

To minimise noise and vibration during construction, we have planned the following measures:

- Limiting construction work to standard hours (7am – 6pm, Monday to Friday, 8am-1pm Saturday), with no work on Sundays or public holidays.
- Minimising activities that involve reversing vehicles and moving materials, machinery, or equipment.
- Keeping site access tracks in good condition.
- Regularly inspecting and maintaining construction machinery and equipment.
- Keeping surrounding residents informed of the construction program so that they will be aware of when noise generating activities (e.g. piling) will be near their residence.

How will dust and air quality be managed during construction?

During construction, there will be some temporary air quality impacts due to activities like using diesel-powered equipment, preliminary earthworks, building access tracks, constructing roads, trenching for cables, and more.

To manage this, we will develop a Construction Environmental Management Plan that includes various good practices:

- Keeping our site fences and barriers clean.
- Setting a maximum speed limit of 20km/h on-site.
- Using water carts to keep dusty areas damp, including site access tracks and Dapper Road.
- Avoiding work during hot, dry, and windy conditions.
- Quickly rehabilitating areas we've worked on.
- Making sure vehicle loads coming and going from the site are covered.
- Keeping our equipment in good working condition.
- Doing daily inspections to monitor for dust.

Will the solar panels and other equipment be recycled when the project is decommissioned?

When the project is decommissioned, we'll remove everything from the site, including solar panels, battery energy storage systems, electrical parts, infrastructure like site offices, and general waste.

Metal components, such as steel piles and copper in conductors, will be recycled wherever possible. Anything that can't be recycled will be disposed of properly at a licensed waste facility.

We will be utilising Lotus Energy, a specialised solar farm recycling service, to recycle solar panels throughout the life of the project.

Will Lightsource bp provide funding for the community?

We are committed to being a good neighbour and engaging with the community in a proactive and positive manner.

As such, we're looking into setting up Voluntary Planning Agreements with Dubbo Regional and Warrumbungle Shire Councils to provide support to the area.

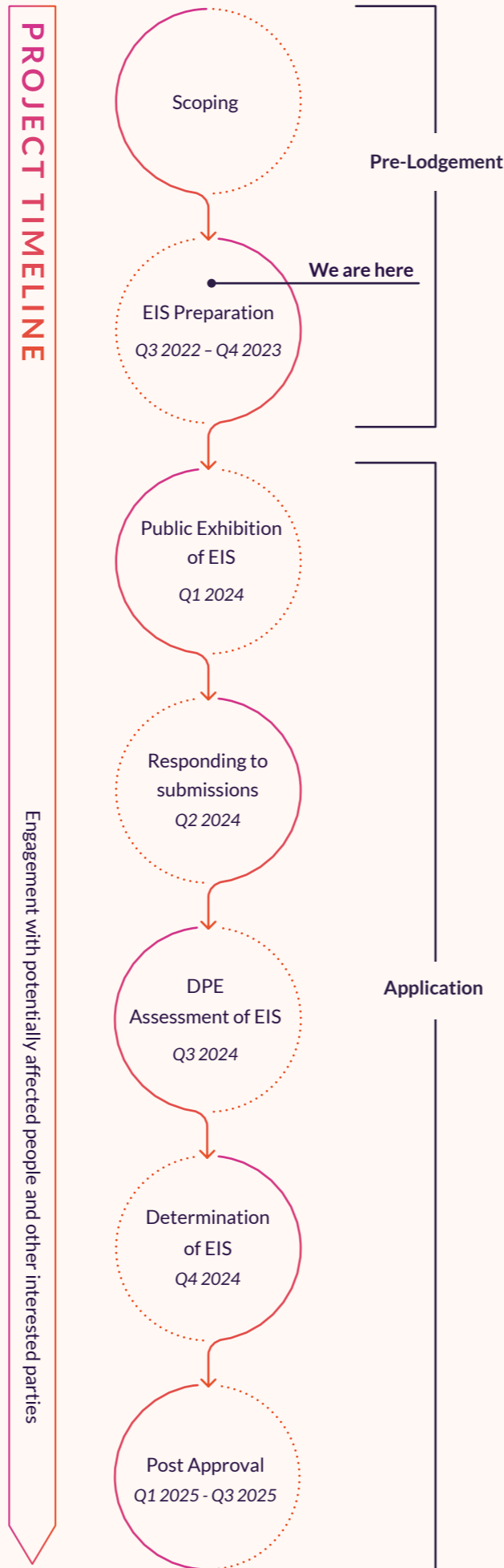
As this project is located within the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone, we will be paying Access Fees, a proportion of which is dedicated to community benefits.

If you have any questions or feedback about the project, please don't hesitate to contact us.

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Sandy Creek Solar Farm

October 2023 project update

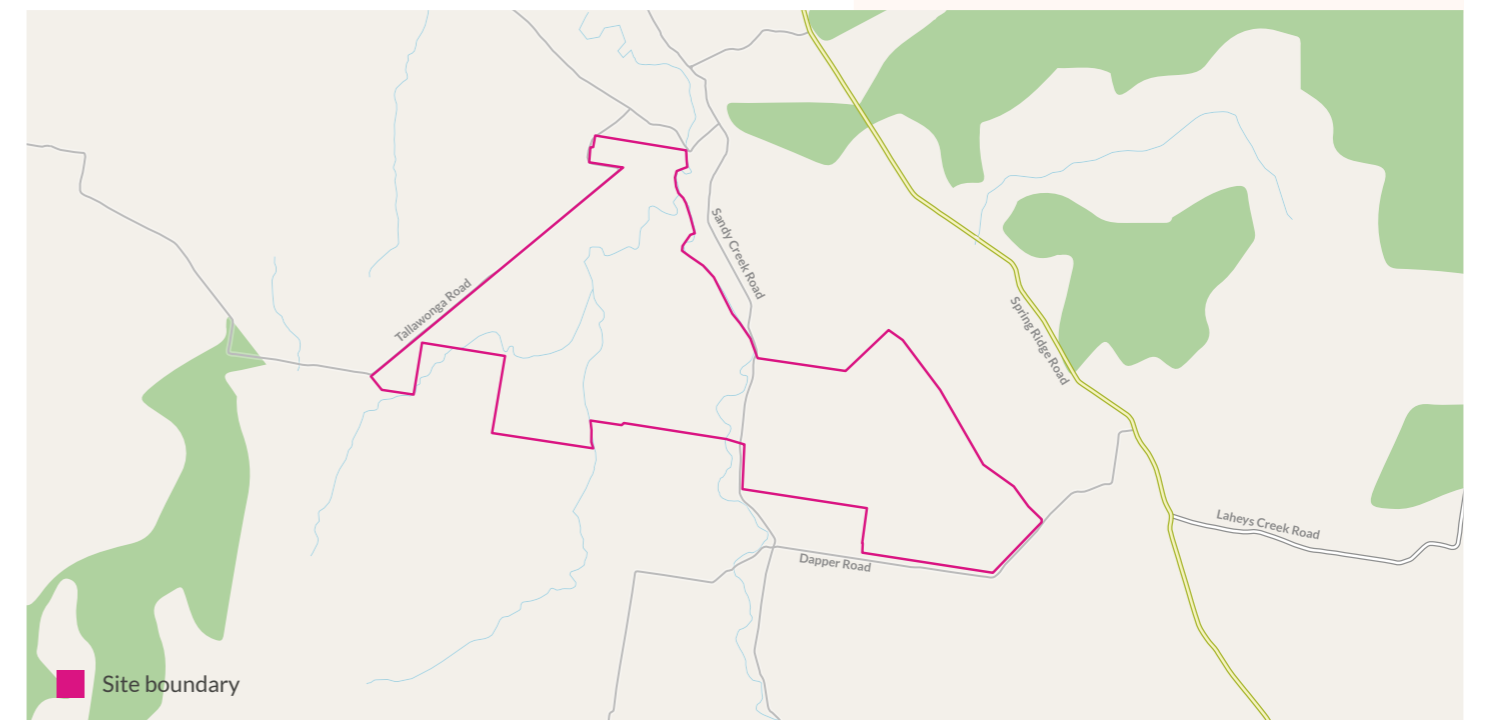


KEY STATISTICS

- 840-megawatt (MW) solar farm & 700MW/2800MWh (4-hour duration) battery energy storage system**
- Could power over NSW 253,000 households**
- 35+ years operational life**
- More than 1,400,000 tonnes of carbon emissions saved**
- 350 jobs created at the peak of construction 10 full time operational jobs created**

Lightsource bp is planning to develop the Sandy Creek Solar Farm, 25km southwest of Dunedoo and 30km northwest of Gulgong, within the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ).

The Sandy Creek Solar Farm is set to be a powerhouse of clean energy. It will consist of an 840-megawatt solar farm and a battery energy storage system.



The Sandy Creek Solar Farm

Frequently asked questions

How did you choose the location for the solar farm?

We selected the site because it receives an abundance of sunshine year-round, ensuring consistent and efficient energy generation. It's also an ideal size, is mainly flat and largely clear of vegetation, making construction easier and improving the project's performance.

As well as the above, the site is situated in a zoning area that allows electricity generating works and is part of the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ), offering logistical advantages including for grid connectivity. Finally, its accessibility via the Golden Highway provides benefits during both construction and operation.

Will there be any road improvements in the local area?

Yes, as part of our commitment to safety we'll upgrade some local roads for safety during construction. This includes widening Dapper Road between EnergyCo's Elong Elong Energy Hub site access point and the project's main site access point.

Additionally, we'll install a crossing on Sandy Creek Road, to make it easier for construction vehicles to move between the eastern and western parts of the site.

Are there any fire or safety concerns associated with the project?

Safety is our top priority, and we're committed to addressing fire risks. Before construction, we'll create a detailed Fire Management and Emergency Response Plan. Here are some key safety measures that will be in the plan:

- Asset protection zones: Establishing safety zones around solar panels and electrical infrastructure.
- Vegetation control: Managing vegetation through mowing, slashing, and controlled grazing to reduce risks.
- Hazardous materials: Carefully handling and storing flammable materials.
- Firefighting equipment: Ensuring access to water and firefighting equipment on-site.
- Emergency access: Providing clear access for vehicles and emergency services.

How will you minimise the visual impacts of the solar farm?

To minimise visual impacts, we've carefully assessed the landscape and visual aspects of the project. Here's what we found:

- One residence has a high visual impact, one residence has a moderate visual impact and 10 residences have a low visual impact.
- There is potential for glare-related impacts at 13 residences and along portions of the roads adjacent to the project site at certain times of the year.

Solar panels are designed to absorb light and reflect very little sunlight, but we're taking extra steps to minimise impacts by:

- Planting vegetation along some perimeter fence lines and Dapper Road to reduce the visibility of the solar panels.
- Keeping vegetation clearing and trimming to a minimum.

Where will construction workers stay during the project?

We are exploring different options for workforce accommodation. One option is during the construction phase we may set up a temporary workforce accommodation facility on the project site.

This facility can accommodate up to 350 people and will be situated in the southeastern section of the site. It will also have its own car parking area and a dedicated access point connected to Dapper Road.

Other options that we are investigating include shared accommodation at Dunedoo or using EnergyCo's facilities.

Will there be job opportunities for people in the local area?

Yes, we are committed to involving the local community in our project. Here's how we plan to do that:

- Approximately 350 direct jobs and 560 indirect fulltime equivalent jobs will be created.
- We aim to source about 20% of the construction workforce from the local area.
- Workers relocating to the region are expected to inject more than \$21.7 million into the local economy, creating about 110 full-time equivalent jobs in the service sector.
- We anticipate creating 10 direct and 30 indirect full-time equivalent jobs during the operational phase.

Will there be more traffic on local roads due to the project?

There will be some increased traffic on specific roads during construction, which is anticipated to take around two years. Traffic accessing the project site will travel along the Golden Highway, Spring Ridge Road and Dapper Road. Here's what you can expect:

- During the peak construction month, there will be approximately 60 light vehicles and 57 heavy vehicles on these roads at a maximum per day.
- During morning and afternoon peak periods throughout construction, you can expect around 20 light vehicles and 11 heavy vehicles.
- Once the project is operational, there will be around 10 full-time equivalent employees, resulting in up to 10 light vehicle trips per day.
- Employee and construction workforce parking will be situated on the project site, with no parking on local roads.

How will the project contribute to cumulative social impacts of the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone?

We acknowledge that the project has both social impacts and benefits.

Impacts include:

- Increased competition for labour and services.
- Reduced short-term accommodation.
- Increased demand on social services.
- Perceived road safety risks due to increased traffic.
- Changes to visual amenity.
- Land use impacts, which may affect agricultural businesses.
- Potential impacts to unknown items or sites of Aboriginal cultural significance.

Benefits include:

- Increased trade for local retailers and accommodation providers.
- Procurement opportunities benefitting local and regional businesses.
- Increased employment and training opportunities in the community, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.
- Improvement in the affordability, reliability, security, and sustainability of electricity supply.
- Coordination of investment in new generation, storage, network, and related infrastructure.
- Encourage investment in new generation, storage, network, and related infrastructure.
- Continuation of stock grazing on the project site once operational.

With the above in mind, Lightsource bp is committed to:

- Ongoing engagement with local landowners, nearby neighbours, and the wider community.
- Continued collaboration with the Dubbo Regional Council and Warrumbungle Shire Council, including the development of voluntary planning agreements for community benefit programs.
- Actively hiring locals for the construction workforce wherever possible.
- Sourcing goods and services from local and regional businesses, where feasible.
- Providing on-site accommodation for up to 350 construction workers.
- Developing an Aboriginal Participation Plan, aligned with First Nations guidelines to create economic opportunities.

What are the potential impacts of the project on significant Aboriginal sites?

We have thoroughly examined the Aboriginal heritage in the project area through an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. This involved consulting with local Aboriginal organizations, Registered Aboriginal Parties, and Indigenous communities, including the Wiradjuri and Gomilaroi Traditional Owners.

As a result, we've adjusted the project's design and layout to protect areas of Aboriginal cultural significance, preserving parts of 26 sites. However, it's possible that up to 15 sites may still be affected by the project.

To ensure we respect and protect the cultural landscape throughout the project's duration, we will create a comprehensive Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan. This plan will be developed in collaboration with relevant Aboriginal stakeholders and authorities and will provide strategies and protocols for safeguarding and managing the project's cultural heritage aspects.

How will local heritage be protected?

There are no listed heritage items located in the project area, but we found some historically significant elements from early settlement times. Before construction, we may need to conduct more investigations at the sites of two huts and a sandstone well.

We're creating a Cultural Heritage Management Plan to protect the local heritage. This plan will provide guidance on areas to avoid and buffer zones during construction, ensuring we safeguard the historical and cultural aspects of the project area.

How will the project affect the local biodiversity?

In the project area, there's been land clearing for farming, and there are exotic fish in the creek, including carp and mosquito fish.

Key points about local wildlife and plants:

- There are 272 hollow-bearing trees.
- Four threatened species were recorded: Spotted Harrier and Speckled Warbler (birds), Eel-Tailed Catfish, and Pine Donkey Orchid.
- The site has low-condition woodlands like Box Gum, Inland Grey Box, and Fuzzy Box, and moderate-condition native grasslands.

What we've done in response:

- We've adjusted the project's design to avoid important areas for wildlife, like those of threatened species and special habitats.
- We've avoided 255 of the 272 hollow-bearing trees.
- We've created special development exclusion zones and a buffer to protect the Pine Donkey Orchid.
- Most of the woodlands will stay untouched, but some will be removed for road widening along Dapper Road.
- We adjusted the solar panel layout to avoid creeks and use the fewest number of creek crossings and bridges possible.

A Biodiversity Management Plan will be developed to minimise impacts to biodiversity. It will include information about sensitive and no-go areas to be avoided. Additionally, it will include protocols to monitor and manage the condition and habitat values of retained vegetation and plans to control and manage weeds on-site.

Biodiversity offsets

Lightsource bp will offset biodiversity impacts through the mechanisms under the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme. This will involve either retiring what is called "like-for-like" biodiversity credits, from an established stewardship site or paying into the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Fund.

Will nearby residents experience noise or vibration during construction or operations?

When the solar farm is operating, we don't expect much noise or vibration, and we've designed it so infrastructure like battery containers and inverters are located away from nearby residents. During operation there will be no noise exceedances at surrounding residences.

During construction, noise levels may temporarily exceed standard daytime construction noise levels (typically 35dB) at some locations near the project area. This is expected during activities like piling will occur.

The only construction activity outside regular hours will be associated with the operation of the workforce accommodation facility, noise levels for this activity are expected to be low (below 25dB).

There will be temporary and occasional traffic noise during construction along Spring Ridge Road, which could surpass the 12dB limit specified in the *NSW Road Noise Policy*.