

Ross River Solar Farm

COMMUNITY UPDATE

July 2017

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READ



Ross River Solar Farm will have the capacity to generate enough clean, renewable energy to power over 54,000 homes.

Welcome to the first Community Update for the Ross River Solar Project.

Construction of the solar farm - near Kelso Drive - is expected to start later this month. Please read on for information on how we will build the solar farm and what we are doing to minimise impacts on residents and the surrounding community.

What is proposed?

Ross River Solar Farm will be built on a 202 hectare site that was historically used as a mango farm. The solar farm will be 'utility scale' and have the capacity to generate 148 megawatts of clean, renewable energy - enough to power over 54,000 homes.

Solar farms use solar panels to capture energy in sunlight. Ross River Solar Farm will have around 417,000 solar panels

installed on single axis tracking systems that allow panels to rotate and capture the maximum amount of sunlight.

Solar panels will be relatively low in scale. To further reduce the visual appearance of the farm, vegetation buffers will be planted at either end of the site.

A new site entrance will be built off Kelso Drive and an operations building and car park added for onsite staff.

Traffic

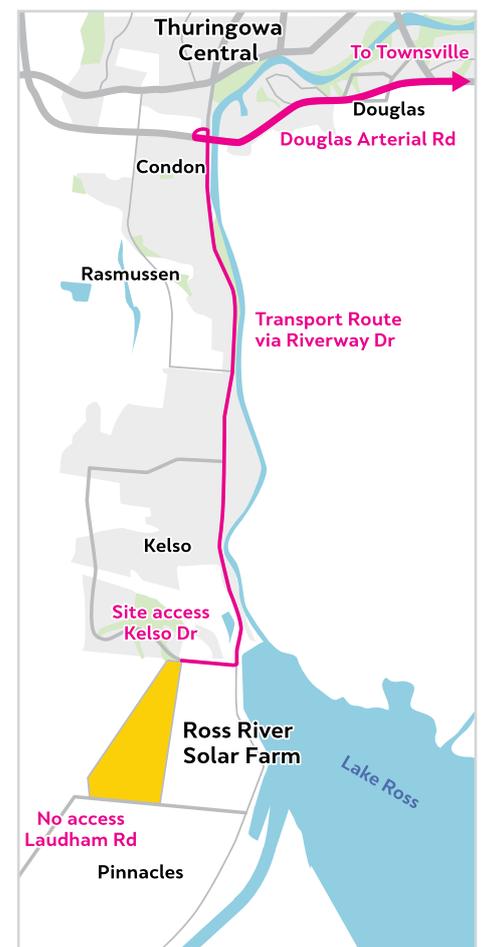
Traffic on roads leading to the site is likely to increase once construction of the solar farm gets underway. Vehicles will include light vehicles and trucks delivering machinery, materials and supplies.

All vehicles entering the site will use the one site entrance on Kelso Drive. Intersection improvement works will be carried out to allow safe entrance to the solar farm.

A Traffic Management Plan has been developed to ensure vehicles use only key routes to site. Unsealed, minor roadways will be avoided where possible. Drivers will be made aware of local road conditions like

Riverway Drive roadworks and school bus routes and must follow all road laws.

Approved traffic route to site



Site access

Prior to construction, a perimeter fence will be erected to discourage public access. Safety will be a key focus, as heavy machinery and live electrical works will be present on site. Only authorised personnel will be allowed onsite at any time.

Construction times

Construction works will generally take place between 6.30am and 6.30pm Monday to Saturday. No noisy works are allowed outside of these hours.

Mango removal

Mango trees onsite will be removed prior to construction getting underway. The mango farm has not been operating for some time and many mango trees have died.

Trees will be removed, chipped and waste removed from site. Dust caused by the removal of trees will be managed using water tankers to moisten dry dirt.

We are currently identifying sustainable, cost effective sources of water for all onsite water needs, including dust mitigation and watering of vegetation buffers. The best possible option is to utilise two existing bores - should additional water be required, this will be purchased and brought on to site.

Local employment

Around 250 jobs will be created during construction, with a further five full time and ten part time ongoing jobs available once the solar farm is operating. Jobs will include surveyors, engineers, civil contractors, metal fabricators, electricians, fencing, security and telecommunications specialists, builders and general labourers.

Where possible, we will hire local workers and businesses. To register your interest in helping to build the solar farm, email enquiries@rossriversolar.com.au

CONTACT US

Residents with queries or concerns can call the project team on 0475 802 063 or email enquiries@rossriversolar.com.au. We thank those that have taken the time to contact us already and share with us their opinions and ideas.

Alternatively, visit our website at www.rossriversolar.com.au



FAQS

How long is construction expected to take?

Construction of the solar farm is expected to take between 9 and 12 months, depending on weather.

Will there be road closures during the project?

Unlikely. To register for text alerts including local road conditions, SMS your full name and number to 0475 802 063

Who is developing the project?

Ross River Solar Farm is being developed, constructed and financed by ESCO Pacific and Palisade, Australian-based businesses with experience in developing clean energy projects.

How long will the solar farm operate for?

The Solar Farm is expected to operate for around 40 years. After this time, it will either be updated and refurbished or decommissioned and the land returned to its original state.

TAKE ACTION

If you would like to receive text alerts about the Ross River Solar project – including potential changes to local road conditions - please SMS your full name and mobile number to 0475 802 063

