIONS: COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Long-term benefits for hosting the Mates Gully Solar Farm would be developed with the community taking into account the level of impact on residents



Examples from the Bomen Solar Farm \$1 million Community Fund:

- Partnership with Mount Austin High School (Wagga Wagga): \$500,000 in support of 'Transition Program' and the 'Girls @ the Centre' program.
- A funding agreement with Wagga Wagga City Council: \$350,000 to promote biodiversity and revegetation in the local area.
- Eunony Valley: \$100,000 for the community-led planting program.
- Support for the Eunony Bushfire Brigade: \$50,000.
- Solar support for Abbeyfield Koorringal: \$10,000.



Looking for ideas? “A Guide to Benefit Sharing Options for Renewable Energy Projects” at <https://www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/advocacy-initiatives/community-engagement/benefit-sharing-for-renewable-energy-projects>

QUESTIONS?

PROVIDE FEEDBACK VIA THE MATES
GULLY SOLAR FARM SOCIAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT SURVEY:



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Mates-Gully-Community-Survey>

1300 271 419

info@sparkrenewables.com

www.matesgullysolarfarm.com

[linkedin.com/sparkrenewables](https://www.linkedin.com/company/sparkrenewables)


[instagram.com/sparkrenewables](https://www.instagram.com/sparkrenewables)

THANK YOU



Renewable energy. It's in our nature.

Call Spark Renewables

 1300 271 419

info@sparkrenewables.com

www.matesgullysolarfarm.com

 [linkedin.com/sparkrenewables](https://www.linkedin.com/company/sparkrenewables)

 [instagram.com/sparkrenewables](https://www.instagram.com/sparkrenewables)