

HOPELAND solar

FACT SHEET

Project Overview



Overview

Hopeland Solar project will be a large-scale grid connected solar farm and battery energy storage system (BESS) contributing to Australia's energy mix, generating enough electricity to power around 100,000 average-sized homes.

The project features a utility-scale ~312MWdc / 250MWac solar array, 175MW / 350MWh BESS and associated infrastructure.

Located between Dalby and Chinchilla near the existing Western Downs Substation and the Western Downs Green Power Hub, the project will be the next step in increasing reliable, affordable power for Queensland.

The project supports the Queensland Energy Roadmap 2025, which anticipates up to 6.8GW of new wind and solar capacity and 3.8GW of storage by 2030.

Acknowledgement of Country

Hopeland Solar is located on Barunggam Country, and we wish to acknowledge them as Traditional Owners, paying our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders past, present and future.

Here for the long term

As part of a large group of Australasian engineering companies, Pacific Partnerships develops, invests in and manages infrastructure and energy assets.

Pacific Partnerships owns the Hopeland Solar project and will partner with fellow CIMIC Group member UGL to construct, operate and maintain the project. Construction is anticipated to start in the second half of 2026.



250 MWac

Capacity of the Solar Farm



100,000 +

Approximate Equivalent
Number of Homes Powered



652 ha

Total Site Area



452 ha

Developable Area for
Energy Infrastructure



224 ha

of Sensitive Vegetation
and Cultural Heritage Area
preserved



16 ha

of land excluded from
development to protect
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Partnering with Western Downs communities

Pacific Partnerships is committed to building the local energy industry, ensuring our presence in the Western Downs contributes positively to local communities and businesses.

We want to help create jobs, grow interest in the clean energy industry, support local organisations to care for their communities and share benefit locally.

During construction and operation, employment and contracting opportunities will be available for Western Downs contractors, suppliers and businesses.

The project team is committed to meeting and exceeding the expectations set out in Western Downs Regional Council's Communities Partnership Framework.

We are currently developing the Hopeland Solar Project Benefit Sharing Framework in consultation with local stakeholders. When this is finalised, we will provide more information.

Planning approvals

Development Approval was granted by Western Downs Regional Council (WDRC) in September 2017, with an extension granted in May 2022 and further amended in December 2022. This approval included approval by all relevant State Assessment Referral Agencies (SARA) including all state environmental and EPA related approvals.

Environmental assessments and approvals are underway, including those required under the federal Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 (EPBC).

Construction

Construction is anticipated to start in the second half of 2026 for a duration of approximately two years. During construction and operation, opportunities will be available for Western Downs contractors, suppliers and businesses.

We are committed to developing pathways to share benefits with the local and regional community through local and social procurement, employment and training opportunities that can deliver positive social and local economic outcomes for the region.

The project is expected to create ~300 employment opportunities during construction, and local participation will be maximised with a large portion of these jobs expected to be local, including ongoing jobs during operation and maintenance of the solar farm.

There will be a peak construction period of approximately three months, within the two-year construction timeframe. During this short peak period, the total workforce may rise to an estimated 300 workers, including local people employed on the project. The workforce size will fluctuate over the life of the project.

Stay connected

We're here to answer your questions and looking forward to making new connections in the Western Downs.

Give us a call on 07 3453 3212 or reach out via email at contactus_hopeland@hopelandsolar.com.au and we will respond promptly.

For more information about the project, visit our website: <https://www.hopelandsolar.com.au>



Common questions

Where is Hopeland Solar located?

The project is based between Dalby and Chinchilla adjacent to the Western Downs Substation and the Western Downs Green Power Hub.

Why is this location suitable?

The project is located within Queensland's Western Downs Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). These zones aim to coordinate development in areas of high renewable potential, simplifying renewable generation, transmission and storage and supporting the transition from traditional coal fired energy generation.

What company is managing the construction?

Pacific Partnerships is currently undertaking early works and an Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) process as part of the project's development and is working with CIMIC Group company UGL to support this phase.

When will Hopeland Solar be operational?

Commercial operation is expected to commence in 2028.

How will fire risk be managed?

The Development Approval stipulates that Hopeland Solar must install fire fighting equipment to deal with any electric and electronic fires.

The project will develop a bushfire management plan in conjunction with the relevant fire authorities to ensure the safety of neighbouring properties and infrastructure.

Is there an opportunity to combine solar with local agricultural practices?

Yes, there is an opportunity for sheep grazing to continue in conjunction with the operation of the solar farm (known as 'agrisolar'). A grazing agreement may be sought during the operations phase.