



Powering a Sustainable Future

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MEDIA RELEASE

Employment Up as Winton Solar Farm Construction Progresses

Around 170 workers are currently onsite at the Winton Solar Farm as construction ramps up. Workers have almost completed the installation of 42,000 piles and will now move on to constructing solar farm 'single axis' tracking systems and affixing solar panels.

Approximately 246,000 panels will be installed across the 250-hectare site.

Around 200 workers are expected to be working on the solar farm at the peak of construction, with numbers increasing in recent weeks as installation of key solar generation components gets underway.

Several North East Victoria businesses have been contracted to work on the project, including Delatite Steel from Benalla and Watters Solar from Shepparton.

Benalla-based independent business, James Civil Group has also been working at the Winton Solar Farm site since March 2020.

Tasked with managing the civil construction of the site, the Group's ten employees have been busy preparing the site's internal paths and preparing the foundations for the solar farm's substation. "Working on the Winton Solar Farm has been a great opportunity to complete a complex and challenging project close to home," says Cameron James from James Civil.

It has given James Civil Group the opportunity to gain valuable exposure to the growing renewable energy sector."

Workers will soon complete the Solar Farm's 'Golden Row' – the first row of installed solar panels that will be used as a point of reference for subcontractors constructing all remaining solar arrays.

Solar panels feature the latest in photovoltaic design and are 'bifacial' meaning they can generate solar energy from both sides.

FRV Services - the Project's owner - and Principal Contractor, Gransolar, are keen to make sure qualified workers from North East Victoria are given opportunity to work on this ground-breaking project.

Employment positions will be advertised on the North East Victorian Jobs Hub, as they become available www.northeastvictorianjobs.com.au

When complete, the Solar Farm will generate 210,000 megawatt hours (MWh) of clean energy a year, enough to power approximately 52,000 Victorian homes.

For further information about the project, please visit www.wintonsolarfarm.com



Powering a Sustainable Future

About the Winton Solar Farm

Winton Solar Farm will provide 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.