

Frequently asked questions

Daroobalgie Solar Farm

When will the Daroobalgie Solar Farm be built?

Pacific Hydro is committed to developing the Project. The exact Project timing will depend on many factors including the outcome of grid connection studies and ability to secure a power purchasing agreement (PPA) for the Project. The earliest that construction would commence, subject to approval, is mid-2023.

How long will it take to build the Daroobalgie Solar Farm?

Construction would be approximately 18 months.

How does solar generation work?

Solar panels absorb energy from the sun and produce a direct electrical current. The direct current is moved through underground cables to inverters, which convert the power to a usable alternating current. The electrical current from the inverters is fed into a transformer or substation, which increases the voltage to connect into the grid.

How high are solar panels?

The maximum height of the solar panels proposed at Daroobalgie Solar farm is 4 metres.

What is the economic benefit to the region from the Daroobalgie Solar Farm?

The Project would benefit the local economy through employment and business opportunities. The Project is anticipated to generate approximately 320 jobs during construction (50% of which should be able to be sourced locally) and 4 to 6 full-time jobs during operations.

The presence of the construction workforce would increase demand for food, accommodation and other consumables in the local areas which would deliver a positive impact for existing retail, food, beverage, and accommodation service providers in Forbes and Parkes.

How much do renewables cost compared with other energy sources?

Solar energy is one of the cheapest sources of energy and now is more competitive than coal and gas.

Can solar farms' noise affect local residents?

Up close, solar inverters do make noise (less noise than a vacuum cleaner), but generally the noise is not detectable at the site boundary. The noise impact of solar farms is a key consideration in the planning approval process. It is the responsibility of the operator to ensure the solar farm complies with relevant noise criteria at all local residences.

Will the Daroobalgie Solar Farm affect farm/domestic animals?

Solar farms are not known to have any impact on domestic animals. In fact, sheep thrive on solar farms and can graze under and around panels without a problem.

How will the farm's solar energy be supplied?

The Daroobalgie Solar farm will enter the local transmission network via a connection to an existing transmission line north of Forbes that feeds into the Forbes Substation.

Will the Daroobalgie Solar Farm prioritise local electricity needs?

The energy market, including energy pricing, is managed by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO). This means that, even if a large amount of electricity is being produced by a local energy source such as a solar farm, it doesn't necessarily mean that local communities will get access to cheaper electricity.



Will the solar farm impact my domestic rooftop solar system?

No, both will be able to supply energy into the grid without impacting the other.

How will traffic be managed during the development?

A Traffic Management Plan will be prepared for the Project that outlines the management measures required and implemented to minimise the impact of construction traffic on the existing road network and users. The Traffic Management Plan will be prepared in conjunction with the construction contractor, NSW Road Authority, Forbes Shire Council and local residents/businesses.

Minimal traffic is generated during operation of the Project with negligible impacts anticipated on the existing road network.

How will the solar farm be protected?

Perimeter security fencing is anticipated to be 2.1 metres high and made from 1.8 metre high chain-wire mesh and strainer wire and barbed wire.

What will happen to the solar panels if/when the solar farm is decommissioned?

The solar farm operational life is 30-35 years. During the lifespan of the Project, we anticipate that local markets will emerge for the full recycling of solar panels and other solar farm components.

Will landscaping be provided as screening for surrounding properties?

Boundary planting will be provided along the north and west boundaries of the solar farm site to screen views from Troubalgie and Back Yamma Road.

The need for landscaping at individual properties near the solar farm site will be considered on a site by site basis.

How far back from the boundary will the solar panels be set?

Solar panels will be setback a minimum of 10 metres from the site boundary.

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.

