



Powering a Sustainable Future

# WINTON SOLAR FARM

## ABOUT FRV

FRV Services Australia is a subsidiary of leading global solar development business, Fotowatio Renewable Ventures.

Since entering the Australian market in 2010, FRV has completed construction of the 20MW Royalla Solar Farm in the ACT and the 56MW Moree Solar Farm in NSW. It is also currently constructing the 100MW Clare Solar Farm near Ayr, in QLD.

*“Community engagement is an important part of our planning approach as it allows us to understand stakeholders’ views and expectations. Community engagement is underway and will be ongoing as the development of Winton Solar Farm progresses.”*

Leading Australian solar developer, FRV Services Australia (FRV), is looking to develop a 85 megawatt (MWac) large-scale solar farm outside Winton, in central Victoria.

Winton Solar Farm will use the latest in solar energy generation technology. Solar energy will be captured using solar panels – like those seen on household rooftops – that will rotate throughout the day to capture solar energy – a clean, infinite energy source.

The project is currently in the *detailed development stage*, having received Planning Approval in early 2018. Consultation with residents and stakeholders is also underway to help inform our plans for the solar farm site.

When complete, Winton Solar Farm will produce enough clean energy for 52,000 homes across Victoria.

## Why Winton?

Increasing the use of solar energy to power our homes and businesses is important to reduce our consumption of fossil fuels, responsible for the damaging impacts of climate change.

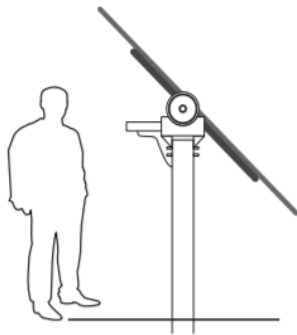
The site is located alongside AusNet’s existing electrical network infrastructure, which allows for a short and direct connection into the grid.

The Winton Solar Farm will be built on private land around three kilometres South West of Winton. The 250-hectare site is relatively flat and has previously been cleared for grazing.

## What will it look like?

Design and layout of the Winton solar farm will be in accordance with local planning laws and will specifically aim to protect the amenity of nearby residents.

Typically, solar farm developments are low profile, with solar panels mounted in rows on a tracking mechanism to follow the sun from East to West, increasing the efficiency and output of the plant.



This makes them relatively unobtrusive as they will be at the same height or lower than other existing features in the landscape. No high voltage transmission towers will be built as part of this project. Connection to the grid will be done via one new overhead transmission line running a short distance to the existing Winton substation, located immediately adjacent to proposed site.



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### **What will be the impact on neighbours?**

FRV has completed assessments of all possible impacts on near neighbours such as glare and stormwater runoff during planning for the project. We also aim to consult with neighbours to understand their concerns, gather feedback and to look to mitigate any issues wherever possible.

A Traffic Management Plan will be prepared to plan for construction vehicle use of local roads and to ensure safe access to the site. In addition, FRV will consider a SMS Alert service for residents to advise of traffic movements that may cause disruption to local transport routes. This service will be promoted through ongoing community consultation at the time of construction.

### **What about the local environment?**

The endangered Regent Honeyeater is known to be present in the area. A Vegetation Protection Overlay applies onsite to protect habitat for this species. We will preserve large remnants of native trees on the site, retain important nesting trees and avoid plantings completed by the Regent Honeyeater Project team to preserve habitat for this important species.

As the site is within a designated Bushfire Prone Area, fire risk will be considered as part of the preparation of the construction and operation management plans.

Construction and operation of the Winton Solar Farm will have little impact on surrounding waterways, including the Winton Wetlands.

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### **Community value**

Construction of the Winton Solar Farm will bring considerable investment to the region. The solar farm will also create a new, sustainable industry that will complement the existing agricultural industry.

We are keen for local business to be involved in providing a range of services such as electrical work, earthworks, transport, materials, fencing and hospitality during Winton Solar Farm’s construction and operation stages.

### **How can I get involved?**

We are regularly in contact with residents and stakeholders throughout the planning of the Winton Solar Farm. To register your interest in the project, please email the Development Manager, Damien Hegarty, at [Damien.Hegarty@frv.com](mailto:Damien.Hegarty@frv.com)