



# Project Update

Week ending 29 May 2020

## Guardian Geomatics awarded prestigious cable route survey contract by Sun Cable

21 May

Guardian Geomatics Pty. Ltd. is pleased to announce we have been awarded a prestigious cable route survey contract by Sun Cable Pty. Ltd. This initial survey is a major step toward an exciting, multi billion-dollar [project](#), described as exporting “sunshine” to Asia; the Australia-ASEAN Power Link.

The high profile, groundbreaking initiative has seen its fair share of media attention – and for good reason. The ambitious plan envisions an impressive solar and battery storage farm, laid out across thousands of hectares in the Northern Territory. The dispatchable renewable electricity will be supplied to Darwin, Singapore and Indonesia. Singapore and Indonesia will be supplied via a ~3,800km high voltage direct current submarine cable transmission route. Guardian Geomatics will be undertaking the cable route survey between Darwin and Singapore. This Sun Cable project has been touted as a “game-changer” for an economy reliant on coal and gas export revenues.

Guardian Geomatics Commercial Director, Steve Duffield said, “Guardian Geomatics are always on the lookout for opportunities to improve our footprint and sustainability – this project is a step in the right direction and something we are very proud of.”

Sun Cable CEO and Founder, David Griffin said, “Sun Cable is thrilled to have engaged Guardian Geomatics to undertake this critical survey work. They are performing work that



will be critical to the success of the Australia-ASEAN Power Link”.

Project preparations will commence this month, with initial plans to utilise sister company Guardian Offshore’s vessel “Offshore Solution” to deliver the work, starting later in 2020.

Source: Guardian Geomatics

### PROJECT UPDATE

Sun Cable has been granted planning approval by the NT EPA for the construction and operation of the Middle Arm Battery in Darwin.

The battery will be up to 100MW/200MWh, though the exact sizing is yet to be determined.

Sun Cable hopes to commence works on site in early 2021, with the battery commissioned in 2022.

This is subject to completion of a series of project development milestones and a final investment decision by Sun Cable.

Ultimately, this battery will form part of the Australia-ASEAN Power Link system. Sun Cable is targeting financial close for the AAPL in late 2023.

Source: Sun Cable

## **Siemens Gamesa leads in servicing Senvion fleet in Asia Pacific with addition of 226-MW, 30-year deal in Australia**

22 May

- Siemens Gamesa secures a 30-year, full-scope contract to service Senvion turbines at the [Murra Warra wind farm](#) in Victoria, Australia.

- This second agreement adds 226 MW to the company's existing 135-MW Senvion service fleet in Australia, making Siemens Gamesa the largest Senvion service provider in Asia Pacific.

- Company's knowhow of Senvion technology ensures performance continuity of Senvion's most advanced onshore turbines powered at 3.7 MW with a 144-meter rotor.

Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy has secured a landmark 30-year contract to provide fullscope operation and maintenance services for the 226-MW Murra Warra wind farm, consisting of 61 Senvion turbines in Victoria, Australia. The project features Senvion's most advanced onshore turbines powered at 3.7 MW with a 144-meter rotor, generating enough electricity to meet the demands of 420,000 Victorian households.

As the first OEM to operate the wind farm, Siemens Gamesa has assumed responsibilities for servicing both the wind turbines and the electrical balance of the plant for a term of 30 years, which will ensure turbine performance and maximize the operational lifetime of the assets.

The agreement marks the second order Siemens Gamesa has secured to service Senvion turbines in Australia, following the first to provide 20-year, full-scope operation and maintenance services at a 135-MW wind project also in Victoria. At present, Siemens Gamesa is the largest service provider of Senvion turbines in the Asia Pacific region.

Siemens Gamesa acquired Senvion's Onshore European service assets and Intellectual Property (IP) in early January 2020, which has

expanded the company's multibrand service portfolio to more than 10 GW globally and enabled the company to obtain the knowhow of Senvion turbine technologies.

"Since the beginning of the Senvion integration, our focus has been on customer proximity and service continuity. The acquisition has uniquely positioned us to provide the best operations and maintenance services to the Senvion fleet both inside and outside of Europe," said Mark Albenze, CEO of Siemens Gamesa's Service Business Unit. "Our success in Asia Pacific reflects customers' trust in our multibrand experience, expertise and a growing dedicated team in Asia Pacific. We are committed to delivering the best business case for our customers."

"We are delighted to have concluded our first-ever cooperation with Partners Group on this project, making this a landmark project in Asia Pacific for Siemens Gamesa. We are building on the great foundation the company has built so far and the strategic investment we made to secure an extensive stock of Senvion parts locally to expand our service portfolio and exceed customer expectations," said Joris Mazille, Service CEO of Siemens Gamesa for the APAC region.

With nearly 72 GW under service globally, Siemens Gamesa is a leading service provider in the renewable energy industry. The company has been expanding in the Asia Pacific region since the 1980s and has installed more than 8.4 GW of onshore turbines in the region. On the offshore side, the company completed the installation of Taiwan's first offshore wind power project in 2019 (128 MW) and in addition reached close to 2 GW of firm orders.

Source: Siemens Gamesa

## Tilt Renewables results announcement for the financial year ended 31 March 2020

22 May  
(Excerpt)

Tilt Renewables Limited (“TLT”) released today its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 (“FY2020”), together with key highlights and operating metrics for the year.

### Key highlights for FY2020

FY2020 was underscored by TLT closing two significant transactions, demonstrating its ability to pivot with market conditions capturing value for shareholders from its attractive operating asset portfolio and high-quality development pipeline, which produces opportunities in Australia and New Zealand.

Highlights for the year include:

- 1 Lost Time Injury (down from 4 last year) and a 58% reduction in Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate.
- Financial close of the NZ\$270M, 133MW Waipipi Wind Farm following execution of a 20-year offtake agreement with Genesis Energy.
- Successful divestment of the 270MW Snowtown 2 Wind Farm (“SWF2”) in a \$1B transaction which produced a \$486M profit on sale.
- Total renewable electricity production volume of 1,835GWh.
- Earnings Before Interest, Tax Depreciation, Amortisation, Fair Value Movements of Financial Instruments (“EBITDAF”) of \$117.5M.
- Net cashflow from operating activities of \$96.4M.

Chief Executive, Deion Campbell, said “we are pleased that our strong operating cashflow allowed us to fund construction of the Waipipi Wind Farm without the need for additional shareholder equity, and with the release of additional capital from a benchmark Australian renewables transaction, we are well positioned to self-fund future growth opportunities”.

### Construction project updates

- The 336MW [Dundonnell Wind Farm](#) remains positioned for completion later in CY2020, with first generation achieved in March 2020. Site construction activity is now in the final stages with 70% of turbines installed and all foundations completed. A third long term offtake agreement for the project was executed recently with ALDI Foods, bringing the level of contracting of that asset to ~93% until 2030 and ~87% to 2035.
- The 133MW [Waipipi Wind Farm](#) is also progressing close to plan, following a 4-5 week suspension due to COVID-19 restrictions in New Zealand. More than 30% of the foundations have now been constructed and turbine components are expected to start arriving on site over the next few weeks. Project completion remains on programme for early in CY2021.

### Operational performance in FY2020

TLT’s success is founded upon maintaining a safe work environment for its employees, contractors and communities, and this is as evident as ever during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Having two large and complex construction projects underway concurrently, the total hours worked by TLT staff and contractors has nearly tripled from the prior year and a continued focus on safety outcomes has resulted in the Lost Time Injury (LTI) tally dropping from 4 in FY2019 to 1 in FY2020. At the same time, the Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) has decreased by 58%.

The SWF2 sale which completed in December 2019, resulted a reduction in production volume against the prior year. Normalised for the sale of SWF2, production was largely in line with long term expectations.

In New Zealand, the Tararua 1 Wind Farm reached 20 years of operation and is still recognised as one of the highest producing wind farms in the world.

Source: Tilt Renewables

## First of Waipipi Wind Farm components arrive at Port Taranaki

22 May

In a positive sign for the region's economic recovery from COVID-19, the first components for the \$277m [Waipipi Wind Farm](#) in South Taranaki have arrived at Port Taranaki.

Tilt Renewables, a developer, owner and manager of renewable energy generation assets in both New Zealand and Australia, is building the 133 megawatt wind farm along 980 hectares of coastal land between Waverley and Patea.

Last evening, the Chipol Donghai, carrying six hubs, 11 towers and 30 blades, docked at Port Taranaki.

From today until Wednesday, the components will be moved by heavy lifting vehicles to the Eastern Reclamation and stored.

Another shipment, carrying wind turbine nacelle units from Denmark, and two further shipments of hubs, towers and blades from China will arrive at Port Taranaki in coming weeks.

All up, 31 hubs, 31 towers and ninety-three 64m blades will be shipped and stored at Port Taranaki before being moved to the Waipipi site.

"With Taranaki, like the rest of New Zealand, looking to shovel-ready projects to help the economy recover from the impact of COVID-19, the Waipipi Wind Farm is a great development for our region. We're really pleased to be able to support this project by using our facilities and expertise," Port Taranaki chief executive Guy Roper said.

"This work helps to get businesses operating and trading re-established, so the fact it's in our area and utilising local businesses is a real boost to the region."

Tilt Renewables' project manager Jim Pearson agreed.

"This is huge for getting the economy moving post COVID-19," he said.

"We've got about 80 guys on-site now and when the crew arrive to start erecting the turbines there will be another 80 on-site.

"Plus there's all the spinoff work. We are focused on using local contractors as much as possible as Taranaki has a good skills base, and the technical support services and infrastructure to support the wind farm through the construction and the operating phase," Mr Pearson said.

"With the changes that COVID-19 has brought to the workplace we have put in place comprehensive protocols and measures to ensure the site can continue to work safely and effectively".

With a rotor diameter of 130m, the 31 Siemens Gamesa turbines will be the largest ever installed in New Zealand, and will generate an annual average of 455 gigawatt hours of electricity – enough to power about 65,000 homes. The project is scheduled to be fully operational next February.

The arrival of the Waipipi wind farm components to Port Taranaki comes on the heels of a shipment of wind blades for Mercury's wind farm at Turitea, in Manawatū.

Ninety-nine blades came into Port Taranaki in February, were stored at the Eastern Reclamation, and have been systematically transported to the wind farm site. In November, another 84 blades will arrive at the port and be transported to Manawatū.

Port Taranaki head of commercial Ross Dingle said the wind farm projects were in line with the port's aim to diversify the trade coming across the berths.

“Logistically, these projects are very exciting and challenging for us,” Mr Dingle said. “It’s great our assets, skills and expertise are being used for a new type of cargo.”

The components will be moved along Ocean View Parade, from Port Taranaki’s East Gate to the Eastern Reclamation, daily between 6am and 6pm.

Mr Dingle asked the public to please be aware of the truck movements along the road and to take care.

Source: Port Taranaki

#### **NEW PROJECT**

### **Wimmera Plains Energy Facility**

Location: 1797 Henty Hwy, Jung Victoria

Capacity: 302 MW

Developer: BayWa r.e.

Status: A Planning Application was submitted in May 2020

Description: Wimmera Plains Energy Facility will consist of 54 wind turbines with a planned capacity of 5.6 MW each. The height to the tip of each blade will be up to 247 m. Electricity generated from the wind turbines will be collected at two substations. The connection between the substations will consist of a 220kV overhead powerline of approximately 3,650m. All other cables within the site will be laid underground. The wind farm will connect to the existing 220kV electricity network traversing the site near the main substation. The area where the wind turbines will be installed consists of privately owned land that is used primarily for cropping.

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## **Davenport to take delivery of first synchronous condenser**

23 May

The first of two synchronous condensers to be installed at Davenport near Port Augusta in South Australia’s north, which arrived in Adelaide recently, will be transported under police escort to ElectraNet’s Davenport substation site today.

ElectraNet Chief Executive, Steve Masters, said the arrival and transportation of the synchronous condenser was an important next step in improving the strength and reliability of South Australia’s electricity network.

“As more renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power are connected to the electricity network, we don’t have the same level of system strength that was generated by conventional synchronous generators, which are now being used less often,” Mr Masters said.

“This has created a shortfall in system strength and inertia in our power network, increasing the risk of system instability and supply interruptions.

“To respond to this and in order to ensure South Australian power customers have a secure power supply, we will be installing four synchronous condensers, two at Davenport and two at Robertstown.

“This first synchronous condenser, along with a second that should arrive by the end of this month, will be installed at our Davenport substation site and energised by the end of the year.

“Construction crews have been working at the Davenport site over the past 10 months to prepare it for the arrival of these huge and critical pieces of power infrastructure. Each one weighs in at more than 170 tonnes, is more than five metres tall and eight metres long.

“Currently the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) has to direct generators to operate at certain times to maintain adequate levels of system strength in South Australia. These directions are costly and add to customer electricity bills.

“By comparison the synchronous condensers are estimated to deliver a net saving to customers equivalent to \$3 to \$5 per year on a typical South Australian residential electricity bill from the time of commissioning.”

A further two synchronous condensers, to be installed at Robertstown, will arrive in Adelaide towards the end of the year. They will become operational by the middle of 2021.

Minister for Energy and Mining Dan van Holst Pellekaan welcomed ElectraNet’s investment in the modernisation of South Australia’s electricity network.

“The installation of the synchronous condensers will help deliver cheaper, more reliable electricity to South Australian households and businesses,” said Minister for Energy and Mining Dan van Holst Pellekaan.

#### Background

A system strength shortfall was declared by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) on 13 October 2017 and a shortfall in inertia was declared on 24 December 2018.

A secure power system needs adequate levels of system strength and inertia, which to date have been provided by traditional synchronous generators.

A lack of system strength or inertia on the power system brings with it an increased risk of system instability and supply interruptions.

System strength relates to the ability of a power system to manage minor fluctuations in supply or demand while maintaining stable voltage levels, ensuring stable and secure supply for customers.

Inertia relates to the ability of a power system to manage fluctuations in supply or demand while maintaining stable system frequency.

The synchronous condenser project is estimated to cost about \$190 million. In August 2019, the Australian Energy Regulator approved funding for the capital cost of the synchronous condensers.

The two synchronous condensers to be installed at Davenport have been designed and manufactured by GE.

The two synchronous condensers that will be installed at Robertstown will be designed and manufactured by Siemens.

Source: ElectraNet

#### **NEW PROJECT**

### **Kerang Aerodrome Solar Micro Grid**

Location: Kerang Aerodrome, Victoria

Capacity: 5 MW

Developer: KIG Energy Pty Ltd

LGA: Gannawarra Shire Council

Status: Council seeking public feedback until 29 June 2020

Description: Gannawarra Shire Council is proposing to lease of a 12-hectare section of the Kerang Aerodrome for a lease term of 30 years for the purpose of the construction, commissioning and operation of a 5MW Solar Micro Grid. All costs associated with building and constructing the Micro Grid facility will be the responsibility of KIG Energy Pty Ltd, as will be their obligation to rehabilitate the land to its original state at the end of the lease term.

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## Central-West Renewable Energy Zone - Registration of Interest

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) is asking renewable energy, energy storage and emerging energy project proponents to register their interest in being part of the state's first pilot Renewable Energy Zone in Central-West NSW (Central-West REZ).

The Registration of Interest (ROI) will help the NSW Government understand the scale, location and types of projects considering joining the Central-West REZ. The information provided will support technical design, planning and further market engagement on the Central-West REZ.

To respond to the ROI, please [click here](#). Participants with multiple projects in the Central-West REZ can submit multiple responses. The ROI will be open for two weeks and will close on **Friday 5 June 2020**.

Source: NSW Government

### PROJECT NEWS

#### Batchelor Solar Farm

Tranex Solar Pty Ltd is currently completing the Mechanical scope of a 10MW solar farm located in [Batchelor](#) NT (an hour south of Darwin). The project infrastructure occupies a footprint of approximately 20 ha and uses single-axis NEXTracker, Inc, tracking system. BSR Group (British Solar Renewables) has the EPC contract for the solar farm being developed by oil & gas company Eni Spa which acquired it from original co-developers Infigen & Tetris Energy.

## Release of the Technology Investment Roadmap

25 May

On 21 May 2020, the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction, the Hon Angus Taylor MP, launched a discussion paper on the

Government's Technology Investment Roadmap.

The Government will prioritise investment in low emissions technologies that strengthen our economy and support jobs and businesses on the road to recovery from COVID-19.

The Roadmap is a process for prioritizing investments in technology across the short (to 2022), medium (to 2030) and long term (to 2050).

Government will look to support a wide range of technologies with the potential to reduce emissions across sectors. Through the Roadmap process, the Government will set clear goals for the most important and prospective of these – as we have already done with the “H2 under \$2”.

The Roadmap will help prioritise Australian investments and provide a framework for setting technology economic goals over the short, medium and long term.

The Government welcomes stakeholders' views on the roadmap, including with respect to:

- the challenges, global trends and competitive advantages that should be considered in setting Australia's technology priorities,
- the short-list of technologies that Australia could prioritise for achieving scale in deployment through its technology investments,
- goals for leveraging private investment,
- what broader issues, including infrastructure, skills, regulation or, planning, need to be worked through to enable priority technologies to be adopted at scale in Australia, and
- where Australia is well-placed to take advantage of future demand for low emissions technologies, and support global emissions reductions by helping to deepen trade, markets and global supply chains.

In particular, the Government would welcome suggestions for economic stretch goals that

could help establish pathways for the cost-effective deployment of priority technologies. As outlined in this roadmap, these stretch goals would include producing hydrogen under \$2 per kilogram, but could also cover carbon capture use and storage (CCUS), biological sequestration (in soil and vegetation), firmed renewables, and long duration energy storage. The Government is interested in partnering with industry, research institutions and others with relevant commercial or technical expertise to develop these economic stretch goals, which should be ambitious, but achievable.

The Technology Investment Roadmap discussion paper is available for download and comment on the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources' Consultation Hub (<https://consult.industry.gov.au/climate-change/technology-investment-roadmap>).

Written submissions responding to the discussion paper are open until Sunday 21 June 2020.

Source: Bioenergy Australia

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## **Juwi to construct wind and solar farm in regional Western Australia**

27 May

The [hybrid project](#) consists of a renewable energy hub which will include a 4 megawatt solar farm combined with two 4.5 megawatt wind turbines integrated with a lithium ion battery system and gas generators.

juwi Renewable Energy Pty Ltd, the Brisbane subsidiary of German renewable energy specialist juwi AG, has signed an agreement with Perth-based Contract Power to construct the high penetration solar and wind components of a new hybrid generation solution for the town of Esperance in south eastern Western Australia.

Contract Power will own and operate the Esperance hybrid renewables facility which is

expected to meet up to half of the town's annual electricity demand. The project is scheduled to be operational in early 2022.

Dave Manning, Global Head of Hybrid at juwi said that hybrid power solutions offer the potential to significantly reduce fossil fuel generation in pristine environments whilst maintaining reliability at competitive costs.

"The generated electricity will be distributed by Horizon Power, which is owned by the West Australian Government and supplies electricity to communities across regional Western Australia," said Mr Manning. "We are looking forward to working with Contract Power to deliver this landmark project in Esperance."

The construction and development of hybrid power plants for off-grid customers such as mines is an important pillar of juwi's Australian business strategy. These projects intelligently integrate solar, wind and battery power with existing electricity grids using a juwi-developed microgrid control system called juwi Hybrid IQ. Stephen Hansen, juwi Board member responsible for international business, said juwi has already proved what renewable energy solutions can achieve through its world-renowned DeGrussa project and continues to build on this accomplishment. "Our customers benefit from our comprehensive service portfolio that supports our clients at every stage, from project development and commissioning to the operation and maintenance of their systems," said Mr. Hansen.

juwi has already achieved remarkable success in selected markets. The construction of a solar farm in Kozani, Greece is currently under development. With an expected capacity of 204 megawatts, it will become the largest solar farm in south-east Europe. In the coming years, juwi will also develop a solar portfolio with a capacity of 500 megawatts in the United States for a regional energy supplier in Colorado. Since the founding of the company in 1996, juwi has planned and developed close to 2,000 solar power plants of various sizes,



with an overall capacity of more than 2,700 megawatts in more than 25 countries.

The Esperance project will be the fourth hybrid project by juwi in Australia. The company has constructed hybrid renewable energy solutions for three other Australian customers to date: the Degruessa Gold and Copper Mine, the Agnew mine and a research centre on Heron Island.

Source: juwi Renewable Energy

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## **Cross-sector calls for clean energy in economic recovery plan**

27 May

Our diverse organisations together call for support for COVID economic recovery to urgently stimulate jobs and to rebuild a sustainable and strong economy.

Australia faces a public health emergency with immediate economic impacts, as well as longer-lasting global economic pain. Beyond the pandemic, Australian prosperity also depends on dealing with other long-term challenges – including the transition to net zero emissions.

Economic recovery efforts can and should contribute to addressing these long term challenges. Our organisations encourage governments to bolster their jobs and recovery strategies with measures to reduce emissions and accelerate successful energy transitions across all Australia's regions and economic sectors.

There are many opportunities. One particularly promising area for investment is better energy efficiency and energy management. Useful upgrades could be made across Australia's private and public housing; commercial, community and government buildings; and industrial facilities.

Improvements could include more efficient and controllable appliances and major

equipment, especially for heating and cooling; improved thermal envelopes and shading; smart meters and sub-metering; distributed energy generation and storage; fuel switching; and the equipment, training and external advice needed for better energy management.

If done well, these investments would durably lower energy bills; ease strains on a rapidly changing energy system; improve health and safety during increasingly hot summers; boost the competitiveness of local manufacturers, whose value to Australia is clearer than ever; enable deeper emissions cuts – and sustain activity across a broad range of trades and industries.

The International Energy Agency has highlighted that energy efficiency upgrades are job-intensive and strongly support economic stimulus goals. In Australia, a major drive to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and industry could deliver over 120,000 job-years of employment.

Support for upgrades and new construction of public, low income and vulnerable housing would also help those most affected by pandemic restrictions and lift their purchasing power.

Support for upgrades and new construction of private housing would also capitalise on people's renewed interest in improving their homes, driving additional private investment.

Support for commercial and industrial efficiency would cut operating costs and make investment and employment easier to sustain.

Positive examples to build on include:

- Housing: The Clean Energy Finance Corporation has supported construction of hundreds of 7-star efficiency affordable housing units by St George Community Housing in Sydney, and with additional investment from New South Wales Government supported upgrades and installation of solar PVs of 700 existing units,

providing energy bill savings of up to \$500 per household

- Commercial buildings: In 2017 the Victorian Government supported an energy upgrade to the MCG that cut its energy use by 24 per cent, enough to power 1872 houses a year

- Industry: In 2019 ARENA identified already-economic opportunities to save the equivalent of 12 per cent of industrial gas use for heat

- Government buildings: The Victorian Government is investing \$7 million to improve health facilities in the Mornington Peninsula region, which will improve front-line services and cut their energy bills by \$1.2 million a year

Governments should also look for other options that can support economic recovery and energy transition. The Federal and State Governments should integrate recovery plans with their respective clean technology roadmaps and long term emissions strategies, grid modernisation planning, carbon farming development and bushfire recovery to build greater resilience and reduce climate risk.

Investments will work best with careful design and discussion with regulators, business and the community. Equity and accessibility are essential to ensure that the most vulnerable benefit fully.

We are confident that smart, swift and sustained responses can speed the recovery and put Australia's future growth on stronger foundations.

Endorsed by:

Kelly O'Shanassy, CEO, Australian Conservation Foundation

Cassandra Goldie, CEO, Australian Council of Social Service

Michele O'Neil, President, Australian Council of Trade Unions

Sarah McNamara, Chief Executive, Australian Energy Council

Innes Willox, Chief Executive, Australian Industry Group

Conny Lenneberg, Executive Director, Brotherhood of St Laurence

Jennifer Westacott, CEO, Business Council of Australia

John Connor, CEO, Carbon Market Institute

Luke Menzel, CEO, Energy Efficiency Council

Andrew Richards, CEO, Energy Users' Association of Australia

Emma Herd, CEO, Investor Group on Climate Change

Malcolm Richards, CEO, Master Electricians Australia

Ken Morrison, Chief Executive, Property Council of Australia

Toby O'Connor, National Council CEO, St Vincent de Paul Society

Dermot O'Gorman, CEO, WWF-Australia

#### **NEW PROJECT**

### **Toolern Vale Solar Farm**

Location: Toolern Vale, Victoria

Capacity: 16 MW

Developer: Tetris Energy

Status: Development application submitted

Description: Located on Holden Road, south of Toolern Vale the solar farm will connect into the Powercor system.

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#### **PROJECT NEWS**

### **Molong Solar Farm**

We have secured a new contract with AMP Energy to build the 39 MW of the [Molong Solar Farm](#) in New South Wales, Australia. We will also provide operation and maintenance (O&M) services on the project for at least two years.

The PV plant will have 89,088 photovoltaic modules that will produce enough energy to meet the electricity demand of 10,981 homes. In addition, the project is expected to create 160 local jobs during construction and some more in the O&M phase.

Source: GRS

## **New energy rules boost options for remote communities**

28 May

Eligible customers in remote areas will be able to access off-grid energy from their electricity network without losing their consumer protections, retail deals or reliability under new rules devised by the AEMC.

Homes and businesses in bushfire, cyclone or flood-prone areas and weak parts of the grid will also benefit under the rules announced today.

This major national reform means that energy distribution businesses can take advantage of improved renewable technologies to choose stand-alone power systems when it's cheaper than using poles and wires to supply their customers via the grid.

"We're making sure the energy rules keep pace with technologies that allow better energy options, give people at the edge of the grid a more reliable service, help lower emissions and bring whole-of-system costs down," said AEMC Chair John Pierce.

"Stand-alone power systems, which are usually a combination of solar, batteries and a back-up generator, are getting cheaper and more sophisticated. In contrast, supplying customers using poles and wires in remote areas can be very costly.

"Network costs can increase further when there are issues with poor access and managing vegetation, or the need to use more expensive equipment (such as insulated overhead conductors or underground cable) to manage things like bushfire risk.

"Stand-alone systems give electricity networks more options – and that's good for customers."

While the total number of customers eligible for stand-alone power systems will be relatively small, the cost savings to networks

will be relatively large, because getting power to this group is disproportionately expensive.

Changing the rules will bring costs down across the board because network costs make up around half of the average electricity bill. Importantly, checks and balances will still be in place, so customers are not disadvantaged.

These include making sure customers can still access competitive energy retail deals and that they have the same consumer protections, such as access to hardship provisions and ombudsman dispute resolution.

"Until now, there has been no national approach to stand-alone power systems, which have largely come under different state and territory legislation," Mr Pierce said.

States and territories will still need to adapt their regulations so the new rules can operate but it's possible some of this work could be done in parallel.

While the rules announced today apply to stand-alone power systems led by distribution network businesses, the AEMC has also produced recommendations on how to regulate stand-alone systems run by non-distribution network businesses.

Examples include local councils, community groups, developers and other third parties. These recommendations have been sent to the COAG Energy Council for consideration.

Read the final report on [Updating the regulatory frameworks for distributor-led stand-alone power systems.](#)

Source: AEMC

## PROJECT NEWS

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### Uungula Wind Farm

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared and the development application has been lodged with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) for CWP Renewables' proposed [Uungula Wind Farm](#). The EIS will be on public exhibition for information and comment on the DPIE's Major Projects website for six weeks from 27 May 2020—8 July 2020.

The public are invited to make submissions on the Project application, via the [DPIE Major Projects website](#).

The EIS has been undertaken to assess potential environmental impacts for a range of issues identified through the consultation process and site investigations. The EIS was prepared by Eco Logical Australia (ELA) according to the DPIE Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements and includes the following technical studies:

- Aviation
- Biodiversity
- Bushfire
- Economic benefits
- Hazard screening
- Heritage
- Hydrology
- Landscape and Visual
- Noise and vibration

Source: CWP Renewables

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### Suntech successfully commissions Robinvale Solar Farm during COVID-19

29 May

Suntech Power Development Australia, a wholly owned subsidiary of Suntech Power Japan Corporation, has successfully grid connected 9.47 MWp [Robinvale solar farm](#) in Victoria. Located approximately 90 km south-west of Mildura and 470 km north-west of Melbourne, the Robinvale solar farm is built

on 22 hectares of land and comprises of 24,920 Suntech's mono-crystalline photovoltaic panels mounted on single-axis trackers.

"The Robinvale Solar Farm is our first 100% owned project in the Australian pipeline to come to realisation, and we look to further expand our solar footprint in Australia." Indicated by Zeight Gao, CEO of Suntech Power Japan Corporation.

The Robinvale solar farm is one of the first in Australia to utilise string inverters on utility-scale. It consists of 147 string inverters and 3 transformers connected to Powercor's 22kV network, just 700 meters away from Robinvale substation.

The solar farm is expected to generate approx. 18,000 MWh annually, enough to power approx. 2300 homes and reduce carbon emission by 15,000 tonnes. The electricity from the solar farm is contracted under a long-term power purchase agreement with a fast-growing, innovative electricity retailer—Mojo Power.

Despite multiple disruptions, due to bushfires and COVID-19 pandemic, the Robinvale solar farm has completed construction in just 6 months, on-time and without delays. Comprehensive and proactive planning by Suntech's team ensured that the project was delivered on schedule.

"Given this experience, we are now confident to deliver Riverina Solar Farm which is currently under development." said Lorita Chen, the country representative of IPP business of Suntech Group.

For more information on the Robinvale Solar Farm project please contact Suntech Power Development Australia on [info@suntech-power.net.au](mailto:info@suntech-power.net.au).

Source: Suntech Power Development Australia

## Photon Energy to add 14 MWp to its PV portfolio in Australia

29 May

- The Company has reached financial close for the construction of [two PV power plants](#) with a combined capacity of 14 MWp in Leeton, New South Wales
- Photon Energy has developed the projects, will perform all engineering works and upon completion will operate the power plants as part of its proprietary IPP portfolio
- The power plants are expected to be commissioned in Q4 2020 and will supply approx. 26.8 GWh of cost-competitive energy to the National Energy Market via the distribution network operated by Essential Energy

Photon Energy N.V. (WSE: PEN, the 'Group' or 'Company') announces that its fully-owned project companies Leeton Solar Farm Pty Ltd. and Fivebough Solar Farm Pty Ltd. have signed agreements with Infradebt for the project debt financing of two PV power plants with a combined installed capacity of 14 MWp in Leeton, New South Wales.

'These are the two largest projects to be added to Photon Energy's portfolio to date, and our first merchant projects providing competitive energy into the market. The experience we gain in operating the power plants will be used to maximise revenues in the energy market,' said Michael Gartner, CTO of the Group and Managing Director of Photon Energy Australia.

Photon Energy has a full-lifecycle approach to PV power plants, and in accordance with this, both projects have been developed in-house and will represent the first Australian utility-scale PV power plants in the Group's IPP portfolio. Photon Energy Engineering Australia Pty Ltd. will act as engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contractor for both projects. Commissioning is expected in Q4 2020, after which long-term O&M services will be provided by Photon Energy Operations Australia Pty Ltd.

Each power plant has a grid connection capacity of 4.95 MWp AC and an installed capacity of 7 MWp DC. The plants' bi-facial PV modules will be mounted on single-axis trackers and will supply the produced electricity to Essential Energy's distribution network as non-scheduled generators. The combined annual electricity production of both PV power plants is forecast to be 26.8 GWh, and will be sold on the National Electricity Market on a merchant basis, as will the Large Generation Certificates (LGCs) generated by the plants. This means that no power purchase agreements (PPAs) have been entered into by Photon Energy. PPAs may, however, play a role in the plants' future revenue management strategy, alongside other price-hedging options.

'We will be actively managing the plants in response to changes in market pricing, as well as planning for the addition of energy storage, to enable the plants to position themselves in the market as it transitions from centralised fossil-fuel-burning power plants to distributed low cost renewables,' concluded Michael Gartner.

The Leeton and Fivebough PV power plants will be located on the outskirts of Leeton, in the heart of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. The region is one of the most diverse in Australia, famous for the production of citrus fruits and wine. It is also an area of significant energy use, which has traditionally imported energy from large coal power plants located hundreds of kilometres away.

'Today is another milestone for Photon Energy, with the start of construction on the first two utility-scale power plants in Australia to be added to our portfolio, which will help the Group in reducing the seasonality of electricity-generation revenues globally. Our merchant approach in Australia paves the way for grid-competitive assets to be developed and added to our European markets and elsewhere in the world. In these challenging times, we are proud that our Australian team has made another major achievement, representing an important step towards the

implementation of our development strategy’,  
added Georg Hotar, CEO of Photon Energy.

‘Infradebt is pleased to finalise its part in financing the Leeton Solar Farms. We have worked closely with Photon Energy over the past few months to provide a senior debt facility that supports their strategy in Australia. We look forward to working with Photon Energy in the future and assisting them with their future development pipeline,’ said Alexander Austin, CEO of Infradebt.

Source: Photon Energy