

Blanche

Battery Energy

Storage System (BESS)

Frequently Asked Questions



Project Overview

What is the project?

The proposed Blanche 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, SA.

It would consist of several 20-foot 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 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 facility to facilitate its connection to the network, as well as more network reliability.

What the investment value of the project?

The construction of the proposed project would have an estimated value of over \$220M.

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 traffic impact assessments and noise assessments. These reports will be reviewed by the relevant Consent Authority as part of the assessment process.

Who approves the project?

The assessment and approval of the proposed project is the responsibility of the State Government. The planning and approval 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 3 2024.

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?

Enel Green Power Australia (EGPA) is the owner of the Blanche BESS project.

Who is Enel Green Power Australia?

Enel Green Power Australia, a joint venture company co-owned by Enel Green Power and INPEX Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd,

currently operates 3 renewable energy plants totalling 310 MW of installed capacity powered by solar. EGPA currently has a 76 MW wind project in final stages of commissioning in Western Australia and a 93 MW solar project in commissioning in Victoria. EGPA's next project to commence construction will be 98 MW solar and 20 MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) located in NSW. Additionally, EGPA has a significant portfolio of wind, solar, storage and hybrid projects under development across Australia, alongside expanding its activities in innovative solutions within its retail and trading operations.

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?

EGPA 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.

EGPA 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?

EGPA 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 (~1.3km) to be built, maintained, and operated by Electranet.

Project Operation

Who will operate the project?

EGPA 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 proposed project start operating?

Operation of the proposed project is targeted to commence in the second half of 2026.

How long would 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?

EGPA 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.

Project Benefits and Impacts

What benefits will there be for the local community from the project?

EGPA is committed to a Creating Shared Value (CSV) approach during construction and operation of all of its renewable energy assets.. CSV means EGPA intends to work closely with the local community to enhance the economic and social conditions in the local area to all projects and proactively share benefits within the local community.

EGPA'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.

EGPA 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.