

## Prairie Solar Farm Update – February 2019

### Project Permit Granted

Following a detailed assessment of our planning application by local council, state government agencies and authorities, the Prairie Solar Farm project received planning approval from Loddon Shire on 14 January 2019.

Pacific Hydro is grateful for the opportunity to have met with local residents and community organisations during the process of preparing our application. The insights and local knowledge shared were very valuable and considered in the application which received positive feedback from council and referral agencies for its high quality, and consideration of a broad range of aspects.

Involving the community right from the start is as important to Pacific Hydro's success as technical and financial factors. We are grateful to all for their involvement, interest and support; we are now looking forward to realising all the benefits that our renewable energy projects bring, particularly to regional communities.

### Solar Testing Equipment



Testing equipment has now been delivered and installed to gather detailed data about the amount of sunlight available, weather conditions, and the local environment. The data it gathers will help the detailed planning for the project.

The region around Mitiamo boasts one of the best solar resources in Victoria, receiving an average of 1,792 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of sunlight per square metre each year (for comparison, the average Victorian home uses 4,500 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity per year!).



## **Look ahead**

The granting of the permit means we can now commission more detailed technical studies, to understand ground conditions and other considerations.

No major construction works or community engagement activities are planned for the immediate future. Should construction activities advance into 2019, Pacific Hydro will notify neighbours and community members well-ahead of any work taking place.

Over the coming weeks and months there will be some minor investigative works at the project site. These works will be fully contained within the project boundary and we are not expecting they will have any impact on the local community.

## **Local Capabilities**

Where possible, we encourage the use of local suppliers and contractors during the construction and delivery of our projects. To help us learn more about the services available in the local area, businesses and suppliers are encouraged to register their interest with us via our details below.

## **Community Investment Program**

Pacific Hydro is committed to supporting the communities that host our clean energy projects with positive and lasting social, environmental and economic benefits.

Pacific Hydro runs a [Community Investment Program](#) for our projects in operation across Australia. An Australian renewable energy industry first, the Program delivers a portion of revenue back into our local communities each year. We are looking forward to getting the community's input to a program for Prairie. Typically, this occurs at the construction stage.

Since its launch, the Program has provided more than \$3 million to over 700 sustainable projects across regional Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia.

At its core, the Program aims to empower local communities to identify the initiatives and projects that Pacific Hydro should support. A range of methods are used to meet this aim, tailored to the specific needs of each locality.

## **Complaints, enquiries, and feedback**

For more information about this update, the Prairie Solar Farm Project, or to speak with us, please leave a message with our callback service on 1800 730 734 or email [enquiries@pacifichydro.com.au](mailto:enquiries@pacifichydro.com.au)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Chandler".

Adam Chandler  
Senior Project Leader – Communications and Engagement  
Pacific Hydro