

Cunderdin Hybrid PV Solar + BESS Project

February 2024 Newsletter

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Project Status

Since our last update in December 2023, work has been progressing well at the Cunderdin Hybrid PV Solar + BESS Project. Below, you will find a quick summary of works completed to date and also some exciting news regarding recent events and upcoming community announcements.

Activities On Site

- **Trackers and Solar panels**
 - ✓ 100% of the trackers and panels have been fully assembled.
 - ✓ Testing begins during Q1 2024.
- **BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) and Inverters**
 - ✓ 100% of the BESS and Inverters have been installed.
 - ✓ Testing begins during Q1 2024.
- **Roads, Trenching and Cabling**
 - ✓ All internal roads, trenching and cabling have been completed.

Grid Connection

- **Substation**
 - ✓ Substation construction is ongoing, including civil works and cabling.
 - ✓ Switch room and relay room arrived onsite and installation is ongoing
 - ✓ Testing begins during Q1 2024.
- **Transmission Line**
 - ✓ Transmission Line poles erected and stringed up to the last pole below the existing 132kV Transmission Line.
 - ✓ Works on the last pole are currently taking place
- **Communication towers**
 - ✓ Communication Tower erected in the Substation. Testing begins in Q1 2024
 - ✓ Two Repeater Towers also erected in Northam and Kellerberrin. Testing begins during Q1 2024. Permanent power supply poles to be installed during Q1 2024.

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Community Engagement & Benefit Sharing

GPG Cunderdin Community Grant Program 2024

After a consultation process with local organisations and community groups, we are happy to announce a call out for community grant applications until March 27.

This program will be implemented through the Cunderdin Shire Council and will cover equipment purchases, one-off community events, community projects and facilities improvements.

If you are part of a community group, nonprofit organisation, or locally run institution, please visit the Cunderdin Shire Council website for more information and download the guidelines. In addition to this, there will be an information night on March 6. Please contact Liezl De Beer on 08-96352700 to RSVP.

Australian Youth Award Winner – Cunderdin Shire



Jessica Chant (16) is the eldest of four and has lived her entire life in Cunderdin. She feels that a small town is almost like a second family.

Her work and dedication to the Cunderdin Youth Council for the past five years have allowed her to thrive in the best way possible and have also provided her with opportunities to participate in many community service acts. Jessica is passionate about teaching, working with youth, and providing a helping hand wherever she can. Her future goals include finishing high school and then moving on to university to become an early childhood teacher.

She reflects that adulthood is a scary thought and life can be a rollercoaster. When asked about something she would change if she had the power, she provided two examples that demonstrate maturity and commitment to her future career path.

If I had the power to change something in my community, I would create a space where youth can come together to have conversations and provide support for one another, as well as just to hang out. I believe that it would prevent a lot of crime and mischievous behaviour among youth around the town.

In Australia, I would change the current education system. I would make it so that everyone can have a fair education and equal opportunities to pursue their desired career paths more easily. I would also find a way to provide more funding to schools to have better and more resources to deliver exceptional education programs to all students.

At GPG Australia, we are deeply committed to empowering young Australians on their educational journey through a range of initiatives. With great pleasure, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Jessica for her achievement and present her with a small gift alongside our sincerest wishes for success in her career aspirations.

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Project Website

We are currently developing the website for the Cunderdin Hybrid PV Solar + BESS Project. There, you will find all the information about the project, including its progress, relevant documentation, and other initiatives.

Do You Know About?

Solar Energy Resources and Production in Australia

Australian solar energy resources are among the best in the world since the continent receives more sunlight than any other. The deserts in the continent's northwest and central areas receive the most sunlight. An Australian Energy Resource Review details Australia's energy resources, especially solar energy assets, and the variables influencing the development and use of the various energy assets through 2030.

Every year, Australia is bathed in an average of approximately 58 million PJ of solar radiation, around 10,000 times greater than the country's annual energy need. Presently, however, just approximately 0.1% of Australia's total use of primary energy comes from solar power. Solar hot water heating is the most prevalent application of solar power. Off-grid solar PV systems provide reliable electricity to communities without access to traditional power sources.

Government regulations, most notably the Renewables Target, and the development of solar and concentrated solar thermal technology through large-scale R&D efforts have led to an increase in electricity output.

The Australian government has pledged \$1.5 billion to fund the construction and show of strength of up to four huge solar electricity plants throughout Australia, using concentrated solar and PV technologies, as part of the Clean Energy Action plan Solar Flagships Program, which the Department of Resources, Energy, and Tourism manages.

Businesses of all sizes in Australia are feeling the influence of government programmes and homeowners are just doing their part by putting money into renewable energy sources for their homes. There are more than 2 million homes in Australia that have installed solar panels on their roofs, according to recent statistics. This accounts for roughly 20% of all houses.

Contact Us

For any queries, complaints or to be included in the distribution list of our news please get in touch with our Community & Stakeholder Engagement Officer Marco Romero on:

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