



Sandy Creek solar farm and battery storage system

The Sandy Creek solar farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) form a proposed renewable energy project being developed by Lightsource bp approximately 25 kilometres south-west of Dunedoo and 30 kilometres north-west of Gulgong within the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone. The project would combine around 857MWdc of large-scale solar generation with battery energy storage, helping to deliver reliable renewable energy to homes and businesses across New South Wales.

At its proposed capacity, the project would generate enough renewable electricity to power the equivalent of more than 250,000 homes each year. The project would also include battery storage, allowing energy generated during the day to be stored and supplied when it is needed most.

Planning for this project has been underway for several years. Technical studies covering areas such as biodiversity, agriculture, traffic, water resources, cultural heritage, noise and visual amenity have also been undertaken as part of the planning and assessment process. In addition to the technical assessments, the project team has sought to better understand local priorities to inform project planning.

PROJECT STATUS

The project is currently progressing through the NSW planning assessment process. The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure will consider all technical studies, agency advice and project documentation before making a determination.

The project team will continue to provide updates as the assessment progresses and welcomes ongoing engagement with the community.



Stay in touch with us

If you're interested in learning more about the project or would like to speak with the team, please reach out to us on [1800 570 663](tel:1800570663) or email us at sandycreekproject@lightsourcebp.com.

You can also keep informed through the project's website at lightsourcebp.com/au/project/sandy-creek-solar-farm.

OUR ROLE IN THE CENTRAL WEST ORANA RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONE (REZ)

The Sandy Creek solar farm and BESS is proposed within the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ), Australia's first declared REZ and a key part of NSW's plan to modernise the electricity network and replace its aging fleet of thermal generation, which is due for retirement.

As a participant in the Central-West Orana REZ, the project is a member of the Access Rights Scheme, which helps coordinate renewable energy generation and transmission infrastructure across the region. Through this scheme, the Sandy Creek solar farm and BESS will contribute to the REZ Community Benefit Fund, which provides significant funding for local and regional initiatives designed to support communities hosting renewable energy infrastructure.

A coordinated approach across the region will help maximise benefits for local communities while ensuring potential impacts are managed effectively. Lightsource bp is committed to working collaboratively with landholders, communities, councils, government agencies and other renewable energy developers to achieve the best outcomes for the region.

LOCAL ECONOMIC BENEFITS

The Sandy Creek project will create economic opportunities for local businesses and workers. During construction, we will need a range of goods and services – from catering to transport, equipment hire, fencing, and specialised construction services.

We are building a register of local businesses interested in supplying goods or services during construction and operation.

If you would like to register your interest or share your ideas, please email the project team using the details below.

We've also made commitments to local employment. This means that we'll be looking to local people in the area to support the project where possible.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT PROGRAMME

We recognise that renewable energy projects should benefit the communities that host them. The Sandy Creek solar farm and BESS is committed to delivering lasting benefits to local communities throughout the life of the project. Through its Social Licence Commitments, the project will invest in programs that support nearby residents, community initiatives, local employment and training opportunities, First Nations participation, and regional businesses. Together, these commitments represent an investment of approximately \$85 million over the project's 40-year lifespan, helping to ensure the benefits of the renewable energy transition are shared locally.

In addition to the community benefit fund, the project team is also considering direct funding opportunities and is actively engaging with local groups, organisations and stakeholders to better understand where support may be most valuable. These conversations are helping to identify opportunities to partner with and invest in initiatives that deliver meaningful and lasting benefits for local communities.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

As the Sandy Creek solar farm progresses through the final stages of the planning approval process, we are committed to increasing our engagement with the local community and providing more regular updates about the project.

As greater certainty emerges around the project's design, approval conditions and delivery timeframes, we will share more detailed information about what to expect and when. This will include updates on project milestones, community benefit initiatives, employment and procurement opportunities, upcoming activities and how potential impacts will be managed.

As we move closer to construction, community engagement will continue to ramp up, with additional opportunities to ask questions, provide feedback and learn more about the project. We are committed to maintaining open and transparent communication and ensuring the community remains informed and involved throughout every stage of the project's development.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

As part of the planning and assessment process, we have heard from community members and a range of stakeholders. The questions below reflect some of the topics that have been discussed most often throughout the project assessment.

How will the project affect farming and agricultural land?

The project has been designed to minimise impacts on agricultural land while supporting renewable energy generation. Detailed land capability assessments have informed the project design, and the site can be rehabilitated and returned to agricultural use at the end of the project's operational life. Opportunities for continued agricultural activities, such as grazing, are also being considered within the site.

What is being done to protect native vegetation and wildlife?

Environmental studies have been undertaken to understand the site's biodiversity values, including native vegetation, wildlife habitat and threatened species. The project layout has been refined to avoid and minimise impacts where possible, and environmental management measures will be implemented throughout construction and operation.

How will traffic be managed during construction?

A detailed Traffic Impact Assessment has been undertaken for the project by traffic and transport specialists to understand how construction vehicles will access the site and use local roads. The project includes traffic management measures and road improvements where required to maintain safety and minimise disruption to local road users as much as possible, although we acknowledge that usage will unavoidably increase during the construction phase, and then largely return to normal during operation. Ongoing consultation with councils and relevant road authorities is continuing as part of the assessment process.

What will the project look like from nearby properties and roads?

Visual assessments have been completed from a range of locations around the project area. The design has been refined to reduce visibility where practical, and landscaping or screening measures may be implemented in areas where they can assist in reducing visual impacts.

Will the project affect local water resources?

Specialist studies have been undertaken to assess surface water and groundwater conditions. These studies help ensure that water use and project activities can be managed appropriately and that potential impacts are identified and addressed through project design, monitoring and management measures.

What benefits could the project bring to the local area?

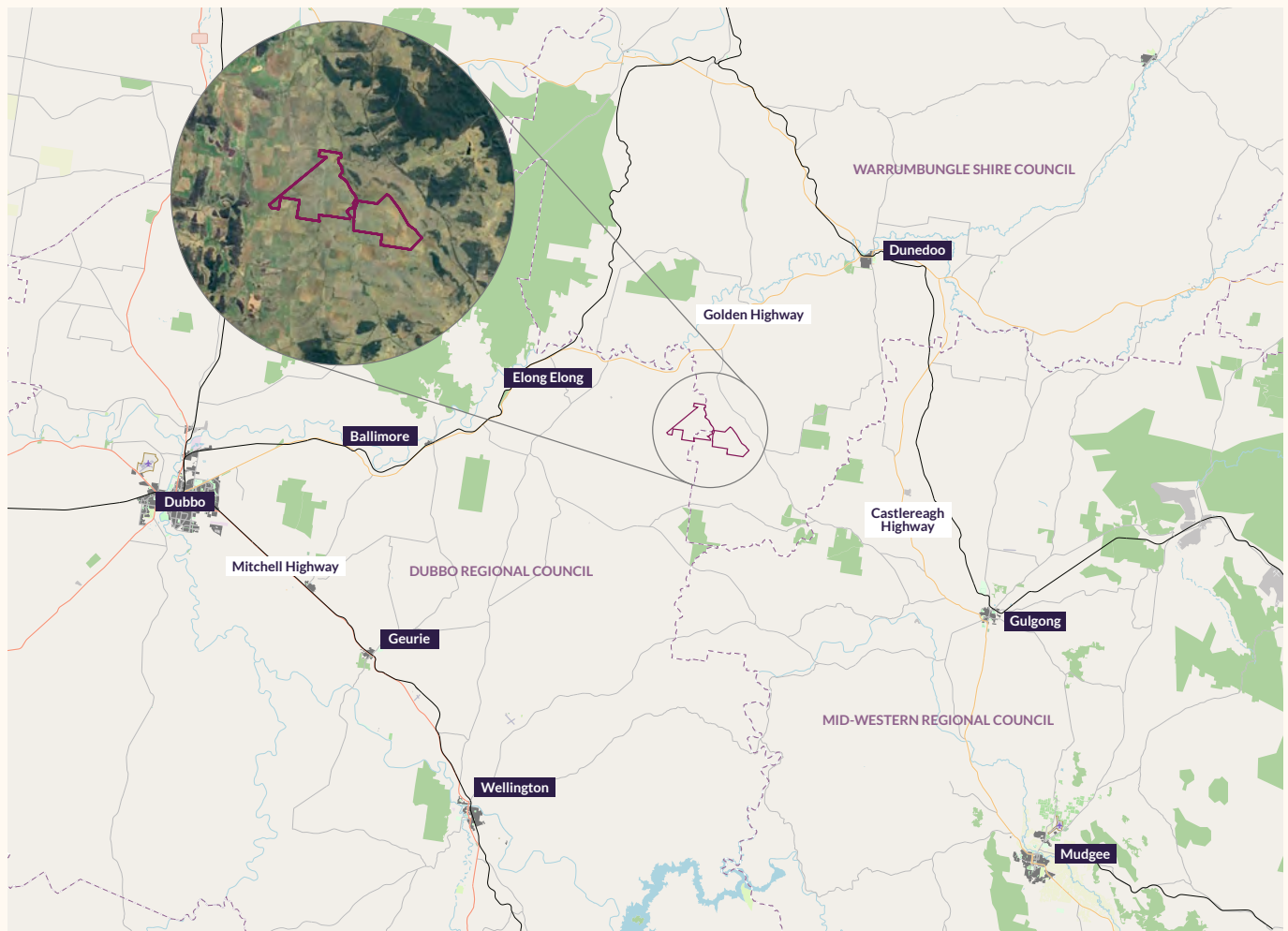
The project is expected to support local employment during construction, create opportunities for local businesses and contribute to regional investment. The project team is also developing community benefit initiatives and neighbour engagement programs to ensure local communities can share in the project's benefits.

How is fire safety being considered as part of the Sandy Creek solar farm project?

Fire safety has been an important consideration throughout the project's planning and design. Specialist bushfire and hazard assessments have been undertaken to understand potential risks and identify appropriate management measures. The project is being designed to meet relevant fire safety requirements and would operate under detailed emergency management and fire response procedures.



PROJECT LOCATION



MEET THE TEAM

The Sandy Creek project team will be at the upcoming EnergyCo Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone Community Roadshow at the following times and locations:

- Thursday 13 August: 4pm to 7pm, Western Plains Cultural Centre, Dubbo
- Friday 14 August: 3pm to 6pm, Dunedoo Jubilee Hall, Dunedoo

Find out more: energyco.nsw.gov.au/roadshow

Stay up to date on the project

If you would like to learn more or share your thoughts on the project, please contact our team using the details below:

E | sandycreekproject@lightsourcebp.com

T | 1800 570 663

lightsourcebp.com/au/project/sandy-creek-solar-farm

The Sandy Creek project team will also be **hosting a community drop in session:**

Friday 14 August: 11am - 1pm
Dapper Rural Fire Service Shed, Spring Ridge Road

