

Environmental, Cultural and Social Considerations

Darroobalgie Solar Farm

Darroobalgie Solar Farm is a proposed renewable energy project located approximately 11 kilometres northeast of Forbes in NSW. The Project would comprise of a solar farm (approximately 100 MW) and transmission line to connect the solar farm to the existing electricity transmission network. The Project would provide enough electricity to power the equivalent of 34,000 homes each year.

The solar farm layout and location of the transmission line and switching station have been informed by ecological and cultural heritage investigations as well as feedback from landholders and other stakeholders.

Ecological

Ecological surveys of the proposed Project area have included vegetation mapping, habitat assessment and targeted surveys for threatened flora and fauna. This information has been used to position project infrastructure to avoid impacts on biodiversity, as much as possible, including:

- Avoidance of areas of threatened ecological communities, within the solar farm site
- Avoidance of wetland habitat within the southeastern corner of the solar farm site
- Avoiding fragmentation of large woodland patches
- Avoidance of woodland vegetation as a priority when selecting the transmission line alignment



Where native vegetation can not be practically avoided, the necessary loss of vegetation will be offset in accordance with NSW's *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. A Construction Environmental Management Plan will also be prepared for the Project, which will include measures for the management of soil, surface water, weeds and pollutants during construction.

Cultural Heritage

The Project area is within the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri people. At the beginning of the cultural heritage assessment, five Aboriginal parties registered an interest in the proposed Project and three participated in site surveys of the proposed solar farm site and transmission line route options.

Fifteen cultural heritage sites were recorded during the surveys. The sites were predominately low-density artefact scatters and isolated finds and the project area was assessed as having low archaeological potential due to the extensive nature of disturbance with past agricultural practices.

The management of these sites, and any other objects identified during construction, will be outlined in an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan, which will be developed in consultation with the Aboriginal Parties.

Landholders

An important part of the selection process for the transmission line has been working with participating landholders to ensure environmental and agricultural impacts to their land are minimised.

About Pacific Hydro

Founded in Australia in 1992, Pacific Hydro operates a high quality, diversified portfolio of wind, solar and hydro renewable assets in Australia, and has a significant pipeline of renewable projects under development, as well as a growing electricity and gas retail business, Tango Energy. Pacific Hydro is owned by State Power Investment Corporation (SPIC). SPIC is one of the top five power generation groups in China.

