

Windorah Solar Farm and Battery Project Update



September 2024

People and partnerships are powering projects to improve our isolated electricity networks

Project team visits Windorah

We know that people and partnerships are the driving force behind successful projects in regional communities, so Ergon Energy Network's Acting Area Manager Central Queensland, James Hunt, and project team members Andrew and Kate visited Barcoo Shire recently, to meet some key stakeholders and provide an update on the project.

The team met in Jundah with Barcoo Shire Council Mayor Sally O'Neil, and CEO Edwina Marks, to talk through the details of the new Windorah Solar Farm and Battery Project – see Figure 1.



Figure 1 – Andrew, Kate and James from the Ergon team, and Barcoo Shire Council Mayor Sally O'Neil, met to discuss the project.

While we were in Windorah, we met Karhlia and Amanda from the Information Centre. We know that the Info Centre is where locals and visitors alike go

for the latest on everything happening in the area, so we dropped in to meet the team, and deliver some project information.

The ladies have created this awesome display - see Figure 2 - that includes our artist impressions of what the solar farm and battery facility will look like, information about the project stages and timeline, and a handful of free LED torches. We will continue to send project



Fig 2 – Windorah Solar Farm & Battery Project display at the Info Centre.

updates - and a few freebies - to the Info Centre throughout the project. So, why not head on down and see the ladies to check out the display – and don't forget to pick up your free LED torch while you are there.

We also want to extend a big thank you to Marylin, Ian, and the team from the Western Star Hotel, for your hospitality during our stay. The pub was a great place to stay and to catch up with locals to chat about the project. It was interesting to hear about the plans that the Windorah Development Board have for the community, and to learn about some of the history of bringing electricity to Windorah. We're looking forward to collaborating with the Development Board as the project progresses.



Fig 3 – Thanks to the team at Windorah’s Western Star Hotel for your hospitality during our recent visit.

Work to commence on Windorah’s new Solar Farm in October

Work will commence on the highly anticipated new Windorah Solar Farm in October, with Yurika - our contractors who will build the solar farm - scheduled to mobilise to site at the Windorah Power Station in mid-October.

The Yurika team will establish their operations base before undertaking a range of surveying works in preparation for the installation of the rails and racks for the solar arrays.

Unlike the original solar farm that utilised solar concentrator dishes that moved with the sun, the new Windorah solar farm will be a more practical design, with the solar panels mounted on a rack and rail system– see Figure 4.

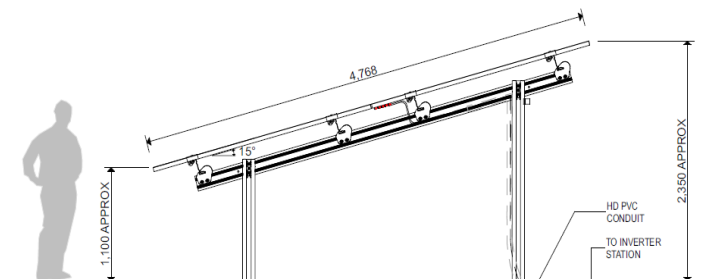


Fig 4 – The rack and rail system that will support the solar panels at the Windorah Solar Farm.

The fixed, ground mounted design of the new array will have no moving parts, making it more robust and better suited to the extreme conditions of the outback.

The 850kW north-facing system will allow the array to capture sufficient solar energy to run around 75% of Windorah’s electricity needs and be easier to maintain.

Yurika are planning to have the solar arrays built and the inverters for the system installed before the end of 2024.

Chumpy gives decades of service to the Windorah community

After decades of service to the community as Windorah’s Power Station Attendant, local legend Ross Ward – aka ‘Chumpy’ – is set to retire at the end of the month.

Chumpy and his wife Di have been members of the ‘Ergon Family’ since 1998, when he started at the old power station. Decades of ‘keeping the lights on’, watching over the diesel generators that power the township and maintaining the grounds and equipment.

Although Chumpy is leaving the Ergon family, he’s sticking around Windorah and will continue to be active in the community. We appreciate your service Chumpy. All the best in your retirement mate!

Getting in touch with us

Want to know more? You can [visit our project webpage](#) for more information. You can register for future project updates by simply scanning the QR code, or contacting our Senior Community Engagement Advisor, Kate Austin on 1300 653 055 or email us at: NetworkProjectEngagement@energyq.com.au



Fig 5 – Chumpy displays his commemorative plaque celebrating 26 years of service

