Warwick Solar Farm

November/December 2018 update

What is the status of the project?

The University of Queensland has recently completed the purchase of the Warwick Solar Farm from renewables developer Terrain Solar. This followed the development approval by Southern Downs Regional Council, and an agreement from Ergon Energy for correction to the grid.

UQ intends to maintain full ownership and operational control over the expected 25-year life of the facility.

Who will build the project?

UQ has appointed Lendlease to lead the final design and construction of the project, and to undertake maintenance for the first two years of operations.

When will construction start?

Construction is expected to start in early 2019. There may be some limited preparation work on site before the formal start of construction such as survey and fencing. A detailed timeline of key milestones will be provided on the UQ Sustainability website once it becomes available before construction commences.

What can I expect during construction?

A range of measures will be put in place to minimise inconvenience for nearby residents. This will include sensitive scheduling of activities requiring heavy vehicles and other machinery, and on-site water trucks to supress dust.

What will the site consist of?

The solar farm will total around 64 MWac and 78 MWdc. Just under 30 per cent of the 154 hectare site will be covered by solar modules. The site will also include 16 inverter stations, access roads, and several small buildings. Thirty thousand native shrubs and trees will be planted along the 6km fence. UQ will seek to partner with local graziers interested in agistment within the solar array area at Warwick.

How will the project connect to the grid?

Existing Ergon Energy power lines will be extended to connect the Warwick Solar Farm to the network. It is anticipated that existing road reserves will be used and no new easements will be needed. The final design of the power line extensions is required to be approved by Ergon Energy in accordance with the technical standards and guidelines set by independent regulating authorities.

What will the solar farm deliver?

The 64 megawatt solar farm will make UQ the world's first university to be 100 per cent renewable from its own energy asset by 2020, with the first electricity likely to be exported into the grid by late 2019.

The solar farm will generate 160,000 megawatt hours of renewable energy per year when fully operational – displacing 125,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per annum, the equivalent of taking 48,600 cars off the road.

When will the solar farm be operational?

The first clean energy from the project is likely to be exported into the grid by late 2019. The project is expected to be fully operational within 12 to 14 months.

How is UQ partnering with the community?

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UQ and the Southern Downs Regional Council provides for opportunities including scholarships for local students, the establishment of visitor information facilities at the solar farm, and the potential to supply surplus power from the project at cost-price to power Council facilities. UQ has also committed to installing electric vehicle 'fast chargers' in the community.

How can I obtain more information?

The UQ Sustainability website will be kept up to date with information as the project progresses.
sustainability.uq.edu.au/warwick-solar-farm

How can I provide feedback?

A dedicated email address has been established for residents to ask questions and provide feedback about the project.
warwicksolar@uq.edu.au

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