

Mallee Solar Farm



Community Newsletter #1
January 2024

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 CO² emissions annually



Grid connection
The project will connect to the National Electricity Market via transmission infrastructure upgraded as part of Project Energy Connect



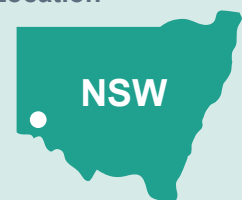
First Nations participation
Focus on engaging First Nations peoples and businesses to support the project construction and operation



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



Location



Proposal Announcement: Mallee Solar Farm

Spark Renewables is pleased to announce the development of the Mallee Solar Farm, a proposed large-scale solar farm, to be located approximately 10 kilometers to the north-east of Buronga in the Wentworth Shire in NSW.

We are holding our first community drop-in session from **3pm – 6pm on Tuesday 30 January 2024** at the Midway Centre in Buronga. Please see page 3 of this newsletter for further details.

What is proposed



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

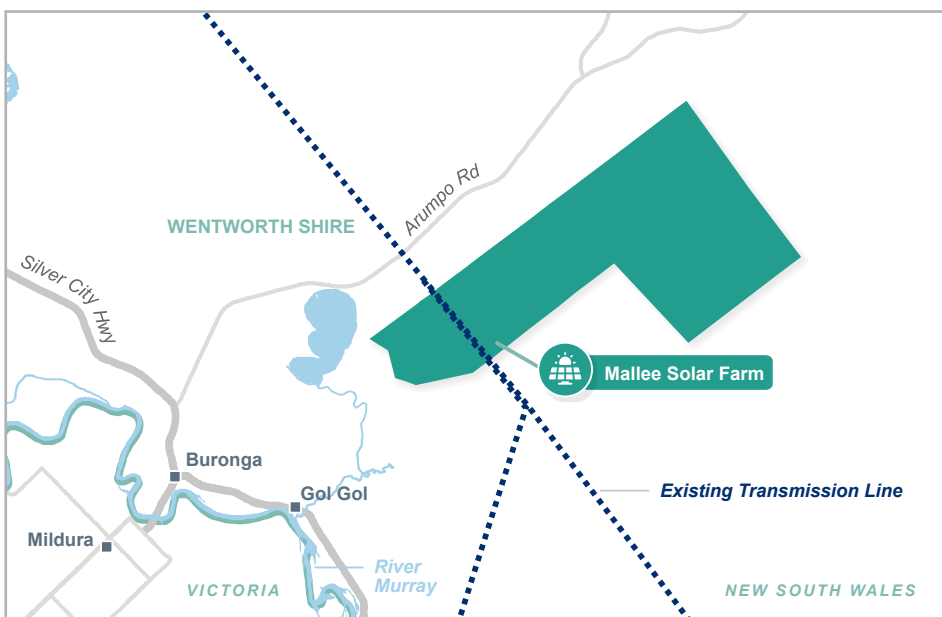


Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) – to store and discharge electricity as required with a storage capacity of up to approximately 300MW (AC or DC coupled) / 4 hr (1,200MWh).



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

The solar farm would be adjacent to the Mallee Wind Farm, a separate project being developed by Spark Renewables. Please see page 4 of this newsletter for further details.



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 proposed site has good solar irradiance and the land on which infrastructure is proposed is flat and cleared of native vegetation. The proposed site 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. It is within the South-West REZ connecting to the National Electricity Market via Project Energy Connect.

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.

Partnership with Boundary Bend Olives

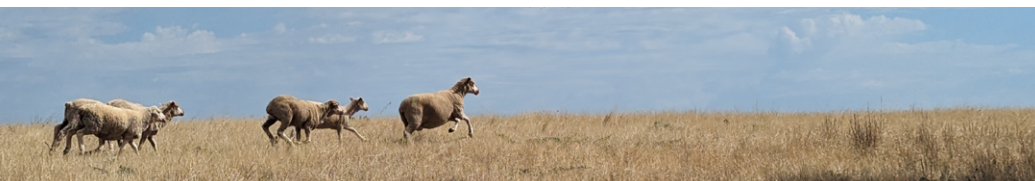
The project is being developed in partnership with Australia's largest producer of Extra Virgin Olive Oil Boundary Bend Olives. As part of this unique partnership Spark Renewables will promote and research combined agricultural and energy production from the land. The project will allow for sheep grazing amongst the solar arrays as well as investigating the feasibility of an agrivoltaics horticulture project within the solar farm area.

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.

Indicative development timeline



Planning process





Community consultation

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 in this process.



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



Come along to our drop in session at the Midway Centre in Buronga



Need more information? Contact us to line up a one on one meeting or call

Community benefit sharing



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

Drop-in session



You are welcome to drop-in to our first information session to meet the Spark Renewables team, ask questions and learn about the proposed Mallee Solar Farm. We are hosting a face to face session at:

THE MIDWAY CENTRE
6 Midway Drive, Buronga

Tuesday 30 January 2024

3pm – 6pm

Contact



Call us toll free at
1300 271 419



Email:
info@malleesolarfarm.com



Sign up to our newsletters on our website at
www.malleesolarfarm.com

Mallee Renewable Energy Hub

The Mallee Solar Farm represents a step-up in Spark Renewables' plans to invest in the region and would form a part of the Mallee Renewable Energy Hub. The project would expand Spark Renewables' portfolio and complement the Mallee Wind Farm which has been under development since 2022.

The Mallee Renewable Energy Hub is on the doorstep of Mildura, which is an important regional city and centre of industry for the NSW Murray and Victorian Loddon Mallee regions. These regions are home to highly productive agriculture, food processing and manufacturing. The region also hosts the NSW South-West Renewable Energy Zone which offers some of the best wind and solar energy resources in the country and direct access to high voltage transmission lines.

This unique positioning creates an opportunity to complement agricultural production with the local generation of low-cost renewable energy. 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.

The Spark Renewables team is happy to discuss and provide updates on wind farm at the drop-in session. Further information on this particular project is available at: www.malleewindfarm.com



Agrivoltaics

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



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



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