

Dinawan Solar Farm

Public Briefing
Independent Planning Commission

February 2026



The Dinawan Energy Hub is developed by Spark Renewables, one of Australia's leading developers and long-term owners of renewable energy generation assets; founded in Sydney in 2018.



www.sparkrenewables.com

Acknowledgement of Country

Spark Renewables acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which we operate, including the lands of the Wiradjuri, several smaller nations of the Murrumbidgee Plains, Dharawal, Gadigal, Gameragal, Guringai, Gundungarra, Latji Latji, Muthi Muthi, Narungga, Paakantji (Barkandji), Ngiyampaa, Wadi Wadi, Yitha Yitha people, and all those upon whose lands we may work in the future.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, continuing beliefs, and connection to land, water and community, which we acknowledge as having continued importance to the Traditional Owners and Custodians' descendants living today. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.



Artwork elements - footsteps of an emu, Dinawan - by Yirra Miya.

Please note that this report contains images, words and references to individuals who may now be deceased.

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1. SNAPSHOT

Spark Renewables is one of Australia's leading developers and long-term owners of renewable energy generation assets, founded in Sydney in 2018.

OUR TEAM

>50

based in **Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Canberra, Narrandera, and Wagga Wagga**



● Operating asset
● Development project

OPERATIONAL

Bomen Solar Farm 120 MW

PRIORITY DEVELOPMENTS

Dinawan Energy Hub >1,000 MW
Wattle Creek Energy Hub >600 MW
Mallee Wind Farm 400 MW



2. OVERVIEW

DINAWAN SOLAR FARM

 **800 MW**

2,000,000 solar modules installed east and west of Kidman Way

COUPLED WITH A BATTERY

 **356 MW**

AC coupled, up to 1,574 MWh of energy storage capability

 **300,000 houses**

Equivalent to supplying a year's worth of electricity to households with an average of 6,000 kWh electricity consumption

 **400 peak construction workforce**

Approximate personnel during peak construction with up to 10 full-time employees and varying numbers of contractors during operations

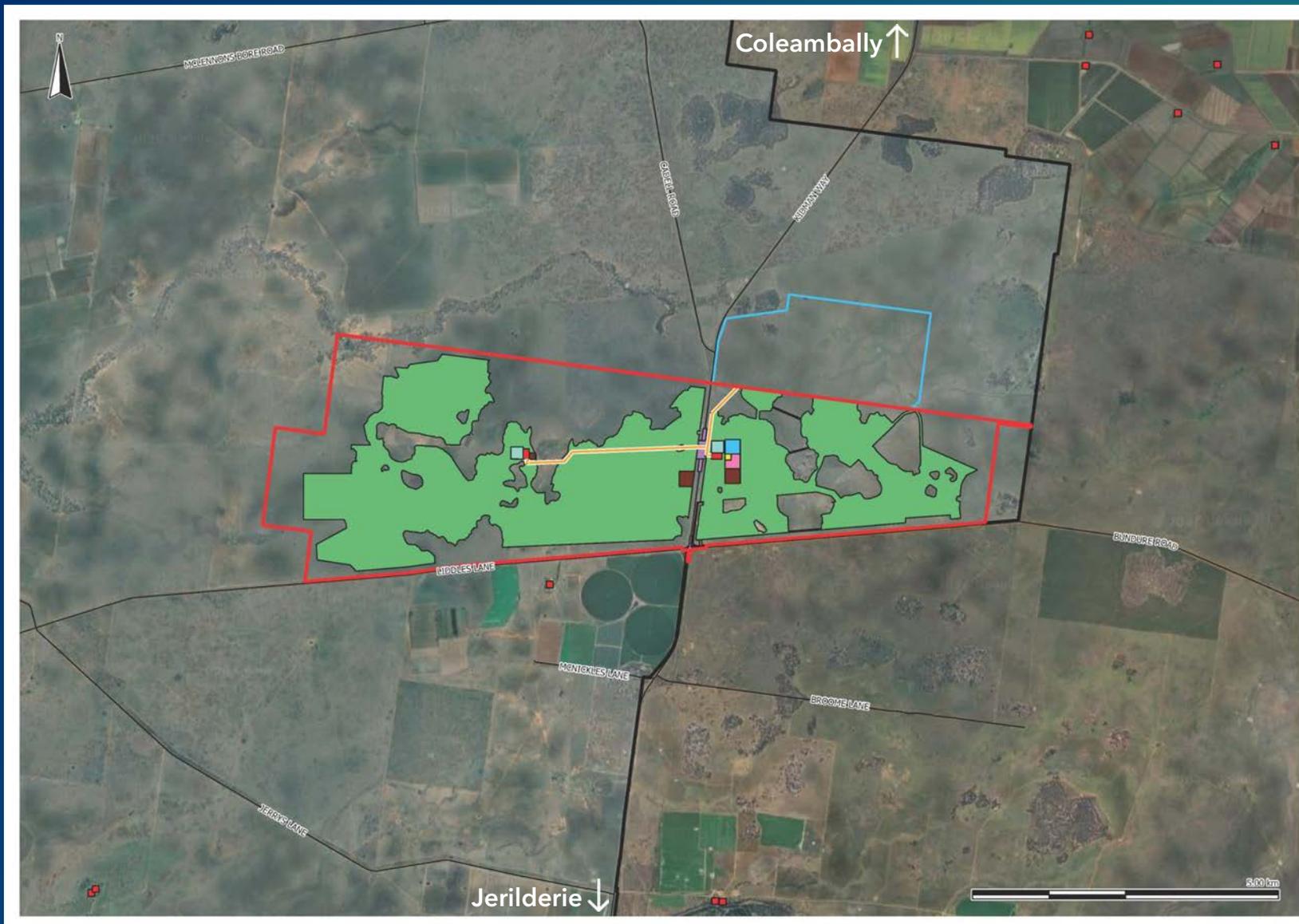
 **\$30 million**

Local community benefit-sharing funds in line with *NSW Benefit Sharing Guide*, upskilling & industry programs, research & innovation & access fee contributions based on allocation under the South West Renewable Energy Zone access rights (excludes CPI)

3. PROJECT

Location	Kidman Way, Jerilderie NSW (half-way between Coleambally and Jerilderie)
Capacity	Solar farm generation capacity up to 800 MW (AC) & and BESS storage up to 1,574 MWh
Key infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ~2 million PV modules and associated infrastructure - Power conversion units (PCUs) - inverters, medium voltage transformers and switchgear - BESS and associated infrastructure - Electrical collection system, up to two substations and control rooms - Transmission line infrastructure connecting the project substations to the Dinawan Substation - Operations and maintenance infrastructure - Temporary construction facilities (including a worker accommodation village)
Host & neighbouring community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 host landholders - 1 neighbour dwelling within 5 km of the project site
Workforce	<p>~400 personnel during peak construction</p> <p>~10 full-time employees and varying numbers of contractors during operations</p>
Project life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction: approximately 18-36 months - Operations: 25-35 years with potential to extend

4. PROJECT LAYOUT



LOCAL CONTEXT

- South West REZ border
- Dinawan Substation
- Neighbouring dwelling
- Road

PROJECT INFRASTRUCTURE

- Project boundary
- 330kV transmission line
- Development footprint
- Collector substation
- Switchyard
- Battery Energy Storage System
- Operations & Maintenance facility
- Construction compound
- Accommodation Village
- Road upgrades

5. CONSULTATION



Dedicated engagement with nearest neighbour



Regular briefing established with Bundure Landowner Group



11 email campaigns with a 40-60% open rate



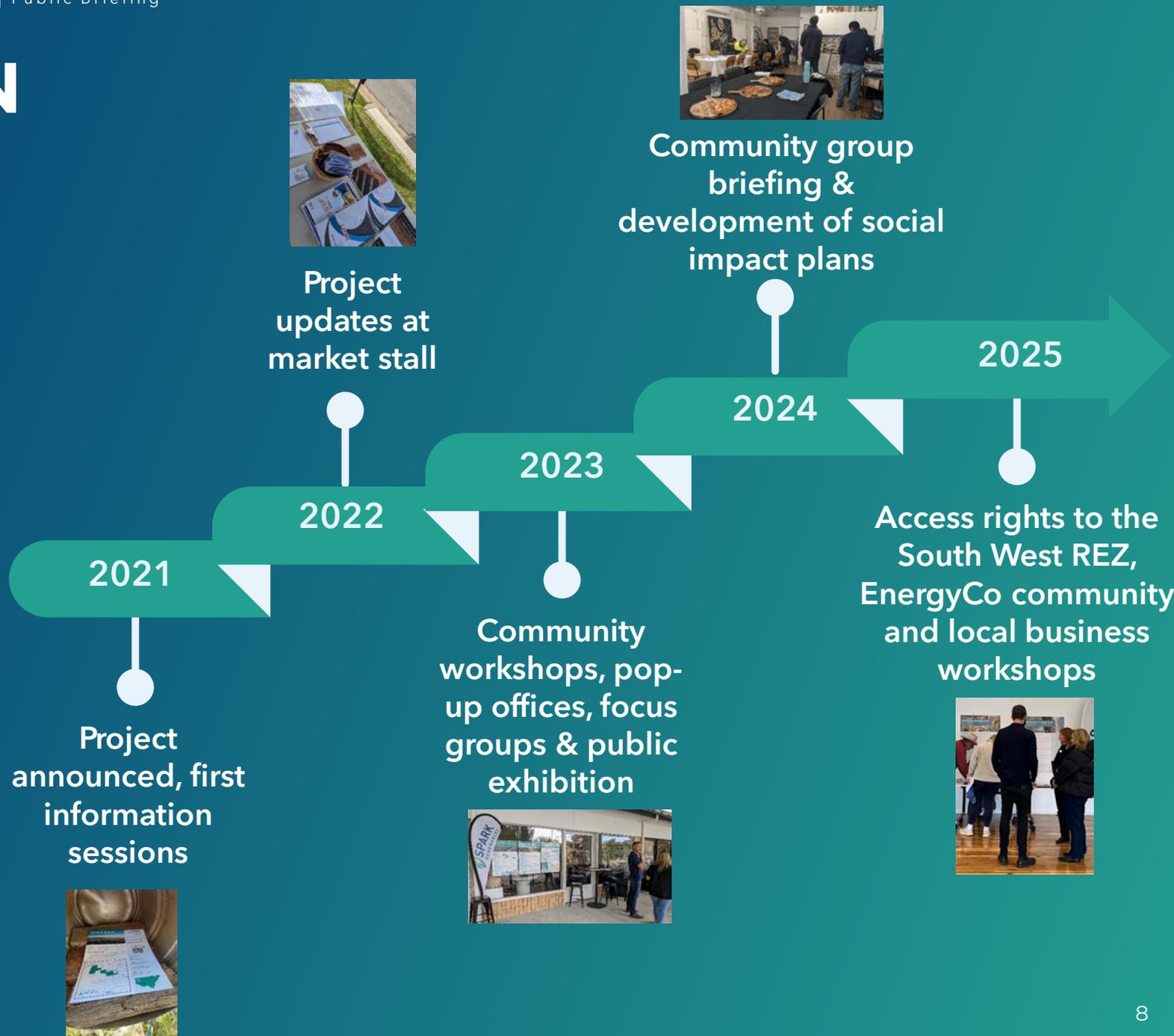
>176 regular news recipients



50+ visits to local community completed

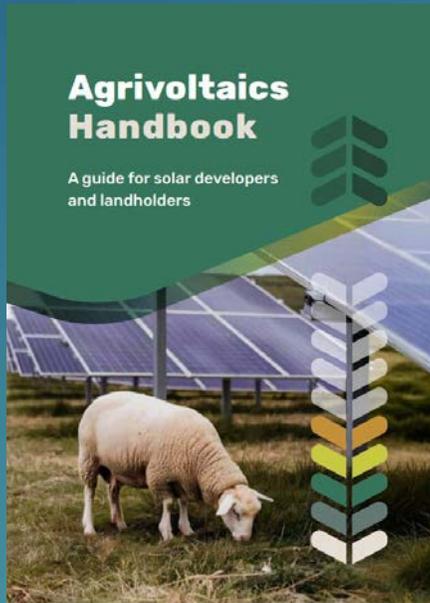


7 newsletters published since 2021



6. LAND USE COMPATIBILITY

- Spark Renewables is a strong advocate for agrivoltaics and will look to implement sheep grazing for vegetation management during operations.
- Host landowners will continue sheep and cattle grazing on adjacent land.



Sheep grazing under solar

Case study Bomen Solar Farm

Grazing infrastructure

The Bomen Solar Farm has a footprint of approximately 250ha, across two similarly sized blocks divided by a road.

The developer, Spark Renewables, always planned to graze sheep on the site and, post construction, it invested in critical farm infrastructure to make sheep grazing viable on the site.

The southern block has been split into two paddocks with an internal fence, watering points and access gates, and planning is underway for an internal fence to divide the large northern block. This will reduce mowing costs by enabling high intensity grazing in selected paddocks to maintain groundcover, while reducing mowing requirements in areas with more challenging vegetation.

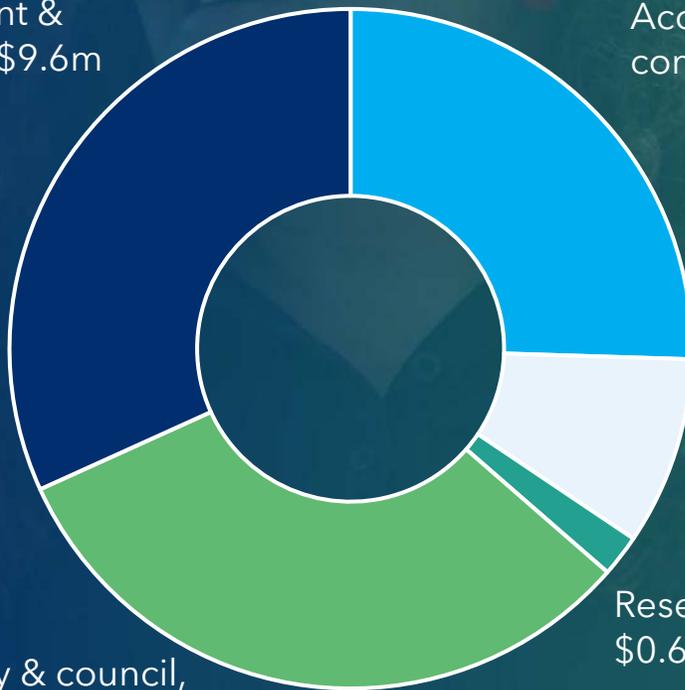


7. SOCIAL VALUE COMMITMENTS

Based on allocated access rights, and sponsorship funding during the pre-construction phase, the Dinawan Solar Farm will deliver ~\$30 million:

Employment & economy, \$9.6m

Access fees: community, \$7.7m



Access fees: employment, \$2.7m

Research & innovation, \$0.6m

Community & council, \$9.6m

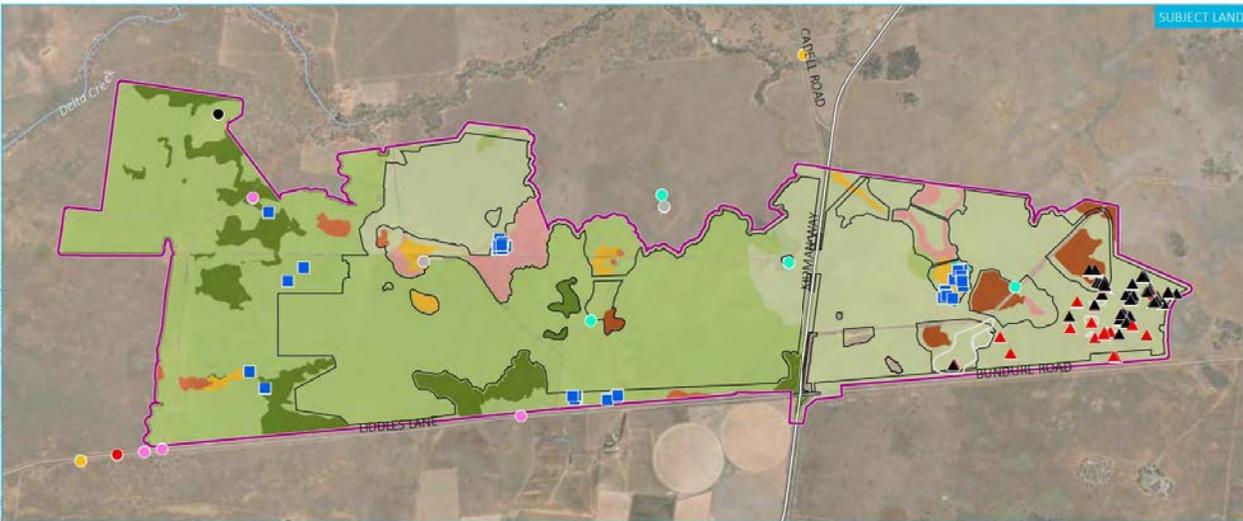
- Community development & legacy-building**
Housing, community benefit fund, neighbour electricity rebate scheme & sponsorships.
- Social procurement & local support**
Local and First Nations content, contractors, workforce & employment.
- Training & employment initiatives**
TAFE, university partnerships, schools, workforce readiness.
- First Nations**
Partnerships, cultural initiatives, employment & retention.
- Research & innovation**
South West REZ & Circular Innovation Fund.

8. PROJECT DESIGN CHANGES

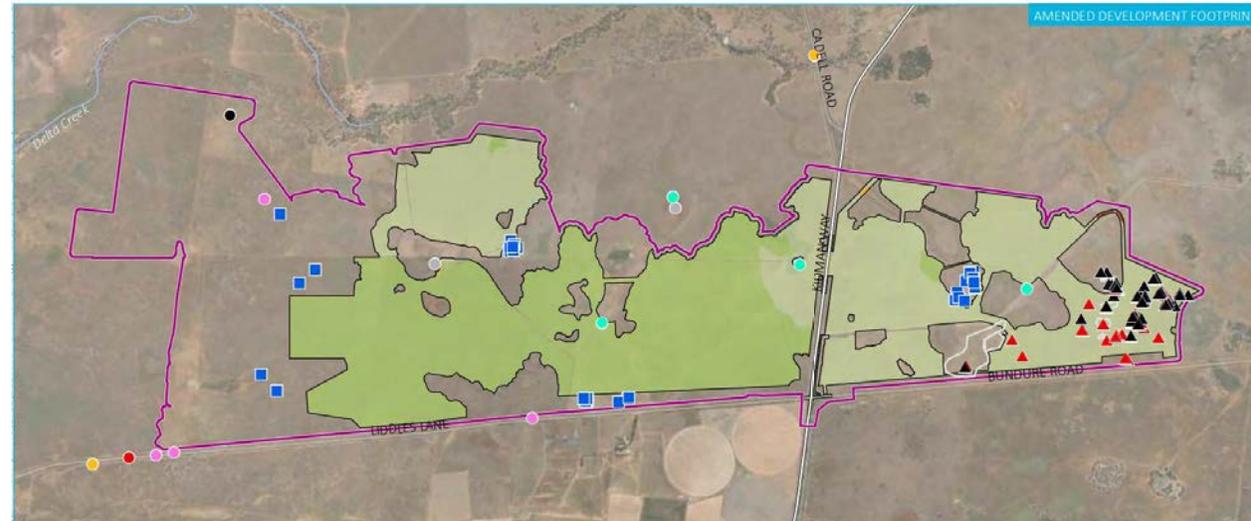
Changes made throughout the consultation process



Before



Now



KEY

- Subject land
- Amended development footprint
- Hollow bearing trees

Threatened species - Fauna

- Black Falcon
- Dusky Woodswallow
- Grey-crowned Babbler
- Southern Bell Frog
- Southern Whiteface
- Spotted Harrier

- Superb Parrot
- White-fronted Chat

Threatened species - Flora

- ▲ Slender Darling Pea
- ▲ Silky Swainsona-pea
- Patches of Slender Darling Pea & Silky Swainsona-pea

Vegetation zone

- PCT 13 (Moderate)
- PCT 15 (Moderate)
- PCT 15 (Moderate Good)
- PCT 17 (Moderate)
- PCT 17 (Moderate Good)
- PCT 26 (Intact)
- PCT 26 (DNG)
- PCT 26 (Sparse Canopy)
- PCT 45 (Moderate)
- PCT 46 (Moderate)

9. IMPACTS & RESPONSE



**HABITAT &
VEGETATION
PROTECTION**



**FIRST NATIONS
ENGAGEMENT &
CULTURAL
HERITAGE**



**WATER
RESOURCE &
QUALITY**



**SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTIVITY**



**BUSHFIRE RISK
MITIGATION**



**TRANSPORT &
ROAD SAFETY**



**WORKFORCE
MANAGEMENT &
SECURITY**



**ACCOMMODATION
& HOUSING
SUPPLY**



**NEIGHBOUR
BENEFIT
SHARING**



**PHONE SERVICE &
INTERNET
CONNECTION**

10. DINAWAN ENERGY HUB IN THE SOUTH WEST REZ



SUPPORTING ENERGY SECURITY

- NSW's **Energy Roadmap** target of 16GW renewable energy by 2030, and 42 GWh of battery storage by 2034.
- Dinawan Energy Hub construction aligns with planned completion of **Project EnergyConnect**, supporting the rollout of renewable energy.
- Successful participant in the **Capacity Investment Scheme** (Tender 4) for the 357 MW 'Dinawan Wind Farm (Stage 1).

 **300MW**
DINAWAN SOLAR FARM

Further solar capacity will be determined by future availability within the South West REZ.

 **1,200 MWh**
BATTERY

Integrated storage component enables flexible time shifting of generation and enhances grid stability.

 **707MW**
DINAWAN WIND FARM

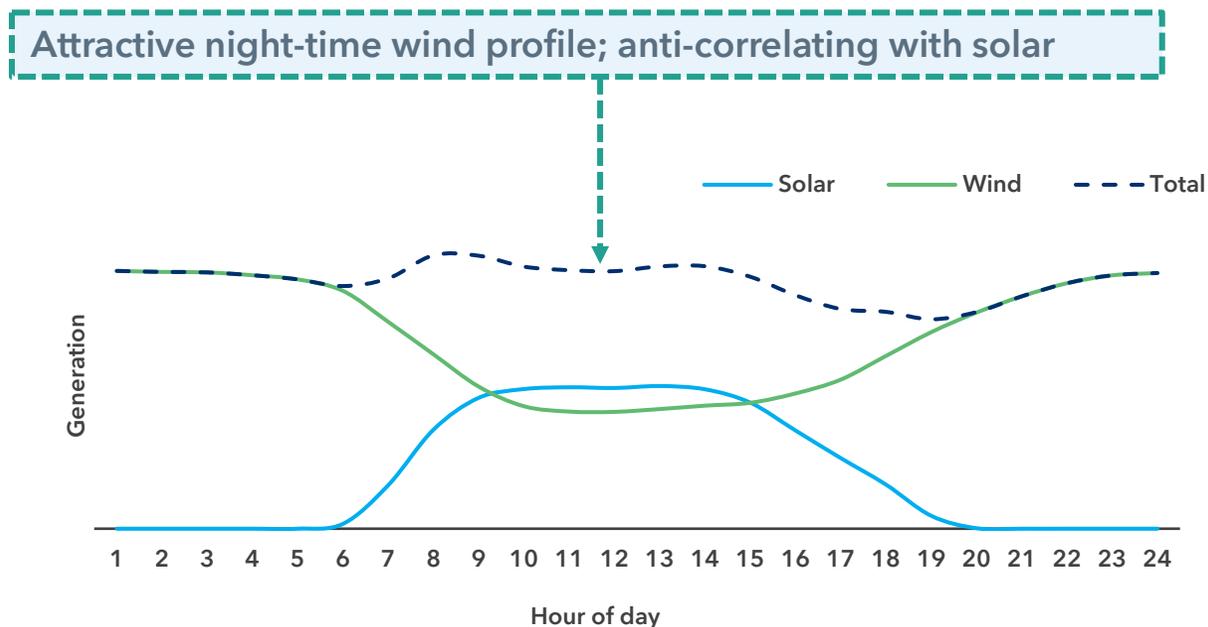
105 wind turbines up to 250 meters high, west of Kidman Way

Access Rights in South West REZ SCOPE & STAGING

Access rights awarded: 1,007 MW

- Stage 1: 357 MW wind (connection point 1)
- Stage 2: 300 MW solar + 300 MW BESS (connection point 3)
- Stage 3: 350 MW wind (connection point 2)

Wind and solar profiles are anti-correlated, enabling high utilisation of new transmission network infrastructure.



BASED ON ALLOCATED ACCESS RIGHTS DINAWAN ENERGY HUB WILL:

Power 535,000 households

Equivalent to supplying a year's worth of electricity to households with an average of 6,000 kWh electricity consumption

Deliver 1,275 jobs

Equivalent to >2.36 million work-hours across the development, construction and operational stage

Fund \$1M a year

Direct payments via the Voluntary Planning Agreements to community funds, electricity rebate scheme & council projects during construction and operational stage

For questions about the Dinawan Solar Farm please contact:
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DIRECTORY



Dinawan Solar Farm Public Briefing

Independent Planning Commission

25 February 2026

Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to begin with an Acknowledgement of Country. We would like to acknowledge that the Dinawan Solar Farm project site is located on the lands of the Wiradjuri people and several smaller nations of the Murrumbidgee Plains.

The project name, Dinawan, is the Wiradjuri word for emu, which often can be seen roaming the lands around the site.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and recognise their cultural heritage and connection to the land.

1. Snapshot

Spark Renewables is one of Australia's leading developers and long-term owners of renewable energy generation assets, founded in Sydney in 2018. Being long-term owners and operators of the projects, we value long-term relationships with the community. We build the project, and we stay - taking responsibility year after year, fixing issues quickly, and keeping our promises for decades.

Spark Renewables is the owner of the Bomen Solar Farm near Wagga Wagga, which has been operating since 2020.

As shown on the map, our priority development projects are located in NSW and include the Dinawan and Mallee energy hubs in the south-west, and the Wattle Creek Energy Hub in the Southern Highlands.

In 2023 Spark Renewables was acquired by Tenaga Nasional Berhad, the national utility company of Malaysia, with substantial financial resources and a market cap of approximately A\$30 billion.

We have a local team of around 50 people, around double the number shown in our picture on the beach.

2. Overview

The project is seeking a solar generation capacity of 800 megawatts (MWac), coupled with a 356 MW / 1,574 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

The anticipated workforce is approx. 400 during peak construction and up to 10 full-time employees during operations. Construction is anticipated to take 18-36 months.

3. Project

The project site of the Dinawan Solar Farm & BESS is located halfway between the nearest towns of Coleambally and Jerilderie, in the Murrumbidgee Local Government Area and within the South West Renewable Energy Zone (REZ).

The project involves installing PV modules and associated infrastructure such as inverters, transformers, electrical reticulation, BESS infrastructure and transmission lines. There would also be an Operations and Maintenance facility and temporary worker accommodation during construction.

There are two landholders involved in the project. The project is located in a remote area, with only one neighbouring dwelling within 5 kilometres (km) of the project site.

An 800 MW project would require approximately 400 employees during peak construction, 10 full-time employees during operations over 35 years, and would take up to 36 months to construct.

4. Project Layout

The Dinawan Solar Farm is adjacent to the Dinawan Substation, currently being completed by Transgrid. Several other projects are at various stages of development in the surrounding area, including the Dinawan Wind Farm, also developed by Spark Renewables. Collectively, the Dinawan Solar Farm and Wind Farm are referred to as the Dinawan Energy Hub.

Looking at the map shown on this slide for the local context for the project, here we see the project boundary in red, adjacent to the Dinawan Substation land in blue.

The land on which the development is proposed is currently used for grazing both sheep and cattle. The area is characterised by large agricultural holdings and a low population density, which contributes to the low number of “non-associated residences” in the vicinity. The project has one non-associated residence within 5 km, identified as the red square to the south of the project area.

5. Consultation

Consultation commenced in 2021 with the announcement of the project and our first information sessions. We engaged closely with key stakeholders to better understand matters important to the local community. This involved personalised correspondence including face-to-face and online meetings, letters, emails and phone calls with key stakeholders to inform them about the project and seek feedback.

During the public exhibition period for the Dinawan Solar Farm Environmental Impact Statement, Spark Renewables widely publicised its pop-up offices in Coleambally and Jerilderie, open for four weeks during the exhibition. The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) received only 12 submissions from the local area. The main issues raised by community submissions from the local area were related to bushfire risk, traffic on local roads, contamination from project infrastructure and biodiversity impacts, which were all addressed in the Response to Submissions document as part of the development application process.

Our consultation has involved dedicated engagement with the nearest neighbour and we have also regularly consulted with the Bundure landowner group, which incorporates the majority of the nearby neighbours to the proposed solar farm, at the Argoon Fire Shed.

The project website (www.dinawanenergyhub.com) is the source of the community newsletters and we are open to subscribers who wish to receive updates via email.

6. Land Use Compatibility

An important feature of the project is that existing agricultural land use within and surrounding the project area is compatible with the solar farm and BESS infrastructure. Spark Renewables engaged an agrisolar expert to optimise the design for continued agricultural activities, including consideration of water infrastructure, grazing controls, fencing, and stocking rates. Agriculture will continue within the project area throughout operations, with sheep grazing intended to occur alongside the solar farm.

This agrisolar initiative has been implemented at the Bomen Solar Farm, an operating solar farm owned by Spark Renewables. We are strong advocates of agrivoltaics and contributed to EnergyCo's recently released [handbook](http://www.energyco.nsw.gov.au/agrivoltaics-handbook) (www.energyco.nsw.gov.au/agrivoltaics-handbook). Bomen was featured as a case study demonstrating how appropriate stocking rates can be a significant aid in groundcover management, providing a win-win outcome for both owners and graziers. One of our learnings from the Bomen Solar Farm outlined here is how early planning for sheep-grazing can improve effectiveness through the implementation of internal fencing and water infrastructure. These lessons will be valuable when we come to the detailed design for Dinawan Solar Farm.

7. Social Value Commitments

Spark Renewables is committed to delivering long-term positive outcomes for the project and the community through funding from the Dinawan Solar Farm. A holistic engagement plan informed by four years of comprehensive consultation has been undertaken with local stakeholders. Consultation for the benefit-sharing program commenced during the initial engagement processes in late 2021 and will continue to evolve in response to community needs.

Since then, Spark Renewables has contributed approximately \$200,000 in sponsorships and grants in the local community around the Dinawan Energy Hub (of which the Dinawan Solar Farm forms part). In addition, under the access rights commitments for the Dinawan Solar Farm, Spark Renewables will deliver a \$30 million benefit-sharing, local content, and training program. This program is designed to support the modern energy transition while fostering sustainable regional development and long-term economic growth.

As part of these commitments, Spark Renewables initiated engagement with Murrumbidgee Council and Edward River Council to co-design a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) that will create lasting social value for the community. We understand that Murrumbidgee Council aims to enhance the Local Government Area by directing funding from new developments towards initiatives such as childcare centres, critical housing, park upgrades, medical facilities, road upgrades, and other projects outlined in the Council's Development Contributions Plan.

Our commitment to support this vision and create lasting social value is built on five foundational pillars:

- **Community development and legacy building:** Delivery of housing initiatives, a community benefit fund, a neighbour electricity rebate scheme, and targeted sponsorships to strengthen long-term regional outcomes.
- **Social procurement and local participation:** Prioritising local and First Nations businesses, contractors, and workforce participation, with a strong focus on regional employment and supply chain inclusion.
- **Training and employment pathways:** Partnerships with TAFE, universities, and schools to support workforce readiness, skills development, and long-term employment opportunities in the renewable energy sector.
- **First Nations partnerships:** Meaningful engagement through cultural initiatives, employment pathways, retention programs, and long-term economic participation.
- **Research and innovation:** Investment through the South West REZ and the Circular Innovation Fund to advance sustainable development and innovation in the energy transition.

8. Project Design Changes

The Dinawan Solar Farm's irregular shape has been driven by our focus on conserving biodiversity and minimising impacts to threatened species. We worked closely with ecologists and the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Division to ensure the presence of birds and bats is well understood across the project site and that impacts are minimised as much as possible.

There has been significant focus placed on avoiding biodiversity impacts since the first ecological surveys were conducted in 2022, with our current footprint avoiding 38 of 39 hollow-bearing trees, the vast majority of intact woodland vegetation and all mapped important habitat for the Plains Wanderer.

We continue to work towards developing local biodiversity stewardship sites, ensuring that all local biodiversity impacts are restored locally.

9. Impacts and Response

We recognise that Spark Renewables will continue to operate in this community for generations to come and understand the importance of co-designing a project that addresses the impacts on the environment, the community, and the local economy. To date, we have undertaken several rounds of engagement and outreach. Feedback has been constructive, with a significant level of endorsement received across the community. The key potential impacts raised through consultation are shown on this slide.

These key issues have been considered and addressed through consultation and preparation of the project's development application. Spark Renewables has engaged closely with stakeholders to ensure that community concerns are well understood and that impacts are avoided or appropriately managed wherever possible.

- As outlined on the previous slide, design changes to the layout resulted in a 28% reduction in the project footprint to protect threatened species habitat, native vegetation and wetlands. Study findings and recommendations will inform the Biodiversity Management Plan and the Environmental Management Strategy as the next step in the project development.
- Through our focus group sessions, participants called for meaningful engagement with local First Nations communities in relation to cultural heritage, participation, and benefit-sharing opportunities. Our First Nations engagement involved more than 240 interactions with participating Registered Aboriginal Parties during field investigations and subsequent consultation sessions, totalling over 170 person-days on site. A total of 107 previously undocumented Aboriginal objects, sites, or places were identified within and adjacent to the project area. Outcomes from the consultation process contributed to redesigning the development footprint to avoid impacts on Aboriginal sites and areas of high archaeological potential, as well as identifying mitigation measures where impacts may be unavoidable. Participating parties have been highly supportive of our approach to surveying, avoiding, and mitigating impacts, as well as of the Aboriginal Participation Plan. Recommendations for cultural heritage management measures will be incorporated into the Heritage Management Plan and a First Nations Engagement Protocol for the Project.
- We also engaged with the NSW Department of Primary Industries regarding potential impacts on water resources. A project-specific Soil and Water Management Plan and Flood Emergency Response Plan will be developed based on ongoing consultation.
- The sheep-grazing is intended to occur alongside the solar farm, which is an important feature of sustainable agriculture productivity, as was discussed earlier in the presentation.
- We worked closely with the local Argoon Fire Brigade, the NSW Rural Fire Service, and specialist consultants to establish appropriate emergency preparedness measures, including commitments to maintain mobile water supplies on-site during project construction and operations. These measures will be incorporated into the Emergency Plan.
- Traffic impacts and transport routes during construction were among the key concerns raised during consultation. The solar farm site is located near Kidman Way, an approved 'B-Double' route with connections to the Sturt and Newell highways. The site benefits from efficient access for construction logistics and maintenance, as well as a secondary access point from Bundure Road. Spark Renewables continues to consult with Murrumbidgee Council and Transport for NSW regarding traffic impacts and transport routes to inform the project-specific Traffic Management Plan.

- One of the most consistent pieces of feedback was the limited availability of local housing in the area. As part of the updated project, provision has been made for an on-site accommodation village to house the peak construction workforce. The location was selected due to its proximity to the main site entry and key work areas, such as the Dinawan Substation, while maintaining appropriate separation from nearby residences.
- Furthermore, Spark Renewables has appointed a dedicated Social Impact Lead to support community development and partnership building with respect to the housing solutions, and is working with local organisations. In Coleambally, Spark Renewables partnered with the local community club to provide \$40,000 in early works funding to upgrade club facilities and increase local accommodation capacity. Further measures will be detailed in the Accommodation and Employment Strategy for the project.
- There has also been strong interest in community benefit-sharing for neighbouring landholders and the broader community, as well as in enhancing local workforce participation and prioritising local suppliers and service providers. As previously outlined, Spark Renewables has developed a benefit-sharing, training, and local content program which, under the access rights scheme and through the construction of the 300 MW solar-hybrid stage, will deliver \$30 million through our social value commitments.
- A localised issue raised recently concerns improving mobile phone coverage and internet connectivity to maintain reliable services for the local community. Spark Renewables is working with key stakeholders to develop and deliver a dedicated solution.

10. Dinawan Energy Hub in the South West REZ

The Dinawan Solar Farm is part of a larger development referred to as the Dinawan Energy Hub.

In 2024/25 Spark Renewables undertook a competitive tender process for the award of access within the South West REZ as part of the NSW Energy Roadmap. This was a highly competitive process, and we had to provide detailed information on the project, our organisational capabilities and track record, community consultation undertaken and project financial value.

Substantial commitments were made on community benefit sharing, First Nations engagement (workforce, business engagement, training and capacity-building), research and education, and regional economic development (including local content).

We were fortunately successful in securing access for three connection points of the Dinawan Energy Hub, with the export capacities highlighted on this slide. As mentioned previously, these will be delivered in three phases.

The Dinawan Energy Hub is a crucial project to support NSW's renewable energy targets, as shown on the right hand side of the slide. The BESS will store energy for use during peak demand, enhance grid stability and provide backup capacity.

Our proposed sequencing for delivery of the project commences with the Wind Stage 1 area, followed by the Solar and BESS, and then Wind Stage 2.

The Dinawan Wind Farm is a separate State Significant Development application. It is currently in Assessment with the DPPI, for which Spark Renewables is finalising an Amendment Report in relation to the oversize vehicles and loads route, which will be submitted shortly.

As part of the cumulative impact for the Dinawan Solar Farm, the nearby projects shown on the map (in grey lines) were taken into consideration with a key focus on load roads, site access and accommodation for the workforce during construction.

As mentioned, Transgrid are completing the Dinawan Substation, as part of Project EnergyConnect, and are proposing additional works via the VNI West project. Both are transmission line projects that facilitate the export of electricity from the South West REZ. To the northwest of the site are the approved Pottinger and proposed Bullawah wind farm developments. The Yanco Delta Wind Farm is an approved development to the west of the project site, and finally, the Argoon wind farm is a proposed project between the Dinawan Wind Farm and Yanco Delta wind farm site boundaries.

The Dinawan Energy Hub is a crucial project to support NSW's renewable energy targets of 16 GW renewable energy by 2030 and 42 GWh of battery energy storage by 2034.

ENDS