

Goulburn River Solar Farm

Frequently Asked Questions

November 2021

Following the initial consultation that Lightsource bp has had with community members including the two online community information sessions, please find below responses to some frequently asked questions that have been raised to date. We hope that this information is helpful, as we continue to progress plans on the Goulburn River Solar Farm Project.

Engagement

Q: Who is Lightsource bp?

A: Lightsource bp is a global market leader in the funding, development and long-term management of large-scale solar projects and smart energy solutions and we work closely with local businesses to deliver sustainable renewable energy projects. Lightsource bp entered Australia in December 2017 through a partnership between European solar farm developer Lightsource Renewable Energy and global energy company bp. Lightsource bp has a total of 500 MWp across three projects underway with the Wellington Solar Farm in the final stages of commissioning, and the Woolooga and West Wyalong Solar Farms due to complete construction in mid-2022.

Q: What is Umwelt's role on the Project?

A: Umwelt Australia (Umwelt) is an environmental and social consultancy with over 25 years' experience providing speciality services in ecology, heritage, environmental planning, community engagement, and social impact assessment. Lightsource bp have engaged Umwelt to prepare the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Project and as part of this, will undertake several technical studies guided by the Secretary Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) to be issued by DPIE in late 2021 or early 2022. Several preliminary assessments are currently underway during the current scoping phase of the Project, including the Social Impact Assessment which includes consultation with local landowners, community groups, service providers and businesses to understand the potential impacts of the Project (positive and negative) on the community.

Q: When will face-to-face community consultation take place?

A: Lightsource bp and Umwelt would like to host an in-person community event during the EIS preparation period, in early 2022. As COVID-19 restrictions have recently eased, the team is looking to hold individual face to face meetings with community members. Further, the Social Impact Assessment process as it progresses will include a range of

community consultation activities where the team hopes to hear from different groups and members of the community. These activities will be organised and promoted in the coming months. A meeting with the Project team can also be organised at any time by getting in touch with us.

Community Benefits

Q: How will the local community benefit from this Project?

A: Lightsource bp is committed to giving back to the community and being a responsible neighbour. We will be offering direct and indirect benefits by providing local jobs, procurement and construction contracts. We are also currently considering the preliminary plans for a community benefit fund and would value your feedback and suggestions on the priority areas in the community for support as well as how the community may prefer to see such a fund administered.

As a part of our projects currently under construction, including the nearby Wellington Solar Farm Project, we have partnered with the Clontarf Foundation, which assists young Indigenous men to achieve their goals through sport. We intend to continue our relationship with the Clontarf Foundation and provide additional resources to its local academies, including Singleton.

Social Amenity

Q: What will be done to manage the increase in local traffic and changes to the roads?

A: A preliminary survey of the main access road to the Project Area has been undertaken and Lightsource bp have noted the current deteriorated state of Wollara/Ringwood Road. Lightsource bp plan to manage the road throughout the construction period to ensure the road is safe for existing traffic and for our construction workforce. In consultation with Upper Hunter Shire Council, Lightsource bp have committed to complete road upgrades prior to construction commencing, maintaining the roads during construction and rehabilitating following the construction works. It is expected that the road will be returned to the same, or to a better standard than its current state.

Q: When will construction commence on the Project and how long will the construction period be?

A: Subject to development approval, construction would commence in mid-2023. Due to the scale of the Project, the construction period is expected to be 18-24 months in duration.

Q: How long will the Project be operational?

A: Current plans intend for the Project to be operational for 35-40 years, based on the expected lifecycle of the panels. At the end of the Project life, Lightsource bp will make the decision to either continue the operations of the Project where infrastructure would be replaced, or the Project could be decommissioned with the land returned to agricultural use. Where practical, Lightsource bp is committed to ensuring that the solar panels are recycled upon decommissioning, leaving minimal need for landfill.

Livelihoods

Q: What opportunities are there for local job seekers, contractors, service providers and businesses to get involved in the Project?

A: The Project intends to source employment locally as much as possible to provide opportunities to local job seekers and contractors and to maximise the commercial benefit for the local community. Lightsource bp's recently constructed Wellington Solar Farm Project sourced approximately 35% of the workforce from the local area; for the Goulburn River Solar Farm Project we would like to do better.

It is anticipated that between 300-500 jobs will be available within the construction period, with ongoing employment of up to 10 jobs during operations. Lightsource bp plan to work closely with Upper Hunter Shire Council, Mid-Western Regional Council and other key stakeholders to deliver an appropriate business engagement, employment, and accommodation strategy for the Project.

Q: Where will materials required for the Project be sourced from?

A: The procurement of materials for the Project covers global markets including Europe and Asia as well as domestic markets for other requirements. Lightsource bp works to ensure that all our suppliers are passed through extensive due diligence processes, including investigation into our suppliers' Environmental, Social and Governance practices before purchases are made.

Surroundings

Q: How will Lightsource bp manage the impact upon local wildlife and bushland, considering the Project Area borders the Goulburn River National Park?

A: Ecological surveys have recently commenced in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM), approved by the NSW Government. Several ecological communities have already been identified living within or near the Project Area. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will assess any possible impacts that the Project will have on these ecological communities and Lightsource bp is already working with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Services to best manage and offset any impacts on local biodiversity through Project design and mitigation. It is possible that the Project's environmental impacts can be minimised, and high value environmental areas conserved to protect ecological values.

In addition, Lightsource bp intends to maintain the ability for continued livestock grazing on the Project Area following construction to preserve the existing agricultural land uses. It is likely that an Environmental Management Plan will be required in the case that the Project is approved, to manage both livestock and feral animals (including wild dogs). This would also include the setting up of an Asset Protection Zone whereby land is kept clear surrounding Project infrastructure.

Q: Has Lightsource bp considered the risk of bushfires for this Project?

A: A bushfire assessment will be undertaken as part of the EIS process, informing a Bush Fire Management Plan (BFMP) that will be developed in accordance with the Rural Fire Service requirements. As part of the BFMP, Lightsource bp will continue to undertake vegetation management for the life of the Project. An Asset Protection Zone would be

established within the Project Area whereby land would be cleared around Project infrastructure and public access restricted. Activities on the Project will be managed particularly cautiously during bushfire season to ensure preventative measures are in place.

Q: Is Lightsource bp planning on expanding this Project into other areas in the future?

A: There are no plans to expand beyond the current parameters, as the Project Area is bound by the Goulburn River National Park on all sides.

Q: When will Lightsource bp bid for network access?

A: Lightsource bp has been working with TransGrid, the Network Operator, over the past few months to explore options for the Project to connect to the network. Initial studies indicate a feasible connection option is available at the site and studies continue to define the technical aspects of the connection. This process is forecast to conclude in late 2022.

Q: The Goulburn River National Park is not in an area identified as a Renewable Energy Zone. How has this area been approved for the Project? Has Lightsource bp leased or bought the land?

A: Lightsource bp has entered an ‘option to purchase agreement’ with the two current landowners in the Project Area. The land is zoned RU1 – Primary Production (i.e. agricultural), with the surrounding land zoned as National Park. Energy generation is a permitted land use within land zoned RU1, and the Project does not plan to enter the National Park. The Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) is nearby, however, this Project is located outside of its area and is not proposing to utilise any of the REZ infrastructure.

Cumulative Effects

Q: How is Lightsource bp working with other renewable energy developers across the region?

A: Although this Project is not situated in the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone, Lightsource bp is an active member of an Industry Roundtable hosted by RE-Alliance, where several developers in the region are working together on how to best maximise local benefits with a particular focus on employment generation. Lightsource bp is also a member of the Clean Energy Council and are involved in a number of their working groups, including their Community and Stakeholder Engagement working group.

Q: Will Lightsource bp be consulting with local industry groups?

Lightsource bp plans to consult with and work with a range of local stakeholders including industry groups, businesses, service providers, and community and environmental organisations as the Project planning and assessment process progresses. Initial meetings have been held in recent months with some of these groups, and as the Project commences the preparation of the EIS, further consultation and feedback from local groups will be sought to ensure that the extent of the impacts and opportunities are understood, and how to best work together in planning and managing the Project as it progresses.