Mallee Solar Farm

Project overview

Key facts

Planning Status
Proposal announcement.
Next step: Scoping Report

Generation capacity
Up to 600 megawatts (MW) with BESS

Annual power
Up to 225,000 houses powered annually / Offsetting up to 1.5 million tonnes of CO_2 emissions annually

Grid connection
The project is within the South-West REZ connecting to the National Electricity Market via Project EnergyConnect

First Nations participation
Focus on engaging First Nations peoples and businesses to support the project construction and operation

Community
Establishing a substantial community benefit sharing program to support the local community

Location

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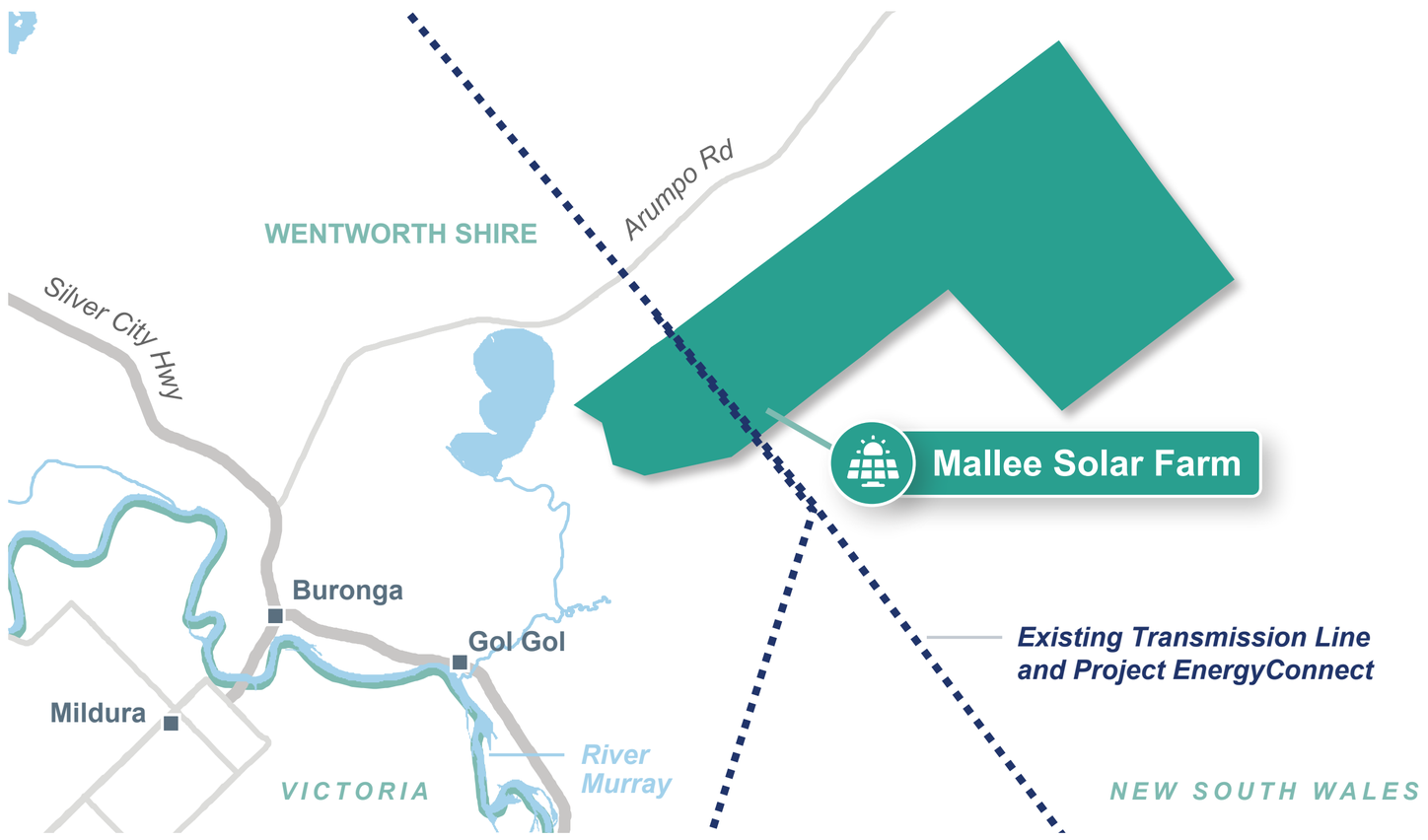
The Mallee Solar Farm is a proposed renewable energy project, located approximately 10 kilometres to the north-east of Buronga in the Wentworth Shire of NSW.

What is proposed

Solar farm – up to 600 megawatts (MW) with modules mounted on single-axis tracking systems.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) – to store and discharge electricity with a capacity of up to approximately 300MW (AC or DC coupled) / 4 hr (1,200MWh).

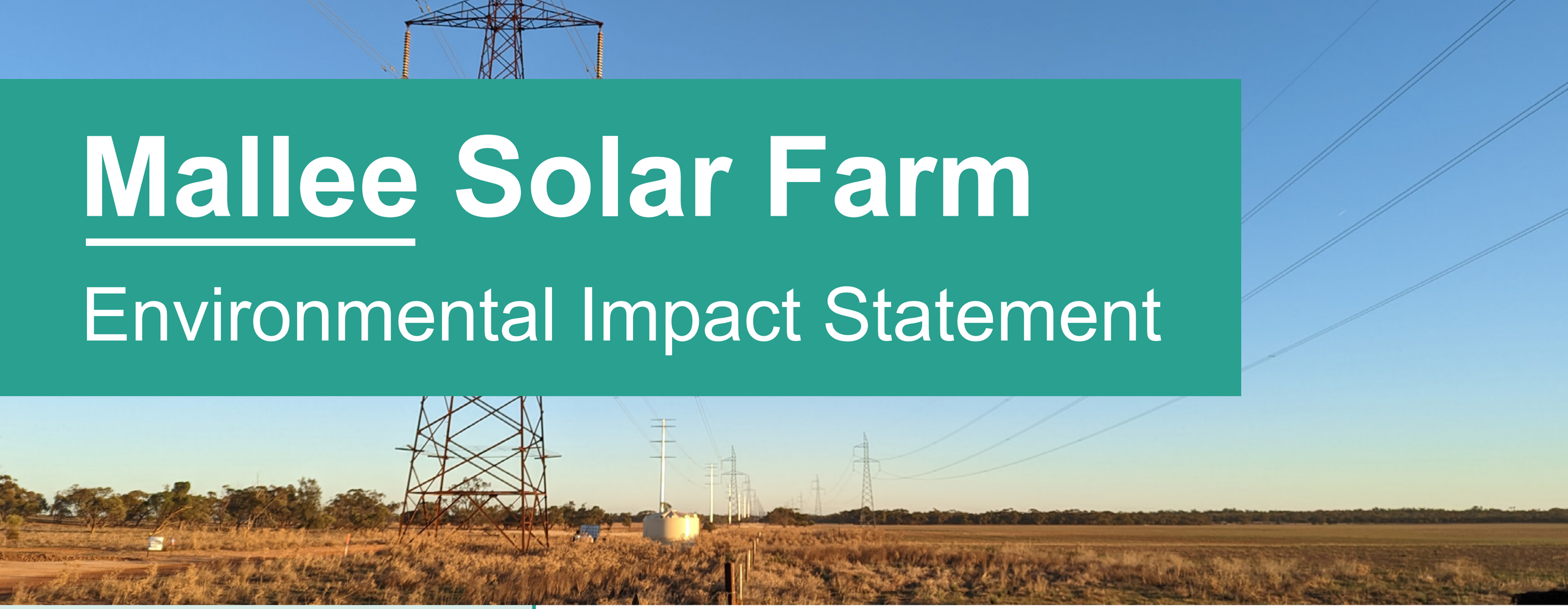
Agrivoltaics pilot project – a development that incorporates horticulture production underneath or between solar panels.



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which this project is located including the Barkandji, Mutthi Mutthi and Ngiyampaa peoples

Why this site?

The site is cleared of vegetation and has direct access to high voltage transmission lines and would allow a solar farm to connect to the grid without requiring additional transmission lines to be built.



Mallee Solar Farm

Environmental Impact Statement

Studies to be undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Statement

- Soils & agricultural productivity
- Traffic and access
- Bushfire and hazards
- Aboriginal heritage
- Historical heritage
- Biodiversity
- Visual amenity
- Flooding and hydrology
- Waste
- Cumulative impacts

Who is Spark Renewables?

Spark Renewables is a leading developer, long-term owner, and operator of Australian renewable energy projects. The Spark Renewables team are passionate about sustainability and developing projects that lead the renewable energy transition in the Australian National Electricity Market. The company's portfolio comprises the Bomen Solar Farm, operational since 2020, and a large portfolio of solar, wind, and renewable storage projects including the Mallee Wind Farm, Dinawan Energy Hub and Wattle Creek Energy Hub within NSW.

What approvals are required?

The project is considered a State Significant Development and will require development consent under the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (EP&A Act).

The development application is to be accompanied by a detailed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which will include comprehensive assessments identifying the impacts of the project and how to best manage these impacts.

Planning process

Proposal announce

Project announced to industry, government and community

We are here

Scoping report

Community consultation and preliminary technical studies undertaken

SEARs issued

Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs)

EIS preparation

Community engagement and technical studies to inform the EIS

EIS submission and exhibition

Public exhibition for agency and community comment

Response to submissions

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

Assessing the proposal

Assessment and recommendation by the Department of Planning & Environment

Determination of the proposal

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

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Mallee Solar Farm

Community & engagement

Community engagement

Spark Renewables is committed to ensuring that the project engages in meaningful consultation to enable all stakeholders to provide feedback on the proposal and raise any concerns that should be considered through the development process.

The Mallee Solar Farm project is in the early stages of development and will undergo a rigorous planning and assessment process prior to being approved. As part of this, we will undertake extensive community consultation and encourage all stakeholders and community members to get involved.

Stakeholders to be consulted

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Community benefits

- The project would support local initiatives through a community benefits fund
- Local input sought to inform and shape the community benefits sharing program
- There is an opportunity to coordinate benefits sharing between the Mallee Solar and Wind Farm projects
- The community benefit program will include initiatives and engagement that support First Nations peoples

Construction and operation

- Committed to engaging with local workers and services wherever possible and will set targets to measure our achievement of this
- Responsible sourcing of materials, and upholding high ethical standards

How to get involved

Sign up to our newsletters at the project website
www.malleesolarfarm.com

Call us toll free at
1300 271 419

Email:
info@malleesolarfarm.com

Mallee Solar Farm

Mallee Renewable Energy Hub

Agrivoltaics

The Mallee Renewable Energy Hub will promote the co-location of renewable energy generation and agricultural production.
The hub will include:

Agrivoltaics pilot project – a feasibility study and pilot project to investigate the potential to co-locate solar arrays with horticulture in partnership with Boundary Bend Olives, Australia's largest producer of Extra Virgin Olive Oil

The Mallee Solar Farm – up to 600MW solar farm and BESS that will incorporate sheep grazing within the solar arrays

The Mallee Wind Farm – up to 1,000 MW wind farm and BESS on land that will continue to be used for broadacre cropping

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The Mallee Solar Farm represents a step-up in Spark Renewables plans to invest in the region and would form a part of a broader Mallee Renewable Energy Hub. Spark Renewables' ambition for the Mallee Renewable Energy Hub is to create a catalyst for regional economic growth and a focal point for collaboration across industries.

Mallee Wind Farm

The project is adjacent to Mallee Wind Farm which is a separate proposal by Spark Renewables for a large scale wind energy project.

An Environmental Impact Statement for the Mallee Wind Farm is currently under preparation and is expected to be submitted in 2024. Detailed investigations and consultation for the Mallee Wind Farm have been underway since 2022 and will support the efficient development of the Mallee Solar Farm. Further information on this particular project is available at: **www.malleewindfarm.com**