

## UPC Renewables Australia is developing the New England Solar Farm, a major grid-connected solar farm within the Uralla Shire

### Proposed site

The New England Solar Farm is proposed on a site located approximately 6 km east of the township of Uralla and will cover a development footprint of approximately 2,000 hectares across two areas of land currently used for grazing. There is high potential for the continuation of sheep grazing within the Solar Farm site, once constructed.

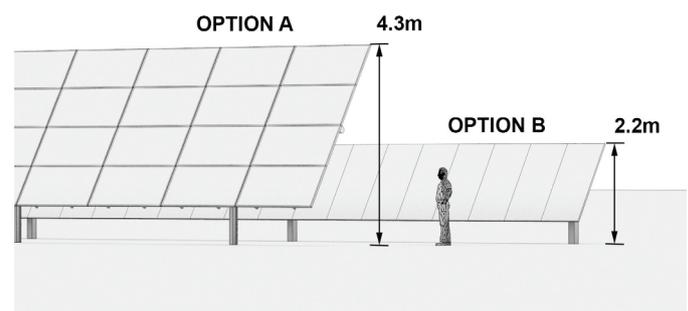
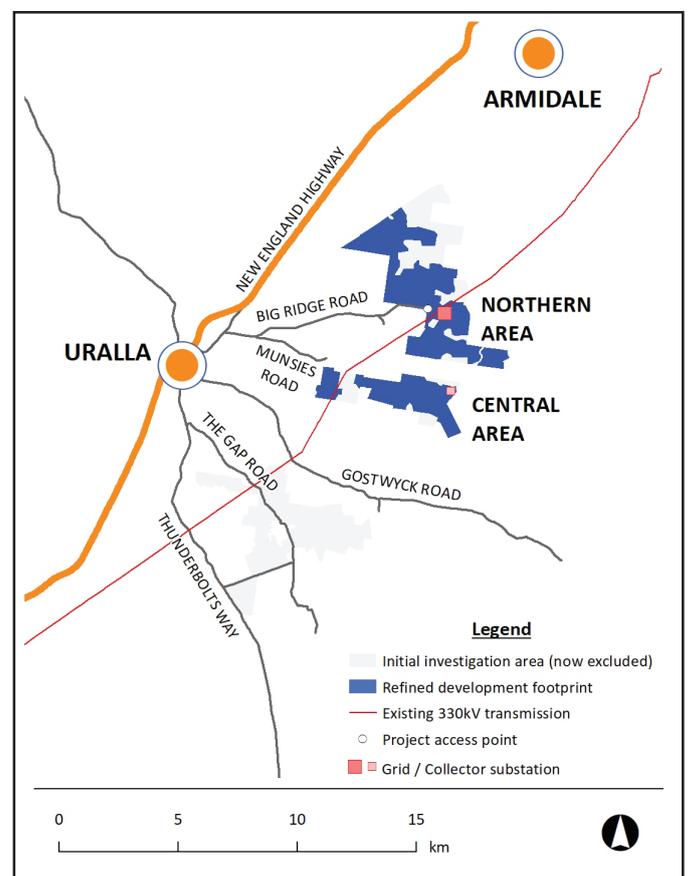
The development footprint has been refined in response to feedback from the local community and the results of a number of key assessments, including flooding, Aboriginal cultural heritage, historic heritage, visual and biodiversity.

### Project overview

The New England Solar Farm will utilise ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels similar to those used on rooftops around Australia. Based on preliminary designs, the project will involve:

- two separate arrays of PV modules, either on a fixed tilt or single axis tracking system, inverters and an underground cable network;
- electrical connection infrastructure between the two array areas;
- a grid substation to connect the project to TransGrid's electricity transmission network;
- an access road from the local road network and internal access tracks; and
- stock-proof security fencing around each of the solar fields.

UPC is also proposing the integration of a battery energy storage system (BESS) as part of the project.



## Benefits of the project

The project will provide a number of benefits including:

- community benefit sharing contributions of \$250 per megawatt each year for 25 years;
- direct and indirect business opportunities for the local and regional economy;
- employment opportunities for up to 700 employees during construction and up to 15 ongoing jobs during operations;
- helping meet the NSW and Commonwealth government renewable energy targets;
- annual reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and generation of enough clean renewable electricity to power more than 250,000 NSW homes; and
- increasing energy security by replacing ageing fossil fuel generators when they retire from service.

## Assessment process

UPC prepared a development application (DA) and environmental impact statement (EIS), which contained a comprehensive assessment of the environmental, social and economic impacts of the project.

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) sought feedback from the public and Government agencies on the application. Subsequently, UPC made several changes to its application, which were detailed in the Amendment Report. UPC also prepared a Response to Submissions Report to directly respond to community and Government agency submissions.

DPIE has reviewed all project material and has issued its Assessment Report, which has been submitted to the NSW Independent Planning Commission (IPC) for consideration. The IPC will make the final determination on the project's application.

A Public Meeting will be held by the IPC on Tuesday 11 February 2020. Event details can be found on the IPC website.



Smiths Falls Solar Farm, Canada

## About UPC Renewables

*Originating from the United States, UPC is a leading renewable energy development company that has been operating internationally since the 1990s and in Australia since 2016. To date, UPC has developed more than 3,500 MW of operating wind and solar projects in North America, Europe, Africa and Asia. UPC is focused on supplying renewable energy at the lowest possible price in a socially and environmentally responsible way.*

## MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the New England Solar Farm please visit:

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

You can also visit our Facebook page to ask a question or make a comment:

 @newenglandsolarfarm

Alternatively you can email us as at

[info@newenglandsolarfarm.com.au](mailto:info@newenglandsolarfarm.com.au)

or contact us via phone on **1300 250 479**.

Local businesses can also use the email address to register their interest in upcoming contracting opportunities.