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Project fact sheet

Axedale Solar Farm

Overview

FRV is developing a utility-scale solar farm at Axedale, approximately 20 kilometers east of Bendigo in Victoria (Axedale Solar Farm). It is joined to the east by the Fosterville Solar Farm project which will also be constructed and operated by FRV.

The solar farm will consist of approximately 175,000 solar panels installed across the approximately 360-ha site. The project will generate up to 140 megawatts (MW) of clean, renewable energy.

The project will also involve a utility-scale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with capacity of up to 50 MW, storing up to four additional hours of renewable electricity.

The project received planning permit approval in 2019. In 2024 an application was submitted for layout changes to concentrate infrastructure together and away from project boundaries.

FRV aims to commence construction in late 2025 and begin operation in 2027.

Site and location

With an abundance of natural sunlight and flat topography, the site is particularly well-suited to the generation of solar energy.

The project is located on private land along the western bound of Barnadown-Knowsley Road. It also is intersected by Russells Bridge Road where cross-over points will be established.

The sites are extensively cleared of native vegetation and has historically been used for cropping and grazing. Remainder native vegetation will be protected through establishing buffer zones and enhanced through a variety of restoration activities.

The project will ultimately connect to the 220 kV Bendigo to Fosterville Transmission Line which intersects the site.



Axedale Solar Farm will use the latest in solar generation technology. Solar panels, similar to those on household rooftops, will be installed on tracking systems that allow them to rotate and follow the sun. This enables it to capture and generate the maximum amount of energy possible across the available area.

The project has been designed in accordance with NSW planning laws and guidelines with an aim to reduce any impacts to the environment, neighbors and the community where possible.

Visual appearance

Solar Farms are typically unobtrusive in the landscape, given their low profile. Solar panels will be installed at about the same height as other existing features in the landscape such as farm sheds. Vegetation screens will be planted along the boundaries of the project to protect the amenity of nearby residents.

It isn't expected that the solar panels would create any glint or glare hazards given the topography and inclusion of vegetation screening.

Environment

FRV is committed to environmentally sensitive development and the protection of local flora and fauna.

Solar farm design and construction will be undertaken with appropriate buffer distances from existing waterways and native vegetation to ensure these features are protected and impacts the water flows are avoided.

Community value

Construction of Axedale Solar Farm will provide a substantial boost to the regional economy. It is expected the solar farm will create up to 150 new jobs during the construction phase.

The solar farm will also contribute to the new, sustainable industry that is becoming established in the area, assisting in activating and growing a viable new local industry.

Project timeline

Construction is planned to commence in late 2025. The Solar Farm is expected to be completed for testing in 2027/2028.

Who is FRV?

FRV is a leading global developer of renewable energy solutions for a cleaner and more sustainable future. FRV is headquartered in Spain and has a local office in Sydney.

FRV has initiated and operates several largescale solar farm developments across Australia (including Victoria) since 2010. This includes the Winton Solar Farm near Benalla.

Contact

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