Project FAQ

Axedale Solar Farm

General

What is being built?

FRV is building a utility-scale solar farm at Axedale, approximately 20 kilometers east of Bendigo in Victoria (Axedale Solar Farm). It is joined to the east by the Fosterville Solar Farm project which will also be constructed and operated by FRV.

The solar farm will consist of approximately 175,000 solar panels installed across the approximately 360-ha site. The project will generate up to 140 megawatts (MW) of clean, renewable energy.

The project will also involve a utility-scale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with capacity of up to 50 MW, storing up to four additional hours of renewable electricity.

Who is FRV?

FRV is a leading global developer of renewable energy solutions for a cleaner and more sustainable future. FRV is headquartered in Spain and has a local office in Sydney.

FRV has initiated and operates several large-scale solar farm developments across Australia (including Victoria) since 2010. This includes the Winton Solar Farm near Benalla. FRV has developed 1.6 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy projects globally.

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Why Axedale?

The biggest constraint that renewable energy developers face is finding suitable land close to a transmission line that can handle additional load from the generation of electricity. It is planned to connect to the 20 kV Bendigo to Fosterville Transmission Line which crosses through the site.

The site is also conducive to solar farm development due to it being flat and mostly cleared of vegetation. The site also has great access via the McIvor Highway.

When will construction commence and how long will construction take?

Works are expected to commence in the last months of 2025. Works are expected to take approximately 16 months. Only a portion of that work will occur over an intensive period of a few weeks. The project will be ready for testing and commissioning in 2027.

Who will operate the solar farm?

FRV will operate the project. While FRV has sold some assets in the past, our core business is retaining assets as this provides us with a sustainable return on investment and ensures we manage the running of our solar farms directly. For us, it is important that our assets are operated responsibly and perform well over their lifetime.

How long will the solar farm project operate for?

Typically, it is expected that solar farms will operate for about 35 years. After this date, the site would either be refurbished for further operation (subject to agreeance with the landowners) or the facility will be closed. Upon closure, project infrastructure will be decommissioning and entirely removed from the site. The site will then be rehabilitated and returned to farmland.

Planning approvals

What stage is the project at?

The project received planning permit approval in 2019. The project is currently developing a detailed design for the project which includes detailed plans for construction.

FRV aims to commence construction in late 2025 and begin operation in 2027.

Design considerations

What type of panels will be used?

The latest technology solar photovoltaic (PV) panels will be used on this project. These will be mounted on single axis trackers, which means that they change their orientation throughout the day to follow the sun from sunrise to sunset. This helps to maximise the energy captured, and maximise the production of clean, renewable energy.

Do solar panels cause glare?

Solar panels are designed to absorb sunlight, not to reflect it. The cells in solar panels are covered in an anti-reflective coating and only reflect a small amount of the sunlight that falls on them. Typically, you would experience more glare from other everyday objects like water surfaces and the glass windows on your home, than you would from solar panels.

FRV will establish tree screening around the boundaries of the to reduce the potential for glare at nearby landholdings.

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