Who are we?

Lightsource bp is a global market leader in the funding, development and long-term management of large-scale solar projects and smart energy solutions. We work closely with local businesses to deliver sustainable renewable energy projects.

We have engaged Umwelt (Australia), leading environmental and social consultants, to deliver the Environmental Impact Statement including the Social Impact Assessment.

What we have heard so far

Key topics raised by stakeholders to date include the following:

- Accessibility, including:
  - Strain on local services such as accommodation/housing, local employment, and health
  - Use of local roads during construction creating traffic and road deterioration concerns
- Surroundings, including:
  - Impacts on the natural environment, local wildlife and biodiversity
  - Public safety on local roads, including glint and glare, gravel roads and sharp corners
  - Impacts on visual amenity
  - Project decommissioning and future land use, including panel lifespan, recycling and land rehabilitation
- Opportunities for local employment and procurement
- Decision-making systems, ensuring appropriate community participation and consultation
- Way of Life and Community, including:
  - Community Sense of Place
  - Sharing of Community Benefits
- Culture, including Aboriginal cultural values and attachment to Country
- Cumulative impacts of renewable energy development.

Community Consultation Program - How can I be involved?

Community consultation during all stages of Project development is important to us.

It's important to us that the local community is fully informed of the Project and have the opportunity to participate in the planning process and provide feedback. In the coming months, Lightsource bp and Umwelt will be contacting and re-connecting with a range of community members and stakeholders in proximity to, or who may have an interest in, the Project. This will include nearby residents, local businesses and service providers, community groups and government agencies.

Outcomes of the community engagement will inform the Social Impact Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment including identification of design opportunities and refinements. Both the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment will be available on the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) Planning Portal after it has been submitted to the DPE.
If you would like to receive further information on the Project or would like to arrange a time to meet with the Project team, please contact us on the details below.

We look forward to your participation and involvement.

Contact us

Email: goulburnriversolar@lightsourcebp.com
Phone: 1300 873 575
Website: www.lightsourcebp.com/au/projects/goulburn-river-solar-farm

Community Update Pack

Goulburn River Solar Farm

JUNE 2022

This information sheet provides an update on the status of the Goulburn River Solar Farm project (the Project) and a summary of key outcomes from the scoping phase as well as early-stage stakeholder engagement. It also provides an overview of the next steps in the planning and assessment process and details on how you can be involved.

Project update

Between August 2021 and November 2021, the scoping phase for the Goulburn River Solar Farm Project was completed, with the submission of the Scoping Report to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) in December 2021. The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEAR's) were received in February 2022. The SEARs outline the requirements of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The Goulburn River Solar Farm Scoping Report, SEARs and information on the Project as it progresses can be accessed at: www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/goulburn-river-solar-farm-0.

The early-stage community consultation and preliminary assessments undertaken over the past months have informed several refinements and updates to the project as we work to ensure that the feedback provided from the local community and project stakeholders has contributed to project planning and design.

Community information sessions

We've set up a dedicated webpage for this proposed project with further project information and opportunities to get in touch with us to discuss the proposal. www.lightsourcebp.com/au/projects/goulburn-river-solar-farm. Our Community Information session will take place at the Settlement Hall, Merriwa on:

Wednesday 13 July 2022
4.00pm – 6:00pm: Informal drop-in opportunity
6:00pm – 7:00pm: Project presentation and Q and A

We will be sharing insights and updates from technical assessments and Project designs and welcome your feedback. We would like to ensure that our engagement is inclusive, and we are aware that not everyone in the community will be available at these times. If you would like to receive a call back from the team to discuss the Project, or know of someone who would, we would be pleased to arrange a time that works for you.

Scan the QR code to register your attendance and/or interest in further information

Key project statistics

- **550 MWp** solar farm with co-located Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) on site
- Approximately **800** hectares (ha) of land developed on a **2,000**-hectare site
- Installation of about **1 million** solar panels
- Equivalent to the energy needs of **180,000** households
- Meets **4%** of the average New South Wales (NSW) energy demand
- **705,000** tonnes of carbon emissions saved
- Designed for dual land use operations, with approximately **1,000** sheep to be retained on site. **$750m** estimated capital investment value (CIV)
- Operational life of at least **35** years
- Connection into existing transmission network
- Up to **500** jobs over a 20-month construction period and 10 during operations
- Local procurement and servicing opportunities

What assessments are occurring?

What assessments are occurring?

The Project will be assessed under the NSW State Significant Development planning process, which is outlined in Figure 2, and will require approval from the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE). The Project is currently in its EIS Application Phase (the second round of the planning stages), which includes detailed environmental and social assessments, which are planned to be lodged with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) and DAWE in November 2022. Lightsource bp is seeking feedback from the local community on the Project as part of the planning and development process.

The environmental and social assessment for the Project will be prepared by Umwelt Australia (Umwelt) and will cover a range of technical studies, including:

- **Biodiversity**
- **Heritage – Aboriginal and built**
- **Transport**
- **Social and Community**
- **Land Use**
- **Visual and landscape**
- **Hazard and Risk**
- **Noise**
- **Economic**
- **Waste**
- **Water**

The Social Impact Assessment (SIA) will address matters important to the community by seeking to understand the views, issues, interests, and concerns in relation to the Project through the Community Consultation Program.

Figure 1 – *Project locality*

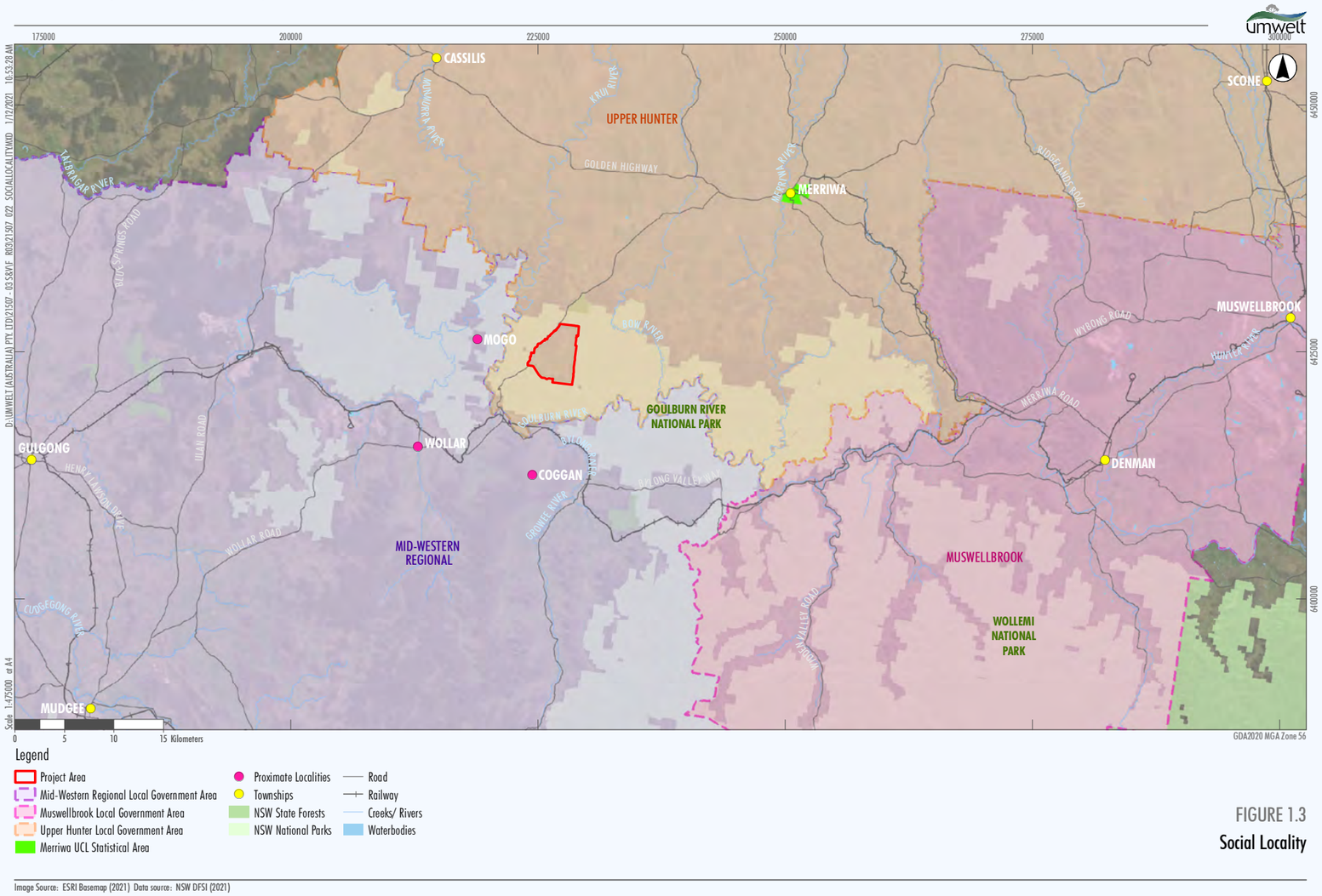
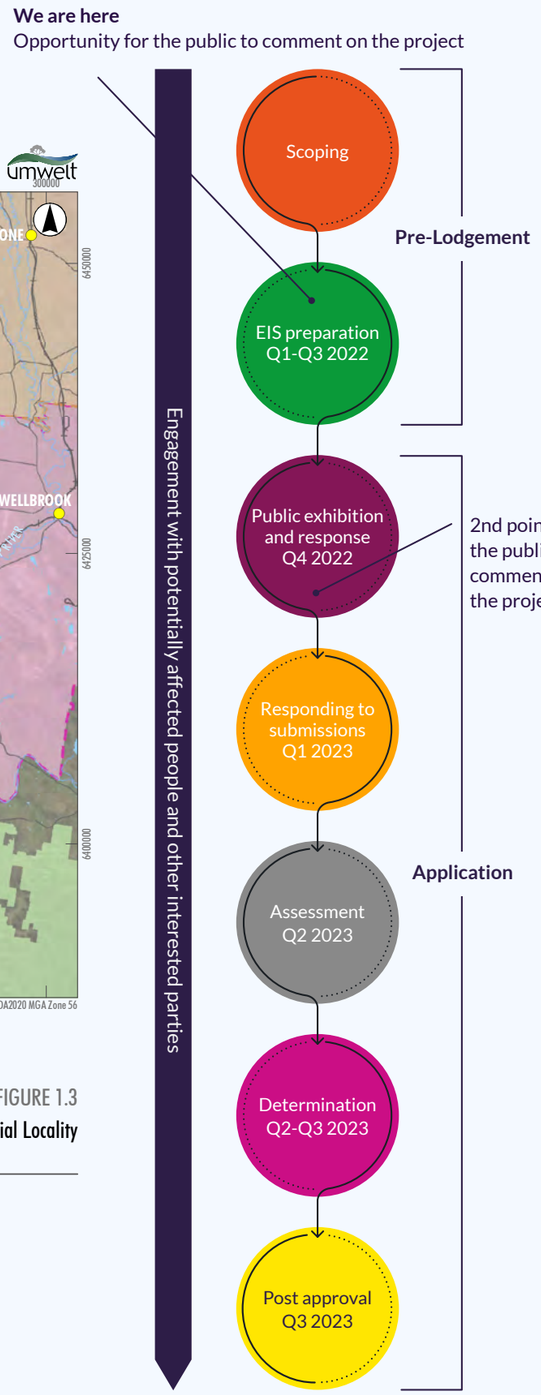
Figure 2 – *Phases of key environmental and social impact assessment activities and outputs*