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Neoen starts powering up its second-largest solar farm in Australia



Image Credit: Neoen Australia


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The local subsidiary of French-based renewable energy provider Neoen has begun commissioning its second largest solar farm in Australia, the 350MW (440MWp) Culcairn solar facility in Riverina Region of New South Wales.

Neoen Australia said late last week that it would start “supplying our first electrons” from the Culcairn solar farm into the state’s electricity network this week, roughly 18 months after construction of the project first began.

The Culcairn solar farm consists of nearly 760,000 panels at a site around 45km north of Albury and 70km south of Wagga Wagga in the South East Riverina Region of New South Wales.

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The project is expected to generate approximately 800,000MWh of clean electricity each year, avoiding around 267,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year and providing power to as many as 155,000 homes.

When the Culcairn solar farm was first approved by the NSW planning department back in March of 2021, approval was also granted for a 100MW/200MWh battery.

Late last year, however, Neoen secured a modification to its development approval to increase the size of the battery up to 800MWh. Neoen is subsequently updating the project’s management plan to incorporate the resized battery ahead of the procurement process that will select a battery supplier.

Once completed, the battery will be spread across approximately 4 hectares in the centre of the project site, adjacent to the Transgrid switching station.

Neoen secured an underwriting agreement with the NSW state government last year, known as a Long-Term Energy Services Agreement (LTESA), that provides a price floor for 20 years.

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last year. it also signed a purchase agreement (PPA) with SmartestEnergy Australia is to take 50 per cent of the solar farm’s output

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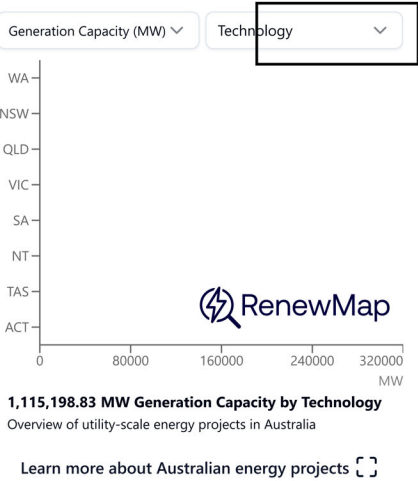
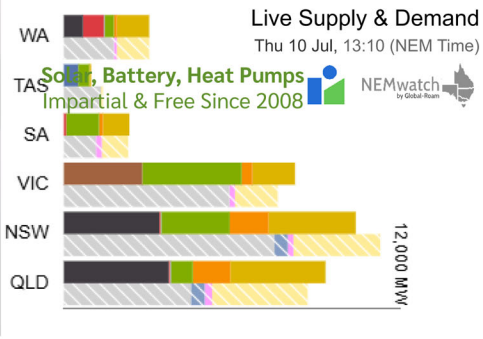
Joshua S Hill

Joshua S. Hill is a Melbourne-based journalist who has been writing about climate change, clean technology, and electric vehicles for over 15 years. He has been reporting on electric vehicles and clean technologies for [Renew Economy](#) and [The Driven](#) since 2012. His preferred mode of transport is his feet.

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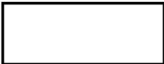
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Two key regional airports on Queensland’s east coast are reducing their energy usage and slashing emissions through the installation of new rooftop solar systems.

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Australia fast-tracks four big wind, solar and storage tenders in coming months to meet 2030 target

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Arena launches fresh quest for ultra low-cost solar with new \$60 million funding round

Arena launches major new push for ultra low-cost solar, with the funding round targeting innovation in solar cell and module production, operation and installation.

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Wind Powered ⌚ 21 days ago

We wanna see a video of the AI robot installing solar panels!! “Solar module mounting” we want to see how we can get the cost down further.

We don't want jobs gone but the wages for infrastructure in regional Australia are right out of hand and need a reality check – or an alternative.

+ 2 Reply

Craig Fryer ⌚ 21 days ago

 Reply to [Wind Powered](#)

There is a lack of workers wanting or able to do these sorts of jobs, so I think it is great to see this sort of automation in use. The main advantage will be with speed and quality of work. If the costs are reduced, then great, but the size and speed of the build out of RE in Australia means we need these sorts of gains to aid with the huge task.

+ 1 Reply

Miking ⌚ 20 days ago

 Reply to [Craig Fryer](#)

We have similar technology in previous articles. I guess this is a pilot project. If it is better than alternatives next time I expect the jobs will be Australian and benefit Australia and use the best.

+ 0 Reply

David D ⌚ 20 days ago

It's good farming land there.

They're doing agrivoltaics with sheep

Neoen has been a pioneer in agrisolar and is committed to practicing it at the Culcairn Solar Farm once it is operational. This means that sheep will be able to graze peacefully at the farm, under our solar panels.

Agrisolar helps keep the grass down & the panels provide shade and protection to the sheep.

 Last edited 20 days ago by David D

+ 1 [Reply](#)

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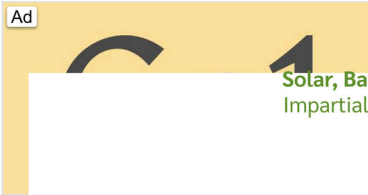
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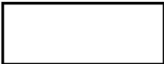
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