



Powering a Sustainable Future

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Winton Solar Farm seeking local candidates for new solar roles.**

Qualified workers from Benalla, Wangaratta and surrounds are invited to apply for new roles currently being advertised by the developers of the 85-megawatt (MW) Winton Solar Farm.

Construction works at the solar farm commenced in February – with around 50 personnel already onsite to oversee preliminary site works.

When complete, the solar farm, three kilometres from Winton, will supply enough clean energy to power over 50,000 homes.

Current advertised roles include:

- Mechanical Supervisor
- Quality Assurance inspectors (x 2)
- Civil Supervisor
- Electrical Supervisor
- Solar installer/labourers.
- Truck driver
- Telehandler Operator
- Plant Operator
- A-Grade Electricians
- Trade Assistance
- Storeman, Forklift driver.

Successful candidates will be offered opportunity to take on a variety of tasks during the construction project, which is expected to take 12 months.

A spokesperson for FRV Services Australia, the project's owner, said workers joining the onsite team would also gain valuable experience in large-scale solar construction – equipping them with 'highly-transferable' skills that could see them move on to work on other solar farm projects proposed for the region.

*“Solar projects like Winton Solar Farm will help grow North East regional economy by creating new job opportunities and will hopefully create a long-term, sustainable industry that residents can be proud of.*

*“Those that do secure a job on this project will be working alongside seasoned solar professionals – so the opportunity to learn firsthand and gain new skills will be tremendous.*

*“Experience in ‘green jobs’ like those that we are advertising looks set to grow in future as we transition to a cleaner, more affordable energy system”.*

The project is also looking to provide training opportunities, having also recently recruited roles for an electrical apprentice and a business administration trainee.



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Winton Solar Farm's principal contractor, Gransolar, is offering opportunities for engineering cadets and apprentices in Mechanical, Fitter and Turning or Electrical works.

Those interested in applying for roles can find out more by visiting the North East jobs network website <https://www.northeastvictorianjobs.com.au/>.

Further information on the project is available at [www.wintonsolarfarm.com](http://www.wintonsolarfarm.com)

### **About the Winton Solar Farm**

Winton Solar Farm will provide produce enough clean, zero-emission electricity to power over 50,000 houses across VIC every year. It will feature the latest in large-scale solar technology to capture solar energy and convert this into electricity for use by homes and businesses.

The Project received Planning Approval in early 2018 and is currently being built on a private 250-hectare site approximately 25km south west of Wangaratta. This location is well suited to a solar farm, with very high levels of sunlight and proximity to the existing electricity grid.

The Project will also contribute to the achievement of Victoria's renewable energy target. Following a 2018 public tender process, Winton Solar Farm was also awarded a 15-year support agreement by the State Government for clean energy generated by the project. The tender was part of the Government's Victorian Renewable Energy Target (VRET) to source 25 percent of its electricity production from renewables by 2020 increasing to 50% by 2030.

Construction is expected to take around 12 months to complete. The plant will have an operating life of around 30 years.

### **About FRV Services**

FRV has been active in Australia since 2010 and are a leader in solar development. FRV was the first company to deliver a privately financed solar farm - the Royalla Solar Farm near Canberra - that has been operating since August 2014. Since that time, FRV has grown to become a well-regarded solar developer with a portfolio of successful solar projects already operating and in construction across the ACT, QLD and NSW.

FRV's total investment in Australia is now over \$1 billion since 2012.

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