

# Newsletter

Turbines at the Warradarge Wind Farm near Eneabba

## 2021 Warradarge Wind Farm Community Grants Open

Bright Energy Investments (BEI) is pleased to announce that applications for the 2021 Warradarge Wind Farm Community Grants have opened, as it continues its commitment to making a difference in local communities.

BEI is committed to investment in the Warradarge and surrounding communities, and initiatives such as these community grants are a key part of engaging and strengthening the social, economic and environmental factors of the community we operate in.

The 2020 Community Grants recipients were announced in October last year, with successful applicants presented with their grant certificates by BEI manager of projects Malcolm Light during a ceremony at the newly commissioned Warradarge Wind Farm, near Eneabba in Western Australia's Mid West. BEI received a range of applications for the grant from community groups operating in the Shires of Carnamah and Coorow.

BEI general manager Tom Frood said he was delighted to be able to offer the community grants at a time when the new 180MW wind farm has started contributing to Western Australia's clean energy production. "We were really impressed with the quality of the applications we received, and it was a tough choice for the panel to determine this year's winners," he said.

The three successful community grant recipients for 2020 included:

- Coorow Heritage Group (Inc) received a grant to help fund solar-powered security and general site lighting for the Koobabbie Precinct project. The precinct opened to the community in April 2021, displaying historic local farming equipment and memorabilia.
- Leeman Greenhead Community Garden Inc received a grant to fund a solar powered bore pump for irrigation of the community garden, reducing dependence on scheme water.
- North Midlands Project Incorporated received a grant to help to fund a new multimedia projector that will be used with an outdoor screen to show movies at community events in local shires.

Applications for this year's round will be sought from the end of July and will close on 24 September, with awards expected to be announced in October 2021. Further information can be obtained on the BEI website at: [www.brightenergyinvestments.com.au](http://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](http://www.brightenergyinvestments.com.au).

Solar PV panels in operation at the 40MW Greenough River Solar Farm



## Greenough River Solar Farm stage two operational and withstands cyclone impacts

Stage two of the Greenough River Solar Farm (GRSF) project reached practical completion in October 2020, with the 30MW expansion fully commissioned and providing significant renewable power to the South West Interconnected System.

The now-operational GRSF sustained minor damage during Cyclone Seroja in April but this has not had an impact on the ability of the plant to continue energy generation, generating an equivalent amount of power higher than the average electricity use of nearly 20,000 households.

There are 10 locations throughout GRSF where damage occurred and necessary repairs following the cyclone included replacing some damaged solar panels and minor repairs to trackers, which should be completed over the coming month.

Stage two of GRSF utilises a single axis tracking system to tilt its solar PV panels at an optimum angle to track the

sun from east to west throughout the day, significantly increasing the output of the solar farm. In high wind events, such as Cyclone Seroja, these trackers move to a designated stow position that angles the panels at 30 degrees towards the wind. This occurs automatically within seconds of the on-site weather stations detecting wind speeds outside of the operating parameters.

The GRSF's weather stations and tracking system are powered by batteries with three days of standby power, enabling the trackers to move into and maintain stow position, even when grid power to the solar farm is lost — as happened during this recent event. Damage to the solar farm through the cyclone was minimal, despite recorded wind speeds of up to 120km/h.

The first stage of GRSF, a 10MW facility commissioned in 2012, was Australia's first utility-scale plant. With the addition of a further 30MW of capacity, the now-40MW solar farm will make a significant contribution to Western Australia's renewable energy generation portfolio.

## Risks reduced as wind farm fire truck improves first responder readiness

BEI recognises that one of the key risks and concerns to landowners and the community in rural farming areas are bushfires and the potentially devastating impacts if they are not correctly controlled, which is why BEI donated a dedicated fire tender in March 2021 to the landowner at Warradarge Wind Farm.

The new fire truck, a four-wheel-drive diesel engine vehicle with built-in 2000L water storage and diesel pumps, will boost landowners' first responder capability to fires in the local area and assist the local volunteer bushfire brigade to mitigate fire risk in surrounding areas, as required.

In conjunction with a new portable skid-mounted fire tender, additional rainwater storage tanks and improved access roads around the wind farm, it is hoped that fire risk to the local area will be significantly reduced and BEI general manager Tom Frood said he welcomed the new acquisition.

"It is great to be able to support the community with this provision of improved firefighting services at Warradarge Wind Farm," he said.

"We know how devastating bushfires can be as we have seen around Australia in the past few years so we are keen to do what we can to minimise fire risk in the Warradarge area.

"BEI is committed to the safe long-term operation of Warradarge Wind Farm and maintaining a positive impact on the surrounding community."



### Contact us

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

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