

# Yadlamalka Energy Project

## Briefing Note

### Summary

- Yadlamalka Energy (YE) is a private company, owned by Andrew Doman, who is currently located in London. Yadlamalka pastoral station has been in Andrew's family for many years.
- YE is seeking to develop an integrated solar and storage (renewable energy) facility approximately 30 km west of Hawker. The project site is adjacent to the Neuroodla substation and railway siding. The Project requires 20 hectares of land to accommodate the required infrastructure.

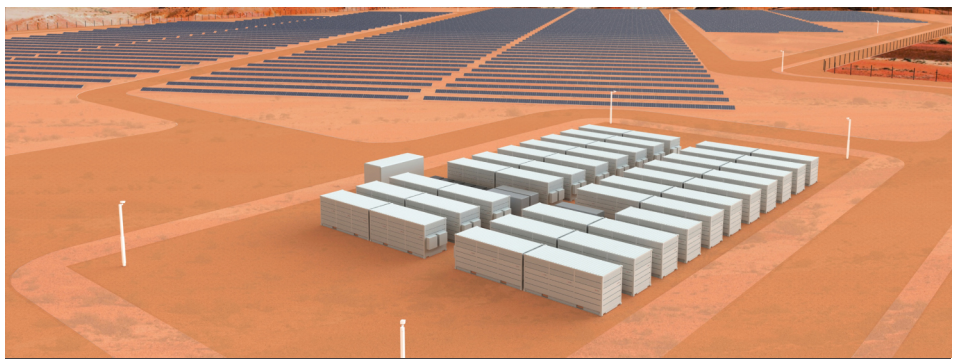


Image 1 - Artist's impression of solar panels and battery storage system.

- The Project is currently at a standstill and based on the advice of the Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation (AAR) division of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, YE must seek an authorisation under Section 23 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act (1988) for the Project to proceed. This is not the desired path for YE.
- Engagement with Viliwarinha Yura Aboriginal Corporation (VYAC), on the advice of AAR, saw a cultural heritage survey (incomplete) undertaken by VYAC representatives in May 2021.
- Following concerns raised by VYAC, all works at the Project site ceased and AAR visited the site in August 2021.
- YE met with the VYAC Board on 16 September to find a pathway forward for the Project, including the management of cultural heritage objects identified on the site.
- The following day (17 September 2021) AAR wrote to YE to advise of its assessment of a concentration of Aboriginal objects within the Project Land and recommending that the only way the Project could proceed without breach of the Act, would be with authorisation of the Minister pursuant to section 23.
- YE subsequently proposed an alternative location south of the Project Land to VYAC for its consideration. YE was advised by VYAC that the alternative location was not suitable.
- Based on the clear feedback received from AAR, YE has lodged a request for a Section 23 authorisation under the Aboriginal Heritage Act (1988)

## Project Background

The Project will see the development of an integrated solar and storage (renewable energy) facility near the Neuroodla substation (see Image 1).



The proposed renewable energy development consists of a 6 MW solar farm with an 8 MWh Vanadium Redox Flow Machine (VRFM) energy storage system. The Project has received funding from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) to bring this emerging technology to the South Australian energy market.

This Project will be the first grid scale solar and vanadium flow storage development to be deployed in Australia and one of the largest globally. It is significant to demonstrate the value and benefits to the Australian energy system and help support ongoing investment in the renewable energy industry, particularly in South Australia where the solar conditions are ideal. This storage technology will also bring support and stability to the local electricity network.

The Project will be connected to the Neuroodla substation via a 32 kV connection of approximately 150m from the site to the substation.

The Project has been positioned on land as close as safe and practical to the existing Neuroodla substation to minimize the impact of connection costs and losses to the substation which impact generation.

## Project Location

The Project Land is in the rural locality of Barndioota approximately 30 km west of the township of Hawker on the plain to the west of the western slopes of the Flinders Ranges.

It is about 36km from Hawker via the sealed Outback Highway and existing formed unsealed roads.

The Project Land is about 1.5 kilometres west of the intersection of Neuroodla, Warrakimbo and Wallerberdina Roads, and approximately 800 metres from Warrakimbo Road at the nearest point. Along the eastern boundary of the site is the Stirling North (Port Augusta) to Telford (Leigh Creek) railway line. The railway is disused due to end of coal mining at Leigh Creek and the closure of Port Augusta Power Station.

Next to the railway directly opposite the site is the existing Neuroodla electricity substation (see Image 1). The normal use of the Project land and locality is the grazing of cattle.

The Project requires around 20 hectares of land to accommodate the required infrastructure.

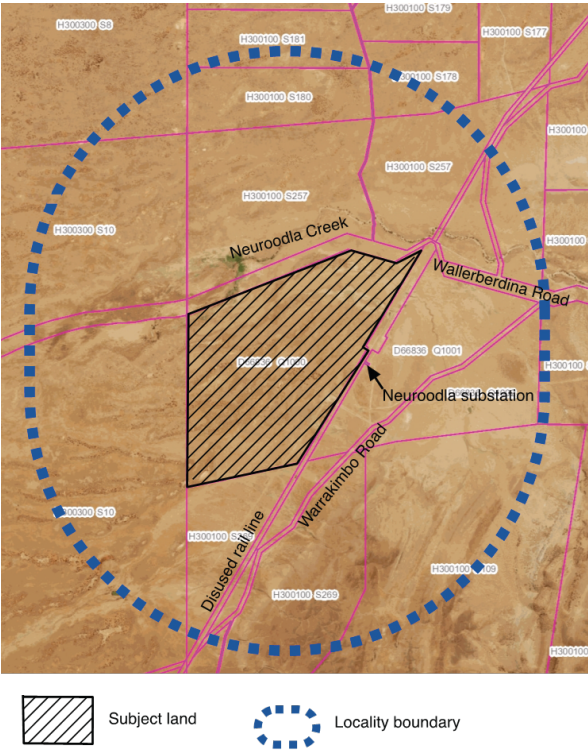


Image 3 - Location of project site

## Aboriginal Engagement

Yadlamalka Energy (YE) has undertaken assessment of Indigenous cultural heritage in the planning for the Project to minimise the risk of damaging, disturbing or interfering with Aboriginal heritage as protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act (1988).

YE first wrote to Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation (AAR) on 21 October 2020 to conduct a search of the State Aboriginal Heritage Register and to seek the identity of any traditional owners of the Project area, for the purpose of consultation. It was advised by AAR on the 29th of October 2020 that the Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association (ATLA) was a group with a potential interest in the Project Land.

YE initially contacted ATLA in late 2020 and after several months was advised that the group were in special administration. Although there was an email exchange between YE and ATLA's solicitors in January 2021, around this same time AAR advised the YE that Viliwarinha Yura Aboriginal Corporation (VYAC) was a relevant traditional owner body with whom to consult. Accordingly, YE redirected its consultation efforts towards VYAC.

An incomplete cultural heritage survey was undertaken by VYAC and their archaeologist, Peter Saad, from Scribe Cultural Resource Management, in May 2021. While efforts were made between May and late June 2021, to have the Scribe report finalised, YE was not able to secure a date for completion of the survey nor was it able to obtain advice from Scribe as to the provisional results.

In late June 2021, to gain more information and assist in meeting the tight Project timelines, YE engaged Mr. Fraser Vickery to undertake a survey of the Project Land and produce a report.

The outcome of Mr. Vickery's survey was an amendment to exclude the sand dune area to the north of the site including a substantial buffer area around it. Following submission of the Vickery Report the relevant planning authority, the Flinders Rangers Council issued the full development approval.

YE was then contacted by AAR on 10 August 2021 and requested that works stop because of their view that continuing works may damage an Aboriginal site claimed to exist within the Project Land by VYAC as documented by Scribe. YE stopped works immediately to investigate the concerns.

AAR at the invitation of the Applicant undertook a site inspection of the Project Area on 30 August 2021, no report from AAR has yet been shared with YE.

A meeting was held with VYAC on 16 September, to try and address previous concerns raised and to collectively find a way forward for the Project. While VYAC expressed its ongoing support for renewable energy projects, a clear pathway forward was not reached during these discussions.

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Image 4 - View north across site towards Neuroodla Creek (line of distant trees)



## Construction and Operational Phase Details

At the peak of construction, there could be up to 40 people on site. This is the predicted maximum and, if achieved, would only be for a short period.

Construction activities will involve significant earthworks including trenching, preparation of foundations, temporary and permanent access and laydown areas, and foundation works for electrical infrastructure.

The construction phase of the Project is expected to last around 3 months followed by 1 month of testing and commissioning activities.

