



# Houghton Solar Farm

## Solar Energy

Australia is one of the best places to generate energy from the sun because it receives the highest average solar radiation per square metre of any continent on earth.

Houghton Solar Farm will convert sunlight into electricity using solar photovoltaic (PV) technology.

Solar PV cells are made of silicon and are combined into panels. This same technology is used on a smaller scale by households and businesses across the country.

By generating electricity from an abundant source like the sun, the Houghton project will help achieve a reliable, affordable, and clean energy future for North Queensland.



## About the Project

Houghton Solar Farm is located south east of Townsville in North Queensland, approximately 17 kilometers from the township of Clare.

The site has been identified as an area suitable for efficiently capturing solar energy. The region has one of the highest levels of solar irradiance in Australia, receiving 2,095 kilowatt-hours of sunlight per square meter each year.

The solar farm is being built in a series of stages with the first 100 MW set for completion in 2019.

Once the first stage is finished, the solar farm will generate enough electricity to power approximately 58,000 homes.



## Site Characteristics

Key site features and project infrastructure include:

- A new substation;
- 400,000 photovoltaic modules;
- Installed underground cabling;
- Two permanent weather stations;
- An operations and delivery building;
- Connection to nearby substations and transmission lines, making it possible to export electricity to the National Electricity Market (NEM);
- Flat terrain with minimal trees and vegetation.



**Pacific Hydro will directly invest more than \$2.5 million in community grants and sponsorships over the life of Houghton Solar Farm.**

### Local Benefits

Pacific Hydro has a strong track record of delivering lasting social, environmental, and economic benefits to the local communities in which our projects are located. These include:

- a significant number of direct jobs during construction
- generating local economic activity during construction and operations
- opportunities for local businesses and suppliers
- support for community-led projects and initiatives

The project is expected to deliver a boost to the local economy with more than 240 workers required onsite during construction.

Up to 10 permanent jobs will be required to ensure the effective operation of the solar farm, with further contractor opportunities also anticipated.

### Business Opportunities

Local suppliers and contractors may also be engaged for the construction and delivery of the project wherever possible; and are encouraged to register their interest and capabilities with us.

These jobs will help to diversify local skills and economic output for the region, complementing the agricultural industry and contributing to the prosperity of the local economy.

### Community Investment

Pacific Hydro is proud to further support communities that host our clean energy projects through our industry-leading Community Investment Program, which delivers a portion of the project's revenue back into our local communities each year.

At its core, the program aims to empower local communities to identify the projects and initiatives that we should support.

Across our projects in operation, a range of methods are used to achieve this aim (such as community funds and sponsorships), tailored to the specific needs of each area and involving the community.

Since its launch the project has delivered over \$3.1 Million to over 700 community-led projects across regional Australia.

### 2019 Funding

Over the life of the solar farm, Pacific Hydro will directly invest more than \$2.5 million into the region.

Priority funding areas include Ayr, Brandon, Clare, Dalberg, Giru, and Home Hill.

In 2019, the Houghton Sustainable Communities Fund will provide \$50,000 funding to eight community groups. Pacific Hydro is also a lead sponsor of Burdekin Shire Council's Sweet Days Hot Nights Festival.

### About Pacific Hydro

Founded in Australia in 1992, Pacific Hydro is a global owner, operator and developer of renewable energy assets.

Pacific Hydro is owned by State Power Investment Corporation (SPIC) through State Power Investment Overseas Co. Ltd of China (SPIC Overseas).

### Contact Us

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