

Girgarre Solar Farm



Frequently Asked Questions.

Project Overview

What is the project?

The Girgarre Solar Farm will consist of approximately 167,500 photovoltaic (PV) modules and associated infrastructure including a substation, site office, storage facilities, access roads and other related equipment and infrastructure.

How much energy will the solar farm produce?

The capacity of the solar farm is approximately 93 MW, once operational it will power around 43,000 Victorian homes.

Where is it located?

The Girgarre Solar Farm site is in the Shire of Campaspe, in Victoria, Australia. The site is located approximately 10 km north-west of Stanhope and approximately 70km west of Shepparton.

How big is the project area?

The project site is approximately 250 hectares.

Why was this location chosen?

The location of the project site has an excellent solar resource and is in close proximity to an existing transmission line (with available capacity). The project site consists of previously cleared agricultural land, with favourable topography for the installation of PV modules.

What is the investment value of the project?

The construction of the Girgarre Solar Farm has an investment value of over \$140 million.

What's the status of the project?

The construction of Girgarre Solar Farm is anticipated to start in the second half of 2023. Pre-construction planning is well underway, including appointment of a construction partner, Beon Energy Solutions. Completion of all pre-construction requirements under the Planning Permit, and all other relevant legislative requirements prior to construction commencement are underway.

Who approved the project?

The Girgarre Solar Farm project was assessed by the Campaspe Shire Council and granted a Planning Permit in 2018.

Does the project require Victorian State Government and Federal Government approval?

The consent authority for the Girgarre Solar Farm is the Campaspe Shire Council.

Consultation with relevant State and Federal Government Departments has been undertaken as required.

Project Ownership

Who owns the project?

Enel Green Power (EGP) is the owner of Girgarre Solar Farm project.

Who is Enel Green Power?

Enel Green Power, within the Enel Group, is the world's largest renewable private developer, with around 59 Gigawatt (GW) of wind, solar, geothermal and hydro plants installed across Europe, the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Oceania.

In Australia, EGP operates the 275 MW Bungala Solar Farm in South Australia and the 34 MW

Cohuna Solar Farm in Victoria and has a pipeline of wind and solar projects under construction and development across Australia.

Who developed the project?

The project was jointly developed with Lesson Group, a Victoria-based solar power systems developer.

The development work by Lesson Group included securing suitable land for the project, undertaking relevant assessments and resource monitoring, and obtaining relevant development approvals.

What is EGP's relationship with Lesson Group?

EGP and Lesson Group have a commercial agreement in place for the joint development of the Girgarre Solar Farm. Upon completion of the project development phase, EGP fully acquired the project from Lesson Group in 2019.

Who owns the land where the project is situated?

The land on which the project is located is owned by Enel Green Power.

Project Construction

Who is constructing the project?

EGP has appointed Beon Energy Solutions as the Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) Contractor for the Girgarre Solar Farm project.

How much will the construction cost?

The approximate capital investment for Girgarre Solar Farm is over \$140 million.

How many jobs will be created during construction?

Approximately 200 construction staff are anticipated to be on site during construction peaks.

EGP will work closely with Beon Energy Solutions to identify local capability and capacity for construction roles and prioritise local engagement where possible.

Will there be apprenticeships and traineeships available during the construction phase?

EGP will work closely with Beon Energy Solutions to identify on site trainee and apprenticeship opportunities where possible during construction.

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When will construction start?

The construction of Girgarre Solar Farm is anticipated to start in the second half of 2023.

How long will construction take?

The approximate timeframe for the construction is 18 months.

What will be built on the project site?

Approximately 167,500 PV modules, approximately 15 Power Conversion Units, underground cabling, unsealed internal access roads, a substation, security fencing around the perimeter of the project area, and some vegetation screening will be installed on the project site. A site office with a small carpark will also be installed.

Where do the PV modules come from?

The PV modules will be provided by a company called Longi and are manufactured in China.

What transmission infrastructure will be built for the project?

A substation will be constructed on the project site, a small amount transmission infrastructure will be constructed to connect the Girgarre Solar Farm to the existing 66 kV transmission line on the southern boundary of the site area.

Project Operation

Who will operate the project?

EGP will manage the operational phase of the project and may engage a contractor to manage the operations and maintenance activities on site on our behalf.

When will the project start operating?

Operation of the project is targeted to commence in early 2025, approximately 18 months following the start of construction.

How long will the project operate for?

The approximate timeframe for the operational life of the project is 30 years.

Where will the power generated from the PV modules go?

Electricity generated from PV modules will be transported via underground cabling to the

Power Conversion Units on site. Here, electricity produced is converted from Direct Current (DC) to Alternating Current (AC), then transported to the onsite substation, then fed into the existing 66 kV transmission line for distribution into the grid.

Where does the electricity go?

Electricity will be fed into the existing 66kV transmission line (feeding towards Stanhope) for distribution into the grid.

How many jobs will be created during operations?

A small number of operational and maintenance staff will be required for the operational phase.

EGP will work closely with the contractor to identify local capability and capacity for operations and maintenance roles and prioritise local engagement where possible.

In addition, where there is capability and capacity in the local area, it's anticipated for the local operations and maintenance team to be supported by local contractors and suppliers.

Will there be apprenticeships and traineeships available during operations?

EGP will work closely with the contractor to identify on site trainee and apprenticeship opportunities where possible during operations.

Project Benefits and Impacts

What benefits will there be for the local community from the project?

EGP is committed to a Creating Shared Value (CSV) approach during construction and operation of the project. CSV means EGP intends to work closely with the local community to enhance the economic and social conditions in the local area to the project and proactively share benefits within the local community.

EGP's overall objective is for the project to be considered as an integrated and valued component of the social and economic fabric of the local community.

EGP is committed to local sourcing where feasible. It's anticipated the project will create significant local employment and supply opportunities during construction peaks, with

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approximately 200 construction staff anticipated to be on site during construction peaks and a small operational and maintenance team for the operational phase.

What impacts will the project have on the local community and environment during construction?

The project will have some impacts on the local area during the construction period, including an increase to local traffic in the area.

Environmental, noise and construction impacts have been assessed by the relevant regulators during the planning phase of the project. The planning approval sets out conditions for the project, including management plans. Management systems will be in place to ensure compliance with all conditions.

What visual impact will there be from the project?

Visual impacts have been assessed by the relevant regulators during the planning phase of the project. The Planning Permit includes a condition to establish and maintain vegetation screening on some areas of the project boundary to reduce local visual amenity impacts.

What impacts will there be on local flora and fauna from the project?

The project site area consists of previously cleared agricultural land.

The Planning Permit includes a condition for an Environmental Management Plan. This sets out management and monitoring procedures to ensure that flora and fauna impacts are mitigated during the project's construction and operational phases.

What impacts will there be on local roads and traffic?

The project will have some impacts on the local area during the construction phase, including an increase to 'light construction' traffic in the local area.

The Planning Permit includes a condition for a Traffic Impact Assessment Report and local roads will be maintained as required, in consultation with the Campaspe Shire Council.

What are the noise impacts from the project?

PV modules do not produce any noise, and the Power Conversion Units produce minimal noise while operating.

Project Community Engagement

What community engagement has been undertaken for the project to date?

The Lesson Group facilitated community engagement throughout the project development phase.

Following acquisition of the project, EGP has developed a Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan, it includes activities such as:

- Targeted engagement with neighbours within the vicinity of the project area.
- Targeted engagement with broader local community groups within the Campaspe Shire Local Government Area.
- Sharing monthly project updates via local community newsletters and email distribution list.
- Establishment of a project webpage.

Can local community members visit the project?

Following construction completion, as the project will be an operational power plant, health and safety will be the key consideration when determining access to the project area. If there is sufficient interest in the local area, EGP will explore opportunities to arrange for site tours for interested community members, local school groups etc.

Complaints

How can I make a complaint about the project?

Complaints about the project can be made to EGP via the information channels listed in the 'further information' section of this document.

Are there further avenues to complain?

If the response from EGP is deemed unsatisfactory, EGP recommends contacting the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner.

Further Information

Where can I find more information on the project?

The following channels are available to find out more information on the project:

- Visit the project webpage:
<https://www.enelgreenpower.com/our-projects/in-development/girgarre-solar-farm>
- Chat with our Community Engagement and Sustainability Officer: Giulia – 0419 668 522
- Email: girgarresolarfarm@enel.com