



Merino Solar Farm

ITP Development proposes to develop the Merino Solar Farm Project in Tirrannaville

The proposal includes:



A solar array generating up to 450MW in total of emissions free clean energy



A Stage 1 northern solar array south of Goulburn Airport



A substation and switchyard located adjacent to the existing Transgrid 330kV transmission line



A Battery Energy Storage System, storing up to 300MW located in the northern site



A Stage 2 southern solar array located off Braidwood Road and Painters Lane

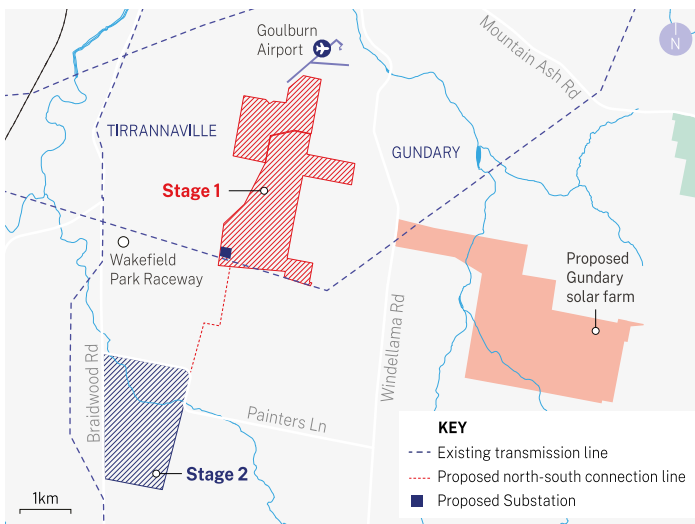


A new 2.5km transmission line connecting the northern and southern stages



About 700 hectares of agrisolar land, combining solar and sheep grazing

The solar energy produced would send clean, carbon free, renewable power into the NSW electricity grid to serve the needs of both the local community and broader NSW. The battery would store energy for times when it is most needed and help provide much needed strength and security for the energy grid. The project would assist in the rapid decarbonisation initiative underlaid by the NSW Government's critical Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap.



Locality map

Why Solar?

Australia has a target to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. This means, as a nation, we need to encourage and invest more in wind, solar and hydro-electric power stations. Solar energy is a low cost, renewable, clean source of electricity. The battery component allows this clean energy to be stored for times when it is most needed, and provides much needed strength and system security for the energy grid.

Why Tirrannaville?

The proposed site has good access to the existing high voltage transmission network; the land is relatively flat; it's in close proximity to Goulburn's local workforce and it will provide benefits to the local economy; has suitable access roads to facilitate construction; and a strong solar resource – the sun!

We're listening!

We understand there are concerns in the community regarding the nearby Gundary Solar Farm proposal and other renewable energy projects as Australia decarbonises our electricity grid. We're listening and would like to provide some information which may help alleviate any similar concerns you may have about the Merino Solar Farm proposal.



'Loss of prime agricultural land'

'Risk to food security'

Agreements are in place with landholders to maintain the properties as agrisolar land. This means existing sheep grazing can continue across both sites.

Solar farm trials in NSW's Central West found sheep grazing within solar farms produced better wool and more of it in the four years since the projects began.



'Radiation - the exposure to electromagnetic radiation is unknown'

Electric and magnetic fields (EMF) are present wherever electricity is in use. They are strongest at the source and diminish rapidly as you move further away.

Your kitchen stove has an EMF range of 2-30 milligauss (mG) and your hairdryer 1-70mG. Standing at a substation fence is around 1-8mG or at the edge of an easement for a transmission line between 2-50mG. These are well below the exposure limit in the international guidelines of 2000 mG.

For more info visit <https://www.arpansa.gov.au>

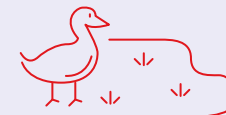


'Significant visual impact that degrades and devalues the rural landscape'

There is currently no documented evidence of land devaluation related to solar farms in the area.

As part of our planning studies, we'll prepare artist impressions for our neighbours to help them understand what their future outlook may be.

We propose to use single axis trackers, which means the solar panels will track the sun - just like a sunflower. The panels will move and change angle, changing the look of the solar farm throughout the day.



'The impact on the natural environment will be disastrous'

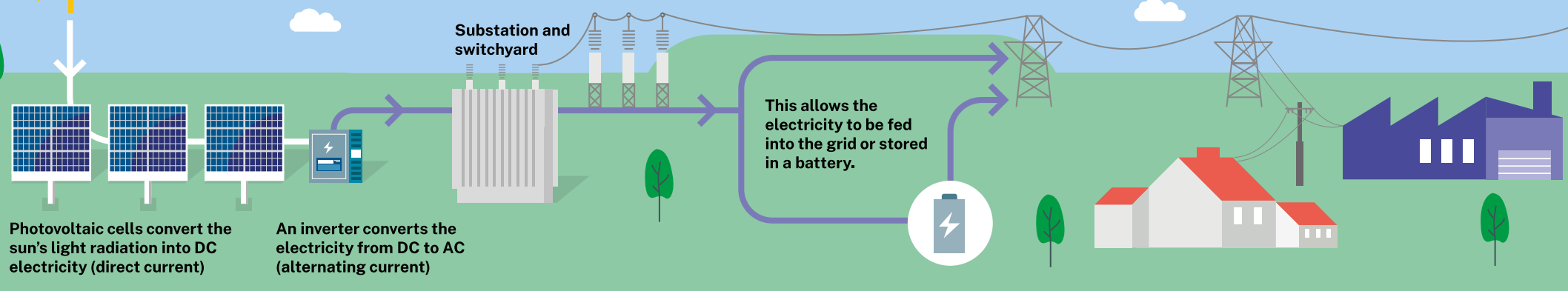
The purpose of the planning studies process is to understand the environmental impacts of the proposal and make plans to avoid or mitigate those impacts.

The proposed site has already been cleared for agricultural purposes. The project's goal will be to avoid the clearing of native vegetation. Any clearing of native ground cover that cannot be avoided will be offset through the biodiversity conservation trust.

The project team will ensure local wildlife and plant species are protected by undertaking ecological and biodiversity assessments as part of our EIS work.



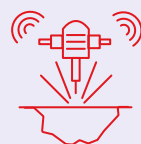
How do solar farms work?



'The project will bring more traffic on to the road'

During the 12-18 month construction phase, heavy and light vehicles will access the site during working hours to deliver equipment and workers to the site. Once operational, the site will generate very low levels of traffic only.

As part of our planning studies, a detailed traffic assessment will be prepared to consider the impacts of construction traffic, including considering the operation of intersections and the delivery route for construction equipment.



'Construction noise levels over 100dB and operation noise over 95dB every 15 minutes'

Working hours will be dictated by the project planning approval and NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) guidelines:

- Weekdays 7am and 6pm and Saturdays 8am - 1pm.
- No work will be done at night, on Sundays or public holidays without prior approval or consultation with neighbours.

As part of our Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) work, a detailed noise assessment will be completed for both the construction and operation of the project.

Noise during construction and operation would be minimal and similar to hearing your neighbors' tractor or other farm equipment from time-to-time.

We'll mitigate noise impacts by shutting down equipment when not in use, using noise reduction equipment and technology, and respite periods will be offered if required.



'A serious fire risk for neighbours ... from solar panel and battery fires and a hampered ability to fight any fire that burns onto the facility'

Though solar farm fires are rare, they are not impossible. We understand the importance of fire risk management and will always put the public's safety first.

We will:

- Consult with the Rural Fire Service and NSW Fire and Rescue.
- Have a Bushfire Management Plan in place.
- Adopt the Rural Fire Services "Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019" guidelines.
- Build according to safe and effective bushfire safety designs.
- Assess the risk from bushfire impact, and the risk of fire originating from the solar farm equipment, in line with the relevant State and agency requirements.
- Have fire suppression systems in place.
- Have SafeWork NSW undertake regular site visits and assess site emergency plans.

Tell us what you think

We're committed to engaging the community and stakeholders in the development of the Merino Solar Farm project, and **we're starting now** - We want to hear from you!

We want to:

- Listen to concerns or questions.
- Understand the issues and impacts the proposal may have on you, our neighbours and the wider community.
- Understand how potential impacts may be experienced from different perspectives.

Part of this information gathering will include collecting qualitative and quantitative data, evidence and insights to inform the preliminary Social Impact Assessment. This will be undertaken by an independent consultant – **AAP Consulting**. If you'd like to take part, follow this QR code to their online survey.

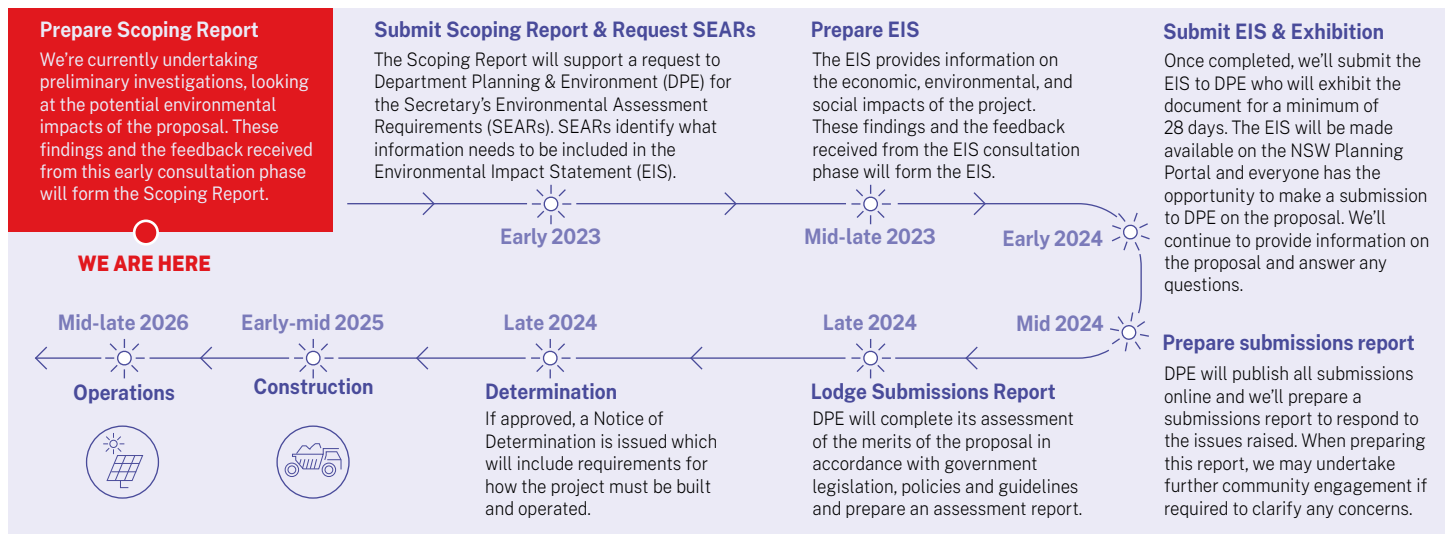


The information we receive will feed into the Scoping Report, which is the first step in the planning approval process.

Who are we?

ITP Development is a developer of town-scale solar farms in regional Australia, undertaking solar farm landholder engagement, system design, planning approvals, financing, electrical connection approvals and commissioning. For more information <http://itpd.com.au/>

What's the process?



Get in touch

We welcome your questions and comments about the proposed Merino Solar Farm. We will consider all feedback received and will keep you informed during development of the project. Please reach out.



1800 242 282



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Call or email us to arrange a video chat



We'll keep our website up-to-date with the latest information on the proposal
www.merinosolarfarm.com.au