



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.

## December 2020 – What is happening on site?





Solar farm substation and control room.



Planting of stabilising native grasses around the perimeter of preserved dams.



Aerial photo – the Winton Solar Farm is almost complete!

<p><b>Health and Safety</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Safety is a priority for all workers.</i></li> <li>• <b>COVID-19 Plan.</b> FRV and Gransolar, the Principal Contractor, continue to monitor the Government’s Coronavirus Restrictions and implement relevant requirements onsite.</li> <li>• With the onset of the fire season maintaining a safe site is crucial. Slashing has been completed and the Winton CFA have visited site to provide a fire safety awareness briefing to all personnel.</li> </ul>	 <p><i>The CFA briefing site personnel on fire safety and bushfire preparation.</i></p>
<p><b>Major activities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of the solar farm is nearing completion.</li> <li>• 246, 615 panels out of a total 246,624 have been installed.</li> <li>• The solar farm’s substation is complete and the Overhead Line connecting the solar farm to the electricity system is now in place.</li> <li>• On December 3 the solar farm’s transformer was energised.</li> <li>• Operational facilities are also largely in place; the control room and Operations Building are complete, fencing has been installed, CCTV and weather monitoring stations are in place.</li> <li>• Commissioning works will now commence to ensure the solar farm’s performance is safe and compliant.</li> <li>• Site tidying works are underway, safety labels are being installed and remediation is being completed by local contractor, James Civil.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Community</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Winton Solar Farm Community Grant winners have been announced!</b></li> <li>• Congratulations to the following local groups who will each receive a share of \$35,000 community funding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Waminda Community House, Benalla</li> <li>○ Winton Cemetery Trust</li> <li>○ Tatong Memorial Hall</li> <li>○ Benalla Woodworkers’ Association</li> <li>○ Renewable Energy Benalla</li> <li>○ Winton CFA</li> </ul> </li> <li>• We look forward to sharing details of the inspirational projects each of these groups will now deliver!</li> </ul>	 <p><i>Benalla Woodworkers’ Association members at work.</i></p>

<p><b>GO TAFE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FRV is proud to announce that it has partnered with GOTAFE to fund the training of three local Apprentices in solar engineering and large-scale solar development.</li> <li>• <b>Applications are now open!</b></li> <li>• Local businesses are encouraged to apply to receive full funding for an Apprentice to complete an Electrotechnology Apprenticeship starting next year.</li> <li>• To apply, visit <a href="https://www.gotafe.vic.edu.au/courses/scholarships">https://www.gotafe.vic.edu.au/courses/scholarships</a>.</li> <li>• This program will provide young people across North East Victoria with genuine training in a long-term, sustainable industry, and will also bring economic and social benefit to the surrounding region.</li> <li>• Training is in addition to the 29 local apprentices already employed at the site. Apprentices and Trainees will provide over 12,000 hours of assistance during construction!</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="908 241 1409 622" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><i>Apprentices Zach Northey, Lewis Sharrock, Connor Delaney and Project Officer Trainee Isabella Lindsay onsite at the solar farm.</i></p>
<p><b>Christmas arrangements</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction works are on target to be largely complete by Christmas.</li> <li>• Various trade disciplines are in the process of ramping down activities due to project completion and the upcoming holiday break.</li> <li>• A small team will remain onsite over the Christmas period to manage the site, provide security and to continue with the commissioning of the facility.</li> <li>• <b>From everyone at the Winton Solar Farm, we thank you for your patience and support during this past year and wish you and your families a safe and restful holiday break!</b></li> <li>• Commissioning teams will return to site from January 4, 2020.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Contact us</b></p>	<p>We welcome your questions and feedback! To contact the Project team, please email <a href="mailto:infoaustralia@frv.com">infoaustralia@frv.com</a> or call 0418 142 173.</p> <p>Please also visit our website at <a href="http://www.wintonsolarfarm.com">www.wintonsolarfarm.com</a></p>