



# URALLA GRANTS

NEW ENGLAND SOLAR FARM

## GRANT GUIDELINES

*INITIAL ROUND*

*FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER TO WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2020*

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# Table of Contents

Grant Summary	Page 3
Who can apply?	Page 3
What might be funded?	Page 4
What will not be funded?	Page 5
What funding is available?	Page 5
What are the evaluation criteria?	Page 6
What supporting documentation will need to be provided?	Page 6
What are the funding conditions?	Page 7
What is the application process?	Page 7
What is the notification process?	Page 8
Key dates and timetable?	Page 8
Contacts and additional information	Page 8
Checklist	Page 8

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## Grant Summary

The community benefits sharing initiative was conceived by UPC\AC Renewables Australia (“UPC\AC”) in the very early stages of the development of the New England Solar Farm. The fund created through the community benefits sharing initiative was intended, through grants and other funding mechanisms, to enhance the unique community identity of the Uralla Shire; to establish the Uralla region as a sustainable energy leader; to support community organisations and initiatives, as well as education and work opportunities; address social equity issues; and, increase community sustainability and resilience. It will contribute to maintaining the Uralla region’s unique community identity by enabling a variety of community-driven initiatives, individuals and organisations to benefit.

## About the New England Solar Farm

The New England Solar Farm is being developed by experienced renewable energy developer UPC\AC. It is a joint venture between the UPC Renewables Group and AC Energy (a subsidiary of the Ayala Corporation).

It will be built across two solar fields about six kilometers east of Uralla. Based on the target capacity of both stages of 720MW, the solar farm will produce around 1,800,000 megawatt hours (MWh) of clean electricity each year – enough to power about 250,000 NSW homes.

The project includes a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) capable of dispatching energy to the grid at times of high energy demand.

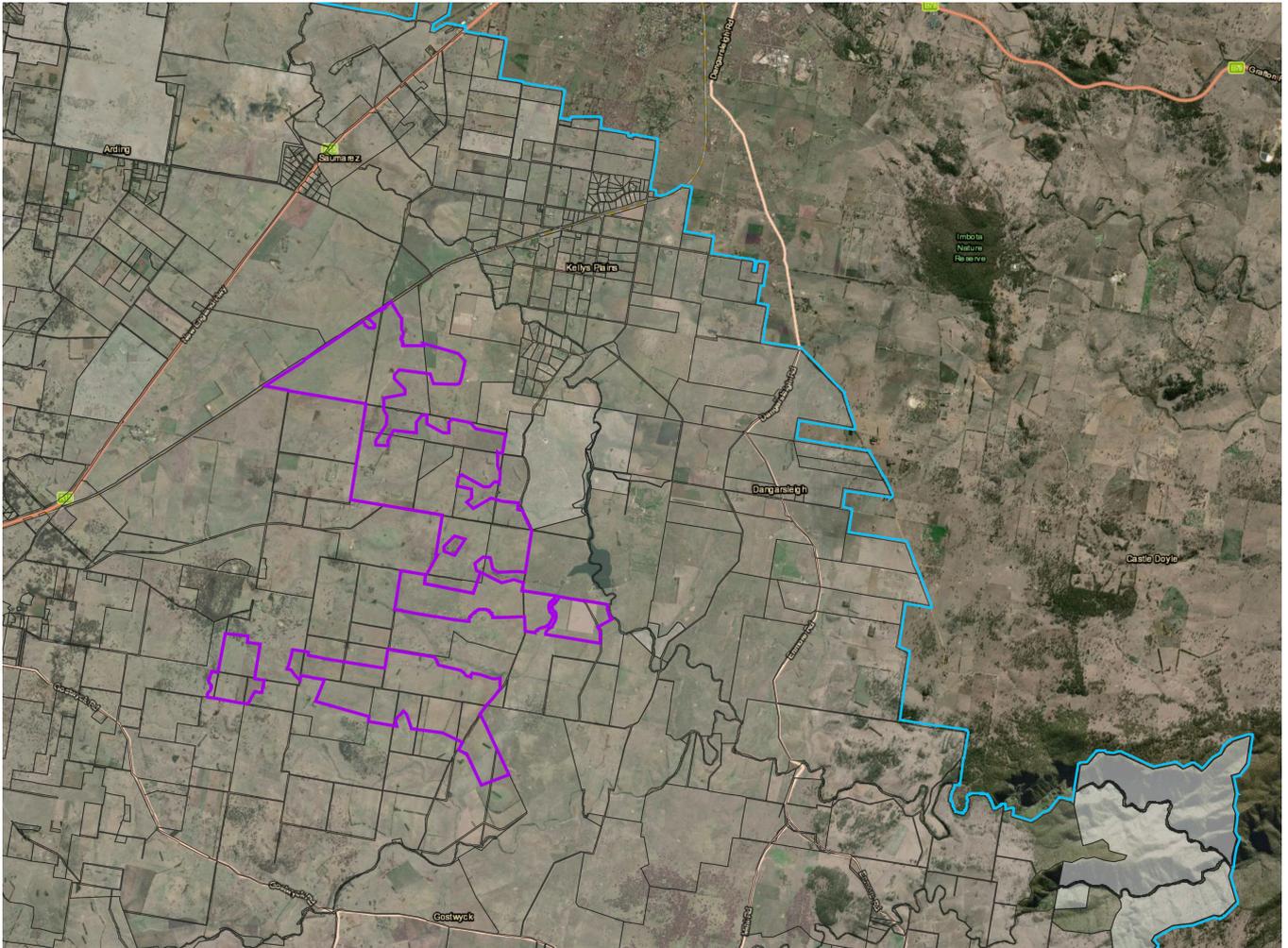
The solar farm and BESS will be constructed in stages, starting with a 400MW stage one solar farm and a 50MWh battery, which has received grant funding from the NSW Government’s Emerging Energy Program.

The solar and battery project will be Australia’s largest hybrid solar and battery energy storage facility. There is the potential to expand the Battery Project up to a maximum size of 400MWh.

## Who can apply?

Grant applications are open to any individual, community organisation or business that is a resident of the defined community area. The geographical scope of the defined community area is comprised of the Uralla Shire Council area plus those portions of Kellys Plains and Dangarsleigh within a 5 kilometer radius from the New England Solar Farm as prescribed in the map (figure 1 below). The defined community area can also be viewed on an interactive map on the Uralla Grants website.

Figure 1



## What might be funded?

The Project/Event/Activity must pass the “benefits test”. This test is to assess if the Project/Event/Activity will benefit the Uralla Community within the community area.

Therefore, the range of Projects/Events/Activities is limited only by the imagination of the applicant. Some examples, besides the usual support for community groups and sporting organisations, could be:

### Building capacity:

- Grants to local sporting groups for equipment.
- Feasibility study for major projects – for example a world class mountain bike track.

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- More computers for the library.
  - Workshops to support locals to improve their business, grant application, or other relevant skills.
  - Equipment and platform fees for community groups to undertake online activities during COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Zoom bootcamp to build skills to communicate during the pandemic.

### **Sustainability projects:**

- Solar PV on key community buildings.
- LED lighting in key community buildings.
- Tree planting in public spaces.
- Community rainwater tank subsidy.

### **Economic development activities:**

- Start-up business recycling café and food waste for garden mulch.
- Seed funding for set up costs for sustainable food markets, growers co-operative or “makers space”.
- New activity, product line for an existing business.

### **Enhancing the unique nature of Uralla Shire, its history and high levels of community connection and involvement:**

- Resourcing volunteers to help vulnerable young families.
- Social engagements activities with returning or settling 18 to 35 year olds to assist in assimilation into community and to understand their needs.
- Subsidy for children from low income families to attend summer swimming camp.

## What will not be funded?

The list of projects/events/activities which are ineligible to receive grant funding is very short. However, applications submitted by non-residents of the Uralla Community Area will not be accepted and projects/events/activities must be able to demonstrate a benefit to the Uralla Community Area. Other exclusions will be:

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- If the project/event/activity could be covered by other more appropriate grant funding opportunities.
  - If the organisation has sufficient funds already for the project/event/activity, and
  - If the activity is a normal activity undertaken by the organisation/business.
  - If the activity involves promotion of antisocial behaviour, the use of illegal drugs or excessive consumption of alcohol or is gambling related.

## What funding is available?

The total funding for the initial year is \$100,000 in two rounds. Applications for the first round, with a total of \$50,000, closes at close of business 5pm on Wednesday 7 October 2020.

### Funding details are:

- Funding will be awarded up to a maximum of \$5k per successful application and applications for smaller amounts are encouraged.
- Projects/Events/Activities should be completed by 19 November 2021.
- Applicants are restricted to one application per round.

## What are the evaluation criteria?

Eligible projects/events/activities will be assessed against the following evaluation criteria to determine the successful applicants.

### Evaluation criteria

- Meets eligibility criteria.
- Builds capacity, skills and knowledge in the community and schools.
- Improves sustainability of the Uralla community.
- Supports economic development and job creation.
- Enhances the unique nature of Uralla Shire, particularly its history and high levels of community involvement and connection.
- Address a demonstrated need that is not a core responsibility of another agency or part of the normal operations of the applicant (business, community group etc).

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## What supporting documentation will need to be provided?

The Application Form has been developed to provide sufficient information for the CRG to assess and compare funding applications, however there may be projects/events/activities that will require additional information. This additional information could include:

- Copy of Public Liability, Personal Accident and/or Professional Indemnity Insurance Certificates.
- Copy of Proof of Incorporation.
- Quotations for major expenditure.
- Letters of commitment from organisations and/or partnering organisations C.E.Os, Officers or delegates.
- Other supporting documents

## What are the funding conditions?

### 1. Funding Agreements:

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement with Uralla Grants.

### 2. Payments:

Payments will be made:

- 1) after the funding agreement has been signed by both parties; and
- 2) following a payment schedule to be specified in the funding agreement (as a general rule funds will be disbursed as they are needed to meet actual costs).

### 3. Tax Implications:

Applicants should consult with the Australian Taxation Office or seek professional advice on any taxation implication, including GST, that may arise from this grant funding

Successful applicants, without an ABN, will need to provide a completed Australian Taxation Office form "Statement by a Supplier" so that no withholding tax is required from the grant payment.

### 4. Acknowledgement of UPC/AC Renewables Australia's support:

Successful applicants agree to be referred to in promotional material used to promote the Uralla Grants programme or in relation to the New England Solar Farm.

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## 5. Monitoring and Acquittal:

Grant recipients will be required to comply with reasonable monitoring, reporting and acquittal requirements as outlined in the funding agreement.

## 6. Legislative and regulatory requirements:

In delivering the project/event/activity, grant recipients are required to comply with all Commonwealth, State and Local Government legislation and regulations; such as Work Health and Safety 2011 (NSW), Development Applications (Uralla Shire Council), Freedom of Information Act 1989 (NSW) and The Privacy Act 1988 (Commonwealth).

## What is the application process?

Applications may be submitted by mail, email or to the addresses listed on page 5 of the Application Form.

## What is the notification process?

Applicants will be notified of their grant application outcome in writing after the assessment process has been completed. All decisions of the assessment panel are final and are not subject to further review. Unsuccessful applicants will be provided feedback. The assessment panel may, at its sole discretion, contact applicants for clarification prior to making its final decisions.

## Key dates and timetable?

- Applications close at close of business on **Wednesday 7 October 2020**
- Applicants notified on **Friday 6 November 2020**
- Project/Event/Activity may commence after **Monday 23 November 2020**
- Project/Event/Activity to be completed by **Friday 19 November 2021**
- Acquittal reports for Project/Event/Activity to be submitted by **Friday 17 December 2021**

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## Contacts and additional information

Additional information is available on Uralla Grant's web page on New England Solar Farm website <https://www.newenglandsolarfarm.com.au/urallagrants>

If you require assistance submitting your application online or wish to discuss your application idea email [urallagrants@newenglandsolarfarm.com.au](mailto:urallagrants@newenglandsolarfarm.com.au) and a team member will get in touch with you.

## Checklist

- Read the Guidelines above
- Completed Applicant's Details
- Completed Project Overview
- Completed Project Details
- Completed Project Budget
- Signed the Declaration
- Attached any supporting documentation