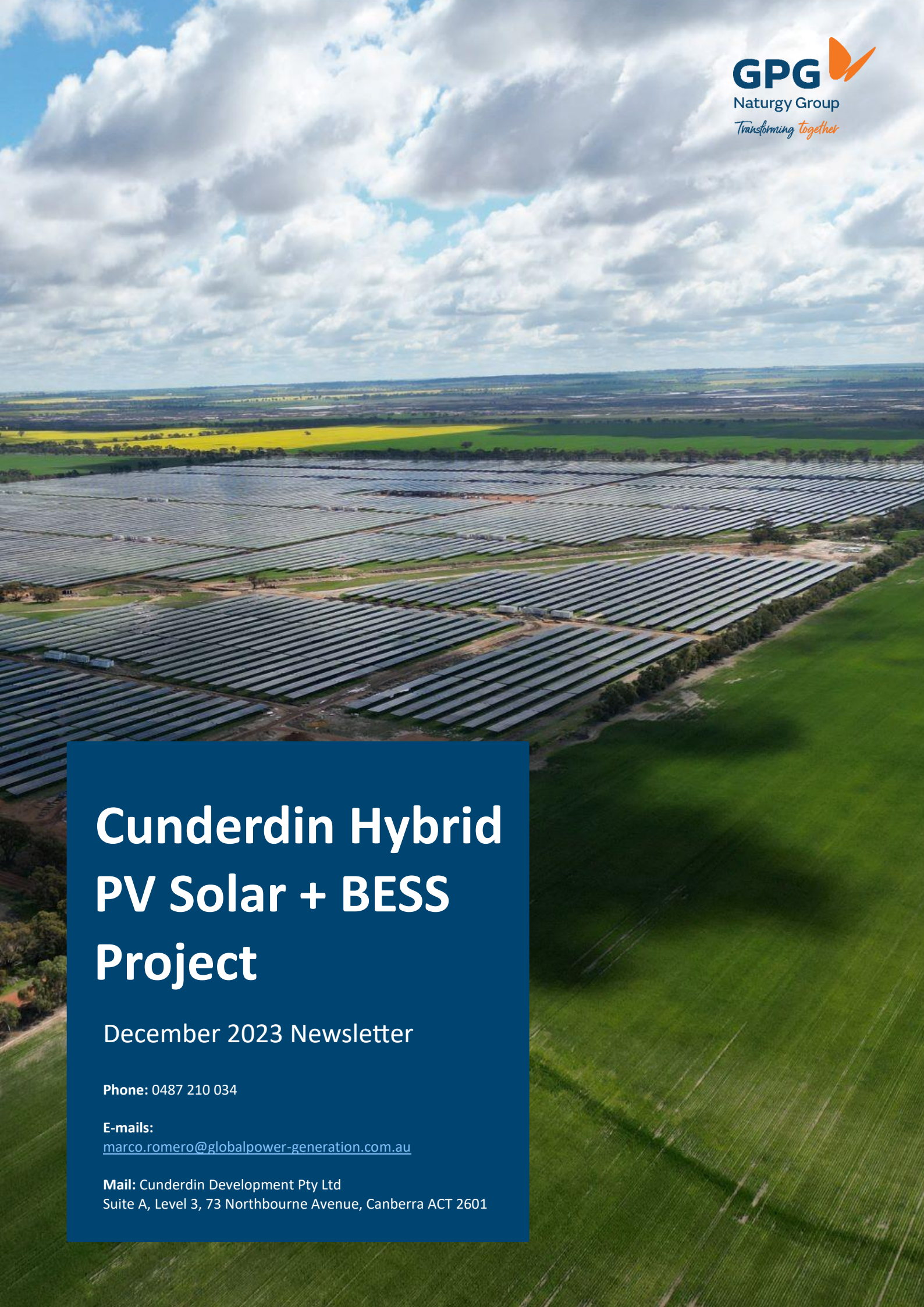

GPG
Naturgy Group
Transforming together

Cunderdin Hybrid PV Solar + BESS Project

December 2023 Newsletter

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Cunderdin Hybrid PV Solar + BESS Project

Project Status

After 12 months since the initiation of works, the Cunderdin Hybrid PV Solar + BESS Project is approaching the final stages of construction. Below, you will find a quick summary of works completed to date.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who has been involved in the project since its development and construction stages in 2022, including the Cunderdin Shire Council and the broader community for their support.

Activities On Site

- **Trackers and Solar panels**
  - ✓ 100% of the trackers and panels have been fully assembled.
  - ✓ There will be ongoing tests during Q1 2024.

- **BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) and Inverters**
  - ✓ 100% of the BESS and Inverters have been installed and testing is ongoing.
  - ✓ There will be ongoing tests during Q1 2024.

- **Roads, Trenching and Cabling**
  - ✓ All internal roads have been completed.
  - ✓ All the trenching works have been completed and cabling termination is ongoing.

Grid Connection

- **Substation**
  - ✓ Substation construction is ongoing.
  - ✓ Civil works have been completed and relay rooms installation and testing are to be carried out in Q1 2024.

- **Transmission Line**
  - ✓ Foundation works for Transmission Line completed, to be erected and stringed in Q1 2024.

- **Communication towers**
  - ✓ Communication Tower erected in the Substation.
  - ✓ Two Repeater Towers also erected in Northam and Kellerberrin. To be tested in Q1 2024.

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Community Engagement & Benefit Sharing

Cunderdin Community Christmas Party

On December 8th, GPG Australia participated in the Community Christmas Party held at the town oval. This event, organised by the Community Resource Centre (CRC), was well-attended by families in the Cunderdin Shire.

During the evening, children enjoyed playing in the jumping castles, indulged in free ice cream and fairy floss, and some were fortunate enough to receive toys from Marco Romero, our Community and Stakeholder Engagement Officer, who was present at the GPG Australia stall. Additionally, we provided brochures, answered frequently asked questions about the project for community members, and distributed GPG souvenirs.

The day concluded with Santa arriving in the fire truck, a tradition that delighted the enthusiastic children who lined up to receive a gift and have their photograph taken. It was a wonderful celebration, and we are proud to have been able to participate and contribute to its success.

Throughout this festive month, in collaboration with the CRC, we also donated hampers to families in need and audio books, along with large-print fiction for elderly residents, which will soon be available at the library.

We wish everyone in Cunderdin Shire a safe and joyful Christmas. Looking ahead, we anticipate our first guided visit to the Cunderdin Hybrid PV Solar + BESS Project in 2024 as part of our community engagement activities.

GPG Australia stall during the Christmas at the park

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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.

GPG Australia Community Grants Program

After a consultation process with local organisations and the Cunderdin Shire Council, we will be launching a call for community grant applications in Q1 next year.

If you are part of a community group, nonprofit organization, or locally run institution, please stay alert for the call, which will be announced via the Council communication channels and in the next edition of this newsletter.

Who's who?

Marco Romero – Community and Stakeholder Engagement Officer

With a background in creative arts and extensive experience in community engagement projects, Marco joined GPG Australia earlier this year as the Community and Stakeholder Officer at Crookwell 3 Wind Farm in New South Wales. He has also been working on the Cunderdin Hybrid PV Solar + BESS project since September.

"It is a fantastic experience to work on this project, which has been positively received by the Cunderdin and Meckering community. I have had the opportunity to meet with several community groups, cultural organisations, and educational institutions that do great work within the shire. We are excited about making a significant contribution to their projects and activities."

Having returned to Australia from Chile over a decade ago, Marco lived primarily in Melbourne. After joining GPG, he moved to Canberra and frequently travels to Western Australia. "I'm very grateful for the opportunity to visit this beautiful part of the world and learn about the Wheatbelt Region and its potential to develop renewable energy projects that can benefit the environment and the local economy".

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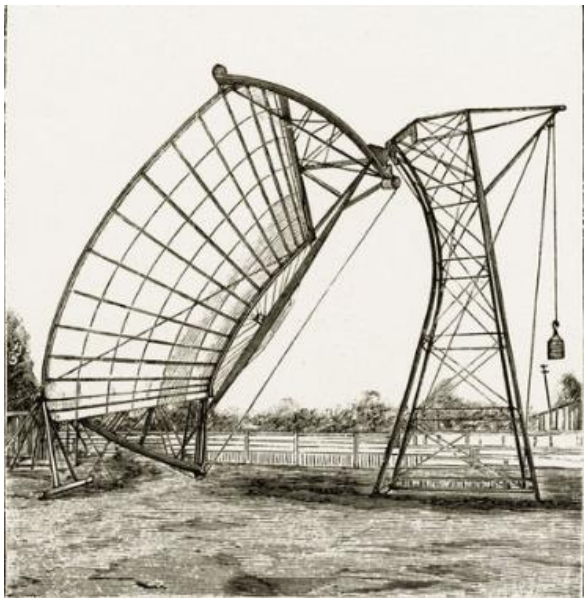
Do You Know About?

History of Solar Energy



The roots of modern solar power can be traced back to 1839. It was at this time that a 19-year-old French physicist, A.E. Becquerel, whose focus up to that point had been related to phosphorescence and luminescence, discovered the photovoltaic effect. He found that when gold or platinum plates were submerged in a solution, then exposed to uneven solar radiation, an electrical current was generated. This discovery was seized upon by scientists across the globe.

In the early 1860's, a French mathematician named August Mouchet began registering patents for solar powered engines. In 1878, Mouchet and his assistant Abel Pifre – who would go on to develop the first solar powered printing press – exhibited their solar powered engine at the Universal Exhibition in Paris, winning a gold medal for their efforts. Unfortunately, Mouchet's work was ahead of its time. The French government determined that solar power was not economically viable, and they terminated his funding. Fortunately, solar technology trudged on.

In 1883, American inventor Charles Fritz created the first working selenium solar cell. In 1888, a scientist from Russia named Aleksandr Stoletov built and patented the first true solar cell. In 1891, Baltimore inventor Clarence Kemp patented the first commercial solar water heater.

In 1905 solar power was brought into the world's spotlight when famed physicist Albert Einstein published a paper on the photoelectric effect and how light packets carry energy. Further innovation would come in the wake of Einstein's momentous discoveries regarding the underlying mechanisms of the photoelectric effect. This new knowledge enabled Bell Labs to produce the first modern solar cell in 1954. While this project pioneered solar energy technology as we know it today, it was terribly inefficient. It cost $250 to generate a mere 1 watt of electricity, compared to $2 – $3 per watt from coal plants of the time.

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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