

Application to modify the approved New England Solar project

Project Update | November, 2022

An application to modify the development consent for the New England Solar and Battery Project has been approved for public exhibition by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, to allow any feedback from stakeholders and the local community.

The New England Solar project was approved by the NSW Government in 2020 and the first stage is now under construction.

The modification application is proposing to make a number of changes to the project development consents that were approved.

These changes proposed are for the existing project. It is not an application for a new solar farm development. They do not alter the access route to the site, the generation capacity of the solar farm and no new land holders are involved.

The reasons why we are proposing a modification:

- **Additional battery energy storage capacity will help to replace old coal fired generation, providing a large boost in on-demand energy capacity in the National Energy Market**
- **Inclusion of 128 hectares of extra adjoining land from existing landholders, to provide greater flexibility during detailed design; and**
- **Extra vehicle movements and working hours mainly due to wet weather impacts and COVID**

The Modification Application will be on public exhibition from Friday 4th November to Thursday 17th November.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

 @newenglandsolarfarm

 newenglandsolarfarm.com.au

 @newenglandsolarfarm

Summary of proposed modifications

There are a number of changes to the original development consent being proposed in the application. These include:

An increase to the maximum capacity of the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) of up to 1200 MW/2 hours. This means that if fully built out, the battery project would be able to guarantee the supply of 700 MW for 4 hrs, providing significantly more dispatchable energy capacity to replace ageing coal fired power generation.

The inclusion of an extra 128 ha of adjoining land to the approved project footprint to help optimise the project design and site layout. This additional land is owned by existing project landholders and represents about a six percent increase in the total development footprint.

An increase from 56 to 84 daily heavy vehicle movements along the vehicle access route during the construction phase of the project.

An increase of oversize vehicles from the approved 15 to 30 during constructions, upgrades or decommissioning.

Extension of working hours on Saturday from 8am to 6pm (currently limited to 8am to 1pm), with some works allowed on Sunday, albeit limited to inaudible works.

Like many other projects throughout the state, construction works have been impacted by extreme wet weather and COVID-19 pandemic. These proposed changes will allow the works to progress as scheduled.

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

 @newenglandsolarfarm

 newenglandsolarfarm.com.au

 @newenglandsolarfarm