

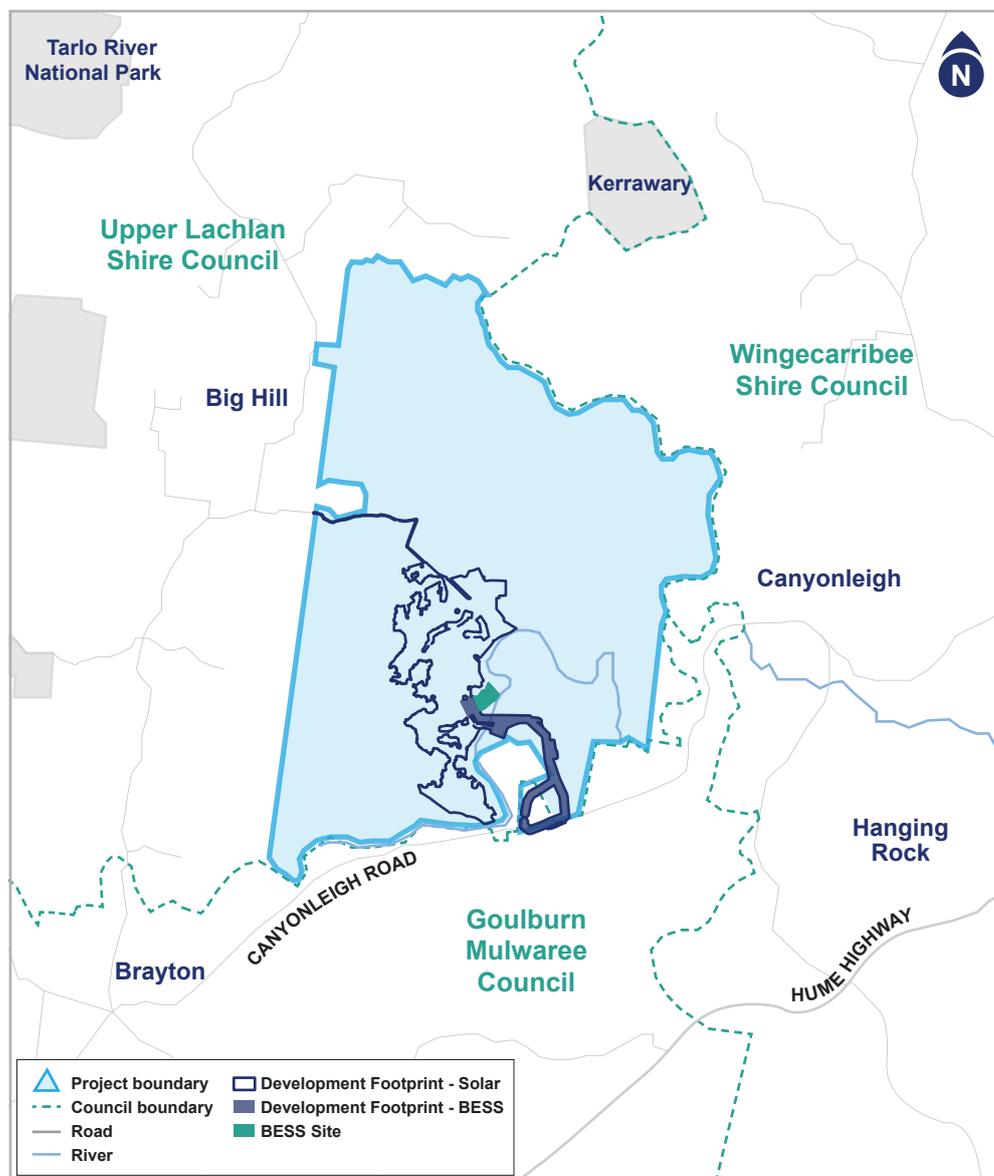
Wattle Creek Energy Hub

EIS AND SIA INFORMATION SHEET

MAY 2024

Project Update

The Wattle Creek Energy Hub is a Solar and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project located on the 'Arthursleigh' property owned by University of Sydney, located approximately 12km north-east of Marulan in the NSW Southern Tablelands region, situated in the Upper Lachlan Shire.



The Project will also support university research and education through a new onsite, test-bed facility, the establishment of a research fund and other research and education initiatives.

The Wattle Creek Energy Hub initially included a wind farm component, however, this aspect of the Project is no longer proceeding due to low wind speed being recorded onsite.



We are keen to further engage with community members and interested stakeholders to provide an update on the Project and will be holding two community drop-in sessions on

FRIDAY 31ST MAY

**between 4pm and 7pm
at the Marulan War Memorial Hall**

and

SATURDAY 1ST JUNE

**between 9am and 12pm
at the Canyonleigh Community Hall**



Community members will be able to meet with the Spark Renewables team, learn more about the proposed Project, and the preliminary results from a range of assessments being undertaken as a part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Project.

Planning Process



Proposal announcement
Project announced to industry, government and community



Scoping report
Community consultation and preliminary technical studies undertaken



SEARs issued
Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs)



EIS and SIA preparation
Community engagement and technical studies to inform the EIS and SIA



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, Housing and Infrastructure



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

Environmental Impact Statement and Social Impact Assessment

The Project is a State Significant Development which requires a comprehensive EIS to be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). The Solar and BESS components will be progressed through separate approval processes, a separate development application accompanied by separate EISs will be submitted for each component. Umwelt Environmental and Social consultants have been engaged by Spark Renewables to prepare the EIS, including a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and a range of specialist assessments, including:



Aboriginal cultural heritage



Biodiversity



Hazards including Fire, Bushfire, Electromagnetic Fields and Interference (EMI/EMF)



Cumulative impacts



Historic heritage



Noise and vibration



Economic



Land use conflict including Agricultural impact and soils



Water Resources



Transport and traffic



Visual amenity



Waste

How can I be involved?

Should you wish to be involved in future consultation activities to support the preparation of the SIA and/or would like further information on the Project, please contact us below.



Alternatively, you can have input by:

Completing a short survey by scanning the QR code or following the link

www.research.net/r/wattlecreekenergyhub_communityfeedback



Attending one of the community drop-in sessions as outlined:

Friday 31st May
Marulan War Memorial Hall
4pm to 7pm

Saturday 1st June
Canyonleigh Community Hall
9am to 12 noon

We would like to thank all community members that have participated in Project discussions to date.

We look forward to your further input as the Project progresses.

Contact



1300 271 719

info@wattlecreekenergyhub.com

www.wattlecreekenergyhub.com



Spark Renewables is a member of the Clean Energy Council (CEC) and a signatory to the CEC's Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Developments.



1300 793 267

social-team@umwelt.com.au

www.umwelt.com.au