

GLENROWAN solar farm

FACT SHEET

Planning and environmental management



Victoria's energy transition

The Glenrowan Solar Farm is a 130MWdc solar project located 2km south-west of Glenrowan, in the Rural City of Wangaratta, approximately 230 kilometres north-east of Melbourne, Victoria.

The solar farm will supply renewable electricity to the national electricity market, generating power for approximately 45,000 Australian homes. It will contribute to the Victorian Government's Renewable Energy Target (VRET) and the transition to a carbon-neutral future.

Solar power from Glenrowan Solar Farm will be sold to the State of Victoria, under a long-term contract that was secured in October 2022 under the Victorian Renewable Energy Target 2 (VRET2) reverse auction process. This process is supporting the State to achieve its legislated renewable energy targets of 40% by 2025 and 50% by 2030.



Planning responsibly

Glenrowan Solar Farm's location within Victoria's Central North Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) will assist further regional growth and presents an immense opportunity for the renewable energy sector to be part of long-term social and local economic outcomes for the local area and region.

The site was chosen for its location within the Central North REZ, the availability of flat cleared land and for its proximity to an existing transmission line.

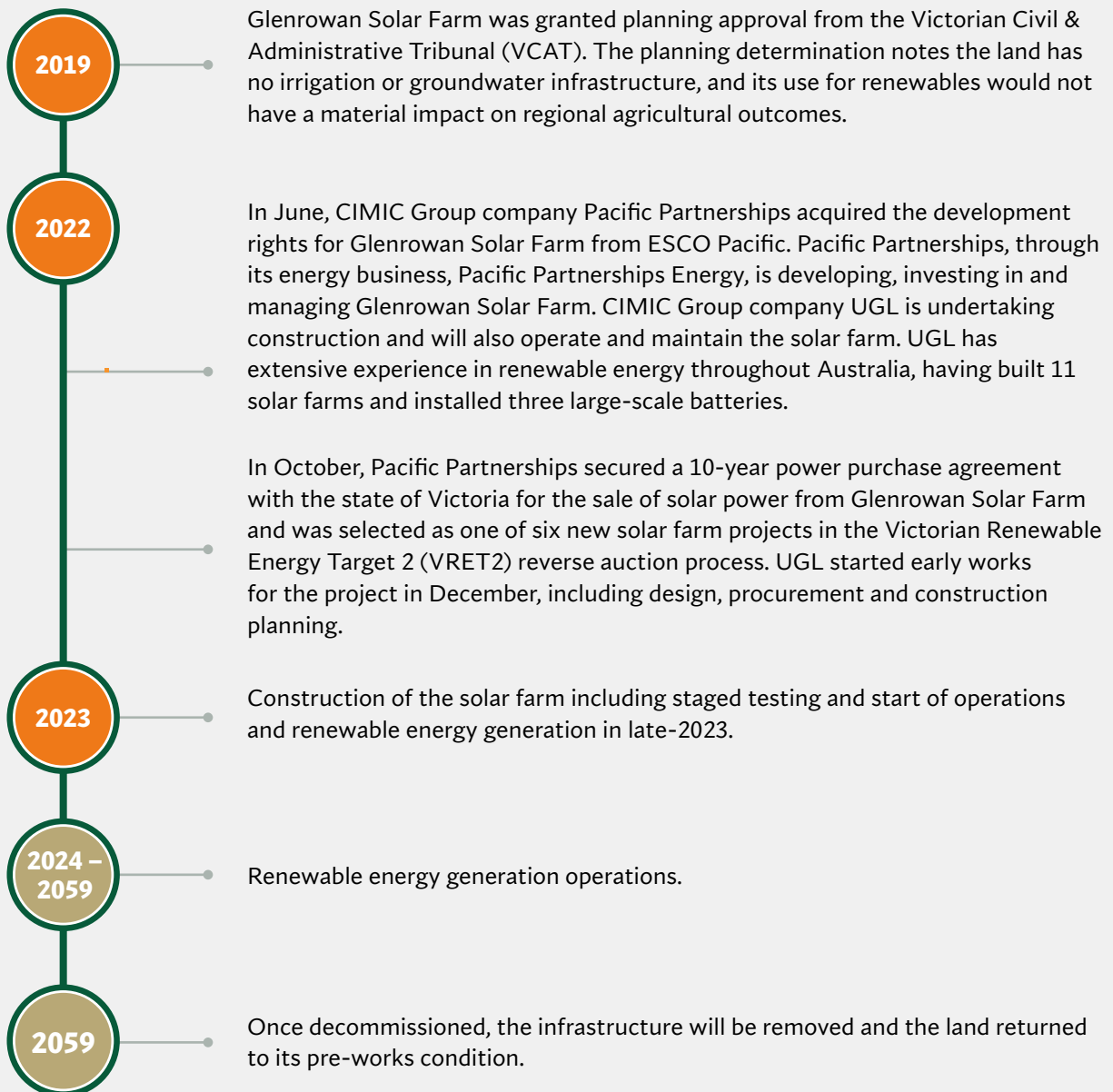
The site is zoned Farming Zone and development of the solar farm will have a low level of environmental impact, as the site is located on former grazing land.

Modern solar farms have a relatively light footprint on the land, which makes it relatively straight forward to return solar farms to their former land uses at the end of their permitted operating life.

Design and layout of the Glenrowan Solar Farm is compliant with local and State level planning laws and has specifically aimed to minimise environmental, cultural heritage and neighbour impacts.



Solar farm development timeline



Minimising disruption and impacts

Glenrowan Solar Farm is committed to protecting the environment. We will do everything we can to reduce disruption and use a range of mitigation measures to keep minimising impacts.



Air quality: We use a range of measures to minimise dust from construction activities, including the use of water carts to wet down work areas during construction. Dust generating activities will be assessed during windy conditions and will be stopped and rescheduled where adequate control of dust generation cannot be achieved.



Noise: The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) sets out the maximum recommended noise levels and we monitor our activities to ensure noise levels are within the recommended levels and comply with EPA guidelines.

We avoid out of hours work where possible during construction and operation. Our normal work hours during construction are from 7am-6pm Monday to Saturday, and 9am-6pm Sunday and public holidays.

Construction activities that typically generate noise including piling to install solar panel poles and trackers, truck deliveries and light vehicle movements.

During operation, solar farms are largely silent.



Visual appearance: Vegetation screens using local native species will be planted where needed to protect the amenity of nearby residents. Design of these landscape plans incorporates feedback from our neighbours and includes increasing the width of the layered landscape buffer planted around specific areas of the site boundary from 2m to 5m wide.

Typically, solar farm developments are relatively unobtrusive as they are low profile. Solar panels will be installed at the same height or lower than other existing features in the landscape.

Grid connection to Ausnet's nearby Glenrowan Terminal Station will be via a series of underground cables to reduce visual impact.

During operation, there will be minimal site lighting at night. Lighting will be fitted with suitable shields to direct light is emitted only within the site boundaries.

Solar panels use low-reflectivity glass and are designed to absorb as much light as possible, to maximise generation. When the light hits the panel at a low angle, it can reflect some light; however, the average reflection of a solar panel is less than a car windscreen.



Bushfire management: We have consulted extensively with the Country Fire Authority (CFA) to develop strategies that reduce the likelihood of bushfires impacting the site or spreading from the site. This includes a 10m fire break around the perimeter, in addition to the 5m landscape visual buffer. Within this vegetation-free fire break, there will be a 4m perimeter access road for the CFA.

We have constructed all-weather internal access tracks built to accommodate emergency services vehicles; provided water storage tanks for fire-fighting water; and will maintain grass, vegetation and plant litter where plant and heavy equipment operate. All vehicles must carry fire-fighting equipment and extinguishers and carry emergency communications equipment. Restrictions are set for fire danger periods or total fire bans and we have established communication protocols with the CFA for incident management.

We continue to work with the CFA's Glenrowan Fire Brigade, which has a local station, to comply with all their requirements. Awareness and training for crew includes regular Toolbox talks with the CFA during the dry season and follow-up refresher presentations. Daily prestarts provide updates on bushfire information and weather conditions.



Weed and pest management: While no listed weeds have been surveyed on site, full-time employees will be responsible during operation for upkeep and maintenance of the solar farm land and equipment.



Traffic: We prepare Traffic Management Plans before construction and seek approval for any temporary changes to local traffic conditions from the local authority.

Environmental compliance and assurance

Pacific Partnerships is developing the solar farm in accordance with all relevant planning, statutory and environmental regulatory approval requirements. Our team adheres to practices, systems, values and behaviours that promote environmental responsibility and sustainability throughout construction and operation of the project.



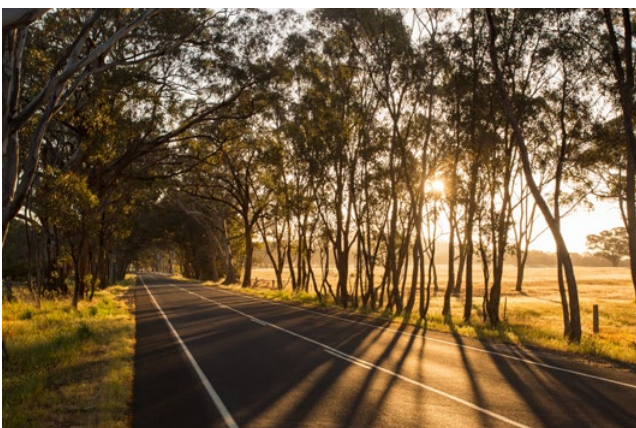
Key to delivering on this promise is the project **Environmental Management System**, which has been externally certified and maintained in compliance with Australian Standards. Together with its management plans and tools, the system guides us to conduct all project activities in compliance with requirements; and in an ethical and responsible manner.

Management plans set out strategies to minimise impacts on the land, flora and fauna and community - including environment, safety, community, traffic, weed and pest control, decommissioning and rehabilitation management. A Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) as required by the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 has been developed and approved by the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation.

The next level of detail will be provided in Site Environmental Plans, targeted to site workers, which include site specific environmental controls and how work is to be carried out for focus areas such as managing soil and land, surface water, flora and fauna, noise and vibration, air quality, hazardous materials, waste and biosecurity.

A sustainability site workbook will help the team to reduce and report on daily water and energy use, and analyse waste generation.

We publish and track relevant legislation and approvals in project registers and online management systems, sharing important environmental alerts with team members. Monitoring, inspections and audits provide environmental assurance and compliance with legislation and the project team's environmental objectives and targets.



Contact us

To speak to a member of the project team, please contact us on 03 6289 8919 or send us an email contactus@glenrowansolarfarm.com.au