

# Numurkah Solar Farm

NEOEN

***ZEN Energy acknowledges the Yorta Yorta people, traditional custodians of the land on which Numurkah Solar Farm stands. We recognise their continuing connection to Country and culture.\****

The Numurkah Solar Farm, at 128 MW, is the largest in Victoria. The farm is located 6km south of Numurkah in Northern Victoria, a location with that rare combination of plentiful sunlight and proximity to transmission lines.

Neoen own and operate the solar farm, and Downer provides the on-site operations and maintenance services. Downer were also the engineering, procurement and design (EPC) contractor for the solar farm. **Construction began in October 2018 and was completed just nine months later in July 2019.**

***“The Numurkah Solar Farm will play an important role in supporting the transformation of our energy network towards clean, renewable energy and reaching our renewable energy target of 50 per cent by 2030.”***

***The Hon. Lily D’Ambrosio, Victoria’s Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change.***



Photo credit: Shepparton News

ZEN Energy uses the Numurkah Solar Farm to supply 100% renewable electricity to the CSIRO’s Victorian sites.

In an agreement with Neoen and the Victorian Government, Numurkah Solar Farm also helps power the Melbourne Tram Network.

**60%** Neoen has contracted 60% of the farm’s output to ZEN Energy, with a power purchase agreement in place until 2035.

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## Regional Benefits

While in construction, the site created a total of 1,229 jobs, with 290 on-site jobs and 939 indirect jobs. Now the site is fully operational there are 6 permanent full-time employees who live in the local community and 23 indirect jobs, a total of 29 positions.

## Community

The project has a high level of community support. Neoen Australia has established the Numurkah Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund, which provides a \$15,000 annual grant to local community group projects. The Community Benefit Sharing Program provides significant, meaningful benefits to communities around the Numurkah Solar Farm.



*“Numurkah Solar Farm has been a terrific opportunity for the local community. It also prepares people & business for future projects that come along in the region – they know what to expect.”*

**Graeme Richardson, Manager Construction & Assets, Moira Shire Council.**

## Agrisolar

Agrisolar is the co-existence of agriculture and solar power generation on the same land. At Numurkah, sheep graze under the solar panels to help keep the grass down, while the panels also provide shade and protection. The integration of solar energy and grazing on site allows Neoen, landholders and farmers to work in partnership, maximising the productive use of the land.



\* Traditional landowners were sourced from the **AIATSIS** map created as part of the Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia.