

# Hampton Park Solar and Energy Storage System

## Environmental Impact Statement- Information Newsletter

February 2026

### About the proposed Project

The Hampton Park Solar and Energy Storage System (SESS), (the Project), is proposed to be built on private land, approximately 11km southeast of Dubbo and 6km northeast of Wongarbron, off the Mitchell Highway.

Subject to approvals, the SESS will connect to the National Electricity Market (NEM) grid via an onsite substation, utilising the power lines that run through the site.

The Project’s power capacity would be approximately 180 megawatts (MWac) at the point of connection, coupled with a decentralised battery storage system that would allow approximately 4 hours of energy storage. This dc-coupled hybrid solution would allow the flexibility to supply energy when it is needed most, even when the sun is not shining.

### Development approval process

The Project is considered a State Significant Development (SSD) by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act).

As part of the process, the Project will undergo a comprehensive assessment of its potential environmental, social and economic impacts. This assessment, informed by community and stakeholder engagement, will be documented in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS will be submitted as part of the development application to assist the community, council, government agencies and the consent authority (DPHI) to understand impacts of the Project.

The public will have an opportunity to provide formal feedback to DPHI on the Project’s merits once the EIS goes on public exhibition, which is expected to be later in 2026.

### Scoping Report

The first step in the assessment process required a preliminary assessment of the Project’s potential environmental impacts and the preparation of a Scoping Report. This report was submitted to DPHI in early October 2025. DPHI subsequently issued the Project’s Secretary’s Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) in late November 2025.

The SEARs outline what needs to be considered, studied and included in the EIS. For this Project, 12 specialist areas have been identified for further assessment.

### Anticipated high-level Project timeline

If approved, the Project will be constructed and will operate in accordance with the mitigation measures detailed in the EIS and any conditions of approval.



## EIS specialist topics

The 12 specialist matters identified for assessment by the Project's SEARs, which are to be reported on in the EIS include the following:



### Biodiversity

- Biodiversity Develop Assessment Report



### Social

- Social Impact Assessment
- Accommodation and Employment Strategy



### Noise

- Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment



### Heritage

- Aboriginal Cultural Assessment Report
- Assessment of Historic Heritage



### Hazards

- Preliminary Hazards Assessment
- Preliminary Risk Screening
- Bushfire Hazard Impact Assessment



### Water and soils

- Hydrology Assessment (flooding)
- Site Water Balance



### Waste

- Management plans



### Economic and benefit sharing

- Voluntary Planning Agreement



### Landscape and visual

- Landscape Character and Visual Impact Assessment



### Land

- Soil Impact Assessment
- Land and Soil Capability (LSC) Verification
- A preliminary Site investigation to assess any existing contamination
- Level 3 detailed Agricultural Impact Assessment
- Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment



### Transport

- Traffic Impact Assessment
- Haulage Route Assessment
- Bridge Assessment



### Glint and glare

- Glint and Glare Assessment

## How to engage on the EIS

Near neighbours, local community members, council, stakeholders and community organisations are encouraged to provide their feedback on the Project. Throughout 2026, the community can engage with ARES as the design of the Project is undertaken and the EIS assessment is progressed. ARES acknowledges that there are a number of matters that the community would like to discuss and address as the EIS is developed.

### Upcoming engagement events - March

#### March

##### Community Information and Feedback Sessions:

Following engagement with the community in 2025, Community Information and Feedback Sessions will recommence in March 2026.

##### *Save the date*

At these sessions you will be able to ask questions, speak with a technical expert and provide your feedback. Your feedback will also help inform the EIS as it is being developed. Further details will be shared soon, and you will be able to book in at a time that suits you for the following sessions:

##### Friday



27 March 2026,  
between 2pm – 5.30pm



Western Plains Cultural Centre,  
Wingewarra St, Dubbo

##### Saturday



28 March 2026,  
between 9am – 12.30pm



Western Plains Cultural Centre,  
Wingewarra St, Dubbo



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Renewable  
Energy Services

#### Contact our Community Engagement Team

To ask questions, provide feedback or  
find out more:

Email [feedback@areservices.com.au](mailto:feedback@areservices.com.au)  
Call 0459 602 292

# Community Engagement - next steps in the development approval process



## Early to mid-2026

### Development of the draft EIS

Technical studies are being undertaken for the EIS. Before the EIS is finalised further engagement will be undertaken.



## From mid to late-2026

### Public exhibition of the EIS

Once the EIS is finalised and submitted to DPHI it will be placed on public exhibition for the community and other stakeholders to view. Formal submissions to DPHI can be made during public exhibition.

ARES will hold information sessions during the public exhibition of the EIS to explain the findings, answer questions, and help community members make an informed submission to DPHI.



## From late-2026

### Review and respond

ARES will review all submissions from the community, interested stakeholders, government agencies, and relevant authorities. A Submissions Report will be prepared that will respond to the submissions made.



## Subject to approvals

### Conditions of consent

Following review of the EIS and the Submissions Report, the consent authority will make a decision on whether the Project can receive its development consent.

If the Project is approved, conditions of consent will need to be met as the Project is delivered. Management plans will be developed to ensure compliant delivery of the Project throughout its lifecycle.



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## Contact our Community Engagement Team

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