



17<sup>th</sup> May 2019

## Riverland Battery Power Plant Update

Riverland Battery Power Plant (previously called Riverland Solar and Battery Storage Project) has been in the news recently.

The upshot of that news is that Lyon Group has returned its focus to moving forward at Riverland Battery Power Plant (and at Lyon's Nowingi Battery Power Plant in north-west Victoria). Lyon is now planning toward the commencement of construction at Riverland Battery Power Project in late 2019.

During 2018, Lyon Group focussed its resources on overcoming connection difficulties for its tranche 1 projects (Cape York, Riverland and Nowingi), leading to agreement of the generator performance standards for its Cape York Battery Power Plant with the Australian Energy Market Operator in December 2018. The unique nature of Lyon's integrated solar peaker projects was explained in its announcement of that milestone.

Lyon is bringing together the lessons from that process with the substantial progress it has made with inverter technology manufacturers over the past 12 months. There have also been important advancements in the electricity market and network. In particular, as reported in the Adelaide Advertiser last week, the likely Riverlink Interconnector from South Australia into New South Wales would provide a boost for the Riverland Battery Power Plant, which in turn can help with right sizing and operational and economic performance of that Interconnector.

On 6 May 2019, Lyon Group announced that it had placed one of its entities plus that entity's subsidiaries into voluntary administration in order to facilitate a recapitalisation of that entity and to allow a pathway for development of Lyon's tranche 1 projects to proceed to financial close. The other entities in the Lyon Group are unaffected. Riverland Battery Power Plant and Lyon's other tranche 1 projects continue to have the strong support of the project stakeholders including Lyon's co-development partner JERA. JERA is one of the world's largest energy companies, being the world's biggest gas buyer and one of the world's largest coal traders. Its expanding power generation portfolio is 50 per cent bigger than Australia's national electricity market.

Riverland Battery Power Plant is an integrated solar PV and battery storage project (stage 1 PV 253MW with integrated 100MW/400MWh battery storage). The project site is two kilometres to the east of the North-West Bend substation, fronting the highway east of Morgan. It will connect to the two existing ElectraNet transmission lines that run through the site. Unlike other projects planning toward addition of battery storage, Lyon's projects integrate solar PV and battery storage behind a single power plant controller. This allows the plant to be a flexible, controllable solar peaker that undercuts gas generation to place downward pressure on wholesale prices and performs valuable grid stability functions.

**In summary:** site works are due to commence in the last quarter of 2019. Mid Murray Council is pleased to continue to support Lyon Group in this re-invigorated project and to encourage the use of our local skill sets, business and accommodation providers to benefit our local community.