

# Australian Industry Participation (AIP) plan Summary - Operations Phase

## **1. Facility Details**

**Nominated operator:** Western Downs Green Power Hub Pty Ltd as trustee for Western Downs Green Power Hub Trust

**Facility name:** Western Downs Green Power Hub

### **Description of the facility:**

Western Downs Green Power Hub Pty Ltd as trustee for Western Downs Green Power Hub Trust entered into an 'engineer, procure, construct' (EPC) contract with an EPC contractor (Sterling & Wilson or S&W) to build the Western Downs Green Power Hub solar photovoltaic (PV) facility in Hopeland, QLD, 4413 (WDGPH or Project).

Western Downs Green Power Hub Pty Ltd as trustee for Western Downs Green Power Hub Trust is a wholly owned subsidiary of Western Downs Holdco Pty Ltd. This company provides the guarantee and security over its shares held in the Trustee for Western Downs Green Power Hub Trust and its rights under relevant shareholder loans. Western Downs Green Power Hub Pty Ltd as trustee for Western Downs Green Power Hub Trust and Western Downs Holdco Pty Ltd are a consolidated group. Western Downs Holdco Pty Ltd is owned by Neoen International SAS (100% shareholder), a wholly owned subsidiary of Neoen SA.

NEOEN Australia Pty Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of NEOEN SA and is providing asset and construction management services to Western Downs Green Power Hub Pty Ltd as trustee for Western Downs Green Power Hub Trust.

The capacity of the Project is 400MWac / 460MWp.

Sterling & Wilson (or S&W) is known as a large global solar contractor with 2 other solar PV facilities already in construction in Australia (one in Queensland and one in NSW).

The Project is currently being financed on the back of a Power Purchase Agreement (**PPA**) signed with CleanCo Queensland for 352MWp. Financing is ongoing and expected to be closed by end of September 2020. Design works under the EPC contract have commenced and ongoing as well as some of the key procurement items.

The Project will generate 1080 GWh of affordable clean energy each year, complementing CleanCo Queensland's hydro generation. Around 460 MWp in total size, the Project will become the largest solar farm in Australia, bringing significant regional economic benefits to South West Queensland.

This is CleanCo Queensland's second renewable energy offtake agreement since its establishment in December 2018, and it will contribute over 30% of the energy required for CleanCo Queensland to meet its target of 1 GW of new renewable generation by 2025. Under the CleanCo power purchase agreement, the Western Downs Green Power Hub Pty Ltd as trustee for Western Downs Green Power Hub Trust set out to meet various requirements set out in the following plans developed specifically for the project including:

- Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan;

- Indigenous Participant Plan;
- Local Content and Local Employment Plan.

These requirements are backed-to-back onto Sterling & Wilson that – through the procurement processes – will ensure that the objectives of these specific plans are also met. Procurement has commenced with a special focus on long lead-items and will continue in the coming months. Construction is expected to commence on site in October / November 2020 and the facility is expected to be fully completed by Q1 2022. The total land area available for the project is approximately 3528 acres. The connection assets to the grid will include 2 x 300MVA transformers to be procured and installed at the solar farm's 275/33kV substation and switchyard to be owned by the project. The connection assets will rely on Powerlink's support infrastructure being a newly built 275kV 6km-long overhead line to connect the solar farm's substation and switchyard to Powerlink's Western Downs substation.

**Facility location:** Hopeland QLD 4413

**Link to facility information:** <https://westerndownsgreenpowerhub.com.au/>

**Operator contact for procurement information:** Ray Daver – Head of Supply Chain, Sterling and Wilson, 0415 530 214, [eoi.westerndowns@sterlingwilson.com](mailto:eoi.westerndowns@sterlingwilson.com)

**Other operators involved in the facility:** N/A

## **2. Opportunities to supply Goods and Services**

<b>Key goods and services for the facility</b>	<b>Opportunities for Australian entities</b>	<b>Opportunities for non-Australian entities</b>
<b>Goods</b>		
Spare and replacement electrical parts (expected <\$1M)	Yes	Yes
<b>Services</b>		
Vegetation management	Yes	No
Solar module cleaning	Yes	No
Civil (road, drain) maintenance works	Yes	No
General operation, testing and maintenance services	Yes	No

Disclaimer: The information provided in the table above is based on an initial assessment by the company. Any questions or issues should be raised with the facility contact.

**Explanation for item(s) in list above where it is indicated 'No Opportunities for Australian entities'**

### **3. Standards to be used in the facility**

The primary position is that we will continue to use Australian or international standards (where they are acknowledged by Australian industry to provide greater benefits or have been readily adopted) for goods and services given we using these standards to build the WDGPH project.

These standards will be able to be met by Australian companies and be common to the Australian construction industry participants involved in this style of project.

Below list is not an exhaustive list:

- o AS 1125 Conductors in insulated electric cables and flexible Cords
- o AS 1660 Test methods for electric cables, cords and conductors
- o AS 2832 Cathodic protection of metals – Pipes and cables
- o AS 3000 Electrical Installations
- o AS 3008 Electrical Installations – Selection of cables
- o AS 3808 Insulating and sheathing materials for electric cables
- o AS 4507 Cables – Classification of characteristics when exposed to fire
- o AS 5033 Installation and safety requirements for photovoltaic (PV) arrays
- o AS 1725.1-2010 Chain Link Fabric Fencing Part 1: Security Fences and Gates – General Requirements. Appendix K Heavy Duty Mesh with 3 Barbed wires.
- o AS 1141: Methods for Sampling and Testing Aggregates.
- o AS 1289: Methods of Testing Soils for Engineering Purposes.
- o AS 3798: Guidelines on Earthworks for Commercial and Residential Developments.
- o Austroads Guide to Pavement Technology – All relevant sections
- o ARRB Unsealed Roads Manual – All relevant sections
- o ISO 9001 Quality Management Systems
- o ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems
- o IEC 61936-1, Power installations exceeding 1 kV a.c. – Part 1: Common rules
- o IEC 60071, Insulation co-ordination – Part 1: Definitions, principles and rules
- o IEC 60146 (Semiconductor converters)
- o IEC 62109-1 and 2 (Safety of Power Converters for Use in Photovoltaic Power Systems)
- o IEC 62891 (Overall Efficiency of Photovoltaic Inverters)
- o IEC 61683 (Power conditioners – Procedure for measuring efficiency)
- o IEC 60076 (Power transformers)
- o IEC 60606 (Application Guide for Power Transformers)
- o IEC 61869-1 (Instrument transformers)
- o Metallic structures - AS4100
- o Concrete Structures - AS3600
- o Piled Foundations - AS2159
- o IEC 62817-2014 : Photovoltaic systems - Design qualification of solar trackers
- o IEC 60364-6, Low-voltage electrical installations – Part 6: Verification
- o IEC 62446, Grid connected photovoltaic systems – Minimum requirements for system documentation, commissioning tests and inspection
- o IEC 60038 (IEC standard Voltage)

- o EN 50618 (Electric cables for photovoltaic system)
- o IEC 60085 (Electrical insulation)
- o IEC 60189 (Low-frequency cables and wires with PVC insulation and PVC sheath)
- o IEC 60183 (Guide to the selection of high voltage cables)
- o IEC 60228 (Conductors of insulated cables)

#### **4. AIP activities to be undertaken by the Operator**

The Expression of Interest (EOI) contact details ([eoι.westerndowns@sterlingwilson.com](mailto:eoι.westerndowns@sterlingwilson.com)) have been advertised on the projects homepage (<https://westerndownsgreenpowerhub.com.au/>) since June 2020 and incoming queries are being registered.

The project information, tender packages, prequalification requirements and registration details will be published on the solar farm's website / jobs portal S&W is currently setting up.

By providing a dedicated contact e-mail address [eoι.westerndowns@sterlingwilson.com](mailto:eoι.westerndowns@sterlingwilson.com) on the project website, potential Australian suppliers have the possibility to register their interest in the project, and in turn to access all necessary information in relation to tender packages and prequalification requirements for the Project.

We will post suitable announcements on the project homepage, appropriate media, and social media platforms (to a more limited extent) to advertise available opportunities that may be suitable for the project at specific stages.

Australian entities supplying key services for the WDGPB project are expected to be presented with various opportunities to improve their capability or capacity while carrying out the construction and/or operational activities. The Western Downs Green Power Hub Pty Ltd as trustee for Western Downs Green Power Hub Trust is aiming to achieve as minimum under the CleanCo plans:

- Formal traineeships & apprenticeships (10% of EPC & OM Labour Hours to be completed by Trainees and Apprentices);
- Local Businesses and Community Organisations Supply Contracts (20% of EPC & OM Supply Contracts to be awarded to Local Businesses and Community Organisations);
- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) Jobseekers (10% of EPC & OM Labour Hours to be completed by Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples);
- Local Employment (20% of EPC & OM Full Time Employment (FTE) labour Hours to be completed by local community members.

There are three key management plans that are currently in place to ensure the projects KPI's are achieved:

- the Western Downs - Local Participation Plan;
- the Western Downs - Indigenous Participation Plan; and
- the Western Downs -- Community Relations Plan.

The management plans set out various possible ways to facilitate local and Australian entities capabilities including but not limited to facilitating the below.

The apprentice, cadetship and/or trainee hours of training may come from the following:

- using Group Training Scheme apprentices, cadets and/or trainees;
- using contractor and sub-contractor apprentices, cadets and/or trainees.

Workforce training may include the following:

- upskilling existing workers in training that is delivered by registered training organisations and which leads to nationally recognised building or civil construction qualifications;
- upskilling existing workers in industry recognised training;
- upskilling existing workers through apprenticeships or traineeships;
- employing students in undergraduate programs or cadetships that apply to formal tertiary, professional or technical education in the building and civil construction industry (including structured workplace learning aligned to an accredited pre-vocational training program).

Given the early stages of the project, not all opportunities to facilitate Australian entities have been formalized yet.

S&W / NEOEN will provide references for high performing suppliers in certain circumstances.

### **5. AIP activities to be undertaken by procurement entities**

It is expected that many local entities potentially capable to participate in the initial operations of the WDGPH facility will be identified during the construction period. Operational-related opportunities are expected to be advertised from Q4 2021.

Pre-requisites / pre-qualification requirements will be published on the homepage / job portal that is being set up.

S&W will collaborate with supplier advocates, including the Western Downs Regional Council / TSBE to ensure opportunities after the construction and commissioning phases are communicated as well. We will continue to:

- Communicate current information about the WDGPH project;
- Conduct supplier information briefings on project opportunities for the initial operations phase where appropriate;
- Provide an overview of supply and subcontract opportunities in an equitable and timely manner;
- Inform suppliers where to register for supply opportunities, pre-qualification essentials and other mandatory supply requirement
- Point companies in the direction of organisations that can assist them to improve their capability to participate;
- Facilitate industry networking;
- S&W will contact and keep informed the Western Downs Regional Council. The purpose of such contact will be to inform these supplier advocates of upcoming supply opportunities in order for these organisations to advise their members and push enquiries:
  - towards the project's direction and dedicated contact details; and
  - in the direction of the WDGPH project procurement team.
- Participate in presentations to provide information on the project to potential suppliers and the local community (including information on the registration process for supply opportunities and pre-qualification requirements).
- We expect strong working relationship with:
  - Chamber of commerce; and
  - Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise (TSBE)

It is expected that many local entities potentially capable to participate in the initial operations of the WDGPH facility will be identified during the construction period. Opportunities are expected to be advertised from Q4 2021 and it is expected that suitable entities identified during the construction or otherwise will be contacted directly.

Furthermore, Sterling & Wilson have been operating in Australia for some time now and been involved in major projects in NSW and QLD, gaining knowledge of Australian subcontractors and their capabilities. S&W maintain a database of available suppliers and subcontractors which is updated and reviewed as a matter of good business practice and will be updated in particular for this project so S&W can directly contact suppliers with information on project opportunities including for the initial operations phase.

As all service opportunities for the initial operational phase are open to Australian entities, there is no risk of discrimination against Australian entities and equal bid timeframes will be provided to all Australian and international suppliers.

S&W / NEOEN will provide references for high performing suppliers in certain circumstances.

Feedback – mainly in the form of verbal feedback - will be provided to Australian entities unsuccessful in their bids to supply key services. While it is impractical to provide detailed feedback to all applicants, entities that meet the pre-requisites but narrowly miss out on the supply opportunity will be consulted. S&W issues a regret e-mail to all unsuccessful applicants – the opportunity to seek feedback will be provided in the regret e-mail.

The intended outcome is to create more diversity and opportunities for capable Australian entities to be fully equipped to bid for specific packages in similar projects in the future.

Details will be provided:

- as to why they were not the preferred bidders;
- as to what are the relevant training and skills, capability and capacity development activities (if any) the entity should undertake to be successful in future.