Tumuruu Solar Newsletter

Vol 2 | February 2023

Australian Solar Enterprises' approach to the design and delivery of the Tumuruu Solar farm is underpinned by environmental sustainability, active community engagement, and the desire to leave a long-lasting positive legacy for all our stakeholders.

We would appreciate your time to help us better understand community feedback.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZVYZFKM

Email:
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Phone:
0422 794 072

Project website:
www.tumuruusolar.com.au

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the Tumuruu Solar newsletter

Australian Solar Enterprises (ASE) is proposing the Tumuruu Solar project in Blackbutt on a private property on Bowman Road.
It is important we continue to inform the community on the assessment process and for this reason the ASE is working with Plan C, a community development and engagement company to ensure we have a quality engagement process. If you have any questions or comments please do reach out to the team on the details below left. We are here to listen and answer to all parties.

Project Activity

- ASE received an information request from the South Burnett Council. We are currently undertaking the necessary work to answer these queries and have until mid April to provide a response.
- There may be contractors onsite undertaking further studies in the next month
- We will soon be organising an information session event where people can drop in and ask questions; more information on this in the next newsletter

Project Information

Below are some of the elements that have been considered to reduce the impact of the project:

- **Land Use:** Compared to single track solar plant design, the Tumuruu selected ground mount system results in a 227% increase in land utilisation (requires less land). A 70mm gap between each panel allowing easy water run off and avoids erosion with natural ground cover
- **Ground Disturbance**: There are no cement footings and reduced in ground cabling within the solar panel footprint. There is minimal heavy machinery for installation, mostly for earthworks, in fact this is what it takes to install the solar panels (for most of the solar installation):

- **Visual:** A lightweight and compact substructure which means an ultra-low profile (less than one metre at the highest point) and the solar panels set at an 8-degree pitch.
- **Noise:** Inverters are likely the loudest noise on the site during operation; though in reality inverters run at 30-40dB; quieter than a fridge humming
- **Logistics:** Fewer materials are needed with the selected design, which will reduce on-site machinery and logistics by up to 40% compared to conventional solar farm alternatives.
- **Technology:** ASE is currently investigating an inverter design (what takes the power generated by the solar panels to the grid) called reverse DC coupled. With this design since there is only one conversion of electricity, the number of inverters on site will be cut in half.

Australian Solar Enterprises and Plan C respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians and pay respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

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Plan C are leading the community engagement for the Tumuruu Solar project on behalf of ASE.

Plan C are available to meet with you, or chat over the phone, about the proposed solar farm development and to hear your thoughts and concerns.

You can contact Plan C, register for project updates and complete a short survey via the QR code, or go to surveymonkey.com/r/ZVYZFKM

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Frequently Asked Questions

Visual Impact?

ASE intends to include a dense 15m vegetation buffer to the boundary of the property where required to address visual impacts. The ground mount system selected is approx. 800mm high which helps to reduce the impact on surrounding neighbours. What does this look like and what a single tracker project looks like::

This is another site in NSW that is being installed with the same technology, it is waist height. Also notice the install is on a mowed paddock, this is the same process to be used at the Tumuruu project and will reduce dust impact during construction.

A single tracker farm being installed

Will the panels be 15 metres from the boundary?

Whilst the vegetation buffer can be 15m wide this is not where the panels will start. In all cases there will be space between the buffer and the panels, this allows for a service track and to remove shading. Efforts will be made to keep panels away from boundary as much as the topography of the site will allow. As noted above the panels are low at less than 1 metre and the buffer will help ease any visual impact from the boundary.

Can I work on the project?

Yes! Pending approvals and the project advancing to construction there will be opportunities for employment and also for contactors to support. We will soon hold an information session and make available a expression of interest portal. Please note we are still in the approvals phase of the development so these opportunities are at least 12 months away.

If you have any questions not answered here or on the website, please reach out.

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Frequently Asked Questions (Previously Provided)

How long has the project been planned?
The project was initially conceived as an idea in late 2021. Throughout 2022 various studies required by Council and Powerlink were undertaken to assess the potential of the site. These have now been submitted for assessment. Australian Solar Enterprises (ASE) has commenced community engagement via Plan C early in the process to ensure the community was informed and feedback could be captured. The actual period of development and construction is over 2-4 years.

How is the project related to proposed Borumba Pumped Hydro Project?
Borumba Pumped Hydro Project transmission line study is being undertaken by Powerlink. There is no relationship between the transmission line study and the Tumuruu Solar project, proposed by ASE. Tumuruu is self-contained on the 341 Bowman Road site and utilises the existing 275Kv lines on site.

How big is the project?
The project, as currently planned, will be approximately 270MW. It will cover around 400HA of the 700HA site at 341 Bowman Rd.

Will I see the project from my property?
Given the unique topography of the site, the visual impact is limited to some adjoining neighbours. As part of the project design work has been undertaken on a detailed visual impact study (available on the website). ASE intends to include a dense 15m vegetation buffer to the boundary of the property where required to address visual impacts. The ground mount system selected is approx. 800mm high which helps to reduce the impact on surrounding neighbours.

Will the site be cleared?
Since 2017 the site has been extensively cleared of trees, particularly within the project envelope. Since the 1960s the property has been completely cleared four times to allow agricultural activities.

There has been some regrowth of lantana however the site remains predominately open. Works will be undertaken to ensure that the site is cleared of all regrowth and select earthworks.

With the solar ground mounting technology selected the site can remain predominately grassed and ground covers will be selected that will improve the soil conditions during operating years. In the construction period the grass will need to be shortened to allow effective installation.

Will the agricultural land be lost?
Whilst the project is operating the land can not be used for grazing. Efforts have been made to find a solution that requires no cement footing and limited in ground cabling that will ensure the land can be returned to agricultural purposes in the future. Agricultural studies undertaken has identified the land as Class C and past farming cropping endeavours have been abandoned.

If you have any questions not answered here or on the website, please reach out.

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