

Newsletter

Pictured: Greenough River Solar Farm with stage two in the background

Greenough expansion moves into commissioning phase

Expansion of the Greenough River Solar Farm (GRSF) has reached an important milestone, with commissioning currently underway.

The physical construction of the 30MW expansion is now complete and the commissioning team are working to prepare for the export of electricity.

A combination of tracking rather than fixed solar panels will see the new expansion generate nearly four times as much electricity as Stage one, but with only two times the land footprint.

Many Western Australians were employed in the construction of the expanded facilities and local contractors also played an important role in the project.

The operation of the plant will be handed over from the construction company juwi, to the existing operation and maintenance contractors for GRSF, First Solar once commissioning is complete. First Solar employs local technicians to maintain and run the plant.

The initial 10MW solar farm, Australia's first utility scale plant, has been operating for eight years. With the addition of a further 30MW of electricity capacity, it will continue to make a significant contribution to Western Australia's renewable energy generation portfolio.

Community Support Program kicks off at Warradarge

BEI is launching a Community Support Program to provide small scale grants to the community in and around the Warradarge Wind Farm.

The grants are planned to coincide with the start of production from the plant later in the year.

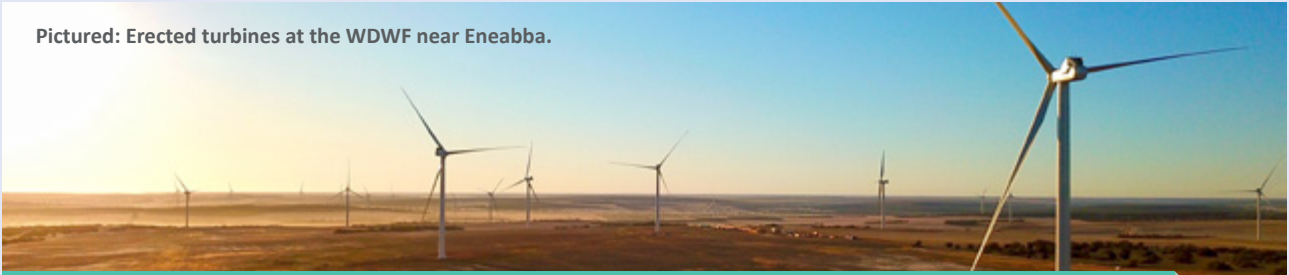
Expressions of interest will be sought from the local community through the BEI website.

Details, conditions and applications for the BEI Community Support Program will be available from July 2020 at www.brightenergyinvestments.com.au.

About Bright Energy Investments

Bright Energy Investments (BEI) is focussed on the development of large-scale renewable energy projects in Western Australia. Established in April 2018, BEI is an investment vehicle established between WA electricity generator and retailer Synergy, global infrastructure investment fund DIF and industry superannuation giant Cbus, to develop up to 210MW of renewable energy projects. The BEI portfolio currently includes the Greenough River Solar Farm in the state's Mid-West, the Albany Grasmere Wind Farm in the Great Southern Region and the development of the 180MW Warradarge Wind Farm near Eneabba which is expected to be recognised as one of the best renewable energy projects in the country. For more information visit www.brightenergyinvestments.com.au.

Pictured: Erected turbines at the WDWF near Eneabba.



Warradarge turbines pass the half-way mark

More than 50 per cent of turbines have been erected at the 180MW Warradarge Wind Farm (WDWF) in the state's mid-west.

Construction of the wind farm by Vestas is now well advanced, with erected turbines visible across the landscape.

So far, 26 of the 51 planned turbines have been assembled and electrical and mechanical finishing teams are following along behind the cranes, preparing the turbines for the next phase- commissioning.

Commissioning of the turbines will occur progressively across the site in collector groups during the third and fourth quarters of 2020 until the full wind farm is exporting electricity to the South West Interconnected System (SWIS).

With an output of 180MW, WDWF will add 30 per cent to the total utility scale renewable energy capacity that was

feeding the SWIS at the start of 2020, and will contribute to a doubling of renewables on the system expected by the end of year.

As a critical service, construction at the Warradarge Wind Farm has continued unabated through the COVID-19 pandemic with some modified planning and new site procedures ensuring personnel safety during the crisis.

Bright Energy Investments (BEI) General Manager Tom Frood said the construction teams and those planning the project had adjusted during the challenging times.

"I've been impressed with how the construction workforce has adapted to the changes to their working arrangements," he said.

"Everyone has just continued on with the job and taken the social distancing constraints in their stride. It ensured we could maintain employment and keep everyone safe."

New lease on life for Albany Grasmere Wind Farm

One of Western Australia's most regionally important wind farms and arguably the most picturesque, Albany Grasmere Wind Farm (AGWF), will benefit from some planned upgrades.

Following on from a blade refurbishment program in 2019 and early 2020, the wind farm is having upgrades to its control systems.

As a pioneer wind farm in Australia's renewable story, the control systems at Albany Grasmere had become outdated by contemporary standards and BEI has set about bringing the systems up-to-date. The upgrade is being completed by the wind farm's original equipment manufacturer, Enercon.

AGWF already generates enough electricity to meet 80 per cent of nearby Albany's electricity needs and following the refurbishment it is now ready to keep meeting this demand for many years to come.

Located in Sand Patch Reserve, right on the beautiful south coast, it is also likely to remain BEI's most photographed asset.

Pictured: Refurbishment works at Albany Grasmere Wind Farm.



Contact us

For more information on BEI and its projects, please visit our website at or contact us

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