Blanche BESS

Frequently Asked Questions

This image is indicative of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project.

Contents

Frequently Asked Questions

	Question	Answer
Project Overview	**What is the project?**	The proposed Blanche BESS project would involve the construction and operation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). A BESS uses rechargeable batteries to store electricity from the grid, during times of low demand for example, and then releases it when needed, such as during peak demand periods or power outages. By doing so, BESS aim at optimizing and reducing energy costs in the long term. They also provide auxiliary services to the grid, improving its reliability and stability.
	Where is it located?	The proposed project would be located on 25 McKay Road - Compton, near Mount Gambier, South Australia. It would consist of a large number of 20-foot shipping containers which are fitted with the battery units and control equipment, associated inverters, power transformers, HV substation, as well as operation and control buildings. The proposed project would be directly connected to Electranet's Blanche substation via underground cable (about 1.5km from site).
	Why was this location chosen?	The location of the project is within close proximity to an existing Electranet substation with capacity available and would sit on land available through long-term land lease agreements with local landholders. Compton is a strategic location in SA, a state with a high penetration of renewable energy projects that needs more storage capability to facilitate its connection to the network, as well as more network reliability.
	What is the investment value of the project?	The construction of the proposed project would have an estimated value of over $200 million
	What's the status of the project?	The project is at an early development stage, with all relevant assessments required to obtain development approvals currently underway. This includes specialist plans and reports by technical consultants such as noise, landscape, biodiversity, photomontage and stormwater assessments. These reports will be reviewed by the relevant authority as part of the assessment process.

potentia energy

Frequently Asked Questions

	Question	Answer
Project Overview	**Who approves the project?**	The assessment and approval of the proposed project is the responsibility of the State Government. The planning and approvals assessment process ensures that the proposed project complies with state regulations, environmental standards, and community considerations. The Development Approvals Application package is targeted to be submitted for assessment by the relevant consent authority in 2025. Consultation with relevant State Government Departments is currently underway. Early community consultation with relevant stakeholders including Councils, neighbours, and community organisations has also commenced.
Project Ownership	**Who owns the project?**	Potentia Energy (previously known as Enel Green Power Australia) is the owner of the Blanche BESS project.
	Who is Potentia Energy?	Potentia Energy is a joint venture entity co-owned by Enel Green Power and INPEX. Potentia Energy is currently operating over 800 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy assets across Australia, with construction underway on a further approximate 200 MW of capacity. Potentia Energy has rights secured for a development pipeline of over 9 GW across Australia and is committed to an ambitious growth agenda, targeting a significant increase to its installed capacity across wind, solar, storage and hybrid projects across Australia. Potentia Energy is committed to accelerating Australia's energy transition, driving the potential for a sustainable future.

Frequently Asked Questions

	Question	Answer
Project Ownership	**Who owns the land where the proposed project is situated?**	The land is owned by a local landholder. A long term lease is in place for the proposed project site. The landholder would continue their general farming activities alongside the proposed project infrastructure.
Project Construction	**Who would construct the proposed project?**	Potentia Energy would manage the construction phase of the project and would engage with construction contractors to undertake the construction works. Local subcontractors would be prioritised whenever possible.
	How many jobs would be created during construction?	Typically for a project of this nature, approximately 80 to 120 construction staff would be expected to be on site during construction peaks. Potentia Energy would work closely with the main construction contractors to identify local capability and capacity for construction roles and prioritise local engagement where possible.
	Will there be apprenticeships and traineeships available during the construction phase?	Potentia Energy would work closely with the main construction contractors to identify on site trainee and apprenticeship opportunities where possible.
	What transmission infrastructure will be built for the project?	A high-voltage substation would be constructed on the proposed project site, alongside a new underground interconnection cable from the project to Electranet's Blanche substation (~1.5km) to be built, maintained, and operated by Electranet.

Frequently Asked Questions

	Question	Answer
Project Operation	**Who will operate the project?**	Potentia Energy would manage the operational phase of the project, mainly remotely. An Operations & Maintenance (O&M) contractor would be engaged to manage the operations and maintenance activities on site.
	When will the project start operating?	Operation of the proposed project is targeted to commence in 2028.
	How long will the project operate for?	The approximate timeframe for the operational life of the project is 20 to 30 years.
	What will happen at the end of the lifecycle of the BESS?	Potentia Energy will adhere to the waste hierarchy and comply with all relevant environmental legislation in effect at the time. Primary efforts will focus on reusing, recycling, or donating materials whenever it is safe to do so. At the end of operation, the site would be restored to its original condition, and all materials used will be removed and treated appropriately.

Frequently Asked Questions

	Question	Answer
Project Benefits and Impacts	**What benefits will there be for the local community from the project?**	Potentia Energy is committed to a Creating Shared Value (CSV) approach during construction and operation of all its renewable energy assets. CSV means Potentia Energy intends to work closely with the local community to enhance the economic and social conditions in the local area to the project and proactively share benefits within the local community. Potentia Energy's overall objective is for the proposed project to be considered as an integrated and valued component of the social and economic fabric of the local community. Potentia Energy is committed to local sourcing where feasible. It's anticipated the proposed project would create local employment and supply opportunities, with approximately 80-120 construction staff anticipated to be on site during construction peaks; and a small operational and maintenance team for the operational phase.
	What impacts will the proposed project have on the local community and environment during construction?	The proposed project would have minimal impacts on the local area during the construction period. Environmental, noise and construction impacts will be assessed by the relevant regulators during the planning and approvals phase of the project. The planning approvals will set out conditions for the proposed project, including management plans. Management systems will be in place to ensure compliance with all conditions.

Frequently Asked Questions

Project Benefits and Impacts

Question	Answer
How noisy will the BESS be?	The BESS is designed to run quietly. The main sources of sound are typically from the cooling fans of the BESS containers and inverters, which operate when the system is charging or discharging. The applicable noise limits for each premises is determined by the zoning. Indicative Noise Levels: **Receiver Zone** / **INL Day** / **INL Night** Rural / 57 / 50 Rural living / 52 / 45 Neighborhood / 55 / 48 Strategic Development / 61 / 53 Noise modelling based off the current preliminary Project design, representative equipment selections and anticipated operational conditions indicates that all predicted noise levels are below the relevant indicative noise levels at all noise-affected premises, complying with the South Australian Environmental Protection (Commercial and Industrial Noise) Policy. Given the early stage of the project design development noise outcomes will be further refined as the design progresses, with a focus on optimising the emissions as much as possible during the detailed design phase and final equipment selections.

potentia energy

Frequently Asked Questions

- As part of our ongoing engagement with the community since mid 2024, we have gathered common questions raised by local residents. This section brings together those questions and our responses to support open communication and easy access to information.

	Question	Answer
Community Questions	**Will the BESS project cause my property to be devaluated?**	Current research and industry evidence do not support the premise that renewable energy projects, including BESS, cause long term devaluation of nearby properties. According to a fact sheet published by the Clean Energy Council, studies show that the impact of large-scale renewable energy projects on nearby property values is generally minor and temporary and typically limited to the construction phase. Any short-term effects tend to recover within 3–5 years after the project begins operating. In some cases, property values may even increase due to improved local infrastructure and regional economic growth driven by clean energy investment. The Clean Energy Council also notes that fluctuations in property value are more commonly influenced by factors like location, supply and demand, and proximity to amenities, not solely by the presence of energy infrastructure. BESS projects are subject to rigorous planning assessments that consider visual, environmental, and noise impacts. These assessments are designed to mitigate any potential concerns for neighbouring landowners, such as visual screening, increased setbacks, and noise mitigation measures.

Frequently Asked Questions

	Question	Answer
Community Questions	**Why was this location selected, especially given the close proximity to housing growth and rezoning to Neighbourhood Zone?**	The proposed site is located within the Rural Zone, which is considered an appropriate planning zone for infrastructure developments such as BESS. To the north of the site is an industrial business that operates in the forestry and timber industry. This business is also located within the Rural Zone. To the south of the site lies Neighbourhood Zone land, where staged land divisions have already commenced. In recognition of this, Potentia Energy has been actively engaging with the District Council of Grant and local landowners to ensure that the project's design is compatible with the surrounding land uses and aligns with the vision for the area's future growth. We have amended our design four times to support a harmonious interface between rural infrastructure and emerging residential communities. The proximity to ElectraNet's Blanche Substation, reduces the need for extensive new infrastructure, minimising both environmental impact and project costs. The proposed project is supported by a long term land lease agreement with a local landholder, providing secure access to the site required for the BESS infrastructure. This partnership not only enables the delivery of critical energy storage capacity, but also contributes to local economic development by generating lease income. Compton is an ideal location for an energy storage facility within South Australia, a state with a high potential for renewable energy generation. To fully harness this potential, additional storage capacity is essential to support the growing number of renewable projects, both operating and planned. By providing this capacity, the proposed project would help strengthen grid stability and reliability, while supporting South Australia's transition to a cleaner, more resilient energy future.

Frequently Asked Questions

	Question	Answer
Community Questions	**Does the BESS produce vibration during operation? And during construction?**	During operation, the BESS will not produce noticeable vibrations. The main equipment—such as batteries, inverters, and cooling systems—operates quietly and without significant movement. Any vibration from small fans or transformers would be minimal and not extend beyond the approved site area. During construction, some vibration may occur from earthworks, heavy vehicles, or equipment like compactors. These activities would be temporary, scheduled during daytime hours, and managed to minimise any inconvenience. All construction works would be undertaken in accordance with the conditions of the License and relevant legislative requirements.
	Will there be any light day and night on the BESS plant?	During construction, temporary lighting may be used at night to ensure on site worker safety. This lighting would be directed to work areas and minimised outside the approved site area. During operation, the site would have low-level security lighting, typically motion-activated or on timers. Lighting would be designed and positioned to reduce light spill to neighbouring areas beyond the approved site area
	Will the porous ground affect the stability or safety of the technology being installed?	We are aware of the local ground conditions, including karst features and areas of potential ground instability. These factors have been fully assessed through geotechnical studies and will be addressed in the design and construction process for the BESS infrastructure. These factors would not impact the stability or safety of the technology and equipment on site.

potentia energy

Frequently Asked Questions

	Question	Answer
Community Questions	**Will the technology cause ground contamination and end up in water supply?**	The proposed BESS project is designed to prevent contamination of nearby groundwater through several mitigation measures, including the use of detention basins and transformer bunds. Transformer bunds are containment structures specifically designed to prevent and control the spread of oil leaks or spills. These bunds will incorporate a filtration system to capture and treat dielectric oil using replaceable filter cartridges that enable effective treatment of contaminated water. The cartridges will be inspected regularly, either as part of a scheduled maintenance program or when saturation levels are reached, ensuring ongoing system performance. Additionally, the detention basins will feature a dual-layer system comprising an impermeable clay liner and reinforced membrane. This design would effectively capture and isolate firewater runoff, preventing contaminants from seeping into groundwater.
	Will this technology interfere with hearing aids?	No. The system meets strict electromagnetic compatibility standards, so it would not interfere with hearing aids or other medical devices.
	Will the technology impact the dairy industry?	No. The BESS operates quietly and within strict environmental standards. The BESS would operate in accordance with the conditions of the License and relevant legislative requirements. It would not produce emissions, radiation, or other effects that could impact livestock health, milk production, or the dairy industry.

potentia energy

Frequently Asked Questions

	Question	Answer
Community Questions	**How noisy will the BESS be?**	Operational noise levels have been modelled and assessed to meet the South Australian Environmental Protection (Commercial and Industrial Noise) Policy for the assessment of operational noise at noise affected premises, during the day and night. The applicable noise limits for each premises are determined by the zoning.
	What will happen if there is a fire from the BESS?	The risk of a fire occurring from the BESS is managed through a combination of fire suppression strategies with comprehensive containment, filtration and adaptive monitoring regimes. The BESS units can be fitted with a range of protection systems such as audible and visual alarms, thermal and smoke detection, water and gas fire safety systems, pressure relief valves, blast panels and fire system emergency start and emergency stop. The project also takes into account the potential for fires to originate outside of the BESS with design in accordance with the Australian Standard 2419 and CFS requirements. Bushfire protection measures include water tanks for bushfire suppression, setback distances from vegetation to equipment, spacing equipment to reduce fire risk spread and an internal road network for firefighting access. An Emergency Response Plan and Bushfire Management Plan will be developed as part of the Construction and Operational Management Plans.

Frequently Asked Questions

	Question	Answer
Community Questions	**How will the BESS benefit me personally?**	The proposed BESS in Compton will play a key role in South Australia's transition to reliable, affordable, and renewable energy. It will improve grid stability by storing excess energy and supplying it during peak times or outages—reducing blackouts and ensuring a more stable electricity supply for homes and businesses. It also enables better use of solar and wind power locally. By reducing reliance on fossil fuels, the BESS can help lower electricity costs over time for both households and businesses. Beyond energy, the project will bring local benefits including job creation, support for local businesses during construction and operation, infrastructure upgrades, and targeted community benefit initiatives developed with local input.

More Information:

Visit the project webpage

Community Engagement and Sustainability Specialist – Danielle Davis

Ph: 0417 953 668

E: danielle.davis@potentiaenergy.com.au

potentia energy