
Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project - FAQ

1) What effects will the BESS project have on the environment?

- **Landscape Impact:** proposed facility will not impact on any significant landscape or open spaces that contribute to the character of the area. Additional landscaping (using native species and subject to Council approval) will also assist in enhancing the landscape values within the immediate area in accordance;
- **Ecological impact:** native vegetation and the site's biodiversity won't be impacted as a result of the proposal. The grasslands that may be impacted by the placement of BESS units on the land are not native species which has been confirmed in the Due Diligence Assessment;
- **Farmland:** the proposal will not adversely affect the agricultural opportunities or values within the local area, given the existing terminal station immediately abutting the site, along with the presence of existing dwellings within the broader area. The battery storage facility will not negatively impact agricultural operations within the surrounding area;
- **Noise:** an Acoustic Report has been completed which assesses the proposed construction and operation of the BESS. It considers any potential noise emissions associated with the facility which may impact on residential receptors located nearby to the subject site. See question 2;
- **Bushfire:** the site is located within the Bushfire Prone Area, however is not affected by the Bushfire Management Overlay. Bushfire protection measures are considered in the planning and design process of all developments. A Bushfire Risk Assessment has been carried out by Practical Ecology.
- **Traffic:** In terms of proposed traffic generation, the proposed facility is remotely operated and will not be manned, requiring only sporadic ongoing attendance by maintenance staff. The peak traffic generation from the development will occur during the 20-week construction phase. Traffic Impact Assessment has been carried out and has focussed on assessing impacts of the proposal during the construction phase of the development.
- **Drainage and Designated Waterways:** no significant hydrological impacts from the proposed facility. A Drainage Management Plan has been prepared for the project to consider any potential impacts onto the function of floodplains and waterways, particularly with respect to the protection of life, property, infrastructure and environmental health;
- **Cultural heritage sensitivity:** the Project seeks to ensure the protection and conservation of places of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance. A CHMP is currently being undertaken.

2) Does the BESS system generate noise?

It is likely that system components will generate noise emissions at times of charging and discharging.

ACEnergy engaged WMG Acoustics to assess noise levels generated from BESS system.

The purpose of the assessment was to consider any potential noise emissions associated with the proposed use which may impact on residential receptors located nearby to the subject site.

Due to the location of the subject site the assessment has been undertaken in accordance with methodologies described within Environment Protection Authority Publication 1411 Noise from Industry in Regional Victoria – Recommended Maximum Noise Levels from Commerce, Industry and Trade Premises in Regional Victoria.

In accordance with the methodologies described within NIRV, consideration has also been given to noise contributions associated with

The relevant noise control strategies include:

- Ensuring inverter units are fitted with suitable manufacturer noise reducing kits.
- Configuring battery storage container air conditioning units to maximise noise shielding in the direction of residential receptors. This will include the construction of four-sided acoustic barriers around the air conditioning units internally lined using sound absorbing materials.
- Construction of localised acoustic barriers around the proposed inverter units combined with an independent acoustic barrier along the western and a portion of the northern boundary of the site land.

3) Why is the BESS system being proposed in this area?

The project is proposed to connect directly to Terang terminal station which is a major terminal station supplying electricity to South-West Victoria. The terminal station plays a major role in electricity supply and by incorporating a BESS it will increase electricity supply to the network and improve the system voltage by dispatching electricity instantaneously at times of high demand. It also helps to reduce the power loss in the transmission network and reduce the cost of energy for the local residents. The project also has the ability to reduce curtailment from nearby renewable energy facilities (e.g., excess wind generation in the middle of the night) by storing energy that would normally be curtailed.

4) What benefits will the BESS system bring to Victoria state?

Meeting the Andrews Labor Government goal in setting Victoria on the path to leadership in energy storage. Energy storage systems, from household batteries to grid scale facilities, improve grid reliability and lower prices by allowing low-cost power to be stored for times of high-cost and high-demand.

Batteries, pumped hydro and other technologies can provide instantaneous energy during critical peak times, as well as helping to integrate renewable energy generation. When combined with renewable energy, storage will help maintain our reliable and affordable energy supply, especially in times of peak demand.'



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5) What benefits will there be for the local community?

The proposal will result in a range of community benefits: capacity to provide energy to over 10,000 households, create about 50 local jobs for construction phase (i.e., civil works, earth works and electricians etc) and 5 local jobs during the operation and maintenance of the facility. In addition, the proposal will result in an increased demand for local goods, accommodation and materials during the construction phase.

ACEnergy is committed to undertaking educational sessions to local educational institutions.

Contact Details

ACEnergy appreciate feedback from the local community and we are at hand to answer any concerns you may have.

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