

AXEDALE SOLAR FARM

CONSTRUCTION FACT SHEET

Overview

Construction of the Axedale Solar Farm will take between 12-18 months and will require a peak workforce of up to 250 people.

Once construction is complete, the Axedale Solar Farm will be operational for up to 30 years. During this time, a rigorous operations and maintenance regime will be followed to ensure the efficient operation of the plant and the solar farm is a good neighbour to all.

Employment and local businesses

There will be a large workforce required for the construction of the project. Where possible, UPC \ AC Renewables ("UPC") will prioritise opportunities for local businesses and contractors. Local businesses are encouraged to use the form on the project website to register an expression of interest – we would love to hear from you.

Accommodation

The non-local construction workforce will be accommodated in Bendigo and in nearby regional towns where possible. UPC recognises the importance of ensuring there is sufficient local short and longer-term accommodation available for residents, and tourists and visitors to the area.

Vegetation management

The vegetation under the PV modules will be regularly maintained to manage fire risk and prevent the spread of weeds. UPC is currently exploring the option of sheep grazing to assist with vegetation management during the project's operating life.

Construction

Hours of operation during construction

During the construction period, the core hours of onsite activity are between 7am and 5pm each weekday. We may need to undertake some work on Saturdays from time to time. Operating hours on a Saturday will be 9am to 5pm unless otherwise advised.

Construction noise

During construction, noise may be generated by heavy vehicle movements and construction activities including the installation of piles to provide support for the mounting framework required for the PV modules. A noise curfew will be enforced in order to minimise disturbance to nearby residents. If we need to operate outside of our regular construction hours due to weather or other issues, we will provide advice to our neighbours on the timing and duration, in advance of the works.

Dust

We will use dust suppression where necessary to minimise dust leaving the project site.

Road network

Construction materials and infrastructure will be transported to the site via the local and regional road network on semi-trailers and B-double trucks. There may also be oversized vehicle movements for the delivery of high-voltage transformers.

A traffic impact assessment will be prepared to investigate potential impacts of the project on local and regional road networks. Additionally, a construction traffic management plan will be implemented during construction to ensure project-related traffic is managed appropriately and safely.

We will provide community information on major deliveries that may cause traffic congestion or delays.

Construction process

Site preparation

The need for heavy civil works such as grading/levelling will be minimal, as the site has generally flat topography.

UPC has undertaken extensive design work to support the retention of existing native vegetation on the site. There are a number of dense patches of grey box trees on the site, which will be retained and protected. However, a number of scattered paddock trees will need to be removed to enable the project to be feasible. The removal of any trees will be offset in accordance with Victorian environmental laws.

Earthmoving will be required for some of the project infrastructure, such as the on-site substation. Our planning for these works will consider any potential impacts to neighbours and the community, and actions we can take to prevent or reduce these. Our prevention activities may include using water trucks to reduce dust, traffic management to enable safe access to the site for heavy vehicles and scheduling deliveries and major truck movements outside of peak traffic times.

Additional works may include:

- Establishing a temporary construction compound such as a site office, containers for storage, workshops, parking areas and temporary laydown areas;
- Construction of access tracks and boundary fencing; and
- Ongoing geotechnical investigations to confirm the ground conditions.

Construction activities

Once the site establishment and pre-construction activities have been completed, the following construction activities will get underway:

- drive or screw piles into the ground;
- install mounting structures and tracker tubes for the PV cells;
- secure PV modules to tracker tubes;
- install inverters, DC cabling, medium and high voltage cables;
- complete substation augmentation; and
- test and commission project infrastructure.

Battery storage

UPC/ AC Renewables is considering the inclusion of battery storage as part of the project.

Battery storage can help to reinforce Victoria's energy network, improving its capacity to generate and store renewable energy and enhancing its reliability.

Construction required for battery storage is minimal as the batteries are self-contained. We will provide additional information on the construction of the battery storage if this part of the project proceeds.

Construction process

1

Construction permits and management plans in place



2

Mobilise to site

3

Embed piles



4

Install tracker beams

5

Secure modules to tracker beams



6

Install inverter blocks

7

Complete substation augmentation



8

Test and commission the plant

CONCERNS OR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact the Axedale Solar Farm

Information line on **1800 515 122**

✉ info@axedalesolarfarm.com.au

🌐 www.axedalesolarfarm.com.au

We will also establish a comments management system to ensure community issues and concerns are addressed swiftly and recorded to enable us to deliver ongoing improvements to the project.