

# 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.



EMM Consulting Pty Limited (EMM) is a leading Australian planning and environmental consultancy who has been engaged to prepare the Scoping Report and EIS for this Project.

## Key stakeholder and community feedback summary

Enquiries and feedback about the Project to date, have been received in a range of ways, including via the Project 1300 free call phone line and email, letters, meetings and, at in-person (x2) and online community (x1) information sessions held in January and February 2022.

This has included landowners closest to Project site and nearby neighbours, elected representatives (federal, state, and local) government agencies, community groups and the broader community.

The key topics or potential impacts, in alphabetical order, discussed include:

- Aboriginal heritage
- Biodiversity impacts
- Construction works (e.g. piling)
- Cumulative impacts, including:
  - Potential traffic, social and visual amenity impacts, across the region
- Dual land use (agriculture and grazing, impact on stock movements)
- Employment opportunities
- Glare and heat impacts
- Bushfire management
- Land value impacts
- Local waterways
- Site rehabilitation plans, once the project is finished
- Vegetation removal
- Visual amenity impacts.

All the above topics will be investigated in more detail, by the relevant technical/ study teams as part of preparing the EIS.

### How can I be involved?

Opportunities for community participation and feedback will continue throughout each stage of the planning and assessment process. This will include future community information sessions.

It's important to us that the local community is fully informed of the Project and has an opportunity to participate in the planning process and provide feedback.

If you would like to receive further information on the Project, or arrange a time to meet with the Project team, please contact us on the details below. In the meantime, we will let you know when community information sessions are held to share our EIS investigation results.

## Contact us

Email: [sandycreeksolar@lightsourcebp.com](mailto:sandycreeksolar@lightsourcebp.com)  
Phone: 1300 873 575 (freecall)  
Website: [www.lightsourcebp.com/au/projects/sandy-creek-solar-farm](http://www.lightsourcebp.com/au/projects/sandy-creek-solar-farm)



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# Community Information Sheet

Proposed solar farm at Sandy Creek, Dunedoo, NSW

September 2022



Work has commenced on preparing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Lightsource bp's proposed Sandy Creek Solar Farm Project (the Project). It is planned to be developed approximately 25 kilometres (km) southwest of Dunedoo and 30 km north-west of Gulgong, NSW (see Figure 1).

The Project would consist of an 840-megawatt solar farm and battery energy storage system. It would connect to the proposed Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone transmission line, scheduled to be installed and operational by around 2024.

Between November 2021 and March 2022, the scoping phase for the Project was completed. A Scoping Report was submitted to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) in April 2022. The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEAR's) were received in May 2022. The SEARs outline the site investigations, studies and consultation required, as part of undertaking environmental, social and economic impact assessments, and preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Project.

The Sandy Creek Solar Farm Scoping Report and SEARs can be found online at: <https://pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/sandy-creek-solar-farm>

### Field teams in the area – September 2022 to March 2023

You may notice some of our field teams in the area, including on public roads, and accessing the Project site via either Sandy Creek Road or Dapper Road, between now and approximately March 2023.









We will keep disturbances to a minimum. We do not foresee the need to conduct any studies on private land outside of the site boundary, and our studies will not involve the use of heavy machinery. If this changes for any reason, we will let nearby neighbours know.

### Community consultation program

During the Scoping Phase of the Project, key stakeholder and community feedback was received, including at the in-person and online community information sessions, held earlier this year. Thank you to the community members who have provided feedback and comments about the Project.

Please see the back page of this update, for a summary of the feedback received.

## Key statistics

-  **840 MWp** solar farm with co-located BESS on site
-  **Proposed development on a 1,600-ha site**
-  **1.4 million** solar panels to be installed
-  **Meets 6%** of the average NSW energy demand
-  **Equivalent to the energy needs of 253,419 households**
-  **931,298 EV** powered per year
-  **1,405,970 tonnes** of carbon emissions saved
-  **Operational life of at least 35 years** with an expected **10 full time** operational jobs created



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## What assessments will be included in the EIS?

The proposed Project is being assessed as a State significant development (SSD), under Part 4 of the *NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Figure 2 provides an overview of this assessment and approval process. The NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) is the determining authority for SSD applications.

It is anticipated the EIS will be prepared and submitted to DPE by mid-2023, at which time it will be placed on public exhibition.

EMM Consulting Pty Limited (EMM), a leading Australian planning and environmental consultancy, has been engaged to undertake the environmental and social assessments for the Project.

The SEARs for the Project require the following impact assessment investigations and studies be undertaken as part of the EIS:

- Biodiversity
- Heritage (aboriginal and historic)
- Land
- Visual
- Noise
- Transport
- Water
- Hazards
- Social Impact
- Economic
- Waste

## Social Impact Assessment

The Social Impact Assessment (SIA) team will be conducting telephone/online interviews with interested local community members. These interviews will give the team a better understanding of what potential impacts to the local community may occur as a result of this project.

Please send an email to the SIA team if you are interested in participating, via [sandycreeksolar@lightsourcebp.com](mailto:sandycreeksolar@lightsourcebp.com) or call 1300 873 575 (free call).

Figure 1 – Project locality



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

