Construction starts in earnest on Yarranlea Solar Farm, Queensland

23 July
Toowoomba based earthworks and surveying firms have moved into the second stage of the construction of the Yarranlea Solar Farm, Queensland.

Preliminary works have been completed, with the next phase of construction involving bulk earthworks to prepare the site for installation of the solar panels and substation equipment. The Yarranlea Solar project bulk earthworks contract was awarded to Sedl Contractors, the Toowoomba based, family owned earth moving civil contractors.

The ongoing survey works have been allocated to local firm Byrne Surveyors, a long-established Toowoomba survey firm. For over 50 years Byrne Surveyors has undertaken surveys throughout South West Queensland, covering the Darling Downs, Lockyer Valley, Granite Belt and Maranoa Districts.

Yarranlea Solar will be outsourcing construction contracts for the solar farm. This is specialised work, and local contractors and firms will be utilised where possible.

Planting of screening vegetation is also scheduled to commence soon.

As owners of the Yarranlea Solar Farm project, Risen Energy will progress the project from detailed engineering design, through construction, commissioning and ultimately the operation of the solar farm.

It is anticipated that approximately 200 positions will be created during the construction of the Yarranlea Solar farm which will have approximately 400,000 solar panels installed at the site. The workforce on site at any one time will vary as the project cycles through various construction phases (civil works, foundations, assembly, electrical assembly, cabling, commissioning).

Construction of the solar installation started mid-year and will continue through to 2019.

Yarranlea Solar is working with Ergon to develop a switching station which will allow the solar farm to connect to the existing 110kV network.

The Yarranlea Solar management team is currently addressing accommodation arrangements within the town of Pittsworth.

Yarranlea Solar Farm is located near Pittsworth, approximately 50km west of Toowoomba on the Darling Downs. The farm will be approximately 250ha in area and have a generation capacity of approximately 121.5 megawatts DC, being sufficient to power up to 32,000 homes.

The project will connect to the power grid using the existing Ergon Energy infrastructure, located close to the development site. This will allow transmission of power into the Middle Ridge Bulk Supply Substation for
ultimate use in the Toowoomba and Darling Downs area.

Yarranlea Solar Farm, Queensland will use the latest Risen Energy PV panel technology and eventually integrate battery storage to allow it to supply power to the grid during periods of peak demand. The completed facility will have an operating life of 30 years, with the option for extensions. At the end of the facility’s useful operating life, all physical infrastructure will be decommissioned, and the land returned to its former agricultural use.

The project received development approval from the Toowoomba Regional Council in February 2017.

Source: Risen Energy

Large solar PV installation opens

23 July

The Hodgman Liberal Government’s Tasmania-First Energy policy has set a target to have the lowest regulated electricity prices in Australia, coupled with the goal to make Tasmania 100 per cent self-sufficient in renewable energy by 2022.

Today I warmly welcome one of the largest commercial solar PV installations in Tasmania.

SRT Logistics, a Tasmanian-owned transport company, partnered with Aurora Energy and Beon Energy Solutions to deliver the system across its two distribution centres in Launceston and Devonport.

The state-of-the-art 2,546 panel, 831kW solar system, will generate over 1 million kWhs per year, or the equivalent of powering the equivalent of 143 homes.

The solution was custom-designed to meet the specific electricity requirements of SRT Logistics, and they expect the new solar array will reduce their energy costs by up to 50 per cent.

We are also undertaking a review of the Solar Feed-in Tariff (FiT) to lower the cost of electricity for Tasmanian households and small businesses.

Large commercial customers like SRT won’t be directly impacted by any changes to the FiT rate because their pricing arrangements are negotiated on a commercial basis, and their prices are not regulated by the Office of the Tasmanian Economic Regulator (OTTER).

We believe Tasmania is in a unique position to become the renewable energy battery of the nation, and we have a Plan to make this a reality. Building on our current renewable energy assets will create jobs, stimulate the economy, and most importantly provide renewable, reliable, and affordable energy.

Source: Tasmanian Government

PROJECT NEWS

Darlington Point Solar Farm

Federal government decided Edify Energy’s proposed Darlington Point Solar Farm in NSW is not a controlled action and so does not need approval under the EPBC Act to proceed. The proposed 275 MW solar farm, 10km south of Darlington Point township in the Murrumbidgee Council LGA in western NSW, also has provision for a 100MWh battery energy storage system. The project area is approximately 1042 hectares in size, with approximately 710 ha proposed to be developed for the solar farm.
New Energy Solar to acquire 87.0MWac Beryl Solar Project in NSW

23 July

Acquisition Highlights:
• 108.4MWDC/ 87.0MWAC solar power plant under construction with commercial operation expected in mid-2019
• 15-year PPA with NSW Government statutory authority Transport for NSW
• Gross expected five-year average yield of 8.2%\(^1\) per annum, improving overall portfolio yield
• Consideration being given to a battery installation to enhance risk-adjusted returns
• Grows NEW’s Australian exposure to approximately 20% of the total portfolio
• Total portfolio has a weighted average PPA term of 16.7 years\(^2\)
• Security Purchase Plan offer to partially fund the acquisition and enhance financial flexibility

New Energy Solar (ASX:NEW) is pleased to announce that it has entered into binding agreements to acquire the Beryl Solar Farm (Beryl) from a subsidiary of First Solar, Inc. (Nasdaq:FSLR, First Solar). Beryl is the second project that NEW has acquired from First Solar in Australia, following the announcement of the acquisition of the Manildra Solar Farm. Under the agreements, and subject to the satisfaction of conditions precedent, NEW will acquire a 49% interest in Beryl shortly after construction has commenced. Once Beryl reaches commercial operation (targeted for mid-2019), and subject to remaining consents and conditions, NEW will acquire the remaining 51%.

Beryl is located approximately 5km west of Gulgong, NSW, in one of the three priority renewable energy zones identified by the NSW Government. On full commercial operation, the plant will sell approximately 134,000 MWh of electricity per annum to Transport for NSW (TfNSW) under a 15-year power purchase agreement (PPA) to meet the electricity requirements of the Sydney Metro Northwest railway.\(^3\)

Total construction cost is expected to be approximately A$187m. NEW’s acquisition price is confidential, but based on a target unlevered five-year annual average gross yield of 8.2%\(^1\) per annum, compared to the current gross annualised yield on NEW’s existing operating portfolio of approximately 6.8%\(^4\) per annum.

John Martin, CEO of NEW said, “Beryl, NEW’s second investment in Australia, will further enhance the scale and contracted cashflows of our Australian portfolio. The 15-year PPA term, longer than PPAs currently offered in the Australian market, diversifies our contract tenor profile and underpins investor returns. Following the Manildra acquisition last month, we are delighted to be consolidating our relationship with First Solar through this second sizeable transaction in the Australian market.”

Subject to the satisfaction of conditions precedent customary for a transaction of this nature, NEW will acquire Beryl on a levered basis, funded with cash reserves and existing and new debt facilities. The project’s construction debt facility, provided by Société Générale, MUFG Bank, and Mizuho, will convert to an A$ term facility at completion. The underlying interest rate is c.81% hedged throughout the initial term, reducing exposure to future movements in domestic interest rates.

New Energy Solar’s Head of Investments, Liam Thomas said, “Beryl is an ideal project for our second Australian acquisition, and we are very pleased to have added a project of this scale and quality so soon after Manildra. Once completed, approximately 20% of New Energy Solar’s portfolio will be in Australia. The project provides stable SA cashflow under the long-term PPA with TfNSW. The PPA structure, under which the majority of the offtake is contracted, is consistent with our strategy to secure predictable, low-risk returns for investors. At the same time, the uncontracted volume allows us to explore other PPA arrangements, battery storage and other value-enhancing options.”
Downer Utilities Australia Pty Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Downer EDI Limited (ASX:DOW), commenced construction of the plant in May this year utilising First Solar’s latest Series 6 modules. Beryl is expected to generate more than 199,000 megawatt hours of electricity in the first operating year, equivalent to displacing more than 167,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions per annum, powering 25,000 average NSW homes, or removing 45,000 cars from the road.\textsuperscript{5}

First Solar Energy Services will provide construction management services and, once completed, operations, maintenance and asset management services to the project.

Once the Beryl transaction is complete and the plant is operational, and NEW’s committed and in construction assets in the US are operational, NEW’s portfolio will comprise interests in over 840MWDC of operating solar projects across the US and Australia with a portfolio value of over A$1.1 billion.

NEW’s contribution to producing emissions-free electricity continues to grow with the total portfolio expected to generate more than 1,700,000 megawatt hours of electricity annually.\textsuperscript{6} This is equivalent to displacing more than 1,153,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions, powering 195,000 US and Australian equivalent homes, or removing 282,000 US and Australian equivalent cars from the road, every year.\textsuperscript{7}

\begin{itemize}
    \item Gross yield is measured before transaction costs, fees, debt service and tax.
    \item As at 31 July 2018 and assuming the option to extend the Manildra PPA is exercised.
    \item The TfNSW PPA represents approximately 69% of Beryl’s generation during the 15 year term.
    \item The operating portfolio gross yield reflects the expected average gross yield during 2018 of the five assets currently operating in the US and one asset (Manildra) in Australia.
    \item Environmental estimates provided by First Solar.
\end{itemize}

6 Generation is illustrative of the total production of each asset based on P50 forecasts and all projects commissioned as expected. NEW’s effective equity accounted share of generation is expected to be approximately 1,375,000 megawatt hours

7 US CO2 Emission Reduction is calculated using the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s “Avoided Emissions and Generation Tool”, which estimates the regional displacement of fossil fuels for a new solar PV installation. Australian environmental estimates provided by First Solar.

Source: New Energy Solar

\begin{tabular}{|p{\textwidth}|}
    \hline
    \textbf{PROJECT NEWS} \\
    \textbf{Low Head Wind Farm} \\
    The Federal Department of the Environment & Energy has approved plans for the \textbf{Low Head Wind Farm}, approximately 8km northeast of George Town on the north coast of Tasmania, subject to conditions. Limits to turbine specifications and siting have been placed on the proposed 30 MW, 10-turbine wind farm to minimise impacts to Tasmanian devils and wedge-tailed eagles. \\
    \hline
    \textbf{Snowy Hydro 2.0 stage 1 on exhibition} \\
    25 July \\
    The NSW Department of Planning and Environment has opened community consultation on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the first stage of the \textbf{Snowy 2.0 Project}. \\
    The Stage 1 EIS seeks approval for the construction of a 3.1 km exploratory tunnel to investigate ground conditions at the proposed location for a new 2000 megawatt underground hydro-electric power station in the Snowy Mountains. \\
    In March this year, Snowy 2.0 was declared “critical” significant state infrastructure due to its potential to contribute to the future \hline
\end{tabular}
security of the state’s energy system, the economy and the environment.

The Department’s Executive Director for Resource Assessments, Mike Young, said critical significant state infrastructure is no different to any other major project, requiring detailed community consultation and comprehensive environmental assessment.

“Snowy 2.0 is located in Kosciuszko National Park which is NSW’s largest national park, and the impacts of its proposed construction need to be fully considered,” Mr Young said.

The broader program of works being considered involves up to five stages, including the construction and operation of a pumped hydro storage and generation project, and major upgrades to the NSW transmission system to connect the proposed power station to major load centres across the state.

“Each stage of the project requires a separate approval and an EIS, which will be publicly exhibited to provide the community an opportunity to comment on each stage,” he said.

During the public exhibition period, the Department will be holding community information sessions, to help people better understand the assessment process and how to make a submission, at the following locations:
- All Saints Anglican Church, 6-8 River Street, Tumut on Wednesday, August 1, 2018, from 6pm to 8pm; and
- Monaro Car Clubhouse, 11 Bolaro Street, Cooma on Thursday, August 2, 2018, from 6pm to 8pm.

Mr Young said after the consultation period ends, the developer will address the issues through a Response to Submissions report, to be made publicly available on the Department of Planning website.

The Department will then assess the proposal, taking into account environmental, social and economic impacts, all community and stakeholder submissions received during exhibition, and advice from government and independent experts.

For more information on the project visit the Department’s Major Project Assessments page.

Source: NSW Government

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Wind Farm trial shows promising results for system security
25 July

As the Australian Energy Market Operator, we’re constantly looking for new ways to provide better energy security for all Australians, which includes delicately balancing supply-demand levels, and maintaining frequency and voltage.

This is why we recently held an Australian-first trial with the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, NEOEN, and Siemens-Gamesa Australia, to see if a specific type of wind farms could provide essential power system stability services to our market.

Like your home radio, our power system needs to remain finely tuned in order to function properly, and as Frequency Control Ancillary Services (FCAS) is what AEMO uses to make sure our frequency levels remain within a range that keeps all the electricity generation and transmission equipment safe and secure. These services have traditionally been provided by thermal generators like coal and gas power plants.

Providing these services can be a costly experience, and with an increasing amount of wind and solar farms coming online, there is an opportunity for these new participants to compete in these existing markets and push the overall energy cost down for end-consumers.
The project’s objectives were to model, implement and test the capability of Hornsdale Wind Farm 2 to be remotely controlled by AEMO for FCAS, and to determine the types of FCAS the wind farm can provide (there are eight markets!).

“The success of this project will benefit the power system by increasing the overall availability of FCAS service providers, which will put a downward pressure on prices,” said Jo Witters, Executive General Manager of Strategy and Innovation at AEMO.

“This trial is an essential step towards a more efficient and competitive FCAS market, with service provision across a range of resource types, ultimately benefiting consumers,” said Jo.

So what were the results?
Running from 19 December 2017 to 1 February 2018, the in-market trial provided an array of insights to AEMO and its project partners around technical specifications and impacts on prices.

The use of the Hornsdale Wind Farm (and the Hornsdale Power Reserve, better known as the world’s largest battery) in FCAS managed to successfully lower prices during an event on 14 January 2018, reducing them down to $248/MWh from the historically observed $9,000/MWh.

This is expected to have reduced the cost of the five-hour local South Australian FCAS requirement by approximately $3.5 million!

The trial has also enabled AEMO to define specifications that need to be met if more wind farms are looking to provide FCAS services, and underpinned the value of accurate forecasting systems for wind and solar.

As a result of the successful trial, the Hornsdale 2 Wind Farm is now registered and offering FCAS in the National Electricity Market (NEM). This is the first time a wind farm has been registered to offer and deliver FCAS services in Australia.

“This is just one of the steps AEMO is taking towards ensuring energy security for Australians, and we’re excited to see how these insights can be used to demonstrate the broad range of capability of new and emerging technologies,” said Jo.

To find out more about our recent trial check out our latest report, here.

Source: AEMO

NEW PROJECT
Wunghnu 2 Solar Farm
Location: 3.3km west of Wunghnu, Victoria
Developer: IB Vogt
Capacity: 90 MW
LGA: Moira Shire Council
Description: The site is located in farmland and it is intended that the proposed facility will be connected to the electricity grid via the existing power lines which run along the eastern boundary of the site. Titles associated with the proposed facility are approximately 416 hectares in area, with the development covering approximately 240h of the land area. The development was placed on public display by the Moira Shire Council in July and will comprise the following elements:
- Perimeter Security Fencing
- A Construction Compound and site office
- Internal Access roads
- Connection to the existing electricity supply along Reilly’s Pitt Road
- Substation Inverter station / Transformer / Battery Storage
- Single axis tracking solar panels and associated framework
- Onsite cabling between solar panels and Inverters
- Landscaping Buffers
Contact: Jenny Walsh
Planning Manager
Ib vogt
Tel: 0406 908 995
Email: jenny.walsh@ibvogt.com

Source: AEMO
**NEW PROJECTS**

**Bedford Weir Solar Farm**
Location: Approximately 15km north of Blackwater in Central Queensland
Developer: Renewable Energy Developments Pty Ltd
Capacity: To be determined
LGA: Central Highlands Regional Council
Description: The 140ha project area will accommodate the solar farm, consisting of PV arrays and tracking system, inverters, control building, switch yard, provision for battery storage, laydown areas, car parking and utilities connections. The Project may include a battery energy storage system. The detailed design, specific layout and electricity generating capacity have not been confirmed at this stage, including the specific type and number of modules and inverters.
Contact: Michael Rookwood
Environmental Resources Management Australia
Tel: (07) 3007 8478
Email: michael.rookwood@erm.com

**Prairie Solar Farm**
Location: Mitiamo, Victoria
Developer: Pacific Hydro
Capacity: Up to 240 MW
LGA: Loddon Shire Council
Description: The project may be constructed in several stages. Some of the key characteristics of the Prairie site that make it very suitable include:
- flat terrain with minimal trees and vegetation
- rural land, with some areas occasionally used for livestock grazing
- strong potential to connect to the National Electricity Market (NEM)
- good connections to the surrounding transport network
Construction workforce: More than 200
Permanent workforce: 7
Contact: Kim Derriman
Environment Manager
Pacific Hydro
Tel: (03) 8621 6000
Email: kderriman@pacifichydro.com.au

**Dingo Solar Farm**
Location: 5km east of Dingo in the Central Highlands Region of Queensland
Developer: ESCO Pacific
Capacity: Up to 85 MW
LGA: Central Highlands Regional Council
Estimated cost: $95mil
Description: The project will comprise of approximately 240,000 solar panels using horizontal tracking technology on a project area of 215 hectares. It will connect to the grid via an existing 132kV transmission line.
Contact: Steve Rademaker
Managing Director
ESCO Pacific
Email: info@escopacific.com.au

**Moura Solar Farm**
Location: 6.5km south west of Banana, Queensland
Developer: ESCO Pacific
Capacity: Up to 110 MW
LGA: Banana Shire Council
Estimated cost: $120mil
Description: The project will comprise of approximately 330,000 solar panels using horizontal tracking technology located on a project area of 203 hectares, and connected to the Moura Substation.
Contact: Steve Rademaker
Managing Director
ESCO Pacific
Email: info@escopacific.com.au

**Liverpool Range - Voluntary Planning Agreement on exhibition**

26 July
The NSW planning consent conditions for the Liverpool Range Wind Farm include a requirement for a Voluntary Planning Agreement between Epuron, Warrumbungle Shire Council and Upper Hunter Shire Council. The proposed agreement will be on public exhibition on both council websites, in council offices and at the Coolah and Dunedoo libraries from July 12th to August 10th.
The key requirement of the agreement is “a focus on funding community enhancement and road maintenance projects in the area surrounding the project site.” We encourage you to read this proposed agreement and submit any comments to either Council by the end of the exhibition period.

NOTE: The VPA is available here.

Source: Epuron

PROJECT NEWS

Port Latta Wind Farm

Nekon Pty Ltd’s referral for the Port Latta Wind Farm is placed on exhibition by the federal Department of the Environment & Energy. The proposed Port Latta Wind Farm is to be located approximately half-way between Smithton and Rocky Cape in north-west Tasmania, on privately owned agricultural land primarily used for beef cattle production. The site was chosen due to its suitable wind speeds, grid connection feasibility, land zoning, low environmental risk and the sparsity of dwellings. The wind turbines and other associated infrastructure will occupy approximately 6 hectares of the land.

The surrounding area is highly industrialised and includes a landfill operated by the local Circular Head Council, Grange Resources' magnetite pelletisation plant, a bulk gas supply terminal and several electricity transmission lines. A iron ore slurry pipeline (which supplies the Grange Resources facility) runs through the centre of the site. Much of the surrounding area is dedicated to commercial forestry and agriculture.

The Port Latta Wind Farm will consist of:
• Seven wind turbines each of approximately 3.6 MW capacity
• Seven gravelled hardstand areas at the base of each wind turbine
• A temporary construction compound area which will be re-purposed to a silage storage area after wind farm construction
• A power collection system consisting of approximately 2.7 km of 22kV buried cable and 2.4 km of overhead insulated aerial bundled conductor (ABC) cable running between the wind turbines
• Approximately 7.7 km of gravelled road, much of which will be constructed by augmenting existing roads and laneways

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Gigawatt milestone passed for Neoen in Australia after Numurkah solar farm reaches financial close

27 July
• Full construction on Victorian solar farm commences in July, creating up to 300 jobs for the local economy
• With over 1,000 MW in assets in operation and under construction in Australia, Neoen ranks as the country’s number one independent producer of renewable energy

Leading French renewable energy producer Neoen will break ground on its Numurkah solar farm in regional Victoria this week having received the financial green light. The commencement of the project is a significant milestone for Neoen, as it means the company owns and operates or is building 1 GW of assets in Australia.

Located on the Goulburn Valley Highway in northwest Victoria, the 128 MW renewable energy project is supported by a 38 MW Green Certificate Purchase agreement by the Victorian Government and a 15-year power purchase agreement with GFG Alliance’s SIMEC ZEN Energy, signed in presence of French President Emmanuel Macron during his visit in Australia in May.

The total project cost is approximately A$198 million, funded in combination by Neoen, specialist clean energy financer Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC), clients managed
by Vantage Infrastructure, an independent specialist investment manager, as well as German Landesbank NORD/LB.

Downer EDI has been awarded the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract for the power plant. Full construction will commence this week, with the first panels to be installed in October 2018 and commercial operations slated to begin in May 2019. At the peak of construction, the solar farm is expected to create up to 300 new jobs for the Numurkah region.

Once completed, the solar farm will generate over 255 GWh of emission-free, clean, competitive renewable energy per annum.

Franck Woitiez, Managing Director of Neoen Australia, said the successful financial close of Numurkah is one of the most significant milestones for the company’s operations locally.

“Numurkah is an important project for Neoen, firstly because it marks the achievement of our first Gigawatt of projects in Australia, either under construction or in operation. Secondly, because the Victorian Government and Zen energy are long-term partners for Neoen and this project proves that collectively, we are moving towards our aim of delivering sustainable, reliable and competitive energy to all Australians.”

Through its repeated support and innovative approach to renewable energy, the Victorian Government has enabled this project which will deliver even more benefits to the state of Victoria.

“We’re supporting the renewables sector to create local jobs and deliver affordable, clean energy,” said Minister for Energy Lily D’Ambrosio. “We’ve backed the Numurkah solar farm every step of the way to drive down energy prices, create jobs and reduce emissions.”

Source: Neoen

Steel manufacturer, tram passengers, to benefit from latest CEFC solar finance in Victoria

27 July
CEFC finance for the Numurkah Solar Farm is supporting a path-breaking example of how solar energy can deliver a cost-effective solution for Victoria’s energy-intensive manufacturers.

Even before work has begun on the 100MW (AC) (128MWp) solar development in Victoria’s Goulburn Valley region, developer Neoen has secured major power supply contracts for both the Laverton steelworks, in Melbourne’s west, and the Melbourne tram network.

CEFC CEO Ian Learmonth said the CEFC commitment of $56 million in debt finance would help accelerate development of the $198 million solar farm.

“High grid electricity prices, high gas prices and unfavourable contracting conditions have put pressure on tight operating margins for manufacturers,” Mr Learmonth said. “The lower cost of solar, combined with these types of commercial power purchase agreements, offer manufacturers welcome control over their energy use.

“Reducing the electricity bills and carbon emissions of energy-intensive industries such as steel manufacturing is increasingly achievable. The Numurkah Solar Farm contract with Laverton steelworks is an outstanding example of how clean energy can be integrated into manufacturing operations to help decarbonise their production processes and reduce costs with locked-in solar contracts.

“For passengers on Melbourne’s iconic tram network, the benefits are also clear. Trams get cars off the road, which is crucial for lowering emissions. Supporting the operation of the tram network with solar energy is a further
opportunity to reduce emissions in the transport sector.”

Neoen Australia Managing Director Franck Woitiez said the successful financial close of Numurkah is one of the most significant milestones for the company’s operations locally.

“Numurkah is an important project for Neoen,” Mr Woitiez said. “First, because it marks the achievement of our first gigawatt of projects in Australia, either under construction or in operation. And second, because the Victorian Government and ZEN Energy are long-term partners for Neoen and this project proves that collectively, we are moving towards our aim of delivering sustainable, reliable and competitive energy to all Australians.”

Neoen expects the Numurkah Solar Farm to generate about 255,000 megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity into the national power grid each year. That’s enough solar to power about 42,000 homes. The project will be constructed over 500 hectares and include about 350,000 solar panels. It is expected to be operating by the middle of 2019.

Neoen has contracted 60 per cent of the farm’s projected output to renewable energy retailer SIMEC ZEN Energy, a majority owned subsidiary of the GFG Alliance which operates the Laverton steelworks. SIMEC ZEN Energy will use the energy to support firm retail supply contracts to commercial and industrial customers in Victoria, including the Laverton steelworks.

The Victorian Government has contracted a further 30 per cent of Numurkah’s large-scale generation certificates to support its goal of covering the electricity load of Melbourne’s tram network with solar power.

Transaction lead Monique Miller said the CEFC expected to see further demand for solar as energy intensive manufacturers seek corporate power purchase agreements to offset their energy costs.

“In steel making, energy can account for between 20 to 40 per cent of input costs. It makes good economic sense to find a renewable energy resource that can reduce those outlays,” Ms Miller said.

“We expect to see more industrial and commercial businesses contract directly with renewable energy producers to meet their electricity needs in the future, as consumers take more control over their energy needs. This will also strengthen the business case for project developers, giving them security over the sale of their power output as their projects come online.”

The debt finance syndicate for the Numurkah solar project also includes clients managed by Vantage Infrastructure, an independent specialist investment manager, as well as German Landesbank NORD/LB.

With this latest investment, the CEFC has committed just over $420 million to renewable energy projects in Victoria, adding approximately 1GW of solar and wind energy to the state’s power supply.

Source: CEFC

Downer awarded Numurkah Solar Farm contract

27 July

Downer EDI Limited (Downer) announced today it had been awarded an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract worth approximately $160 million for the Numurkah Solar Farm in northwest Victoria.

The Chief Executive Officer of Downer, Grant Fenn, said Downer was a leader in solar farm construction in Australia.

“We are pleased to be working with Neoen to deliver the Numurkah Solar Farm which will deliver significant economic benefits for the local community in addition to the environmental benefits of a large scale renewable energy project,” he said.
The Numurkah Solar Farm is a 128 megawatt (MW) renewable energy project supported by a 38MW Green Certificate Purchase agreement with the Victorian Government and a 15-year power purchase agreement with GFG Alliance’s SIMEC ZEN Energy.

“Through the purchase agreement with the Victorian Government, the Numurkah Solar Farm will help power Melbourne’s tram network, which is operated and maintained by the Keolis Downer joint venture. This connection highlights Downer’s position as the leading integrated services provider in Australia and New Zealand,” Mr Fenn said.

Franck Woitiez, Managing Director of Neoen Australia, said the successful financial close of Numurkah is one of the most significant milestones for the company’s operations locally.

“We’re delighted to have Downer deliver the Numurkah Solar Farm, an important project for Neoen Australia, said the successful financial close of Numurkah is one of the most significant milestones for the company’s operations locally.

Notice to proceed has been issued to Downer under the EPC contract and construction is scheduled to take approximately 12 months.

Source: Downer

Alinta Energy launches renewable energy EOI
27 July
Fast-growing energy retailer and generator, Alinta Energy, has today called for expressions of interest for renewable projects over 50 MW in the National Energy Market.

The company is looking for opportunities where an offtake partner is required or where equity opportunities exist.

With around 3000 MW of owned and contracted capacity in its generation portfolio already, and having just welcomed its millionth customer, Alinta Energy MD & CEO Jeff Dimery said the company is eager to secure additional generation to help the company deliver on its desire to provide more affordable energy to its fast-growing customer base.

“We’re taking on around 2000 customers a day at the moment, and we’re working to deliver 1000 megawatts of owned and contracted renewable generation by 2020, so we welcome any contact from renewable energy developers who are prepared to work with us to deliver more affordable energy to our customers.

“As a retailer that is determined to drive down the cost of energy for our customers and is looking to challenge our larger competitors, I can assure those with suitable projects that you will find a partner that is ready, willing and able in Alinta Energy,” he said.

Interested parties should email renewableenergy@alintaenergy.com.au on or before 3 August 2018.

Source: Alinta Energy