

DINAWAN ENERGY HUB

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER #3
May 2023

The Dinawan Energy Hub (DEH) is a proposed hybrid wind, solar and battery energy storage project to be located about halfway between Coleambally and Jerilderie (along the Kidman Way), on the land of the traditional owners of the Wiradjuri people and several smaller nations of the Murrumbidgee plains. The land is currently used for grazing, which is intended to continue once the project is constructed.

Located within the South-West Renewable Energy Zone, and adjacent to Project EnergyConnect's transmission line and Dinawan Substation, the DEH would enable reliable, clean power to be dispatched to the National Electricity Market, offsetting the generation and carbon emission from ageing fossil fuel generators in NSW.

The DEH is being developed by Spark Renewables, a leading developer and long-term owner of renewable energy projects. Find out more at www.sparkrenewables.com.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The DEH would utilise wind turbine generators along with ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels similar to those used on rooftops around Australia to generate electricity, and a battery system to store and dispatch electricity.

The project area has been refined in response to feedback from the local community and the results of key assessments, including Aboriginal cultural heritage and biodiversity; and will continue to be refined as environmental assessments and engagement with stakeholders progresses. Care has been taken to avoid impacting sensitive ecological areas such as the weeping myall woodlands and plains wanderer habitat. Based on preliminary designs, the project will involve:

- Up to 250 wind turbines, with a supporting network of substations and electrical cabling.
- Solar PV arrays mounted on single-axis tracking systems, with a supporting network of inverters and electrical cabling.
- A battery energy system to store and discharge electricity.
- On-site substations to connect the project to the electricity transmission network via Transgrid's Dinawan Substation and Project EnergyConnect.
- Access roads from the local road network.



1300 271 419

info@dinawanenergyhub.com

Find project documents and sign up to community newsletters:

www.dinawanenergyhub.com



Key facts

Generation & storage

Up to 2,500 MW (wind & solar)

Powering around 1 million homes annually

'On demand' battery energy
500 MW storage capacity
(1,000 MWh for 2 hours)

Planning status

EIS in preparation:

Dinawan Solar Farm

Dinawan Wind Farm

Jobs & training

Construction: ~1,000 jobs

Operations: 50-100 jobs

Climate

Equivalent to offsetting ~6 million tonnes of CO₂ annually



PLANNING APPROVAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The project is a State Significant Development and will require a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Two separate development applications and EISs will be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE): the Dinawan Wind Farm, and the Dinawan Solar Farm. The Scoping Reports can be accessed on the project website at www.dinawanenergyhub.com.

Detailed field investigations have been in progress since 2022 to better understand on-site flora and fauna, items of heritage significance, soil landscapes, land capability and surface water flow paths. Spark Renewables is currently completing studies and environmental assessments that are required as part of the NSW planning process and will submit the EISs in 2023.

The community will be consulted further during the EIS preparation and have the opportunity to make a formal submission during the public exhibition period. Please contact us if you wish to be added to our database for future updates.



Left: soil sampling for agricultural productivity assessment; Right: smoking ceremony during the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment fieldwork

EIS assessment studies

- Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Aviation
- Biodiversity
- Bushfire
- Contamination
- Cumulative impacts
- Electromagnetic interference
- Historic heritage
- Noise and vibration
- Shadow flicker
- Socio-economics
- Soils
- Surface water and flooding
- Surrounding land uses
- Transport and traffic
- Visual amenity
- Waste

SOCIAL IMPACTS AND BENEFITS ASSESSMENT

Spark Renewables has engaged EMM Consulting to undertake a social impacts and benefits assessment, which will include interviews with local community representatives. Feedback from the interviews will be used to identify key concerns regarding impacts from the construction and operation of the DEH, as well as key gaps in the local infrastructure or suggestions for initiatives from which the local community could benefit.

'DINAWAN ENERGY HUB COMMUNITY BENEFIT-SHARING' WORKSHOP

Spark Renewables is planning a workshop to exchange ideas on benefit-sharing options with community members and organisations. Our Bomen Solar Farm project entered into long-term agreements with community partners, providing certainty of support and funding to deliver programs that span multiple years. Spark Renewables is seeking input for similar ideas and partnerships for the DEH. There will be a presentation of ideas put forward to date and experience from other projects, followed by an open discussion.

To participate in a workshop to be held at Coleambally please email info@dinawanenergyhub.com or leave a message at **1300 271 419**.



Spark Renewables sponsored the upgrading of communications equipment of the Coleambally Rescue Squad – VRA Rescue NSW

PROJECT TIMELINE

- 1. Proposal announcement**
Project announced to industry, government and community
- 2. Scoping report**
Consultation & preliminary technical studies
- 3. SEARs issued**
Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements
- 4. EIS and SIA preparation**
Community engagement & technical studies to inform the EIS & the SIA
- 5. EIS submission & exhibition**
Public exhibition for agency and community comment
- 6. Response to submissions**
Addressing comments and issues raised about the EIS in a Response to Submissions report
- 7. Assessing the proposal**
Assessment by the Department of Planning & Environment
- 8. Determination**
The Minister for Planning or the Independent Planning Commission decides the proposal