

Application to modify the approved New England Solar project

ACEN Australia is currently progressing the first stage of construction of the New England Solar project near Uralla, a project of 400 megawatts (MW). In preparation for the commencement of construction of the second stage, as previously flagged in February 2022, ACEN Australia is finalising the environmental impact assessment for the inclusion of an additional 130 ha of land to the approved project footprint. The additional land areas will help optimise the project design. It could also result in additional DC capacity of the plant to improve its generation profile, however, it will not result in any increase in the (AC) sent-out generating capacity at the point of connection.

In addition, ACEN Australia has assessed the potential increase to the maximum capacity of the associated battery of up to 1200 MW 2 hours. This is in addition to the existing approved battery capacity of 400 MWh hours, in response to the market signalling the need for more firm, dispatchable capacity to replace ageing coal fired generators. If fully built out in the future, the battery project would thus be able to guarantee the supply of 700 MW for 4 hrs when it is needed and helping to support the stability of the NSW grid.

No new landholdings are involved compared with the approved project, nor are any being investigated as part of this process. No additional neighbouring landholders have been identified as being impacted as part of these proposed project refinements.

To allow us to work with the continued variable weather conditions and impacts of COVID-19 we are seeking an increase from 56 to 84 daily heavy vehicle movements along Big Ridge Road during the construction phase of the project.

The modification application will be submitted to the NSW Government in the coming weeks.

Our office at 96 Bridge Street, Uralla will be open for enquiries about the modification application and approval process on the Thursday 21st of July 2022. Members of the public who are interested or wish to make inquiries are welcome to attend in person from 2pm to 6pm on the 21st of July.

For more information, email info@newenglandsolarfarm.com.au or call 1300 250 479.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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