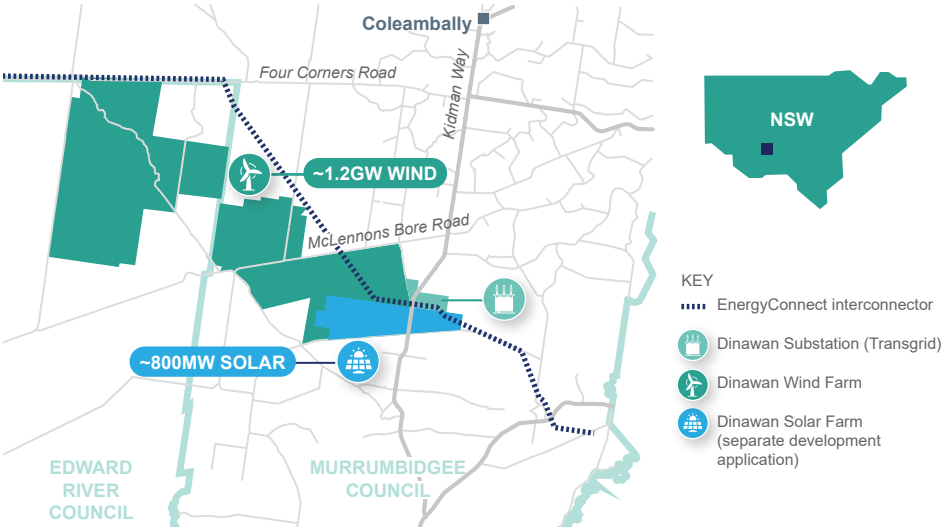
Dinawan Wind Farm

Project overview

Dinawan Wind Farm is a large scale wind project being developed in the Murrumbidgee and Edward River Council areas. The project is on the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri people and several smaller nations of the Murrumbidgee plains, about halfway between the towns of Coleambally and Jerilderie. The project is part of the Dinawan Energy Hub, a hybrid wind farm, solar farm and battery storage system proposed by Spark Renewables.



Overview

- Up to 200 turbines west of Kidman Way and east of Carrathool Road
- Each turbine will be up to 280 m high
- Generation capacity of up to 1.2 gigawatts
- Grid connection via Project EnergyConnect's Dinawan Substation site
- State Significant Development to be assessed by the NSW and Commonwealth Government

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

Why here?

- Within the South West Renewable Energy Zone
- Adjacent to new transmission infrastructure
- Close to major transport networks
- Distant from most residences
- Strong wind resource

Environmental Impact Statement – Public exhibition

The EIS for Spark Renewables' Dinawan Wind Farm is on public exhibition from 12 July - 8 August 2024. You can view the EIS and make a submission on the NSW planning portal. A separate EIS for the Dinawan Solar Farm was exhibited in 2023 and Spark Renewables are currently responding to submissions.

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Dinawan Wind Farm

Environmental impact assessment

Spark Renewables has recently submitted a Development Application (DA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the NSW and Commonwealth Government. The EIS assesses the project's potential impacts on the environment, including:

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

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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 RFS 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

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
- Fund initiatives to share project benefits with the neighbouring community
- Provide annual grants to community projects through a fund administered by a committee of Council
- Fund initiatives to share project benefits with local First Nations communities

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 two scenarios.

	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 (400 MW)[1]	$9,702,000	$2,079,000	$1,039,500	$1,039,500	**$13,860,000**
	Total Over Project Lifetime (1200 MW)[1]	$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)[2]	$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

1 - 30 years + construction **2** - 35 years + construction

Regional benefits of the South West REZ

- Project is located in the South-West REZ (Renewable Energy Zone) administered by the state-run Energy Corporation (EnergyCo)
- Funding is additional to the project-led community-benefit sharing above
- EnergyCo is expected to charge "Access Fees" from all 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/year**
Employment purposes (e.g., employment programs and associated services and facilities, skills and training programs and associated services and facilities)	**$600/MW/year**

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Subsidised electricity and solar and battery systems

Spark Renewables will fund electricity subsidies to all qualifying neighbours within 10 km 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 and based on domestic use estimates.

Spark Renewables will also provide $5,000 towards solar and BESS systems and energy audits for neighbours within 10km of wind turbines.

Key features of the Neighbour Benefits Initiative include:

Available to neighbours within 10km of turbines at time of construction

Voluntary initiative where neighbours can choose to opt-in

Public initiative that is not confidential