

# KERANG SOLAR FARM FACT SHEET

## PROJECT FACTS

- *Location: Kerang, Victoria*
- *Expected capacity: Up to 40 MW*
- *Project Size: Approx. 130,000 panels*
- *Estimated start of construction: Late 2018*
- *Construction duration: Approx. 9 months*
- *Energy production: Equivalent to 15,000 households*
- *Project value: A\$45M*



## PROJECT OVERVIEW

- The Kerang Solar Farm is proposed on 100 Ha of land located on the southern outskirts of Kerang in Victoria's north.
- The \$45M project investment will bring significant economic activity and benefits to the Gannawarra Shire and surrounding region.
- The solar farm will be constructed on cleared, level land which was historically subject to agricultural land practices, including grazing and a former dairy operation.
- The site was selected for its high exposure to solar radiation and proximity to the electricity grid.
- Planning approval was granted by the Local Government Authority (Gannawarra Shire Council) in September 2017.

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

ACCIONA Energy is committed to maximising the benefits of the project to the local and regional community. Project benefits include:

- Provide a sustainable and renewable source of energy for the region.
- Significant economic activity in the Gannawarra Shire and surrounds, creating approximately 50 peak construction jobs.
- An increase in Gannawarra Shire's rates, diversifying the Shire's income base from traditional sources.
- A Community Benefit Fund will be established for Kerang, and this will run for the life of the project. This fund will be used to target key areas of need within the community. As each community is different, ACCIONA Energy is interested in your views on how this fund can be best structured to meet the needs of the community near to the Kerang Solar project.

## LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPLY OPPORTUNITIES

ACCIONA Energy is committed to utilising local contractors and suppliers during the construction of the proposed Kerang Solar Farm wherever possible. Local contractors and services required range from civil contractors to surveyors as well as accommodation and cleaners. Specific employment workshops will be undertaken once the project is committed to ensure all local businesses are given the opportunity to tender for work on the project.

## Flagship Projects



▲ Royalla Solar Farm, ACT



▲ Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm (under construction), VIC



▲ Waubra Wind Farm, VIC

## Solar Farm Construction Process

The construction process is expected to take approximately 9 months; the actual period will be dependent upon weather conditions and final project size. The project will involve the following stages:

**Site Preparation and Construction of Access Tracks:** Each solar farm site starts with building access tracks for the transportation of equipment and the connection routes between the panels. During this time, stormwater drainage would also be installed. Following construction, the access tracks are used for ongoing maintenance activities.

**Installation of the Solar Panels:** The solar panels are each fixed to a metal mounting structure. The mounting structure can be piled or screwed into the ground. The mounting structures will slowly and virtually silently track (in a single axis) the horizontal movement of the sun. These structures would be up to 4.0m in height with solar panels attached.

**Connecting the Panels:** The electricity produced by the solar panels is transported through both above ground and underground electrical cabling. Some cabling is fixed to the mounting structure, which connects each solar panel to the next one. Underground cabling then connects rows of panels, bringing the electricity to a 'power conversion unit'. These units (located within steel containers) convert the electricity generated by the solar panels, into electricity suitable for connection into the national electricity grid. Approximately 10 power conversion units will be utilised across the site. Underground cabling will also connect these units together to a central point where it is then connected to the main overhead line. The Kerang Solar Farm will be connected to the national electricity grid via the existing Kerang Terminal Station.

**Commissioning and Operation:** Once all the solar panels are fully operational and capable of producing power into the electricity grid, the construction phase is deemed complete and the project will be commissioned. The operational life of the solar farm is approximately 30 years.

**Decommissioning:** At the end of the estimated 30-year operational life of the solar farm, a decision will be made as to whether to refurbish the plant, erect a new solar farm on the site or to decommission and remove the solar farm and rehabilitate the site. If decommissioning is required, all above ground infrastructure would be removed and reused (if appropriate), recycled or disposed. The site would be returned to its pre-construction state, allowing for the re-establishment of the current agricultural land uses. Decommissioning is the responsibility of the owner of the solar farm (ACCIONA Energy).

## Leaders in Energy

ACCIONA Energy is a leader in the renewable energy market, with a strong presence in over 30 countries on five continents. The company works exclusively with renewable technologies, including wind, solar PV, solar thermal, hydro and biomass.

It has nearly 8,600 megawatts (MW) in operation which annually produces more than 21 terawatt hours (TWh) of **emissions-free electricity**, equivalent to the consumption of more than six million homes. The company also undertakes projects for third parties, for which it has installed nearly 2,000 MW. Based on over 20 years of experience in the field of renewable energy, the company provides **reliable and efficient solutions by utilising cutting-edge technologies**.

## Contact Us

For more information, please contact us via our free call community information hotline **1800 283 550**, by email at [energy.community.relations@acciona.com](mailto:energy.community.relations@acciona.com), or by post PO Box 252, South Melbourne, VIC 3205.