



# MEDIA RELEASE

23 AUGUST 2019

## FIRST OF 310,000 SOLAR PANELS INSTALLED AT WAGGA WAGGA'S BOMEN SOLAR FARM DURING 'GOLDEN ROW' CEREMONY

### Highlights:

- 'Golden Row' ceremony marks commencement of installation of 310,000 bi-facial solar panels at Wagga Wagga's Bomen Solar Farm
- Construction scheduled to complete in March 2020 with the Solar Farm expected to be fully operational by second quarter of 2020
- Bomen Solar Farm will generate enough energy to power the equivalent of 36,000 homes annually
- During construction up to 250 workers will be employed, the majority from Wagga Wagga and the region

**Wagga Wagga, 23 August 2019:** Spark Infrastructure today celebrated the installation of the first of 310,000 bi-facial solar panels at a 'Golden Row' ceremony held at Wagga Wagga's Bomen Solar Farm.

At the ceremony, Bomen's owner Spark Infrastructure was joined in installing the first row of panels by Westpac and Flow Power (generation off-takers), Jinko (solar panel supplier) and Wagga Wagga City Council. Engineering and Construction Contractor for the Farm, Beon Energy Solutions (Beon), will install 310,000 bi-facial panels which are designed to maximise the amount of energy captured and ultimately distributed to the grid by the Farm.

Early works have already commenced at the Farm, however, the 'Golden Row' marks the beginning of full scale construction.

Spark Infrastructure Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Rick Francis, said: "Spark Infrastructure is delighted to be in Wagga Wagga with our key stakeholders in the project to celebrate the official launch of construction at Bomen Solar Farm.

"Spark Infrastructure and Beon are excited to be working with Westpac, Jinko and Flow Power, to deliver a major piece of renewable energy infrastructure to Wagga Wagga. We are proud to be working with the Wagga Wagga community to create jobs during and after the project's construction. We are especially proud alongside Westpac to be supporting the local community through a \$1 million community fund dedicated to providing local scholarships, youth and biodiversity programs across the region," Mr Francis added.

Beon General Manger, Glen Thomson said: "Today's installation is a major milestone for the Bomen Solar Farm development and the Wagga Wagga region. Construction will begin in earnest on Monday now that the first row of solar panels has been installed. And within a few weeks we will have a team of up to 250 on site, the majority of whom will be local. We are also pleased to be training a number of local apprentices

during construction. This training will set them up to work in the growing solar sector across the Riverina and the nation,” Mr Thomson said.

Spark Infrastructure and Beon confirmed that the 120-megawatt capacity Farm will complete construction in March 2020 with Bomen expected to be fully operational by the second quarter of 2020.

Mr Francis said: “We are strongly supportive of the need to reduce carbon emissions and the drive towards more renewable energy, with Bomen Solar Farm being our flagship investment in renewables. When fully operational, Bomen will produce enough clean energy to power 36,000 homes per year.”

Spark Infrastructure acquired the Farm in April 2019. This significant project for the region is supported by its strong grid location and proximity to TransGrid’s Wagga North substation.

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**About Spark Infrastructure**

Spark Infrastructure is an ASX listed leading owner of essential service infrastructure in Australia. We have interests in \$17 billion of energy network assets in total, delivering energy to more than 5.6 million customers across Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, in addition to transporting electricity across the National Electricity Market (NEM) to other states. Our businesses are at the forefront of delivering future energy and supporting Australia’s transition to a lower carbon future

**About Beon Energy Solutions**

Beon Energy Solutions (Beon), a subsidiary of Victoria Power Networks, is owned 49% by Spark Infrastructure. Beon is a leader in the deployment of large-scale renewable energy and infrastructure projects, with extensive expertise in design, construction and commissioning. Beon has an enviable track record of partnering with clients to reduce costs and project timelines, leading to faster commissioning without compromising safety and quality.