Capricorn 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 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 low demand, and then releases it when needed during peak demand periods. By doing so, BESS aim at optimising and reducing energy costs in the long term.
	Where is it located?	The proposed project would be located at Burnett Hwy Bouldercombe, QLD.~ 2.5 km north of Bouldercombe. 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).
	Why was the location chosen?	The location of the proposed project is within close proximity to an existing Powerlink substation with available capacity and sits on land available through long-term land lease agreements with local landholders. Bouldercombe is a strategic location in QLD with a high penetration of renewable energy projects that needs more storage facility to facilitate their 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 $480M.

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Project Overview	**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	**Who owns the project?**	Potentia Energy (Previously known as Enel Green Power Australia) is the owner of the proposed Capricorn BESS project.

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Project Ownership	**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.
	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	**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 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.

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Project Construction	**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	**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.
	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.

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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 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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