

AXEDALE SOLAR FARM COMMUNITY FACTSHEET

UPC \ AC Renewables Australia is developing the Axedale Solar Farm, a grid-connected solar power project within the City of Greater Bendigo and the Campaspe Shire.

Proposed site

The Axedale Solar Farm is proposed on a site located approximately 7km north-east of the township of Axedale and will cover a development footprint of up to 365 hectares of land currently used for dryland cropping and grazing. There is high potential for the continuation of sheep grazing within the development footprint of the Axedale Solar Farm.

Reasons for selecting the proposed site include:

- strong solar resource
- flat and mostly cleared land
- AusNet Services' existing 220kV transmission line passes through the site
- non-irrigated farming land

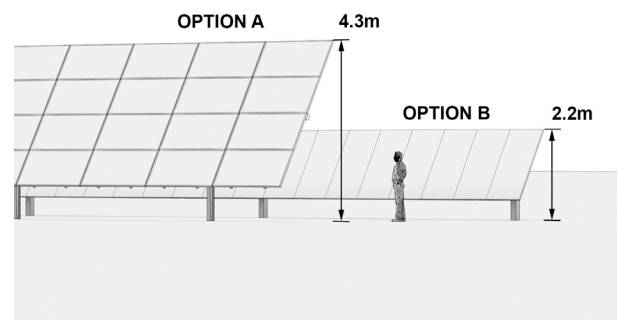
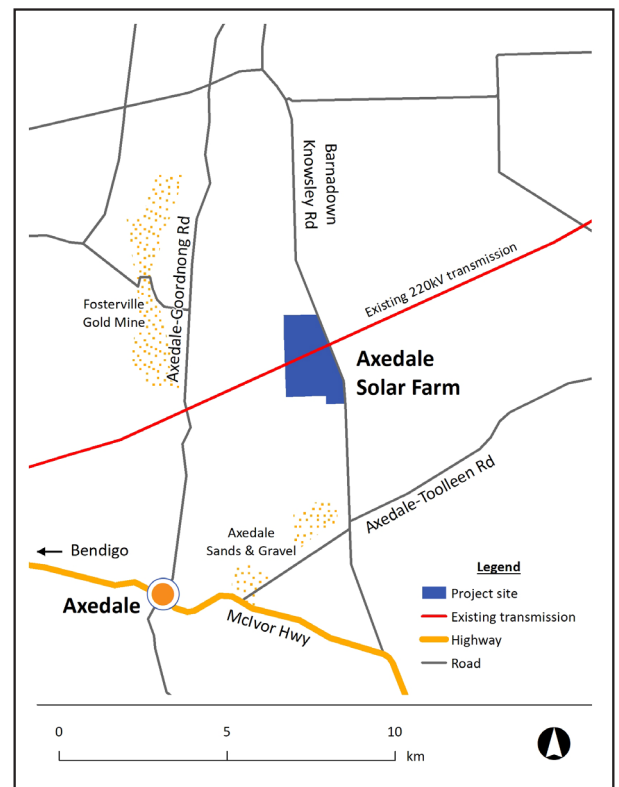
Project overview

The Axedale Solar Farm will utilise ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels similar to those used on rooftops around Australia. The PV panels will be arranged in rows spaced several metres apart, either on a fixed tilt or single axis tracking system.

Based on preliminary designs, the Axedale Solar Farm will involve:

- two separate arrays of PV modules (separated by an existing unsealed road), inverters and an underground cable network
- an on-site dedicated solar farm substation to connect the project to AusNet's electricity transmission network
- several access points from the local road network and internal access tracks
- stock-proof security fencing around each of the solar fields

UPC \ AC Renewables is also considering the integration of a battery energy storage system as part of the project. The battery energy storage system would help to protect security of supply in the Victorian energy network.



Benefits of the project

The project will provide a number of local and national benefits including:

- direct and indirect business opportunities for local and regional suppliers, contractors and tradespeople
- employment opportunities, with up to 250 employees needed during the construction period of 12-24 months and several ongoing jobs in the operations phase
- helping meet the Victorian and Commonwealth renewable energy targets
- annual reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and generation of enough clean renewable electricity to power approximately 55,000 Victorian homes, which is equivalent to the size of Greater Bendigo
- helping to maintain energy security by replacing ageing thermal coal power stations when they retire from service in the coming years
- opportunity for co-location of agriculture and renewable energy production with sheep grazing to continue on the site during operations

Approval process

As the project spans across the boundaries of both the Campaspe Shire Council and the City of Greater Bendigo, the project will require development approval from both Councils. UPC \ AC Renewables will consult with the local community including residents, businesses, community leaders, the relevant Aboriginal groups representing the Taungurung people and other local stakeholders.

The development application will contain a comprehensive assessment of the proposed development's interaction with the local environment, near neighbours, and cultural heritage. Where potential impacts are identified, appropriate mitigation and management measures will be developed. The planning application process is expected to be completed by late 2019.



About UPC \ AC Renewables

Originating from the United States, UPC is a leading renewable energy development company that has been operating internationally for 23 years and in Australia since 2016. To date, UPC has developed 3,500 MW of operating wind and solar projects in North America, Europe, Africa and Asia. UPC is focused on supplying renewable energy at the lowest possible price in a socially and environmentally responsible way.

UPC is in partnership with AC Energy, a Philippines-based utility who are committed to supporting high-quality renewable developments in Australia and overseas.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the Axedale Solar Farm please visit:

www.axedalesolarfarm.com.au

The project team will be available to meet with local residents in the near future. Regular project updates will be provided via the project website and mail-outs as the development progresses.

We are always open to hearing ideas and receiving feedback from the community. You can email us at info@axedalesolarfarm.com.au or contact us via phone on 1800 515 122.

Local businesses are encouraged to use the email address to register their interest in upcoming contracting opportunities.