Capricorn BESS

Frequently Asked Questions



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

Contents

Project Overview 03

Project Ownership 04

Project Construction 05

Project Operation 06

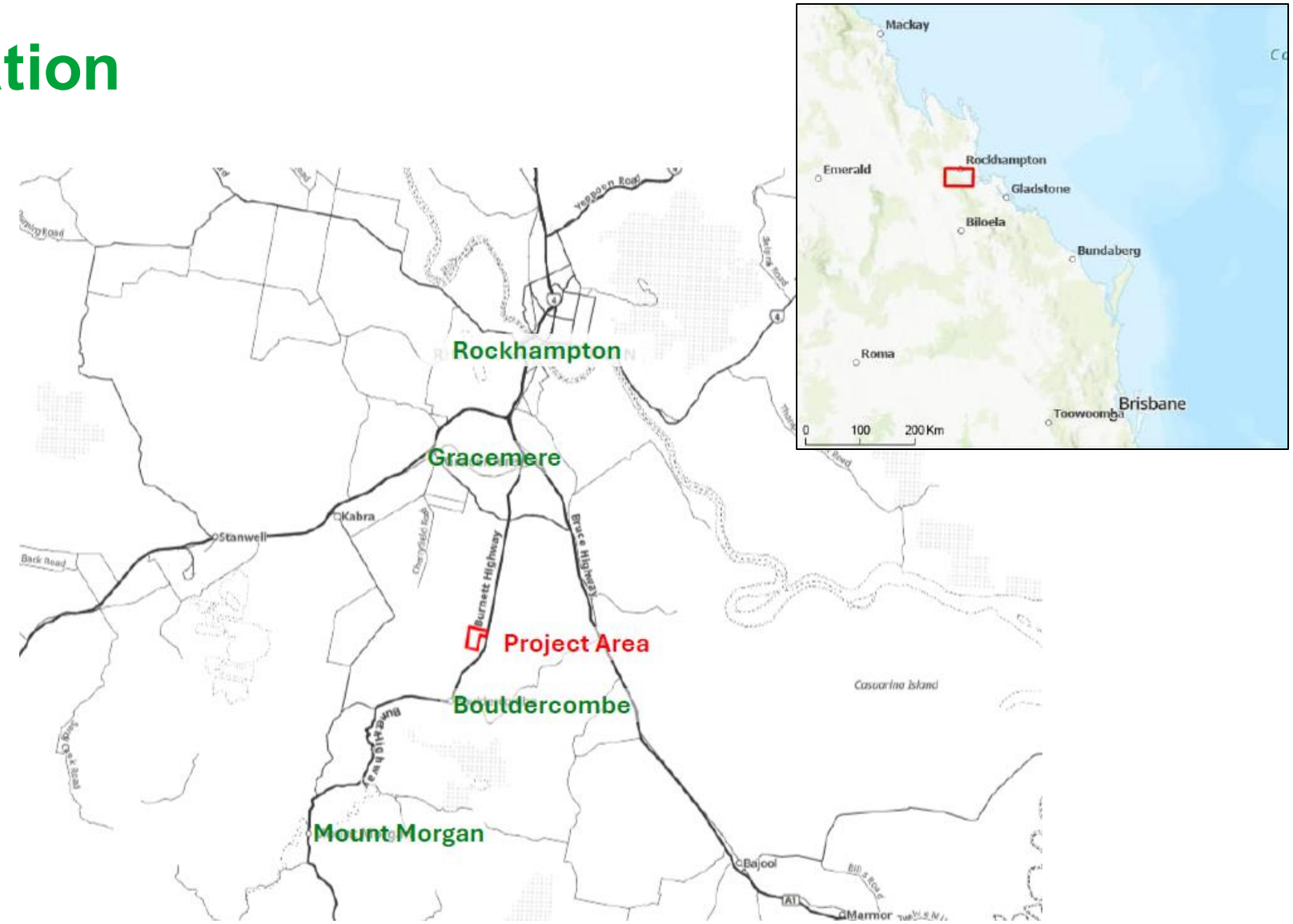
Project Benefits and Impacts 07

Project Area Location

The Project Area is located within the **Central Queensland** region of Queensland, in the **Rockhampton Local Government Area** (LGA).

It is situated approximately 16km south of Rockhampton, and 2.5km north of Bouldercombe, **along Burnett Highway**.

The project is directly **co-located with Powerlink's Bouldercombe Substation**, which is located on the southern border of our proposed development.



Project Layout

The proposed Capricorn BESS will have a capacity of up to **300MW,** and up to four hours of stored energy **(1200MWh).**

The Project Area covers a ~18 ha portion of the larger combined ~128 ha lot area, to be subdivided to facilitate the BESS.

Key components include BESS containers, power stations (inverters and transformers), high voltage substation and associated electrical equipment, underground transmission line to Powerlink's substation, administrative and operations & maintenance facilities, internal roads and carpark, vegetation buffer and perimeter fencing.



Project Overview

Project Overview	Question	Answer
	What is the project?	The proposed Capricorn 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 high production and releases it when needed during peak demand periods. It also helps to stabilize the electrical grid in a few different ways. By doing so, BESS aims at optimising and reducing energy costs in the long term.
	Where is it located?	The proposed project would be located next to the 275kV high voltage Bouldercombe substation operated by Powerlink, along Burnett Highway in Bouldercombe, Queensland. It would be based on a freehold rural property approximately 2.5 km north of the town of Bouldercombe.
	Why was the location chosen?	The location is within close proximity to an existing electrical infrastructure (Powerlink substation) and transport infrastructure (Burnett Highway), therefore minimising the need of new infrastructures to connect the proposed project. It sits on flat land available through long-term land lease agreements with local landholders. Bouldercombe is a strategic location in Queensland where a high penetration of renewable energy projects needs more storage facility to facilitate their connection to the network, as well as more network reliability.
	How big would it be?	The proposed project has a capacity of up to 300 MW, and up to four hours of storage duration (1200 MWh). Once completed, the project area will cover a ~18 ha portion of the larger combined ~128 ha lot area, subdivided to facilitate the BESS. The battery cabinets are usually fitted within standard 20ft containers and will be around 2.5 meters tall.

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Project Overview

	Question	Answer
Project Overview	**What technology would be used for the proposed project?**	It would consist of a large number of shipping containers which are fitted with the battery units and control equipment, associated with inverters, power transformers, HV substation, as well as operation and control buildings. The proposed project would be directly connected to Powerlink's Bouldercombe Substation (adjoining the site).
	What is the investment value of the project?	The construction of the proposed project would have an estimated value of ~ $450M.
	What's the status of the project?	Potentia Energy submitted a development application for the proposed Capricorn BESS project to the Rockhampton Regional Council in Q1 2025. The development application for the proposed project includes a Planning Report and the following supporting documents: • Traffic Impact Statement • Hazard Incident Management Plan • Noise Impact Assessment • Stormwater Assessment • Stormwater Management Plan • Landscape Concept Plan
	Who approves the project?	The approval of the proposed project is the responsibility of the Rockhampton Regional Council. The approval process ensures that the project complies with local and state regulations, environmental standards, and community considerations. The Development Approvals application package was submitted in Q1 2025. Consultation with relevant Local Government Departments is being undertaken throughout the development process. Early community consultation with relevant Councils, neighbours, community organisations has commenced.

Project Ownership

	Question	Answer
Project Ownership	**Who owns the project?**	Potentia Energy (previously known as Enel Green Power Australia) is the owner of the proposed Capricorn BESS project.
	Who would pay for the proposed project?	Capricorn BESS project would be privately financed by Potentia Energy.
	Who is Potentia Energy?	Potentia Energy is a joint venture entity co-owned by Enel Green Power and INPEX. The company is currently operating over 1.1 GW of renewable energy assets across Australia. 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.
	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 construction and operation of the proposed project. The landholder would continue their general farming activities alongside the project infrastructure.

Project Construction

	Question	Answer
Project Construction	**Who would construct the proposed project?**	Potentia Energy would manage the construction phase of the proposed project and would be engaging with EPC (Engineering, Procurement, Construction) contractor to undertake the construction works. Local subcontractors will be prioritised whenever possible.
	How long would it take to construct the proposed project ?	Construction of Capricorn BESS would take around 18 to 24 months.
	How many jobs would be created during construction?	Approximately 120 to 150 construction staff are anticipated to be on site during construction peaks. Potentia Energy will 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 will 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 interconnection cable from the project to Powerlink's Bouldercombe substation (~500m) to be built, maintained, and operated by Powerlink.

Project Operation

	Question	Answer
Project Operation	**Who would operate the project?**	Potentia Energy would manage the operational phase of the proposed project, mainly remotely. An Operations & Maintenance (O&M) contractor will 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 end of 2027, approximately 18-24 months following the start of construction.
	How long will the project operate for?	The approximate timeframe for the operational life of the proposed project is 20 to 30 years. Current battery technologies typically carry warranties of 20–25 years. Over this period, they are expected to retain most of their capacity and may continue to operate beyond the warranty term, subject to market conditions and other influencing factors.
	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. Our primary efforts will focus on reusing, recycling, or donating materials whenever it is safe to do so. At the end of operation, the site will be restored to its original condition, and all materials used will be removed and treated appropriately.

Project Benefits and Impacts

	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 of 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 will create local employment and supply opportunities, with approximately 120 to150 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.

More Information:

Visit the project webpage

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