



Winton Solar Farm

Overview

Leading Australian solar developer, FRV Services Australia (FRV), is constructing a utility-scale solar farm near Winton, approximately 13 kilometres north-east of Benalla, Victoria.

Winton Solar Farm was one of the six large scale wind and solar projects which secured a long-term Support Agreement through the Victorian Government's Reverse Auction Program.

The solar farm will be built across the 250-hectare site. The solar farm will have an 85-megawatt (MWac) capacity – enough to power approx. 52,000 average VIC homes with clean, renewable energy.

Winton Solar Farm will also deliver clean, zero emissions electricity to meet the region's energy needs.

The Site

The project site is located adjacent to the Glenrowan Substation, perfectly located for exporting the solar farm's electricity into the existing national electricity grid.

The site was used for grazing and is within a Rural Farming Zone. Zoning will not change as solar farms are considered compatible for development alongside other forms of agriculture. Grazing can commence alongside the development once the project becomes operational.

The solar farm development will have a low level of environmental impact as the site has been largely cleared and heavily disturbed by previous cultivation.



The Solar Farm

The Winton Solar Farm will use the latest in solar photovoltaic (PV) panel technology. Ultra-absorbent solar panels with anti-reflective coating will be installed on tracking systems that allow them to follow the sun. This enables them to capture the maximum amount of sunlight possible, increasing the efficiency and output of the solar farm.

Design and layout of the Winton Solar Farm is compliant with local and State level planning laws and has specifically aimed to minimise environmental, cultural heritage and neighbour impacts.

Visual appearance

Typically, solar farm developments are relatively unobtrusive as they are low profile. Solar panels will be installed at the same height or lower than other existing features in the landscape and vegetation screens will be planted where needed to protect the amenity of nearby residents.



Environment

FRV is committed to environmentally sensitive development and the protection of local flora and fauna. A detailed ecological assessment has been completed for the site and solar farm has been designed to minimise environmental impact. Construction and operation of the Winton Solar Farm will consider and respect existing vegetation and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.

Community Value

Construction of the Winton Solar Farm will provide a significant boost to the regional economy. Local and regional suppliers have been engaged for the construction of the solar farm. Additional, indirect benefits will flow to the local economy over the life of the project, including accommodation, meals, transport, materials and services.

FRV have developed a Local Investment Plan to provide sustainable benefits to the local area and region. Partnerships have been formed to provide funding to the following organisations.

Regent Honeyeater Project – support for their on-going plantings and conservation work.

GOTAFE – Benalla Campus – creation of a new formal solar electrical apprenticeship training program.

University of Melbourne – A Research Program which will address technical, regulatory, social, and economic issues involved in building a State-wide network of distributed renewable energy, predicated on community ownership and multi-stakeholder investment partnerships

Along with the above, FRV are offering a '**Community Benefit Fund**' worth \$100,000. The Fund is to provide financial support to suitable projects within the immediate region. Funding to the value of \$20,000 a year for the first 5 years will be provided.

Consultation with residents and stakeholders will be ongoing as the construction progresses.

About FRV

FRV Services Australia Pty Ltd is a subsidiary of Fotowatio Renewable Ventures (FRV).

FRV is a leading global developer of renewable energy solutions for a cleaner and more sustainable future.

Since entering the Australian market in 2010, FRV has initiated multiple large-scale solar farm developments in NSW, Victoria, South Australia and QLD. This includes the Royalla Solar Farm near Canberra which was the winner of the first ever solar ACT government auction.

FRV's track record includes:

A trusted reputation as a leader in our field with a proven track record of over 10 years successfully delivering renewable energy solutions

A respected international team with more than 130 highly qualified professionals from all over the world.

Development and construction of 1 GW dc of installed power for the generation of sustainable and clean energy

Successful project financing of more than US\$ 3 billion with more than 20 of the world's leading financial institutions



Powering a Sustainable Future

If you would like to receive further information about the project or provide feedback to FRV please get in touch with us via email: infoaustralia@frv.com