

Richmond Valley Solar Farm



A photograph of the project area

New project owner

In May 2022 Ark Energy completed its friendly acquisition of Epuron, the original proponent for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm, and in October 2022 the Epuron name was retired. Richmond Valley Solar Farm is now owned by Ark Energy Projects.

Ark Energy is a leading renewable energy company specialising in the greenfield development and operation of wind, solar and green hydrogen. It is an Australian subsidiary of Korea Zinc, a leading global non-ferrous metals company, renewable energy and green hydrogen business, and the first major refiner to join RE100 and commit to powering its global operations from 100% clean energy by 2050.

Project update

In July 2022 Ark Energy initiated the assessment process for the project by submitting a Scoping Report to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE).

Based on the Scoping Report, in September 2022 the DPE issued Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). The SEARs outline the requirements for the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Ark Energy is now progressing the various assessment studies and technical reports required for Richmond Valley Solar Farm's EIS.

Local information sessions – 6 & 7 September 2023

Interested local residents and community members are invited to attend public information sessions for the project next month, to learn more about the proposal and discuss it with members of the project team. Two sessions will be held, one in Ellangowan and one in Casino. Please note the information available at both sessions will be the same and will include a presentation followed by time for questions.

Ellangowan: 4-6pm, Wednesday 6 September
Ellangowan Community Hall, 1630 Ellangowan Road, Ellangowan.

Casino: 4-6pm, Thursday 7 September
Casino Community & Cultural Centre, 35 Walker Street, Casino.

Refreshments will be provided. To assist with catering please RSVP, noting your chosen session, to info@richmondvalleysolar.com.au by Monday 4 September.

Everyone is welcome. The project team looks forward to meeting attendees and the opportunity to share more information about the proposal and answer questions.

Location



The site for the proposed Richmond Valley Solar Farm is near Myrtle Creek in the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales. It is approximately 7 km east of Rappville and 25 km south of Casino, with the villages of Ellangowan to the north and West Bungawalbin to the east. Please see map overleaf.

The location is well suited for a solar farm. The land was previously used for commercial forestry and is relatively flat. There is an excellent solar resource and it is close to the transmission network, with the Coffs Harbour to Lismore 330 kV powerline intersecting the north-west corner of the site.

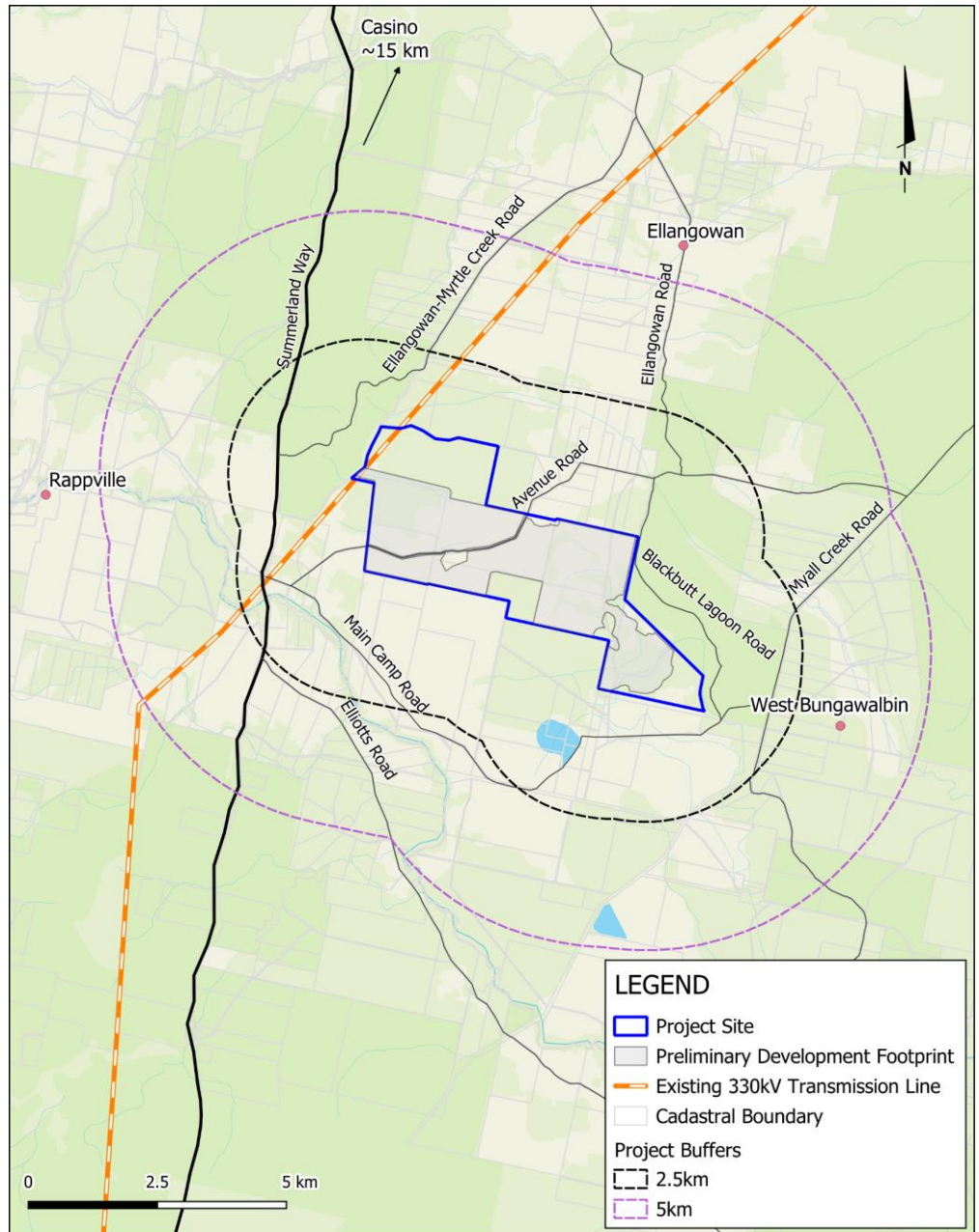
It is estimated that the project would have a generation capacity of up to 500 megawatts.

Planning & assessment

Utility-scale solar farms in NSW are considered State Significant Development and assessed by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

- 1 Site selection and preliminary investigations ✓
- 2 Initial concept and consultation ✓
- 3 Scoping Report submitted to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) ✓
- 4 Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) issued by DPE ✓
- 5 Studies, assessments, design **WE ARE HERE**
- 6 Referral to the Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) for review under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).
- 7 DCCEEW determination on EPBC Act referral
- 8 Design completed, finalising EIS for lodgment
- 9 Development application (DA) and EIS lodged with DPE
- 10 DA and EIS on exhibition for public comment
- 11 Responses to submissions and requests for additional information (if required)
- 12 Assessment by DPE
- 13 DPE assessment report and recommendation
- 14 Determination by DCCEEW

Richmond Valley Solar Farm project area map



Invitation to participate in Richmond Valley Solar Farm's Social Impact Assessment

Ark Energy has contracted Umwelt Environmental Consultants to undertake an independent Social Impact Assessment (SIA) for Richmond Valley Solar Farm's Environmental Impact Statement. Local community members are invited to participate in the SIA. If you would like to share your views please complete the online survey available via the QR code right or the url below:

www.research.net/r/RichmondValleySolarFarm



Scan QR code for the SIA survey

More information

Tel - 1800 731 296

Email - info@richmondvalleysolar.com.au

Email newsletters - arkenergy.com.au/mailling-list-details

Website - richmondvalleysolar.com.au or scan QR code right

