Blanche BESS

Frequently Asked Questions

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

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Frequently Asked Questions

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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 (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 $240M.
	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 assessments. These reports will be reviewed by the relevant authority as part of the assessment process.

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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 Quarter 2 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 (previously Enel Green Power Australia) is a joint venture entity co-owned by Enel Green Power and INPEX. Potentia Energy currently has four operating plants, comprising 310 megawatts (MW) of solar capacity across South Australia and Victoria, and a 75 MW wind farm in Western Australia. A 93 MW solar farm is also under commissioning in Victoria and construction is underway on a 98 MW solar and 20 MW battery hybrid project in NSW. Potentia Energy has rights secured for a development pipeline of over 7 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.

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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 interconnection cable from the project to Electranet's Blanche substation (~1.5km) to be built, maintained, and operated by Electranet.

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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 at the end of 2027.
	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.

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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.

More Information:

Visit the project webpage

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