

**Dinawan Energy Hub** COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER #5, July 2024



#### Introduction

The 2.3 gigawatt (GW) Dinawan Energy Hub (DEH) is a proposed hybrid renewable energy project being developed by Spark Renewables. DEH consists of the **Dinawan Wind Farm**, and the **Dinawan Solar Farm**, which would be accompanied by a battery energy storage system.

The DEH is in the South West Renewable Energy Zone, about halfway between Coleambally and Jerilderie near Transgrid's Dinawan Substation. DEH is proposed on the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri people and several smaller nations of the Murrumbidgee plains.

Spark Renewables is part of the leading Malaysian energy utility, Tenaga Nasional Berhad, a group of companies owning and operating renewable energy projects in Malaysia, Turkey, Ireland, the United Kingdom and Australia.

#### **Overview of DEH**

The proposed Dinawan Energy Hub would consist of:

- Up to 200 wind turbines west of Kidman Way;
- A wind farm with capacity of up to 1.2 gigawatts;
- Wind turbines up to 280 meters high;
- A solar farm with generation capacity of 800 megawatts;
- Ground mounted solar photovoltaic modules installed east and west of Kidman Way;
- Grid connection of both projects via the Dinawan Substation (Transgrid's Project EnergyConnect); and
- Battery energy storage system capacity of up to 300 megawatts.



#### The story of 'Nhaway Buraadja' (Dhurga language for 'Today and Tomorrow')



Yirra Miya artwork created for Spark Renewables

Spark Renewables has had its 'Reflect' Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) endorsed by Reconciliation Australia. We are particularly proud of the artwork created for Spark Renewables by Wodi Wodi and Walbunja artist Lauren Henry and Biripi artist Brittany Cochrane as depicted above. Can you spot the wind turbines and solar panels? Each element in the artwork layer holds a specific meaning for Spark Renewables.

Through the depiction of people in their yarning circles, wind turbines, solar panels, *dinawan* (emu) tracks, meeting places and Country, the artwork tells a story of Spark Renewables and its role in up-skilling local community members to provide job opportunities and training to positively impact and give back to community for sharing their knowledge. The connected yarning circles represent the commitment to continue to grow and remain teachable on cultural safety.

The connected watering holes on the outer layer of the piece represent the flow-on effect of sharing knowledge and commitment to continue on Spark Renewables' growth journey to better our practices and acknowledge the land we work on as being Aboriginal land. The RAP can be viewed at: www.sparkrenewables.com/reconciliation.



Smoking ceremony during an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

#### **DEH Pilot Grant Program**

Spark Renewables is pleased to announce a Pilot Grant Program designed to provide positive social and environmental outcomes at the local level. Spark Renewables will distribute \$20,000 this year to eligible applicants. The Pilot Grant Program seeks to benefit the communities closest to the project, focusing on initiatives within 55km of the proposed project area, which includes Coleambally, Jerilderie and Darlington Point.

The funding priorities for the Pilot Grant Program include:

- 1. Local infrastructure and services;
- 2. Employment or education opportunities;
- 3. Community social benefits, inclusion, health and well-being;
- 4. Sustainability or enhancing the natural environment;
- 5. Heritage preservation, restoration and promotion;
- 6. Outdoor recreational activities, sports and clubs;
- 7. Art and culture;
- 8. Community events and festivals; and
- 9. Youth development.

Spark Renewables intends to transition the Pilot Grant Program into an annual community benefits program for the life of the DEH once the project commences construction. The future amount of the community benefits program will be based on the final size of the project. Applications are accepted until 15 August 2024 (inclusive). Apply at: www.sparkrenewables.com/DEH-grant.

#### DEH development pathway

Under planning legislation, the Dinawan Wind Farm and the Dinawan Solar Farm are both State Significant Developments, and therefore require an assessment by the NSW Government. Spark Renewables submitted a Development Application (DA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

The EIS for the Dinawan Wind Farm is on public exhibition from **12 July to 8 August 2024**. The Spark Renewables Team will be hosting public consultation events. We will be on hand to show study results, share project information and answer any questions.

The next phase is 'Response to Submissions' where Spark Renewables responds to the feedback received during the exhibition period. Visit www.planningportal.nsw.gov. au/major-projects/projects/dinawan-wind-farm or scan the quick-response code.

The EIS for the for the Dinawan Solar Farm was on public exhibition from 17 November to 15 December 2023. The project is currently under assessment by DPHI.



# **Dinawan Wind Farm** (part of Dinawan Energy Hub) PROJECT OVERVIEW & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

#### DINAWAN WIND FARM DROP-IN SESSIONS

Jerilderie Library: John Monash Media Room, 23 July 2024 Drop in from 1:00-3:30pm

Coleambally: Muddy Duck, 21 Brolga Place, 24 July 2024 Drop in from 3:00-5:30pm Presentation at 5:30pm

Spark Renewables submitted a Development Application (DA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure. The EIS for the Dinawan Wind Farm is on public exhibition from **12 July to 8 August 2024**, and assesses the project's potential impacts on the environment, including:

- O Visual
- · Noise
- 🐮 Biodiversity
- Aboriginal cultural heritage
- 👕 Historical heritage
- 😭 Transport
- Water and flooding
- Air quality
- Y Agriculture, soil and erosion
- A Bushfire
- Hazards and risks (including aviation)
- Social
- Economic
  - Waste management

## Benefits of the project

- Direct and indirect economic opportunities for Coleambally, Jerilderie and the surrounding region.
- Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to up to 3.2 million tonnes per year.
- Up to 600 jobs during construction and up to 50 ongoing jobs.
- Clean, renewable electricity, equivalent to powering more than 700,000 homes.
- Annual contributions to an industry-leading Community Benefit Fund.

#### Impact avoidance

Spark Renewables has maximised avoidance of potential impacts by:

- Avoiding higher quality native vegetation and threatened species habitat as much as possible.
- Protecting significant heritage values identified in consultation with First Nations stakeholders.
- Introducing setbacks of at least 2 km between neighbouring residences and the closest turbines.
- Including an on-site accommodation facility to house the majority of the project's construction workforce.

#### Impact mitigation and management

To reduce the project's residual impacts, Spark Renewables are committed to:

- Improving local roads and intersections that will be used by the project's construction traffic.
- Establishing local biodiversity stewardship sites to offset the project's impacts on biodiversity.
- Continuing livestock grazing during operations subject to suitable conditions.
- Establishing a fire management plan in consultation with Rural Fire Service and local brigades to reduce and manage risks from bushfire.
- Archival recording, recovery or relocation of impacted heritage sites in consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties.

#### Planning and assessment process





Response to Assessment Determination submissions



are

# **Dinawan Wind Farm** Community benefit sharing

### **Community benefit fund**

Spark Renewables has been consulting with Murrumbidgee Council, Edward River Council and the local community to provide maximum value to the nearby community and local townships. The fund would:

- Contribute towards Murrumbidgee and Edward River Councils' approved priority developments, including new childcare infrastructure and critical worker accommodation.
- Provide annual grants to community projects through a fund administered by a committee of Council with local representatives.
- Fund initiatives to share project benefits with local First Nations communities.

 Fund initiatives to share project benefits with the neighbouring community.

The funding would be provided on an annual basis, commencing at the start of construction and linked to the size of the project.

The ultimate size of the project will depend on a number of factors including outcomes of the planning assessment process and subsequent conditions of consent, grid connection approval, access rights and detailed design. The table below outlines funding commitments for solar and wind projects.

	Structure	Contribution Towards Council Priority Developments	Community Benefit Fund	Neighbour Benefit-Sharing Initiatives	First Nations Initiatives	Total
Wind	Rate per MW (Annual)	\$735	\$157.50	\$78.75	\$78.75	\$1,050
	Total over project lifetime (1,200 MW) <sup>1</sup>	\$29,106,000	\$6,237,000	\$3,118,500	\$3,118,500	\$41,580,000
Solar	Rate per MW (Annual)	\$595	\$127.50	\$64	\$64	\$850
	Total over project lifetime (800 MW) <sup>2</sup>	\$17,612,000	\$3,774,000	\$1,887,000	\$1,887,000	\$25,160,000
Total	Total Benefits	\$46,718,000	\$10,011,000	\$5,005,500	\$5,005,500	\$66,740,000

<sup>1</sup> 30 years + construction

<sup>2</sup> 35 years + construction

# **Regional benefits of the South West REZ**

- Project is located in the NSW South West Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) administered by the state-run Energy Corporation (EnergyCo).
- Funding is additional to the projectled community-benefit sharing above.
- EnergyCo will charge "Access Fees" from projects within the REZ.
- Funding would be administered by EnergyCo for initiatives within the region.

Community purposes (e.g., public or community services or infrastructure, health services or infrastructure)	\$1,700/MW per year
Employment purposes (e.g., employment programs and associated services and	\$600/MW per vear

facilities, skills and training programs and associated services and facilities)

Subsidised electricity and solar and battery systems

Spark Renewables will fund electricity subsidies to all qualifying neighbours within 10km of the Dinawan Wind Farm. The program is intended to serve as an energy rebate scheme, and payments will start when project construction commences and continue through the life of the project. The subsidy amount will be linked to the distance of neighbours' legal dwellings to the wind turbines.

Spark Renewables will also provide \$5,000 towards solar and BESS systems and energy audits for neighbours within 10km of wind turbines, as well as a \$5,000 rebate for audits to baseline on-farm emissions.

Key features of the Neighbour Benefits Initiative include:

