Walla Walla Solar Farm

Overview

Leading Australian solar developer, FRV Services Australia (FRV), is looking to develop a utility-scale solar farm near Walla Walla, approximately 40 km north of Albury in NSW.

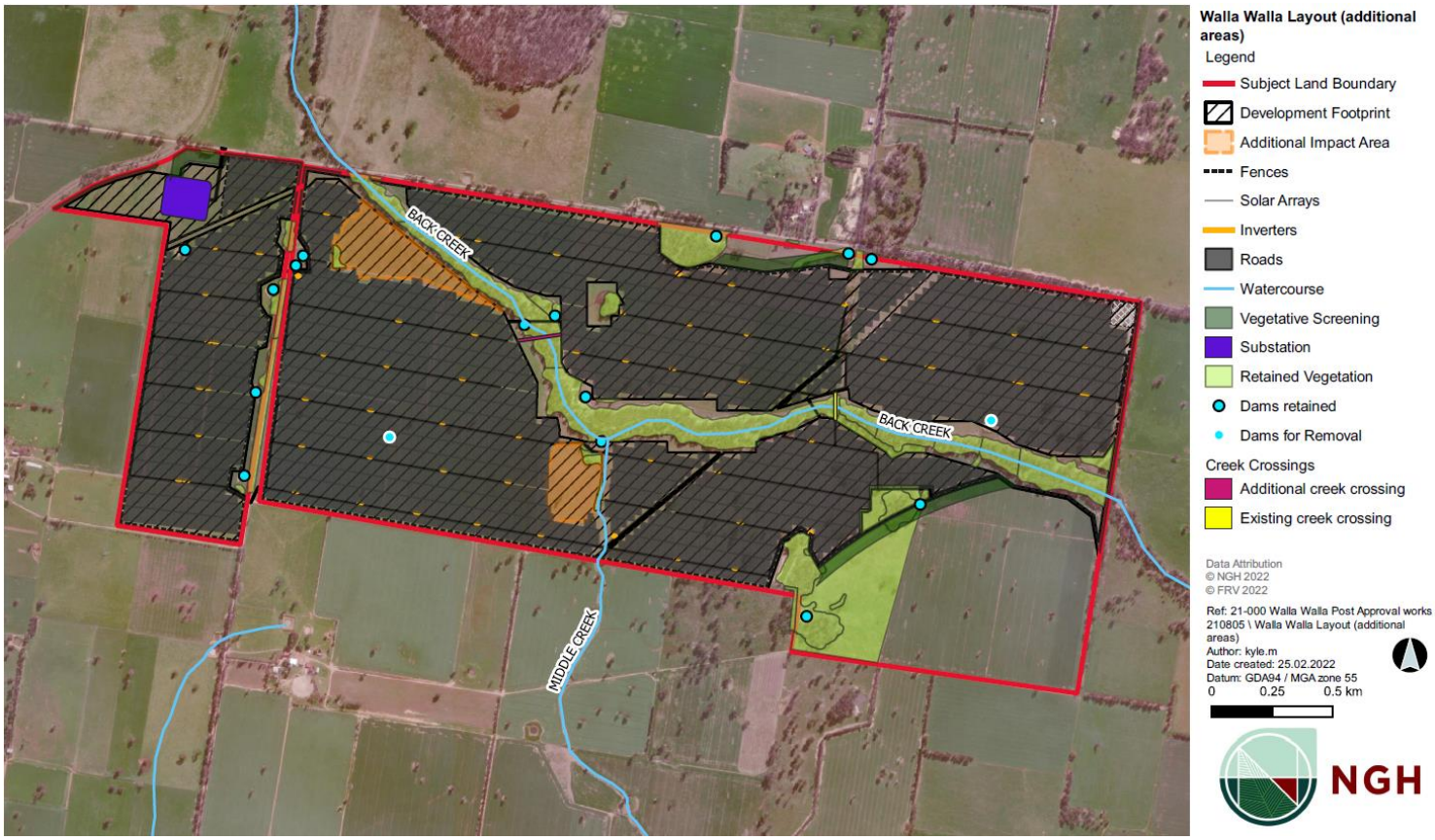
The project is currently in the construction phase, with the Development Application receiving development consent from the Independent Planning Commission in November 2020. Since then, the project has submitted two modification requests to the Department of Planning for approval.

The approved solar farm will consist of approximately 700,000 solar panels installed across the 605-hectare site. The solar farm will have a 300-megawatt (MW AC) capacity of clean, renewable energy – enough to power approx. 112,000 average homes.

Community engagement is an important part of our approach as it allows us to understand stakeholders' views and expectations.

Consultation with residents and stakeholders is underway and will be ongoing as the development progresses through to construction.

Map of the Project

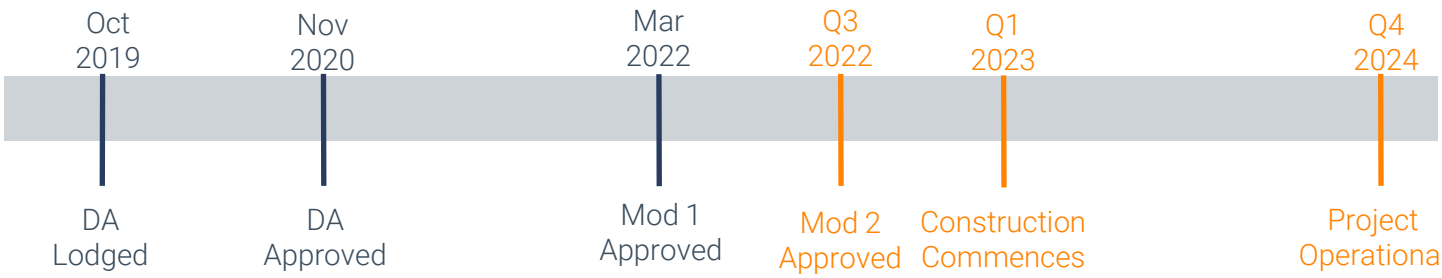


Solar farm location

The project site is well located for exporting the solar farm's renewable energy into the existing national electricity grid – avoiding the need to build additional transmission infrastructure – a significant additional cost for project developers and electricity customers.

The site is across freehold land, owned by two separate landowners, which is currently primarily used for grazing and some cropping. The land is within a Rural Farming Zone, and changes to land zoning are not required. Solar Farms are considered compatible with agriculture, and sheep farming will continue at the site once the solar farm is completed. The site is not irrigated and has not been designated as important agricultural land.

Project Timeline



The Solar Farm

The Walla Walla Solar Farm will use the latest in solar energy generation technology. Ultra-absorbent solar panels with anti-reflective coatings will be installed on tracking systems that allow them to rotate and follow the sun. This enables them to capture the maximum amount of sunlight possible, increasing the efficiency and output of the solar farm.

Design and layout of the Walla Walla Solar Farm is in accordance with local planning laws and has specifically aimed to minimise environmental, cultural heritage and neighbour impacts.

Visual appearance

Typically, solar farm developments are relatively unobtrusive as they are low profile. Solar panels will be installed at a maximum height of 4.85 m. The project will retain most mature vegetation within the site, and additional vegetation screens will be planted to protect the amenity of nearby residents.

To connect to the grid, the solar farm will use an existing transmission line easement which runs parallel with the western boundary of the site to connect to the 330 kV Jindera to Wagga Wagga power line.

Environment

FRV is committed to environmentally sensitive development and the protection of local flora and fauna. We have completed a detailed ecological assessment of the site and have designed the solar farm to minimise environmental impact. Most mature native vegetation within the site will be retained, and any vegetation which cannot be retained will be offset in accordance with NSW biodiversity legislation. Construction and operation of the Walla Walla Solar Farm will be designed around existing waterways to ensure minimal impact on water flows in the area.

Community Value

Construction of the Ravenswood Solar Farm will provide a significant boost to the regional economy.
It is expected the solar farm will create up to 250 new jobs during the construction phase, and FRV will instruct its contractors to hire local workers and use local businesses wherever possible.

During operations, the solar farm will employ up to 16 FTE which would reside locally to the project.

Additional, indirect benefits will flow to the local economy over the life of the project, including accommodation, meals, transport, materials and service.

About FRV

FRV Services Australia Pty Ltd is a subsidiary of Fotowatio Renewable Ventures, (FRV).

FRV is a leading global developer of renewable energy solutions for a cleaner and more sustainable future.

Since entering the Australian market in 2010, FRV has initiated multiple large-scale solar farm developments in NSW, Victoria, South Australia and QLD. This includes the Royalla Solar Farm near Canberra that was the winner of the first ever solar ACT government auction.

FRV's track record includes:

- A trusted reputation as a leader in our field with a proven track record of over 10 years successfully delivering renewable energy solutions.
- A respected international team with more than 130 highly qualified professionals from all over the world, including a team of over 40 in Australia.
- Development and construction of 1GW dc of installed power for the generation of sustainable and clean energy
- Successful project financing of more than US $3 billion with more than 20 of the world's leading financial institutions

Walla Walla Solar Farm will deliver clean, zero emissions electricity to meet the region's growing energy needs.