



Clare BESS

Frequently Asked Questions

This image depicts a BESS at one of our sites and is indicative only.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Project Overview	Question	Answer
	What is the project?	The approved Clare 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 optimising 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 project would be located at the existing Clare Solar Farm, in Clare, in the Burdekin Shire of North Queensland. Clare BESS will sit within the existing solar farm site, on a project area of approximately 7 hectares, and will comprise containerised battery units together with inverters and associated power conversion and energy management equipment. The layout will be arranged in a grid pattern, with enough space to allow access around each unit. The approved project will connect into the solar farm's existing point of connection and to Powerlink's adjacent Clare South Substation.
	Why was the location chosen?	The location of the project is within the boundaries of an existing Clare Solar Farm site, and within close proximity to an existing substation with capacity available. It is the ideal location for a BESS, as it will be able to store renewable electricity during times of low demand and release it back into the grid when needed.
	What is the investment value of the project?	The construction of the proposed project will have an estimated value of over \$120M.
	What's the status of the project?	The project is in development stage, currently undergoing the connection process with Powerlink and completing the preliminary design. Equipment selection is expected to be completed in early 2027.

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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. Clare Solar Farm's Development Application was approved in 2015, and subsequently a modification was approved in 2024, allowing the incorporation of a BESS to the project. The connection package has been submitted for assessment by Powerlink and AEMO and is expected to receive approval in 2027.
	Who owns the project?	Potentia Energy (Previously known as Enel Green Power Australia) is the owner of both the existing Clare Solar Farm and the approved Clare BESS projects.
Project Ownership	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 Potentia Energy.

Frequently Asked Questions

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Project Construction	Who will construct the approved project?	Potentia Energy will manage the construction phase of the project and will engage with an EPC (Engineering, Procurement, Construction) contractor to undertake the construction works. Local workforce and subcontractors will be prioritised whenever possible.
	How many jobs would be created during construction?	Typically for a project of this nature, approximately 70 construction staff would be expected 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?	BESS projects typically present good opportunities for apprenticeships and traineeships. Potentia Energy will work closely with the EPC contractors to identify on site trainee and apprenticeship opportunities where possible.
	What transmission infrastructure will be built for the project?	The existing Clare Solar Farm substation will be extended to allow for the connection of Clare BESS. Cables will run from the BESS to the existing substation.
Project Operation	Who will operate the project?	Potentia Energy will manage the operational phase of the project. 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 project is targeted to commence by mid-2029.

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Project Operation	How long will the project operate for?	The approximate timeframe for the operational life of the project is 25 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 will be restored to its original condition, and all materials used will be removed and treated appropriately.
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. This includes a voluntary Community Benefit Agreement, currently being drafted between the Burdekin Shire Council and Potentia Energy. 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 70 construction staff anticipated to be on site during construction peaks; and a small operational and maintenance team for the operational phase.

More Information:

Visit the [project webpage](#)

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