



Tragowel BESS

Frequently Asked Questions

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

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Frequently Asked Questions

Project Overview	Question	Answer
	What is the project?	<p>The proposed Tragowel Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project involves the construction and operation of a 200MW/800MWh utility-scale using lithium-ion battery technology, as well as associated infrastructure, including a switching station and transmission line connection to the Kerang Terminal Station.</p> <p>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. BESS are designed to not only store and release energy, but also to help stabilise Victoria's electricity grid. In the event of a power outage or other emergencies, BESS can also provide crucial backup power to maintain essential services.</p> <p>The BESS would comprise a number of battery units. Each unit is similar in size and general appearance to a shipping container. Each battery unit houses a number of individual batteries along with control, monitoring and fire control equipment.</p>
	Where is it located?	<p>The proposed site for the Tragowel BESS project is a 12.3-hectare parcel of farming land in Tragowel, Victoria, on land directly south of the Kerang Terminal Station and the Kerang Solar Plant. It is bound by the Loddon Valley Highway on its western boundary and the railway line on its eastern boundary.</p>
	Why was the location chosen?	<p>The proposed site is strategically located close to existing electricity infrastructure and on low-value agricultural land. It is within close proximity to the existing Kerang Terminal Station with available capacity and would provide grid stability support to the existing and future renewable energy projects within the North West Renewable Energy Zone.</p>
	What is the investment value of the project?	<p>The Tragowel BESS has an estimated investment value of approximately \$250M.</p>

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Project Overview	What's the status of the project?	<p>The proposed project is in the early stages of planning and design. The preparation of the planning application is underway, including a wide range of technical assessments to assess the suitability and potential impacts of the Tragowel BESS. These assessments are being prepared by qualified experts in biodiversity, cultural heritage, visual, traffic, hydrology, fire, and noise, and will be made publicly available as part of the planning application process.</p> <p>In the coming months, once all technical assessments are completed, the planning application will be lodged with the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning.</p>
	Who approves the project?	<p>The Victorian Department of Transport and Planning is the consent authority for this project. The planning process is intended to ensure the project complies with local and state regulations, environmental standards, and community considerations.</p>
Project Ownership	Who owns the project?	<p>Potentia Energy are the owners of the proposed Tragowel BESS project. Potentia Energy are being assisted by Green Switch Australia in the development for the project.</p>

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Project Ownership	Who are Potentia Energy and GreenSwitch Australia?	<p>Potentia Energy is a leading Australian renewable energy developer and asset owner, with a growing portfolio of utility-scale wind, solar, and battery storage projects, including the 34 MW Cohuna and 93 MW Girgarre Solar Farms in Victoria. At Cohuna, Potentia Energy partnered with Agriculture Victoria to research how plant and livestock production can co-exist with solar infrastructure. At Girgarre, its strong community partnerships were recognised with the Clean Energy Council's Community Value and Impact award.</p> <p>Potentia Energy is focused on delivering reliable, sustainable, and commercially viable renewable energy. Its approach to engagement is guided by the "Creating Shared Value" philosophy – ensuring that project success is underpinned by meaningful collaboration, benefit-sharing, and respect for communities, landholders, and Traditional Owners at every stage.</p> <p>Green Switch Australia is a developer of utility-scale solar and storage projects, overseeing several solar farms in Victoria, New South Wales, and the Australian Capital Territory. Green Switch Australia has been operating internationally in the renewable energy sector for over 20 years, with a proven success in developing, building, owning, and operating its renewable energy projects. The leadership of Green Switch has delivered over 2.0 GW of solar renewables since 2015.</p>
	Who owns the proposed project site?	The land is owned by a local landholder. A long term lease from the current landowner is in place for the construction and operation of the proposed Tragowel BESS. At the end of the lease term, the BESS and associated project infrastructure would be removed, and the land will be restored to its pre-lease condition as farmland. This restoration is a requirement of the lease.
Project Construction	Who would construct the proposed project?	Potentia Energy would manage the construction phase of the proposed project and would engage an EPC (Engineering, Procurement, Construction) contractor to undertake the construction works. Local subcontractors will be prioritised to the extent possible.
	How many jobs would be created during construction?	Subject to obtaining the necessary approvals, approximately 80 to 120 construction staff are anticipated to be on site during construction peaks. Potentia Energy and Green Switch Australia 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 for the local community where possible.
	What transmission infrastructure will be built for the project?	A high-voltage transmission line is proposed to be constructed from the Tragowel BESS to the Kerang Terminal Station.
Project operation	Who would operate the project?	Potentia Energy would operate 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?	Subject to obtaining the necessary approvals, construction of the proposed Tragowel BESS is expected to begin in 2027, with the BESS becoming operational in 2028.
	How long will the project operate for?	The proposed BESS is expected to operate for 20 to 30 years.
	What will happen at the end of the lifecycle of the BESS?	A decommissioning plan would be prepared and implemented at the end of the project's life, to ensure that the land is restored to its original condition. Potentia Energy will adhere to the waste hierarchy and will focus on reusing, recycling, or donating materials whenever it is safe to do so. At the end of operation, all materials used will be removed and treated appropriately.

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Project Benefits and Impacts	Question	Answer
	What benefits will there be for the local community from the project?	<p>The project will deliver both direct and long-term benefits for the local community. During construction, it is expected to create around 80–120 jobs at peak periods, as well as opportunities for local suppliers and contractors wherever possible. Once operational, the project will support a small team of permanent staff for ongoing operations and maintenance.</p> <p>Beyond jobs and procurement, Potentia Energy and Green Switch Australia are committed to a <i>Creating Shared Value</i> (CSV) approach – working closely with the community to identify and deliver social and economic benefits that matter locally. This could include initiatives such as community benefit programs, local partnerships, or support for local services and infrastructure.</p> <p>We are currently seeking ideas and feedback from community members and welcome your input. Please come along to our next Community Drop-In Session or get in touch with our team to share your suggestions.</p>
	What impacts will the proposed project have on the local community and environment during construction?	<p>Subject to obtaining the necessary approvals, during construction, there may be some temporary impacts such as increased traffic, noise, and general construction activity. These will be carefully managed through approved construction and traffic management plans to keep disruption to a minimum.</p> <p>Once the project is operational, impacts are expected to be very low. The main ongoing activity will be occasional site visits for operations and maintenance.</p> <p>Both construction and operation are subject to planning approvals and environmental conditions, including noise, traffic, and environmental management plans. These safeguards ensure the project is delivered in a safe and responsible way that protects the local community and environment.</p>

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	What community engagement has been undertaken for the project to date?	<p>Early engagement with nearby residents and key stakeholders commenced in Q3 2025, with engagement underway – and continuing – with local and state government departments and referral authorities, including the Country Fire Authority.</p> <p>The project developed a Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan, which includes activities such as targeted engagement with near neighbours within the vicinity of the project area, targeted engagement with Traditional Owners and First Nations organisations, as well as targeted engagement with broader community and local community organisations within local area to the proposed project.</p>

More Information:

Visit the [project webpage](http://potentiaenergy.com.au/project/tragowel-bess/) at:
potentiaenergy.com.au/project/tragowel-bess/

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