



Powering a Sustainable Future

WINTON SOLAR FARM PROJECT UPDATE

FRV, a global renewable energy solutions provider and leading solar developer, is currently constructing the 85 MW AC Winton Solar Farm, near Benalla in Victoria.

April 2020 – What is happening on site?



Natural coir logs have been sourced to prevent erosion onsite.



Spray on hydro mulch is applied to batters around the substation to restore grass cover.



Key neighbours – Committee Members of the Winton Wetlands – tour the site.



Jute matting laid prior to hydro mulch has been laid on key sites to prevent erosion.

<p>Health and Safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Safety of all workers is a priority for us.</i> • Approximately 20 workers onsite. • No safety incidents recorded this month.
<p>Major activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major construction works are complete. • Cold commissioning works progressing with 67% completion. Hot commissioning works (testing of the site under load) have commenced. • Energy output from the solar farm following energisation is now at approximately 5 MW and will progressively ramp up as testing continues. • Grass seed has been ‘sprayed’ — hydro mulching — to restore grass cover on sloping areas of the site – i.e. around the substation. The ‘pink’ colour shows where grass has been applied and wears away in a matter of weeks. • Jute matting and natural coir logs have been installed to stop erosion and prevent sediment flow into waterways. • An agronomist is helping with development of long-term vegetation management, including choosing optimum ground cover material and advising how best to manage weeds. • Exclusion zones around protected trees and native vegetation have been reinforced to protect these areas in the operations phase.
<p>Employment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring for permanent workers to operate and maintain the site is complete. Five workers have been recruited, with all candidates from the local region.
<p>Contact us</p>	<p>We welcome your questions and feedback! To contact the Project team, please email infoaustralia@frv.com or call 0418 142 173.</p> <p>Please also visit our website at www.wintonsolarfarm.com</p>



2 MINUTE READ

Winton Solar Farm COMMUNITY UPDATE

EDITION 2 / APRIL 2021

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter! It has been a busy few months with crews completing the installation of electrical infrastructure and starting the process of testing and commissioning. This hard work has paid off, with the Winton Solar Farm generating clean energy for the first time in early February.

CONSTRUCTION HIGHLIGHTS
Despite the challenges of COVID-19 and a wetter than usual year, construction is now complete. At peak activity, over 200 personnel were onsite, with many of these workers living in the area. Site crew members were also involved via local businesses – including Waters Electrical, Delante Steel, ACLE, James O’Neil and Steady Creek. Trees. Even small suppliers played a key role supplying meals, accommodation, fuel, fencing, and wildlife handling.

WINTON A NEW CLEAN ENERGY GENERATION HUB
On February 9, Winton Solar Farm started sending clean, renewable energy to the grid. While output is at low levels through this early commencement phase, first generation is a key milestone for the project. Energy output will progressively increase as the project progresses through ‘hold point’ tests post full registration with the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO). When complete, the solar farm will generate 55 megawatts, enough clean power for 52,000 homes.

ACTIVE IN OUR COMMUNITY
Last year, we awarded \$25,000 in community grants to six organisations. As a result several exciting new community projects are now underway. Benalla Woodworkers Association and Merri Shed has purchased two new dust filters drastically reducing the amount of dust in their workshop. Warrinda House in Benalla is working on a new community garden that will feature vister-wise wicking beds provided by a North-East manufacturer. These are just two examples of projects Winton Solar Farm has been proud to support, well done to all the winners of our Community Grant Program!

Vegetation buffer trees show strong growth since planting 3 months ago.

New air filter beds have dramatically improved conditions at the Benalla Woodworkers’ Association.

www.wintonsolarfarm.com

frv
The future happens here

Winton Solar Farm Community Newsletter

Edition Two of the *Winton Solar Farm Community Newsletter* has been issued!

If you haven’t received a copy of our Newsletter and would like a more in-depth update sent to you, please email infoaustralia@frv.com or visit <https://wintonsolarfarm.com/news-and-events/>