

## Proposed Morven Solar Farm: 1258 Coach Road, Culcairn

Elgin is proposing a solar farm and battery energy storage system at 1258 Coach Road, Culcairn.



The proposed solar farm would include ground mounted solar panels, like those installed on rooftops around Australia.

### About the project

We are undertaking early studies to assess the site's suitability for a solar farm. A priority at this early stage is consulting with close neighbours, the community and the Greater Hume Shire Council (Council) to ensure early feedback is considered through the planning process.

In the coming months, we will request the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) from the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). The SEARs detail the assessments required for the proposal and documentation.

Following this early consultation, we will begin preparing a State Significant Development Application (SSDA), seeking approval from DPHI. The SSDA will include an assessment of the potential impacts associated with building a solar farm, including ecological impacts and impacts on the agricultural quality of the land.

As plans are developed, we will continue to update the community with more information.

### What is this session about?

During this session, you can learn more by:



Community input is an essential part of the project. We encourage you to share your thoughts to help inform the design of the Morven Solar Farm.





**The proposed solar farm is at 1258 Coach Road, Culcairn. The site area is approximately 220 hectares, spanning four pieces of land.**

We have chosen this location strategically because there is a high-voltage transmission line running through the area. This transmission line will allow us to export clean energy easily from the solar panels into the electrical grid.

The site is also relatively flat and clear of vegetation, limiting environmental impacts and reducing construction timeframes.



Figure 1: View of the site looking northwest



Figure 2: View of the site looking northeast



## If approved, the proposed solar farm will include:

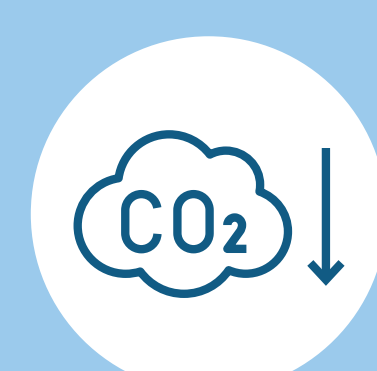
- More than 200,000 arrays of solar panels, positioned in rows across the site.
- Capacity to generate up to 125 megawatts of solar energy.
- A battery energy storage system (for energy storage on site).
- Connection to the existing power line for easy distribution of power.

We are engaging with the community and government authorities to ensure that plans for the site consider all physical and environmental factors.

## Key benefits of the Morven Solar Farm:



Creates clean, renewable electricity, enough to power around 50,000 homes.



Reduces local and national carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions.



Supports national energy independence and contributes to the NSW Government's renewable energy targets.



Supports the economy by employing approximately 150 workers at peak construction and creating approximately 1-3 ongoing jobs. Elgin will be prioritising local employees and contractors.



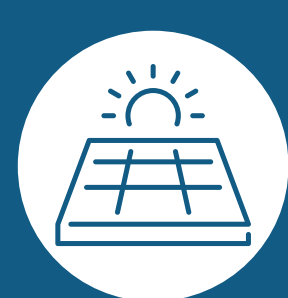
Facilitates agricultural activity to continue as sheep can graze between panels.



**Elgin is committed to minimising potential impacts on the land and the community.**

At this early stage of planning, we are actively involving the community and local government in the process.

By considering early feedback, our aim is to achieve a positive balance of community, environmental, and economic outcomes by understanding what matters most to the community.



**Maintaining grazing**

Sheep grazing will continue on-site and co-exist with the solar farm.

Elgin has appointed an ecologist who will assess the solar farm’s impact on the natural environment, including potential impacts on the agricultural land value.



**Caring for the natural environment**

Every effort will be made to design the solar farm in a way that protects high-value trees, waterways and archaeological items. Ensuring infrastructure is set away from Red Creek and other high-value items will be a priority.

Elgin will also be consulting with local Landcare groups to ensure that opportunities to retain vegetation on-site are maximised, which will also support the site’s natural wildlife.



**Contributing to the community**

In consultation with the community and Council, Elgin is looking at opportunities to share the benefits of the project through a community benefit fund. Benefit sharing is best practice for renewable energy projects in NSW and around Australia.

The fund would come into effect when the project is operational and could be distributed to the local community through grants, sponsorships and partnership programs.





## Managing fire risk

The solar farm will be designed to the highest fire safety standard possible. Fire and Rescue NSW has strict design guidelines that must be incorporated. Some safety measures include cleared vegetation zones, fire breaks between panels, and access to water throughout the site. Elgin will also have a detailed vegetation management plan to ensure weeds are maintained.



## Responsible decommissioning

The solar farm is designed to operate for up to 50 years. Decommissioning the site will involve removing solar panels and infrastructure and reinstating the land for continued agricultural purposes.



## Minimising the visual impact of the solar farm

We have appointed experts to prepare a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. This assesses potential impacts on existing character and visual amenity, including how the solar farm would look to the site's neighbours.



## Ensuring the local road network can support the proposal

A Traffic Impact Assessment will be prepared as part of the planning process to ensure the local road network is managed and maintained during construction and operation. Following the assessment, if road upgrades are required to support construction, Elgin will work with the Council to ensure there is no impact on neighbours.



## How does a solar farm work?



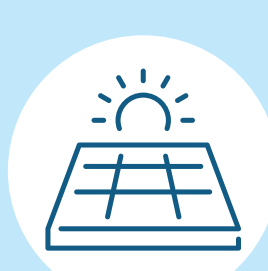
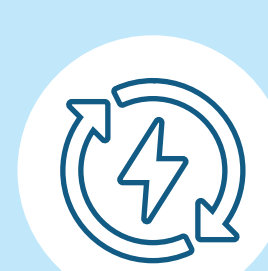
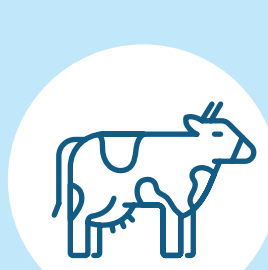

Solar panels use photovoltaic technology to generate electricity from sunlight. The panels generate a direct current that is transformed via inverters, which is suitable for the connection to the electricity network.



## Why solar?

Solar is the fastest growing, and the easiest to install, renewable energy globally. Solar farms produce no emissions and have little impact on the local environment.

Key benefits include:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
|  Faster to install compared to other traditional or renewable energy plants |  Zero pollution or emissions            |
|  Clean and quiet  |  Construction is 100% reversible        |
|  Non-invasive for livestock   |  Supports national energy independence. |

## Connecting with the grid

Solar farms connect to a specific point on the electrical grid. The grid is the vast network of wires connecting every power generation plant to every home and business that consumes power.





## We are here

The first step is lodging a request for the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). The SEARs detail the assessments required for the proposal. Before requesting SEARs, we are engaging with the community.



After SEARs are received, we will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which will assess the potential impacts of the solar farm and suggest mitigation measures. We will continue consulting with the community.



We will then aim to lodge a State Significant Development Application (SSDA), including the outcomes of the consultation. DPHI will then publicly exhibit the proposal. At this point, the community can make formal submissions.



We are expecting a determination within 6-9 months of lodging the SSDA.



# WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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Community input is an essential part of the project. Elgin is committed to keeping the community informed at each stage of the project from planning through to construction and operation.

To make sure that plans for the Morven Solar Farm benefit the community, we are seeking feedback and recommendations from locals.

Community feedback will also explore opportunities for benefit-sharing in the local area.

You can reach the team on:



1800 244 863

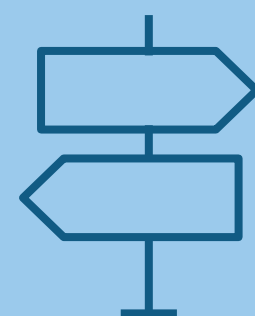


[engagement@urbis.com.au](mailto:engagement@urbis.com.au)



[www.morvensolarfarm.com.au](http://www.morvensolarfarm.com.au)

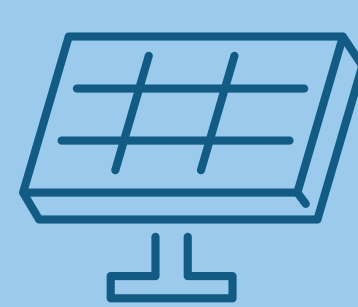
## Fast facts



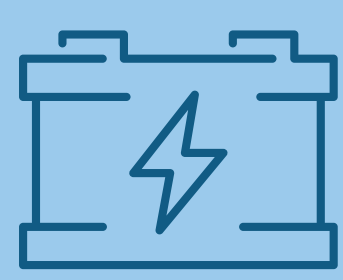
Site location on Coach Road, Culcairn



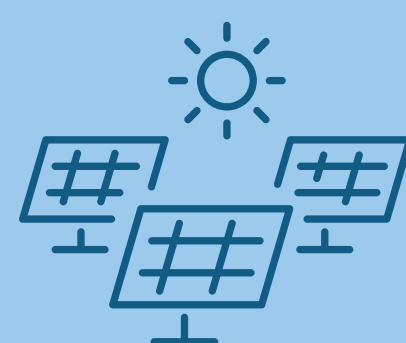
125 megawatts of solar energy



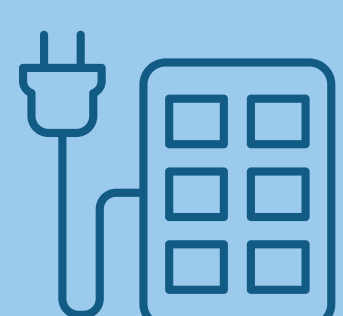
Approximately 200,000 arrays of solar panels



Energy generated to power approximately 50,000 homes



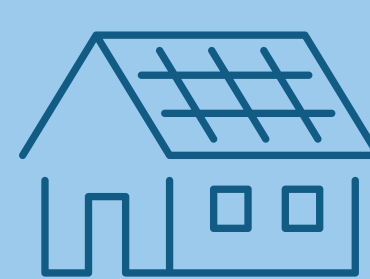
Site area of approximately 220 hectares



Fast grid connection



Construction duration of approximately 18 months



Approximately 150 workers on-site during peak construction



Local Government Area: Greater Hume Shire Council



Founded in 2009, Elgin is a leading international solar and storage company, with offices in Sydney, London, Dublin and Munich. Elgin's specialist teams manage each phase of renewable energy projects from origination through development and operation. Since being established, the Elgin team has grown from the four founders to over 100 employees.

Elgin is currently operating across four markets: Australia, Ireland, the United Kingdom and Germany. We have a pipeline of over 150 solar and storage projects, which will provide over 15 GW of clean, renewable energy. This is enough green energy to power over 11 million homes.



**ELGIN BELIEVES IN A  
ZERO-CARBON FUTURE  
AND IS WORKING  
TOWARDS THAT GOAL.**

## In Australia:

Elgin focuses on markets where there are strong opportunities for long-term growth. Opportunities in the Australian market include:



### Increasing political support

NSW is implementing the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap to 2030. Victoria has a 40% renewable target by 2025. Both states aim to halve emissions by 2030.



### High solar irradiation

Australia has the highest average solar irradiation of any continent.



### Coal retirement

NSW and VIC are predominantly powered by an ageing fleet of coal power stations that need to be replaced over the next 20 years by cheaper and cleaner technology.



### Technology costs

Solar PV and battery technology prices continue to reduce dramatically. Reduction in equipment costs results in cheaper power prices.



### Corporate and government uptake

There is commitment to purchasing renewable energy for the long-term through power purchase agreements (PPA). Examples include Facebook, Google, Telstra, Mars, Unilever, Carlton United Breweries, University of Queensland and State Government Departments and Council alliances.

