

# Neoen and Bouygues Sheep Trial at Parkes Solar Farm in NSW

## Parkes Solar Farm

### Introducing Parkes

Parkes Solar Farm is large scale solar farm developed and operated by Neoen in Parkes, NSW.

The project was constructed by construction company Bouygues. The solar farm is connected to the National Electricity Market through a 66kV connection in the Transgrid Network.

Parkes Solar Farm has an installed capacity of 80MW peak and produces enough electricity annually to power 24,000 homes.



## Using sheep to manage grass fire hazards on solar Farms

### The trial

A three-week trial was held over the summer of 2017/2018 at Parkes Solar Farm in NSW as a joint exercise between the local landowners, solar construction company Bouygues and solar farm owner-operator Neoen.

The trial used approximately 15 hectares of the Parkes solar Farm. Within this section of the solar farm and throughout the trial period the Parkes single axis tracking solar farm was in full operation.

## Rapid hazard reduction

### 400 sheep in 15 hectares of solar farm

The trial used approximately 400 sheep in a small section (15 hectares) of the Parkes solar Farm.

Under normal circumstances (in this region) farmers would usually place 15 or 30 sheep within this area, however this trial intended to facilitate rapid reduction of dry grass within the trial area, while demonstrating safe and sustainable farming practices within solar farms.



## Trial Results

### Successful hazard reduction, and well-fed, well shaded livestock

The sheep were monitored closely throughout the trial period, and toward the end of the trial all of the sheep were observed to be relaxed, eating and moving freely around the 15 hectares block. By the end of the trial, all of the grass had been eaten to a reasonable length (not less than 50mm) and the hazard reduction was determined a complete success.

