

Fact sheet

September 2021 | www.birriwasolarfarm.com.au

Solar and farming. Growing our energy future.

Project Overview

The Birriwa Solar Farm and Battery Project is a 600-megawatt renewable energy project that is being proposed across a preliminary area of 1,200 hectares of mostly cleared grazing land, about 20km southwest of Dunedoo.

We are also developing plans for an on-site battery to provide energy during peak periods.

A solar farm and battery project of this size typically takes two years to build after approval, employing over 400 people during construction and generating a number of ongoing full time roles during operations, as well as opportunities for local and regional contractors and suppliers.

It would generate enough energy to power about 240,000 homes in New South Wales. It will also use substantially less water than coal-fired power stations and produces almost no noise, no effluent or other toxic waste or emissions.

Solar farms typically have a lifespan of 30 years, with gains in technology opening up the possibility of longer operating timeframes. At the end of its life, the solar farm equipment can be removed, and the land returned to its original use.

In the coming months, we will undertake environmental, social and technical surveys and consult with the local community as we refine our plans for the proposed development. ■

The Central West region

The Central West region of NSW has many opportunities for renewable energy to be developed in a way that optimises the land available for the dual purpose of energy and agricultural production.

The site is highly suitable for a solar farm development. UPC\AC Renewables Australia approached landholders in the area several years ago to discuss their potential involvement in the project.

The NSW Government has also recognised the potential of the Central West Orana region, designating it a Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). The Government is helping to coordinate the development of renewable energy projects and funding the development of transmission infrastructure as part of the REZ. ■

The site

Several landholders in the locality of Birriwa have agreed to be part of the initial investigation area for the project. The site has been selected due to its ideal features – flat or gently undulating land relatively free of vegetation due to historical clearing for agriculture.

It is also ideally situated away from towns but is still readily accessible. The project will also be able to connect to the national grid via a transmission line currently being developed by the NSW Government as part of the REZ infrastructure program



About UPC\AC Renewables Australia

UPC\AC Renewables is an Australian based renewable energy developer. After working closely with landholders, we are proposing to develop a solar farm and battery project near Birriwa.

At UPC\AC Renewables we develop, build and operate our projects. This means we are involved every step of the way, from the start of development through to when power is produced and sent to the grid.

Our owner/operator business model means we are in partnership with our landholders, neighbours and community members for decades, not just months or years. We share the benefits from our developments with the community via initiatives such as grant funding for local projects, upgrades to local road infrastructure, supporting local sporting clubs, scholarship and traineeships and more. ■

Where we are

UPC\AC Renewables is currently building the 720MW New England Solar Farm which also includes battery storage just outside Uralla in Northern NSW. This solar farm is being built on farmland, and we are working with host farmers to facilitate their sheep grazing onsite. Sheep grazing has been shown to be extremely successful in conjunction with solar farms thanks to improved pasture growth and shelter opportunities.

We have also gained approval to construct a solar farm and a battery storage project at Stubbo and have the Valley of the Winds wind farm under development in the Leadville and Coolah area. We are also active in Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

Our projects all have the same focus at their core - the landholders and the community. ■



Planning and Consultation

The Birriwa Solar Farm and Battery Project will be assessed as a State Significant Development under Part 4 of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) is the state planning authority for the project.

Under this process we will soon be submitting a scoping report for this project which outlines the project, and its benefits as well as a preliminary environmental and social assessment.

UPC\AC Renewables Australia places a large emphasis on working with local communities during this assessment and planning process to help us understand your views.

With the impact of COVID, we hope to provide opportunities for online group and one on one discussions. You can also get more information and provide feedback on our project Facebook page and website. ■



Birriwa Solar Farm and Battery project timeline



Register for project updates

Members of the local community can provide feedback, ask questions and register for our regular project updates via our website or by email.

Phone: **1800 290 995**

Email: info@birriwasolarfarm.com.au

Facebook: [@birriwasolarfarm](https://www.facebook.com/birriwasolarfarm)

www.birriwasolarfarm.com.au