Project Update Three: December 2018

Welcome to the December update of the Hume Renewable Energy Roadmap project.

The Roadmap is a 12-month project of which we are 5 months into. Over the next 7 months Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) will work with individuals, communities, business and industries to develop a roadmap to support the region to embrace the renewable energy transformation of our electricity system.

The Roadmap will represent the voice of the community, identify local barriers and issues, understand the investment potential of the region and clearly identify what the community expects from the renewable energy transition.

What’s been happening with the project

Creating Our Renewable Energy Future: A Community Workshop

The Community workshop of 19 November 2018 has been postponed to 2019. We will be in contact with you about future workshops and events to be involved in and have your say on the renewable energy transition of our region.

To inform the roadmap’s stakeholder engagement, community and business leaders in the North East and Goulburn Valley were invited to a focussed Stakeholder Engagement Planning workshop on November 19. The workshop drew upon the knowledge of these leaders to identify stakeholders and their needs and will help in the design of an inclusive engagement plan.

Roadmap project officially launched

The Hume Renewable Energy Roadmap project was officially launched by the Minister for Energy, Lily D’Ambrosio on 25 October 2018 at the Winton Solar Farm development site. The event was attended by representatives from Ovens Murray and Goulburn Regional Partnerships, Fotowatio Renewable Ventures (FRV), Mondo Power, DELWP, and the DELWP Environmental Portfolio Group.

Winton Solar Farm announced as successful VREAS project

The Winton Solar Farm, 25km north east of Benalla, was recently announced as a successful Victorian Renewable Energy Auction Scheme (VREAS) project. The VREAS was set up to support achievement of the Victorian Renewable Energy Targets (VRET) that will ensure 25 per cent of the State’s electricity generation comes from renewable sources by 2020. Details of the scheme and its benefits can be found here.

The Winton Solar Farm is 250 ha and will have a capacity of 98.8 MW, producing enough energy to supply approximately 50,000 homes. This will avoid annual emissions of around 150,000 tons of CO₂. Construction will commence in early 2019 and will be commercially operable by early 2020.
What’s happening in Hume region

Congupna Solar Farm proposal approved

The Congupna Solar Farm proposal was recently approved, and will produce 68 MW of clean energy, create around 250 jobs and power approximately 22,600 homes. The project will be built on non-irrigated agricultural land and drive around $38 million in capital expenditure. The developer is the Spanish company X-Elio Australia. A decision on the Tallygaroopna, Lemnos and Tatura East solar farm applications has been deferred until further strategic work is completed for the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District.

Numurkah Solar Farm

The construction of the 100MW (AC) solar farm is well underway with the installation of solar panels commenced.

Neoen, the operators of the Numurkah Solar Farm were awarded a supply agreement by the Victorian Government to provide green energy towards Melbourne’s trams.

Euroa has Australia’s first ultra-rapid electric vehicle charging site

Australia’s first ultra-rapid electric vehicle charging site was opened by Minister for Energy Lily D’Ambrosio on 25 October 2018 at Euroa. Another will soon open in Barnawartha North and five more will be built across Victoria. The stations will be able to fully charge an electric vehicle in under 15 minutes from 100 per cent renewable energy and capable of delivering up to 400 kilometres of range.

Yackandandah Microgrid

 Totally Renewable Yackandandah (TRY) has received $380,389 in Victorian Government grant funding for the Sanatorium Road Microgrid project. The $932,879 initiative will establish a microgrid to help cut energy bills for residents and assist the community achieve their 100 per cent renewable energy target.

The project will increase the number of houses with solar PV and batteries on a Single Wire Earth Return (SWER) powerline and include control technology to manage network security. It has the potential to be used as a model for other communities to increase local renewable energy generation and alternative models for SWER line upgrades.

A microgrid is a small network of electricity users with a local supply of power that can function independently of the electricity grid, delivering energy security, sustainability and cost savings for those in the network.

Solar Tuk Expedition travels through Hume

In Benalla, DELWP Roadmap team and Benalla Rural City Council met up with the Solar Tuk Expedition during their 3-week journey travelling the length of Australia from Melbourne to Cairns.

A team from RMIT has converted a Thai-made tuk tuk into a three-wheeled, sun-powered, long-range electric vehicle to promote sustainable transport and a low-carbon future.

Solar Tuk was topped up with a recharge at Shepparton using Diamond Energy’s bio-gas power station.
Did you know?

Draft guidelines for Solar Energy Facilities

The draft Solar Energy Facilities – Design and Development Guidelines are now released for comment. Submit your comments through the Engage Victoria website until 1 March 2019.

The draft guidelines will help inform councils, developers and communities on planning requirements for large solar farm facilities to ensure they are built in the right locations, are easily accessible to the grid and that proposals give careful consideration to high productivity agricultural areas and sensitive landscapes. Features of the draft guidelines include:

- being informed by a review of guidelines and best practice standards interstate and internationally.
- a Best Practice Guide for Proponents to help developers engage with communities, and minimise the environmental and social impacts of their proposals.

FAQ - Frequently asked questions

Large scale batteries

A range of electrochemical technologies are being used, and some further developed, to store energy in batteries. These include lithium ion, sodium ion, molten-state such as sodium sulphur batteries, flow batteries and others. Battery storage continues to become more competitive at a commercial scale as technologies improve and production costs fall.

Large-scale batteries can both store electricity from renewable generation ‘behind the meter’ (pre-transmission) and provide grid stabilisation services between transmission and distribution. The batteries also help lower energy prices by storing low-cost power for use during times of high-cost and high-demand.

This short video explains how a large-scale battery system works with the grid.

Large-scale batteries typically consist of several components – a battery unit or ‘enclosure’ (generally a large box like a shipping container), an inverter, and a transformer that can either be internally or externally mounted or connected. The number of enclosures will be determined by the technology and required output.

For more information on large scale batteries including case studies a DELWP fact sheet is available.

For further information please contact:

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Are you happy to receive these updates?

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