



## Fire Management

All renewable energy projects, including solar farms and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in Victoria must be developed in accordance with the CFA Design Guidelines and Model Requirements: Renewable Energy Facilities Version 4, (August 2023).

These guidelines provide standard considerations and measures for fire safety, risk and emergency management in designing, constructing and operating new renewable energy facilities, and upgrading existing facilities.

BrightNight takes fire risk management seriously and will implement robust measures to prevent and manage potential fire incidents associated with the Mortlake Energy Hub. In the event of a fire emergency, BrightNight will work with local emergency services to ensure effective coordination and response.

### Management Planning

In the planning and design phase of Mortlake Energy Hub, BrightNight will liaise early with CFA to develop fire and risk management plans.

- A Risk Management Plan will articulate the risk management process and its outcomes, including the specific site hazards/risks and their analysis, control measures, and the monitoring and review process.
- A Fire Management Plan is based on the outcomes of the Risk Management Plan, and will outline the activities, processes and accountabilities for the ongoing management of fire risk at the facility.

### Mitigation Strategies

Mitigation strategies will provide an appropriate level of risk reduction for Mortlake Energy Hub and will significantly lower risk of impacts from the solar farm facility to life, property, agricultural and environmental assets.

Key mitigation measures include:

- Implementation of ignition prevention procedures
- Maintaining grass at below 100mm in height during a declared fire danger period
- Establishing fire breaks around the perimeter of the facility
- Providing bulk static water supply and equipment for firefighting purposes
- Providing emergency access routes to ensure efficient movement on and around the site
- Implementation of design and systems to prevent, monitor, and suppress operational hazards
- Establishment of sound emergency management arrangement

### Key takeaways

- All renewable energy projects must be developed in accordance with CFA guidelines.
- Risk and Fire Management Plans will be developed to ensure site hazards and risks are recognised and addressed.
- Mitigation measures such as site maintenance, easy access to water supply and emergency routes to be established prior to operation.

***"Building a solar energy facility should not increase the risk of bushfire in the area."***

**Victorian Solar Energy Facilities Design and Development Guideline October 2022**