



Fact Sheet: Nyngan Solar Plant.

With the support of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and the New South Wales (NSW) Government, AGL Energy Limited (AGL) will construct a 102 MW solar photovoltaic (PV) power plant in Nyngan, NSW.

Clean Energy Council/
Craig Sillitoe
Photography.

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ARENA



Background

AGL is building two large-scale solar PV power plants in NSW with a total capacity of 155 MW. These projects will be constructed at Nyngan (102 MW) and Broken Hill (53 MW).

ARENA and the NSW Government has provided funding of \$166.7 million and \$64.9 million respectively. The total cost for the two projects is approximately \$440 million.

Solar plants are power stations that use energy from the sun to generate electricity. At the Nyngan Solar Plant, PV modules will be used to convert sunlight into electricity which will be fed into the electricity grid.

These two projects will be the largest solar power stations in Australia when completed in 2015.

About AGL

- AGL is a proudly Australian company since 1837.
- AGL is one of the largest electricity and gas retailers in Australia, with over 3.8 million customer accounts.
- AGL is the largest integrated renewable energy company in Australia, with 1,720 MW of wind, hydro, biomass and solar assets.

AGL is delivering the Nyngan Solar Plant in partnership with ARENA and the NSW Government, together with the Bogan Shire Council, the Nyngan community, and project partners First Solar and Consolidated Power Projects (CPP).

Construction of the plant started in January 2014 and is expected to be completed by June 2015.

Project Description.

The solar plant will occupy approximately 250 hectares of land, located approximately 10 kilometres west of Nyngan, off the Barrier Highway.



Construction underway at the Nyngan site

The solar power station will consist of approximately 1,350,000 solar PV modules installed on frames which are supported by around 150,000 steel posts. The modules will be installed at a 25 degree angle, facing north. They will be connected to inverters which transform the DC current produced by the modules into AC current that can be fed into the electricity grid.

A new substation is being built at the site, and a new 132kV transmission line will connect the substation to the existing Nyngan – Cobar transmission line, which runs 3km south of the site.

Why Nyngan?

Nyngan receives strong and consistent solar radiation, making it an ideal location for a solar power plant. The project site is flat and mostly cleared, with a good buffer between the plant and nearby residents.

In addition, the project site is well located between the regional centre of Dubbo to the east, and a number of mining loads at Cobar to the west, meaning there is significant need for electrical power in the region.

Construction.

First Solar will provide engineering, procurement and construction services for the projects, using its advanced thin-film PV modules.

Construction will include:

- › Civil work (surveying, grading, fencing and roads).
- › Structural work (installation of posts, rails, and tables).
- › Substation work (construction of substation and installation of transformer).
- › Electrical work (installation of modules, inverters, transformers, and cabling).
- › Overhead line work (construction of a new section of 132kV power line).
- › Plant commissioning.

First Solar is constructing a temporary workers accommodation camp in Nyngan, which can accommodate up to 300 workers.

Community.

A Community Consultative Committee (CCC) has been established for the Nyngan Solar Plant project. It consists of 10 members who represent the Nyngan community.

The purpose of the CCC is to help strengthen the community engagement process and provide a direct link between the community and the AGL project team. The CCC meetings are open to observers.

AGL is also working with the CCC to develop a community fund for the construction stage of the project, which will support community initiatives, events and projects in the local government area.

Benefits.

Up to 300 direct construction jobs will be created to support plant construction. Personnel will be sourced from Nyngan and the surrounding region as much as possible. Some workers will come in from other parts of NSW and Australia as required.

The Nyngan Solar Plant is also expected to create additional jobs in restaurants, hotels, and local businesses. Construction of the project will inject tens of millions of dollars into the local and regional economies.

The plant will produce approximately 230,000 megawatt-hours of clean renewable electricity each year, enough energy to supply approximately 33,000 NSW homes!



Project timeline:

January 2013

Construction starts on Nyngan site



June 2014

First panel installed



July 2014

Establish grid connection



January 2015

Section 1 complete



March 2015

Section 2 complete



May 2015

Section 3 and 4 complete.



June 2015

Construction ends on Nyngan site

For more information about the Nyngan Solar Plant:

Visit: <http://agl.com.au/nyngan>

Call: 1800 039 600

Email: nyngansolar@agl.com.au

AGL Energy Limited .

ABN 74 155 061 375

