

28 May 2017

First formal community information sessions for \$1 billion Riverland Solar Storage

The first formal community information sessions for the Riverland Solar Storage project will be held in Morgan on Monday 29 May 2017.

Lyon Group Partner David Green said that genuine and early community engagement was vital.

“We’ve been talking to many stakeholders in the Morgan area since before the project announcement. These formal community information sessions will help affected local people to understand project benefits, opportunities and impacts, and just as importantly they will help Lyon to understand local concerns.”

The sessions are being hosted by Mid Murray Council, and will include presentations from Council’s Mayor and CEO, Lyon, its contractor Downer, Regional Development Australia and the Morgan & Districts Community Hub.

Mr Green said Lyon was committed to working cooperatively with the local community and would continue to work closely with the Mid Murray Council to identify opportunities for local engagement and employment during the construction and operation of the project.

Services and equipment that could be sourced locally include site preparation services, access road preparation, structure assembly, electrical services, panel installation, and accommodation.

On 30 March, Lyon announced that the \$1 billion combined large-scale solar and battery storage project – the world’s biggest – would commence construction in the coming months and is expected to employ 270 workers.

“Riverland Solar Storage’s 330MW solar generation and 100MW battery storage system will be Australia’s biggest solar farm with 3.4 million solar panels and will also include 1.1 million batteries,” Mr Green said.

Mr Green said that South Australian energy consumers would benefit from the introduction of battery storage, through downward pressure on wholesale power prices and a more stable system.

“Large-scale renewables and large-scale battery technology will play a central role in keeping our electricity system stable, reducing prices, and reducing emissions.”

The South Australian Government’s battery tender process is still underway. The outcome of that process will not determine whether Lyon’s projects are built but will influence whether final storage configuration optimises grid security rather than maximising capture of trading revenue.

Lyon Group has Australia’s largest pipelines of large-scale solar and large-scale battery storage projects, and will announce the commencement of further combined solar storage and grid-connected battery storage projects in the coming months.

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