

Prepared for Avenis Energy Pty Ltd, on behalf of AE BESS 3 Pty Ltd as Trustee for the AE BESS 3 Unit Trust

Grahamvale BESS

Targeted Community and Stakeholder Engagement Summary Report

Greater Shepparton LGA, Shepparton

May 2026

Project Number: 260109

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Acronyms and abbreviations

BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
CBF	Community Benefit Fund
CSES	Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
DTP	Department of Transport and Planning
GSCC	Greater Shepparton City Council
ha	hectares
km	kilometres
kV	kilovolt
LEP	Local Environment Plan
LGA	Local government area
m	metres
MW	Megawatt
MWh	Megawatt hour
NEM	National Energy Market
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party
Vic	Victoria

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Executive summary

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Overview

Avenis Energy Pty Ltd, on behalf of AE BESS 3 Pty Ltd as Trustee for the AE BESS 3 Unit Trust (the Proponent), is proposing the Grahamvale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (the Project), located approximately five kilometres (km) northeast of Shepparton, Victoria, adjacent to the existing Shepparton Terminal Station.

The proposed facility would have a capacity of 480 megawatts (MW) with four hours of storage (1,920 megawatt-hours [MWh]) and would connect directly to the existing 220 kilovolt (kV) substation.

Methodology

A stakeholder analysis was developed in April 2026 by NGH to inform the targeted Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (CSES). The engagement approach for this phase of the Project focused on delivering targeted, relationship-based engagement with nearby residents, businesses, community organisations, industry representatives and local stakeholders.

A key focus of the engagement process was the delivery of meaningful in-person engagement and ongoing two-way communication to support informed participation and establish strong working relationships with the local community as the Project progresses.

Feedback for the engagement period was collected and analysed over three-months using written, online, and in-person engagement activities. Communication efforts included:

- 380 letters hand-delivered to residents within 1 km of the Project Site
- 125 emails (approximately) sent to and from stakeholders
- One (1) phone call made to a nearby sensitive receiver
- 10 in-person meetings facilitated
- Briefing letter provided to the local Member of Parliament (MP)
- One (1) online meeting held
- Fact sheets and FAQs delivered via email.

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Community and stakeholder feedback

Community and stakeholder feedback revealed opportunities for local benefits alongside concerns about fire and emergency management and traffic impacts.

Opportunities

- Community benefit initiatives
- Potential support for improved parking at Grahamvale Primary School
- Local supplier, contractor and employment opportunities during construction and operation
- Scholarships, training and apprenticeship opportunities
- Partnership opportunities with local First Nations organisations.

Challenges

- Fire safety, emergency management and post-fire containment concerns

- Existing traffic, parking and road safety issues, particularly near Grahamvale Primary School and key local intersections
- Potential construction traffic impacts and heavy vehicle movements
- Need for ongoing transparent communication and user-friendly Project information.

Recommendations

As the Project progresses, ongoing engagement should continue with nearby residents, businesses, community organisations, local government and relevant agencies to maintain the relationships established during this phase of consultation. Maintaining these connections will be important to ensuring stakeholders continue to view the engagement process as genuine as the Project progresses.

Future engagement activities should continue to provide clear and accessible information regarding Project activities, assessment outcomes and upcoming works, particularly in relation to matters raised during consultation such as traffic management and community benefit initiatives.

During construction, engagement should focus on providing advance notice of works, managing temporary impacts and maintaining clear communication channels for community enquiries. During operations, engagement should continue to support long-term stakeholder relationships and the ongoing delivery of community benefit initiatives informed by community feedback and Victorian Government guidance.

Conclusion

Overall, engagement undertaken during this phase identified generally positive and supportive stakeholder sentiment towards the Project, with many participants expressing interest in how the development could contribute to regional energy reliability, local investment and broader economic outcomes for the Shepparton area. The targeted engagement approach also helped uncover several practical local issues and opportunities that may support positive community outcomes, including traffic and parking safety, local employment opportunities and support for community services. In several instances, engagement directly informed potential community benefit initiatives now being explored, including discussions regarding possible Project support for improved parking infrastructure at Grahamvale Primary School.

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1. Overview

1.1. Introduction

Engagement with local stakeholders and the broader Grahamvale and Shepparton community is fundamental to shaping a Project that responds appropriately to its social, economic, and environmental setting.

Thoughtful and well-executed engagement creates shared value, and when approached effectively can:

- Strengthen the Project by ensuring potential impacts are understood and appropriately addressed
- Support the distribution of benefits across the local community
- Build enduring relationships founded on trust, transparency, and collaboration

BESS projects play an increasingly important role in supporting the transition to renewable energy. By improving grid stability and enabling greater integration of clean energy sources, they contribute to broader climate and energy security outcomes. In addition to these system-wide benefits, projects of this scale can deliver tangible local advantages, including economic activity, employment opportunities, and structured community benefit initiatives.

Guidance such as the *Draft Community Engagement and Social Value Guidelines for Renewable Energy and Transmission Projects (2025)*, prepared by VicGrid, outlines expectations for how proponents should engage with communities and deliver meaningful social and economic value.

For the purposes of this document, “community benefits” is used broadly to describe the range of social value initiatives associated with the Project, including benefit-sharing mechanisms and locally focused investment opportunities.

This report supports the CSES prepared for the Project in March 2026. It builds on engagement undertaken to date and establishes a more targeted framework to guide future activities as the Project progresses through planning and technical assessment phases.

This report outlines:

- The Project, key stakeholder groups and engagement activities undertaken
- Feedback and discussion themes identified during consultation
- Potential community benefit initiatives and local opportunities identified through engagement
- Recommendations for ongoing engagement and future consultation activities as the Project progresses.

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1.2. The Project

Avenis Energy Pty Ltd, on behalf of AE BESS 3 Pty Ltd as Trustee for the AE BESS 3 Unit Trust (the Proponent), is proposing the Grahamvale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (the Project), located approximately five kilometres (km) northeast of Shepparton in Victoria, adjacent to the Shepparton Terminal Station.

The proposed facility would have a capacity of 480 megawatts (MW) with four hours of storage (1,920 megawatt-hours [MWh]) and would connect directly to the existing 220 kilovolt (kV) substation. The Project is intended to store electricity during periods of oversupply and dispatch it back into the electricity grid during

periods of peak demand or network constraint, supporting local energy reliability and the broader National Electricity Market (NEM).

1.3. Community and stakeholder engagement approach

The engagement approach for the Grahamvale BESS represents a progression from early-stage awareness and consultation toward more active involvement and collaboration, consistent with the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum.

At this stage, the focus is on strengthening relationships through direct, in-person engagement and creating opportunities for stakeholders to participate more meaningfully in the Project. The approach prioritises:

- Facilitating open, two-way conversations with stakeholders
- Providing opportunities for active involvement in shaping local understanding of the Project
- Building trust through consistent, transparent, and respectful interactions.

Rather than relying solely on one-way communication, the strategy emphasises genuine connection. This includes engaging often, listening carefully to stakeholder perspectives, and ensuring interactions reflect local values, knowledge, and priorities.

While stakeholder feedback remains important, the primary objective is to foster shared understanding and mutual benefit. The approach seeks to clearly demonstrate how the Project relates to stakeholder interests and the broader community context.

A key outcome is to encourage stakeholders to move beyond awareness and toward active participation. By supporting stakeholders to “opt in” to the engagement process, the Project aims to build a sense of connection, confidence, and informed involvement as it advances through planning, construction, and operation phases.

1.3.1. Key community stakeholders

A Project team led by NGH was responsible for developing the Engagement Action Plan (EAP), and implementation of the EAP was done in collaboration between both the Proponent and NGH. A detailed list of Project stakeholders was developed to inform the EAP.

This analysis considered the level of impact, influence, and engagement approach, in keeping with the IAP2 Engagement Framework. The engagement approach adopted for each stakeholder group identified was summarised within the EAP within the CSES.

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Table 1-1 Project stakeholder breakdown and engagement approach

Stakeholder group	Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Interest ¹ (High, Med, Low)	Impact ² (High, Med, Low)	Engagement approach
Sensitive receivers (neighbours and nearby landholders)	Residential properties within 1 km as per original mapping from 2025 (see Appendix A).	- Property impacts - Noise impacts - Visual impacts - Access changes - Traffic impacts - Environmental changes - Commercial agreements - Community benefits - Governance and ownership of the developing entity - Impacts on agricultural outputs.	- Develop a strong partnership with the community - Keep neighbours informed about the Project from early in the planning phase - Identify impacts and mitigations through a collaborative process - Discuss neighbour benefit sharing options directly - Provide opportunities to raise issues and provide feedback	H	H/M	Inform, consult, involve, collaborate Consultation with this group will include targeted mailouts, follow-up phone calls, and one-on-one meetings, including property visits where possible.
Manufacturing companies (high energy users)	- SPC Australia - Campbell's Soup Company - Noumi (dairy) - Unilever Australia (consumer goods) - Tatura Milk	- Energy security - Reliable power - Supply chain opportunities - Employment - Community benefits - Transport access impacts or changes.	- Provide opportunities to raise issues and provide feedback. - Develop and maintain a positive relationship - Identify opportunities to develop or utilise local	M	M	Consult, involve Engagement with this group will include targeted emails and phone calls to key contacts, followed by in-person meetings and site

¹ In the context of the IAP2 Spectrum, *influence* refers to the extent to which stakeholder input is considered and has the potential to shape decision-making processes.

² *Impact* refers to the tangible effect that stakeholder input has on the final decision or outcome.

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Stakeholder group	Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Interest ¹ (High, Med, Low)	Impact ² (High, Med, Low)	Engagement approach
	Industries • Pental (household) • Visy (packaging) • Boral (construction) • Rubicon Water (irrigation) • J. Furphy & Sons (engineering).		capability. • Consider advocacy opportunities.			visits with plant managers and operations staff where possible. Small, targeted industry discussions or roundtables will be facilitated where the opportunity arises.
Contractors	• Mawson Constructions (civil) • Cleaves Earthmoving & Drainage Pty Ltd • Calandro Excavations Pty Ltd • Gall Excavations • D & J Electrical • Midland Electrical Australia Pty Ltd • Enever Electrical Services • Laser Electrical Shepparton • Byers Electrical (Vic) Pty Ltd • Boral Concrete Shepparton • Shepp City Fencing • L & J Webb Fencing Pty Ltd • SM Landscapes	• Visual impacts • Noise impacts • Transport access impacts and changes • Environmental changes • Community benefits • Governance and ownership of the developing property • Regional economic development.	• Develop an understanding of and opportunity to participate in the Project • Provide opportunities to raise issues and provide feedback • Identify opportunities to develop or utilise local capability • Discuss community benefit sharing options.	M	M	Inform, consult, involve Engagement with this group will include targeted emails and phone calls, supported by EOI's and briefing sessions to outline opportunities to participate in the Project. Updates will also be provided via project communications and the project website.

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Stakeholder group	Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Interest ¹ (High, Med, Low)	Impact ² (High, Med, Low)	Engagement approach
	- GHP Landscapes - Greenland Lawn Mowing and Landscaping - Shepparton Mini Digger Works & Landscaping.					
Traditional Owners	- Yorta Yorta Aboriginal Corporation - Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative - Kaiela Arts - Shepparton Region Reconciliation Group - Ganbina (Education and Training) - Bangerang Cultural Centre - Academy of Sport, Health and Education.	- Visual impacts - Environmental changes - Commercial agreements - Community benefits - Fair and equitable consultation - Governance and ownership of the development - Impacts to Country - Impacts on agricultural outputs.	- Engage with the relevant Local Aboriginal Land Council and RALPs through the formal process - Look for opportunities to contribute to the local story of country and contribute to the local Aboriginal community. - Involve local community organisations in community benefit sharing initiatives.	H	H	Inform, consult, involve, collaborate, empower This group should be engaged through respectful, direct engagement led by the Project team, including in-person meetings where appropriate. The approach will focus on building relationships and providing culturally appropriate opportunities for participation, with engagement methods that are flexible and responsive to community preferences, mitigating participation barriers where possible. For example, a walk on Country and/or a listen and yarn activity.
Local MP	██████████	Regional economic	Build on previous	H	H	Inform, consult, involve

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Stakeholder group	Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Interest ¹ (High, Med, Low)	Impact ² (High, Med, Low)	Engagement approach
	MP	- development • Employment opportunities • Impacts on local infrastructure • Assessment process • Consideration of impacts • Consideration and mitigation of concerns • Consultation process • Application of standards and frameworks • Impacts on constituents.	- discussions • Develop and maintain a positive relationship • Identify opportunities to support the local economy.			This group should be engaged directly through phone calls, distributing letters, emails, and in-person or online meetings where possible.
Community organisations	• Rotary Club of Shepparton Central • Lions Club of Shepparton • Mooroopna Education and Activity Centre • Shepparton BMX Club • Shepparton Junior Soccer Association • Goulburn Valley Suns Football Club • Shepparton Theatre Arts Group • Shepparton and District Landcare Groups	• Property impacts • Visual impacts • Access changes • Environmental changes • Commercial agreements • Community benefits • Governance and ownership of the developing entity • Impacts on agricultural outputs.	• Identify interests and opportunities to partner and contribute • Identify relevant community benefit scheme opportunities.	M	M	Inform, consult, involve Engagement will include attending existing meetings (e.g. Rotary, Lions and other local groups), supported by direct outreach via phone and email. Where appropriate, small group discussions will be held to explore community benefit opportunities and respond to questions.

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Stakeholder group	Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Interest ¹ (High, Med, Low)	Impact ² (High, Med, Low)	Engagement approach
	Shepparton Men's Shed.					
Schools, TAFEs and Universities	- TAFE Shepparton - La Trobe University	- Impacts on local infrastructure - Consideration of impacts - Community benefits.	- Ensure organisations are updated on education and vocational opportunities associated with the Project. - Identify relevant community benefit scheme opportunities.	M	M	Inform, consult Engagement will include direct contact via email and phone, with meetings held where appropriate to discuss education, training and scholarship opportunities. Updates will be provided through project communications.
Business and industry groups	- Committee for Greater Shepparton (C4GS) - Shepparton Business Network - Shepparton CBD Traders Association.	- Property impacts - Visual impacts - Access changes - Environmental changes - Commercial agreements - Community benefits - Governance and ownership of the developing entity - Impacts on agricultural outputs - Employment opportunities.	- Work with the chamber to identify any local businesses that may be impacted by the Project (positive or negative) - Identify opportunities to develop or utilise local capability.	H	M	Inform, consult, involve Engagement will include attending networking events and chamber forums, supported by direct outreach to key representatives via phone and email. Small group or one-on-one meetings will be held where appropriate to discuss industry needs and project opportunities.
Advocates (individuals)	██████ – First Nations business owner and chair of the local football club	- Regional growth and prosperity - Community benefits - Governance and ownership	- Consider opportunities for partnerships and community events - Consider advocacy	H	M	Inform, consult, involve Engagement will include identifying and contacting individuals directly via

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Stakeholder group	Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Interest ¹ (High, Med, Low)	Impact ² (High, Med, Low)	Engagement approach
	██████████ CEO of C4GS, and on board of Latrobe University.	of the developing entity.	opportunities Potential for partnerships.			phone and email, attending relevant meetings and local forums, and utilising existing connections and networks to facilitate introductions. One-on-one meetings will be held where appropriate, with ongoing engagement supported through regular check-ins and sharing relevant project updates.

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1.3.2. Engagement activities

Engagement activities were undertaken between March and May 2026 and will continue, where applicable, through to lodgement of the planning application.

In summary, this report has been informed by the following engagement activities:

Table 1-2 Engagement activities in detail

How	Who	Quantity	When
Posted letters (Appendix B)	Sensitive receivers within 1 km of the Project site.	380 letters hand delivered.	24 April 2026
Digital letters (Appendix C, D, E, F, and G)	Targeted stakeholders: - Community groups - Contractors - First Nations organisations - High energy users - MP.	Approximately 40 letters delivered via email (captured in below total).	Between 30 April and 1 May 2026
Emails	Targeted stakeholders and sensitive receivers.	Approximately 117 emails total.	Between 3 March and 12 May 2026
Face-to-face meetings	Targeted stakeholders and sensitive receivers.	10 meetings.	Between 6 March & 7 May 2026
Online meetings	Targeted stakeholders.	1 meeting.	6 May 2026
Phone calls	Sensitive receiver and Grahamvale Public School.	2 phone calls.	8 May 2026
Fact sheet (Appendix H)	Targeted stakeholders and sensitive receivers.	7 copies delivered via email.	Distributed on 5 & 6 May 2026
FAQ document (Appendix I)	Targeted stakeholders and sensitive receivers.	7 copies delivered via email.	Distributed on 5 & 6 May 2026

2. Community and stakeholder feedback

2.1. Summary of discussions

This engagement period was undertaken to provide additional opportunities for community and stakeholder participation as the Project progresses. A key focus of the engagement approach was the delivery of quality, targeted and meaningful in-person engagement to support informed discussions, relationship-building and ongoing participation throughout the Project development process.

The table below provides a summary of each discussion and the key points raised throughout the consultation process.

Table 5-2 Summary of discussions

Stakeholder	Meeting type	Discussion summary	Key outcomes
First Nations representative	Multiple emails and face-to-face meetings between March and May 2026.	- The Proponent met with a First Nations representative to discuss potential partnership opportunities associated with Projects located on Yorta Yorta Country, including approaches to Traditional Owner engagement, cultural heritage processes and opportunities for First Nations participation. - The discussion focused on establishing culturally appropriate engagement pathways and ensuring Traditional Owner participation is incorporated into Project planning and delivery where possible. - Potential partnership models involving First Nations businesses and organisations were discussed, including opportunities relating to procurement, workforce participation, civil and electrical services, training pathways and long-term economic development outcomes. - The discussion also explored opportunities for partnerships with local cultural, sporting and community organisations, including	- Partnership opportunities with local First Nations organisations and businesses were identified. - Engagement with Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation was recommended through established local protocols. - First Nations procurement, employment and training opportunities were discussed. - Discussions with Rumbalara Football Netball Club regarding potential partnership opportunities and community benefit outcomes resulted in the proponent becoming a Platinum Partner in April 2026. - Representative offered to assist with future stakeholder introductions and engagement, which is now underway.

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Stakeholder	Meeting type	Discussion summary	Key outcomes
		initiatives that could support broader social and economic outcomes for Yorta Yorta communities. Potential connections with other regional organisations and projects were also discussed, including opportunities for future collaboration and local benefit initiatives associated with renewable energy development within the region.	
Boral Concrete Sales Manager	Face-to-face meeting (06/05/2026)	- The Proponent met with Boral to discuss the Project, including the proposed location, indicative timeframe, likely concrete requirements and potential local supply opportunities. - A site induction and tour of Boral's operations were completed, including an overview of current processing capabilities. - Boral shared its experience supporting other BESS projects and discussed construction considerations, including local weather conditions and potential testing requirements. - The discussion included potential future testing activities relating to concrete materials and initial resistivity sand.	- Boral advised it could supply concrete and quarry materials for the Project. - Existing quarry capacity and planned upgrades were discussed. - No major constraints to supporting the Project were identified. - Potential local contractor and supplier opportunities were discussed. - Both agreed to maintain ongoing communication.
SM Landscapes Director	Face-to-face meeting (06/05/2026)	- The Proponent met with SM Landscaping to discuss the Project, including the proposed development timeframe, construction requirements and opportunities for local industry participation. - SM Landscaping provided an overview of its services, including landscaping, irrigation, pumps and filtration systems, and discussed its experience working on other BESS projects in Victoria. - Discussions with SM Landscaping focused on planting and ongoing maintenance requirements, as well as indicative lead times for delivery.	- SM Landscaping expressed interest in landscaping and maintenance opportunities associated with the Project. - Indicative lead times of approximately three to four months for relevant services were discussed. - Both agreed to maintain ongoing communication as the Project progresses.

Stakeholder	Meeting type	Discussion summary	Key outcomes
Furphy's Engineering Managing Director	Face-to-face meeting (06/05/2026)	- The Proponent met with a local manufacturing business representative to discuss the Project, regional energy challenges and potential opportunities for local industry participation during construction. - The Proponent provided an overview of the Project, including its purpose, location, development status and indicative construction requirements. - The business provided background on its operations, manufacturing capabilities and experience supporting renewable energy and industrial projects. - The discussion included steel fabrication and galvanising capabilities, including steel frame bases and bays for transformers and kiosks. - The parties also discussed broader energy transition considerations, including local manufacturing capability and potential workforce and supplier opportunities within the region. This copied document is to be made available for the steel fabrication and galvanising its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright	- Furphy's advised it had not experienced significant impacts from grid instability but noted impacts experienced by other regional industries. - Potential opportunities for steel fabrication and galvanising services during construction were identified. - It was noted that renewable energy projects form a significant component of the business's current operations. - Recommendations were provided regarding engagement with Regional Development Victoria on workforce and employment opportunities. - Both agreed to maintain ongoing communication as the Project progresses.
Mooroopna Education and Activity Centre Manager	Face-to-face meeting (06/05/2026)	- The Proponent met with a representative from the Mooroopna Education and Activity Centre to provide an overview of the Project and discuss the intent of the proposed Community Benefit Fund (CBF), including opportunities to support initiatives that deliver practical local outcomes. - The discussion focused on understanding local community needs, the Centre's role within the region and potential opportunities for community benefit initiatives. - The Centre provided an overview of its community support services, including programs supporting vulnerable community members, people experiencing homelessness, people with	- The Centre expressed support for the Project and highlighted the importance of local community benefit opportunities. - Funding suggestions included: - homelessness support - food relief - disability services - support for people who are blind or have low vision. - Recommendations were provided for further engagement with local

Stakeholder	Meeting type	Discussion summary	Key outcomes
		disabilities, and people who are blind or have low vision. - The discussion covered a range of existing community activities and programs, including food relief initiatives, volunteer-led support services, social connection programs and community wellbeing activities. - The Centre discussed increasing demand for food relief services and broader cost-of-living pressures affecting members of the community. - Additional discussion focused on local service gaps relating to homelessness support, aged care assistance, and services for people who are blind or have low vision.	organisations and stakeholders. This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright
Shepparton Theatre Arts Group Secretary	Teams meeting (06/05/2026)	- The Proponent met with a local community group representative via Microsoft Teams to discuss the Project and potential community engagement opportunities. - The representative provided an overview of the group, including its activities, membership and role within the local community. - The Proponent provided a summary of the Project, including its purpose, proposed operation and potential benefits for the local area. - The discussion also included the proposed CBF and its intended role in supporting local initiatives and community outcomes. - Discussion covered broader community sentiment and perspectives regarding infrastructure and energy projects within the region.	- The representative expressed general support for the Project and noted the importance of energy stability for the region. - The Project was to be raised with the committee to seek any additional feedback or views. - Project FAQs and Fact Sheets were requested to support further discussion.
Landowner and	Face-to-face meeting	The Proponent met with the landowner to provide an update on the Project and discuss progress to date.	The landowner advised that the property had not been irrigated during their

Stakeholder	Meeting type	Discussion summary	Key outcomes
sensitive receiver	(06/05/2026)	- A nearby resident also attended the meeting to gain a better understanding of the proposed development, including its operation and planning pathway. - The discussion focused on the status of the Project, anticipated timeframes and next steps within the planning and approvals process. - The landowner also provided background on the historical use of the property and associated land management arrangements.	ownership. It was also noted that the water rights associated with the property had previously been sold separately from the land.
Sensitive receiver	Face-to-face meeting (07/05/2026)	This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright - After the letter distribution, the Proponent met with a nearby resident to discuss the Project, including the proposed operation of the BESS, its role within the electricity network and potential local benefits. - The discussion focused primarily on fire safety, traffic management and broader local infrastructure considerations. - The resident raised questions regarding potential impacts associated with a fire event, including containment and environmental management measures. - The Proponent discussed the proposed fire prevention and mitigation measures for the Project, including battery design, on-site safety systems, bunding arrangements and retention ponds intended to capture potentially contaminated water in the event of an incident. - The discussion also covered local traffic conditions, including congestion and safety concerns associated with key intersections and nearby school traffic movements. - The resident identified the Ford Road and Grahamvale Road intersection, as well as traffic and parking conditions near	- The resident expressed general support for renewable energy projects and demonstrated an understanding of battery energy storage systems. - Key concerns related to post-fire management and existing traffic and parking issues, resulting in the proposed mitigation measures being explained. - The Proponent advised these matters would be considered through the Traffic Impact Assessment.

Stakeholder	Meeting type	Discussion summary	Key outcomes
		Grahamvale Primary School as current issues. The resident raised questions regarding potential construction traffic impacts and future communication arrangements should ownership of the Project change over time.	
SPC Head of Health Safety and Environment	Face-to-face meeting (07/05/2026)	- The Proponent met with representatives from SPC following completion of the required visitor registration and safety briefing. - SPC provided an overview of its operations, including the role of its Shepparton facility and broader business activities. - The Proponent explained the purpose of the engagement and discussed broader energy-related challenges affecting businesses in the region, including grid reliability, energy price volatility and supply constraints. - The discussion explored SPC's experience with grid reliability and any operational impacts associated with energy fluctuations. - SPC also discussed investigations into rooftop solar opportunities as part of its broader energy management considerations. - The meeting included discussion regarding local industry capability and potential contractor opportunities associated with the Project. - SPC also provided recommendations regarding potential contractors that may be suitable to support the construction and operational phases of the Project.	- SPC advised it had experienced limited operational impacts from grid instability but noted broader impacts affecting other regional industries. - Occasional voltage fluctuations and short-duration interruptions were discussed. - SPC expressed interest in remaining informed as the Project progresses. This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright
Grahamvale Primary School	Face-to-face meeting	The Proponent met with representatives from Grahamvale Primary School to discuss the Project and understand any local	Grahamvale Primary School expressed general support for the Project and

Stakeholder	Meeting type	Discussion summary	Key outcomes
	(07/05/2026)	traffic or safety considerations relevant to the school community. - The Proponent provided a high-level overview of the Project and explained that the meeting had been arranged following feedback received from nearby residents. - The school provided an overview of its operations, existing access arrangements and current parking conditions. - The discussion focused primarily on traffic and pedestrian safety issues associated with Grahamvale Road, particularly during school drop-off, pick-up and major school event periods. - The school outlined existing concerns regarding limited on-site parking, vehicle congestion and the interaction between school traffic and heavy vehicles using Grahamvale Road. - It was noted that all students currently access the school by car due to the absence of bus services and limited safe pedestrian or cycling access. - The school advised that parking and traffic concerns had previously been raised with relevant authorities. - The meeting also discussed potential construction traffic impacts associated with the Project and the importance of considering school peak periods within traffic management planning.	identified existing traffic, parking and pedestrian safety concerns along Grahamvale Road during school peak periods. - Potential traffic safety improvements and construction traffic management during school peak periods were discussed. - The school provided CCTV imagery illustrating existing traffic and parking conditions. - Following the meeting, The Proponent commenced discussions with the school regarding potential funding support for an extension of the existing car parking area to improve safety outcomes for the school community.
Sensitive receiver	Email (07/05/2026) Phone call (08/05/2026)	- The Proponent met with a nearby resident located approximately 1 km north-west of the Project site following contact through the Project engagement email address. - The resident had recently moved into the area and had not received the initial project correspondence but had received the most recent community update.	- The resident expressed general support for the Project and demonstrated a strong understanding of BESS technology. - It was noted that nearby residents were generally seeking additional information to better understand the proposal.

Stakeholder	Meeting type	Discussion summary	Key outcomes
		• Prior to the meeting, the resident provided a series of questions relating to the Project, primarily focused on operational safety considerations, including fire and flooding management. • The Proponent provided an overview of the Project and discussed the matters raised by the resident in further detail. • The discussion also included broader renewable energy topics and local community understanding of BESS technology and operations. • The resident provided feedback regarding future community communications and opportunities to improve accessibility and understanding of Project information.	• The proponent committed to providing written responses to questions raised and maintaining ongoing communication.
La Trobe University, Shepparton Campus	Multiple emails and a face-to-face meeting between February and May 2026.	• The Proponent arranged a meeting with La Trobe representatives regarding potential support and program pathways that could be supported by the Project. • La Trobe provided a number of existing program options for consideration. • Representatives provided a tour for the Proponent on the La Trobe Shepparton Campus 4 March 2026 • The discussions have evolved into a proposed program that is more bespoke and focussed on Shepparton residents and Shepparton based education.	• Currently discussing the configuration and proposed delivery of a scholarship or other educational program for students within Shepparton.

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2.2. Community benefit sharing opportunities

Engagement undertaken during this phase highlighted strong interest in ensuring the Project delivers impactful and locally relevant benefits for the broader Shepparton community. Feedback from residents, businesses, community organisations and industry representatives consistently emphasised the importance of community investment, local participation and initiatives that respond to identified local needs and priorities.

Previous engagement activities undertaken in 2025 also identified support for the proposed CBF, with participants recommending a focus on environmental initiatives, education, apprenticeships and opportunities that encourage young people to remain in the local area. Stakeholders also highlighted the importance of ensuring community benefit initiatives are developed transparently and continue to be informed through ongoing engagement with the local community.

This engagement phase identified several potential focus areas for future community benefit initiatives associated with the Project, including:

Local infrastructure and safety improvements

- Discussions with Grahamvale Primary School highlighted existing traffic and parking safety issues during school peak periods.
- The Proponent subsequently commenced discussions regarding potential Project support for a new and safer car parking area for the school community.

First Nations partnerships and investment

- Consultation with First Nations representatives identified potential partnership and investment opportunities with organisations and community groups, including Rumbalara Football Netball Club (which the Proponent is now a Platinum partner as of April 2026).
- Discussions focused on opportunities to support local employment pathways, community programs and broader economic participation outcomes for Yorta Yorta communities.
- Proposal issued to Munarra regarding a partnership for an initial 5-year term upon commercial operation of the BESS.

Community support services

- Feedback from community organisations identified potential opportunities to support food relief, homelessness support, disability services, aged care assistance and services for people who are blind or have low vision.
- Stakeholders also discussed opportunities to support community-based initiatives and local support programs.

Local industry participation

- Meetings with local businesses and industry representatives identified opportunities for local suppliers, contractors and service providers to participate in Project delivery and ongoing operations where feasible.
- Engagement with La Trobe University also identified opportunities for the configuration and delivery of a proponent-funded scholarship or educational program for students within Shepparton.

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2.3. Conclusion

The engagement period provided targeted opportunities for residents, businesses, community organisations, industry representatives and other stakeholders to participate in discussions regarding the Project and its potential role within the region. A key focus of the engagement approach was to build strong, genuine and long-term relationships with stakeholders through direct and transparent conversations regarding the Project, its potential impacts and opportunities for local involvement and community benefit outcomes.

Overall, stakeholder sentiment was generally positive and supportive, with many participants expressing interest in how the Project could contribute to regional energy reliability, local investment and broader economic outcomes for the Shepparton area. Discussions regularly focused on the role of battery energy storage infrastructure and the potential opportunities for local businesses, suppliers, workforce participation and community partnerships associated with the Project.

Importantly, the engagement process provided valuable local insight that has directly informed ongoing Project planning and community benefit discussions. Feedback raised through consultation helped identify existing traffic and parking safety concerns near Grahamvale Primary School, resulting in further discussions regarding potential Project support for improved parking infrastructure for the school community.

Discussions with local businesses also identified opportunities for regional supplier and contractor participation, while engagement with community organisations and First Nations representatives helped inform potential community benefit initiatives, partnership opportunities and areas of local need requiring further consideration.

The engagement approach also reinforced the importance of maintaining direct and ongoing communication with stakeholders as the Project progresses. Feedback received throughout the engagement period will continue to inform communication activities, stakeholder engagement, and the ongoing development of community benefit initiatives associated with the Project.

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3. Future engagement

3.1. Recommendations

The following recommendations relate to the Project's broader ongoing engagement approach as it progresses through the assessment and planning permit determination phase. These recommendations draw on insights and feedback received throughout all engagement activities undertaken to date, including both the broader consultation program and this targeted engagement process.

As the Project progresses, the Proponent should continue to implement a structured, transparent, and responsive engagement program that maintains strong community relationships, keeps stakeholders informed, and demonstrates ongoing consideration of community feedback, local priorities, and opportunities for continued participation and community benefit. This can be achieved through the development, implementation and evaluation of a communications and engagement management plan or the like.

3.1.1. Post-submission engagement

As the Project progresses through the assessment and planning permit process, post-submission engagement should continue to build on the relationships established during this phase of consultation, particularly with nearby residents, First Nations representatives, local businesses and community organisations.

Consultation undertaken to date demonstrated strong interest in practical local outcomes associated with the Project, particularly in relation to community benefit initiatives, local participation opportunities and regional investment. A key focus of post-submission engagement should therefore be the following:

- Continue engaging with nearby residents and stakeholders regarding Project updates, assessment outcomes and future activities.
- Refine the CBF framework in consultation with local stakeholders and explore opportunities for early delivery initiatives where feasible.
- Maintain discussions with local businesses, suppliers and contractors regarding participation opportunities associated with Project delivery.
- Continue engaging with First Nations representatives regarding partnership, employment and community investment opportunities.
- Provide regular updates and maintain opportunities for ongoing community feedback as the Project progresses.

3.1.2. Construction phase engagement

During the construction phase, the Proponent should maintain open, proactive communication to ensure nearby residents, councils, and the broader community are informed of upcoming works and potential short-term impacts such as traffic, dust, or noise.

Engagement should include early notification of construction schedules, key milestones, and any temporary road or access changes, and should incorporate clear communication protocols and contact points for community enquiries or complaints.

The Proponent should continue to collaborate with Council, contractors, and local suppliers to support local employment and procurement opportunities, reinforcing the Project's regional economic value.

Recommended steps:

- Provide advance notice of construction activities via letters, emails, and phone calls where applicable.
- Maintain clear channels for feedback, including the project hotline and email for community queries.
- Offer one-on-one meetings when requested before major construction phases.
- Continue engagement with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and Council to monitor environmental and safety compliance.
- Support local benefit through targeted employment and procurement initiatives.

3.1.3. Operation and ongoing engagement

Once operational, engagement should shift to maintaining transparency and ensuring the community remains informed and connected to the Project's long-term benefits.

The Proponent should provide periodic updates to residents, councils, and community groups on operational performance, community benefit initiatives, and maintenance activities. Engagement during this phase should also focus on education and legacy value, for example, partnering with local schools and community organisations to promote awareness of renewable energy and storage technologies.

Recommended steps:

- Maintain the Project website with real-time information, contact details, and updates on operational performance.
- Notify nearby residents in advance of any significant maintenance works or operational changes.
- Continue regular liaison with Council, DTP, and regulatory agencies on compliance and benefit-sharing outcomes.
- Provide periodic community newsletters summarising project updates and monitoring results.
- Review and update the CBF to ensure benefits remain relevant to local needs over time.

3.2. Monitoring and evaluation

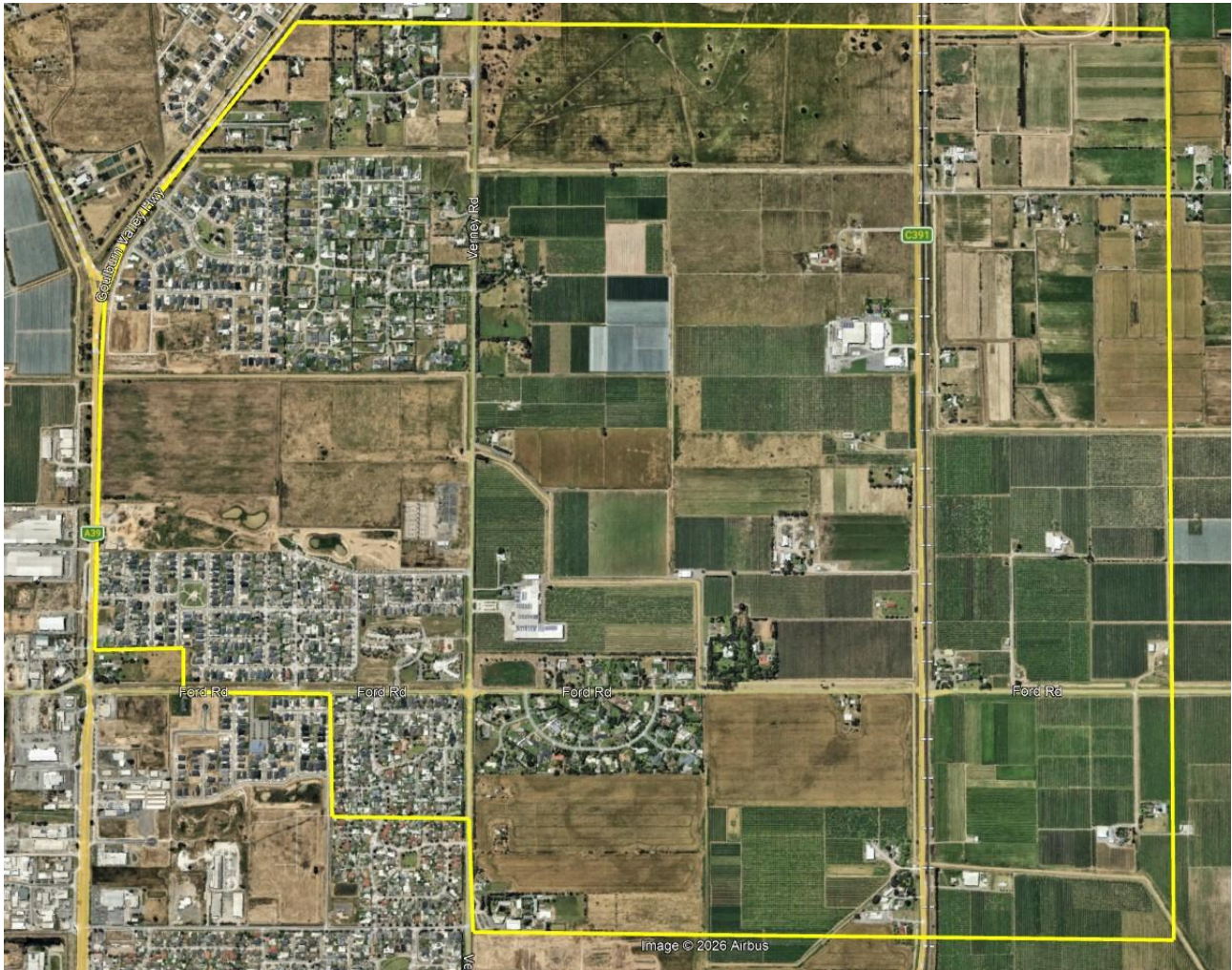
The effectiveness of community engagement should be monitored, evaluated, and adapted at key stages of the Project in line with the Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing Guidelines (DELWP, 2021).

Feedback will be tracked through the Proponent's Stakeholder Relationship Management (SRM) system, supporting transparent documentation of community interactions and responses.

Evaluation should assess whether engagement activities are inclusive, timely, and responsive to community needs, with findings used to improve future practice. Engagement will remain flexible, with reviews conducted at major transition points, including post-submission, pre-construction, and during operation, to ensure alignment with both regulatory expectations and community values.

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Appendix A Mail distribution map



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Appendix B Sensitive receiver letter

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Powering our future

22 April 2026

Dear Resident,

RE: Grahamvale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

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info@avenisenergy.com.au

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South Eveleigh NSW 2015

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Avenis Energy Pty Ltd
ABN 662 243 987

As you may recall from our correspondence in 2025, Avenis Energy Pty Ltd is proposing to construct and operate a 480 MW (megawatt) Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with 4-hours storage in northwest Grahamvale, Vic.

We're getting back in touch with nearby residents to reconnect and offer the opportunity to meet with our team, either at your property or at a location that suits you.

Here is a short project overview:

Topic	Details
Site address	221 Grahamvale Road / 305 Verney Road, Grahamvale.
Project area	The final battery footprint will be approximately 15 hectares.
Grid connection	The BESS will connect directly into the 220kV Shepparton Terminal Station located west of the project site on an adjacent property.
Approval process	The project will be progressed through Victoria's Development Facilitation Program (DFP), a streamlined assessment pathway designed for projects of state or regional significance. As a result, the local Council is not the consent authority. Instead, the planning applications will be assessed by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), and the final decision on whether to grant approval will be made by the Minister for Planning. A public notice period will be held as part of the process, during which the community and stakeholders will have the opportunity to make submissions on the applications.
Current phase	Avenis is in the end stages of a planning application and are currently assessing the limitations and restrictions of the project through environmental assessments and stakeholder engagement.

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Approval process duration	Avenis anticipate submission of the planning application in approximately one to two months. Once lodged, decisions will be able to be made in as little as four months.
Construction timeframe	If approved, the construction period would be between 12 and 18 months.

Have your say

As a near neighbour, your input is important. We are committed to providing clear and accessible information, listening to your feedback, and responding to any questions or concerns in a timely and respectful way. Local knowledge plays an important role in shaping how this project progresses, particularly while plans are still being finalised.

Members of the project team will be in Shepparton between 4–8 May 2026 and we would genuinely welcome the opportunity to speak with you directly. We are offering flexible ways to connect and can meet at a time and place that suits you, whether that is in person, online, at your home, or at a neutral location.

If you would like to arrange a time, please get in touch using the contact details at the end of this letter. We will continue to keep you informed as the project progresses, but early engagement is the most effective way to ensure your perspective is heard and taken into account.

How the project will benefit Shepparton

We're focused on making sure this project delivers real, practical benefits for the local community, both during construction and long term.

- **Local jobs during construction:** Around 120 to 180 workers will be needed during construction, with a strong focus on using local contractors and suppliers wherever possible.
- **Ongoing employment:** The project will support at least 4 full-time roles during operation, across an expected 50-year lifespan.
- **Flow-on benefits for local businesses:** Increased activity during construction and operation will support local cafés, supermarkets, accommodation providers, trades and other service industries.
- **Community benefit programs shaped by locals:** Community feedback will guide how benefit programs are designed, with a focus on initiatives that reflect local priorities and deliver lasting value.

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- **Long-term local impact:** The aim is to create benefits that extend beyond the project itself, including support for local businesses, skills development and community-led initiatives.
- **More reliable power locally:** The Grahamvale BESS will help reduce the risk of outages and support a more stable electricity supply for homes and businesses in the area.

Please reach out

If you have any questions about the project, please contact us via any of the following methods:

E: engage@nghengage.com.au

W: <https://www.avenisenergy.com.au/projects/grahamvale>

Kind regards,

[Redacted signature block]

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Appendix C Digital letter – community groups

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RE: Grahamvale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

We're reaching out with local organisations in Shepparton to continue building a conversation about the Grahamvale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and how it might contribute to the community over time.

As part of the proposed project, Avenis Energy is considering how it could provide longer-term value to the local area.

About the project

Avenis Energy Pty Ltd is proposing to develop a 480 MW BESS in northwest Grahamvale, with connection into the nearby Shepparton Terminal Station. The project is advanced in its planning and will soon enter the formal assessment process.

Why we're reaching out

We're interested in understanding what's important locally, and how a project like this could provide support in a way that's practical and genuinely useful.

This could include support for local projects or facilities, community programs, or other initiatives led by organisations in the area. We're keen to hear a range of perspectives.

As the project moves into the next stage, we're looking to identify specific opportunities where the project could provide meaningful local benefit.

Members of the project team will be in Shepparton between 4–8 May 2026. If you're open to it, we'd welcome the opportunity to meet with you, either one-on-one or as part of a small group discussion, to hear about your work and any thoughts you'd like to share.

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About Avenis

Avenis are dedicated to developing BESS utilities and large-scale renewable energy projects that deliver clean, green energy into the transmission network, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and helping minimise the impacts of climate change. Avenis prides itself on working closely with landowners, near neighbours, key stakeholders and the wider communities where our projects are proposed.

The Avenis team has significant experience in the BESS and renewable energy sector across all elements of the development cycle, from site selection, planning and permitting to engineering, construction and operation.

To find out more about Avenis please visit <https://www.avenisenergy.com.au>

Get in touch

If you have any questions or would like to get in touch, please contact us using the details below:

E: engage@nghengage.com.au

W: <https://www.avenisenergy.com.au/projects/grahamvale>

Kind regards,

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Appendix D Digital letter – Contractors

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[REDACTED]

RE: Grahamvale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) – Opportunities for local businesses and contractors

We are reaching out to local businesses and contractors to highlight upcoming opportunities associated with the proposed Grahamvale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

If approved, the project will involve a 12 to 18-month construction period, creating an estimated 120–180 roles. It is expected to require a wide range of services, with a strong focus on engaging local suppliers and contractors wherever possible.

Maximising local participation is a key priority for this project, and we are actively seeking to engage local businesses and contractors across all relevant work packages.

About the project

Avenis Energy Pty Ltd is proposing to develop a 480 MW BESS (4-hour storage) in northwest Grahamvale, with direct connection into the Shepparton Terminal Station. The project is currently in the final stages of planning and is expected to be submitted for approval in the coming months.

Types of work available

While detailed procurement will occur closer to construction, anticipated opportunities may include:

- Civil and earthworks
- Electrical and cabling works
- Fencing and security installation
- Transport and logistics
- Plant and equipment hire
- Site preparation and material supply
- Accommodation providers

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- Landscaping and grounds maintenance.

This is not an exhaustive list, and we encourage any business with relevant capabilities to express interest.

Register your interest (EOI)

We are currently inviting local businesses and contractors to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI). Registering your details will:

- Ensure you are considered for relevant opportunities as procurement progresses
- Allow us to understand local capability and capacity
- Help connect you with project contractors as packages are developed

Submitting an EOI is a simple way to ensure your business is visible as the project moves forward.

Next steps

As the project progresses through the planning and approval process, further information about procurement timelines and contracting opportunities will be provided to registered businesses.

To submit an Expression of Interest, please visit:
W: avenisenergy.com.au/grahamvale-bess-eoi

Or scan the QR code



We encourage early registration to ensure your business is included in future engagement.

Project process and community input

As part of the planning process, the project will go through a public notice period where community members and stakeholders can provide feedback. Projects like this often rely on input from local businesses and the broader

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community, particularly where there is an interest in local participation and economic benefit.

About Avenis

Avenis are dedicated to developing BESS utilities and large-scale renewable energy projects that deliver clean, green energy into the transmission network, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and helping minimise the impacts of climate change. Avenis prides itself on working closely with landowners, near neighbours, key stakeholders and the wider communities where our projects are proposed.

The Avenis team has significant experience in the BESS and renewable energy sector across all elements of the development cycle, from site selection, planning and permitting to engineering, construction and operation.

To find out more about Avenis please visit <https://www.avenisenergy.com.au>.

Please reach out

If you have any questions about the project, please contact us via any of the following methods:

E: engage@nghengage.com.au

W: <https://www.avenisenergy.com.au/projects/grahamvale>

Kind regards,

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Appendix E Digital letter – First Nations organisations

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Avenis Energy Pty Ltd
ABN 662 243 987

Dear Traditional Owners and First Nations representatives,

RE: Grahamvale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Avenis Energy is progressing plans for a 480 MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with 4-hour storage in northwest Grahamvale, with connection into the nearby Shepparton Terminal Station.

We're reaching out to connect with the Yorta Yorta Traditional Owners and the wider First Nations community as part of the project's planning and development.

We're keen to build an ongoing relationship and better understand how you would like to be involved as the project progresses.

Opportunities for involvement

If appropriate, we would welcome the opportunity to talk about how First Nations communities may wish to be involved in the project, and what meaningful involvement might look like.

We are also interested in any thoughts you may have on how the project could contribute to the community in a practical and lasting way.

At this stage of the project, these conversations can help shape how the project engages with First Nations communities over time.

Next steps

Members of the project team will be in Shepparton between **4–8 May 2026**. If you're open to meeting while we're there, we'd be happy to arrange a time and place that suits you.

The project will continue to progress through the planning process over the coming months, including a formal public notice period. Early conversations now can help ensure that engagement is approached in a way that is appropriate and reflects the views of First Nations communities.

If you're open to a conversation, we would value the opportunity to meet while we're in Shepparton, or at another time that suits.

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About Avenis

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The Avenis team has significant experience in the BESS and renewable energy sector across all elements of the development cycle, from site selection, planning and permitting to engineering, construction and operation.

To find out more about Avenis please visit <https://www.avenisenergy.com.au>.

Get in touch

If you would prefer to connect at another time, we would also be happy to arrange that.

Please feel free to get in touch using the details below.

E: engage@nghengage.com.au

W: <https://www.avenisenergy.com.au/projects/grahamvale>

Kind regards,

[Redacted signature block]

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Appendix F Digital letter – High energy users

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[REDACTED]

RE: Grahamvale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

We are reaching out to you as a major energy user in the Shepparton region, where a stable and reliable electricity supply is essential to your day-to-day operations.

We understand that even short disruptions or fluctuations can have a real impact on production, equipment, and costs. With demand on the network continuing to grow, these issues are becoming more common and more difficult to manage.

About the project

Avenis Energy is currently progressing the proposed Grahamvale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), a 480 MW project to be located in northwest Grahamvale, connecting into the nearby 220kV Shepparton Terminal Station.

Projects like this are designed to support the grid when it's under pressure, helping to smooth out fluctuations and reduce the likelihood of interruptions. For large industrial users, that can mean fewer unexpected disruptions and a more stable operating environment.

The project is now in the final stages of planning and is expected to be submitted for approval in the next one to two months through Victoria's Development Facilitation Program. A public notice period will follow as part of that process.

What this means for your operations

Given your operations in the region, we thought it would be useful to reach out directly. We'd be happy to walk you through the project and hear any thoughts you may have, particularly around energy reliability and what you're seeing on the ground.

Members of the project team will be in Shepparton between 4–8 May 2026. If you're open to meeting while we're there, we'd be happy to arrange a time and place that suits you.

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Speaking now also gives you a chance to understand how the project may interact with the local network, and to raise any considerations before key decisions are locked in.

As part of the formal assessment process, there will be an opportunity for stakeholders to provide input. Feedback from large energy users can play an important role in demonstrating the value of projects that support grid reliability in the region.

About Avenis

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The Avenis team has significant experience in the BESS and renewable energy sector across all elements of the development cycle, from site selection, planning and permitting to engineering, construction and operation.

To find out more about Avenis please visit <https://www.avenisenergy.com.au>

Get in touch

If you'd like to meet with Avenis representatives or learn more about the project, please feel free to get in touch using the details below.

E: engage@nghengage.com.au

W: <https://www.avenisenergy.com.au/projects/grahamvale>

Kind regards,

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Appendix G Digital letter – MP

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Powering
our future

22 April 2026

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South Eveleigh NSW 2015

avenisenergy.com.au

Avenis Energy Pty Ltd
ABN 662 243 987

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
e: [REDACTED]

RE: Proposed Grahamvale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

We are writing to follow up on our earlier correspondence regarding the proposed Grahamvale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in northwest Grahamvale.

As the project moves into the final stages of planning, we wanted to provide a brief update and highlight how the project may benefit the Shepparton community.

We would also welcome the opportunity to meet with you to provide further detail on the project and discuss any questions or considerations you may have. We are happy to arrange a meeting at your office or online, depending on your availability.

About the project

The Grahamvale BESS is a proposed 480 MW battery storage project, designed to connect into the Shepparton Terminal Station. Its primary role is to support the local electricity network by storing energy and releasing it during peak demand and outages.

This helps stabilise the grid, reduce the risk of outages, and support a more reliable electricity supply for homes and businesses across the region.

The project is expected to be submitted for approval in the coming months through Victoria's Development Facilitation Program, which will include a public notice period for community feedback.

Benefits for your electorate

We understand that supporting local employment and addressing workforce shortages is an ongoing priority for the region. This project is expected to

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contribute to that in a practical way, particularly during the construction phase.

Key benefits include:

- Local employment during construction, with an estimated 120–180 roles and a strong focus on engaging local workers and contractors
- Ongoing jobs, with approximately 4 full-time roles over the life of the project
- Support for local businesses, including increased demand for accommodation, food services, transport, and trades
- Improved energy reliability for local businesses and households, helping reduce the risk of disruptions
- Community benefit initiatives, informed through engagement with local organisations and designed to deliver lasting value

Beyond these local outcomes, the project will also support Victoria's transition to a more reliable and lower-emissions energy system by helping integrate renewable energy and manage peak demand.

Engagement and next steps

We are continuing to engage with residents, local organisations, and businesses as the project progresses.

As part of the formal planning process, there will also be an opportunity for the community to provide feedback during the public notice period. Perspectives from local stakeholders will play an important role in this process.

Get in touch

If you have any questions about the project, please contact us via any of the following methods:

E: grahamvale@avenisenergy.com.au

W: <https://www.avenisenergy.com.au/projects/grahamvale>

Kind regards,

[Redacted signature block]

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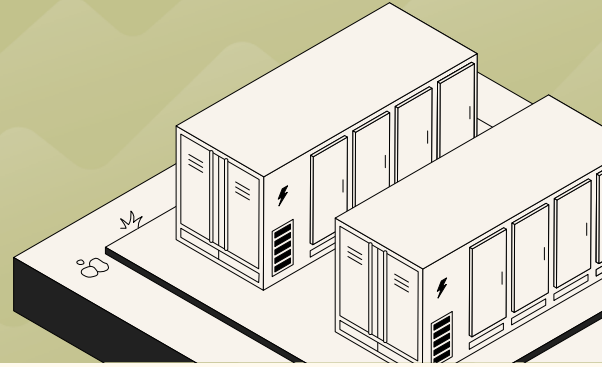
Appendix H Fact sheet

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FACT SHEET

Grahamvale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)



Avenis Energy is proposing to develop a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) approximately five kilometres northeast of the Shepparton city centre, in Grahamvale and adjacent to the Shepparton Terminal Station.

The purpose of the development is to support the National Electricity Market during peak demand and during adverse network operation. It will ensure stability of supply throughout the region. The project will involve the development, construction, operation and its eventual decommissioning.

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The Project

The Grahamvale BESS is expected to have a capacity of 480MW with a 4-hour storage duration – this is equivalent to powering around 765,000* households for four hours.

The project will incorporate the latest industry technology and adhere to all safety and hazard regulations set by the Victorian and Australian governments.

The project's design and layout will comply with local planning laws, CFA guidelines, and be carefully structured to minimise potential environmental impacts. It will also protect local cultural heritage, and address any concerns of neighbouring communities.

The Grahamvale BESS will include the following key components:

- Battery units
- Inverter stations
- Transformers
- Switch rooms
- Switch yard
- On-site water storage
- Fire suppressions systems
- Security fencing
- Parking site
- Site office and amenities for operational use.

During construction, temporary infrastructure including construction facilities, site offices and amenities, tool and material storage sheds, construction staff car parking, laydown areas and truck unloading zones will also be required and commercial opportunities across the Shepparton region.

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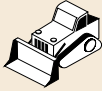
*Australian Energy Regulator: State of the energy market 2023 (based on an average annual electricity consumption of 5.6MWh per household).

The Benefits



INCREASE CLEAN ENERGY STORAGE

The Project will ensure the on-going supply of energy for residents, business owners and hospitals throughout the region. It will make a substantial contribution to the National Electricity Market and towards the government's target of zero emissions by 2050.



CREATE LOCAL JOBS

Approximately 120-180 full time equivalent (FTE) construction jobs and at least 4 FTE operational jobs will be generated.



INCREASE AND DIVERSIFY INCOMES

The Project will increase revenue among ancillary services throughout the local area. It will generate huge incentives for investment in industrial and commercial opportunities across the Shepparton region.

480MW

Capacity with a 4-hour storage duration

765,000

Households powered for approx. 4 hours

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GRAHAMVALE BESS SITE MAP MARKED IN BLUE

Planning & Approval Process

Given the significance of the Project, the development will be assessed by the Victorian Government rather than at the local council level. A development application of this technical complexity requires a rigorous impact assessment process to be undertaken, including numerous independent reviews, surveys, and environmental assessments.

This information will form an invaluable part of the planning permit application, which presents the results of the specialist assessments and the detailed planning information regarding the development.

It will provide key decision-makers in the Victorian Government with the necessary information to assess the Project and determine any special conditions.

About Avenis Energy

Avenis Energy is dedicated to developing utility BESS projects and large-scale renewable energy projects that deliver clean, green energy into the transmission network, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and help minimise the impacts of climate change.

Avenis prides itself on working closely with landowners, near neighbours, key stakeholders and the wider communities where our projects are proposed.

The Avenis team has significant experience in the industry across all elements of the development cycle, from site selection, planning and permitting to engineering, construction and operation. The team has been working together since 2018 and is entirely dedicated to the Australian market, with a proven track record of developing high quality community sensitive projects.

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QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK

For more information please visit our project website:
www.avenisenergy.com.au/projects/grahamvale

Or complete the feedback survey via the QR code.



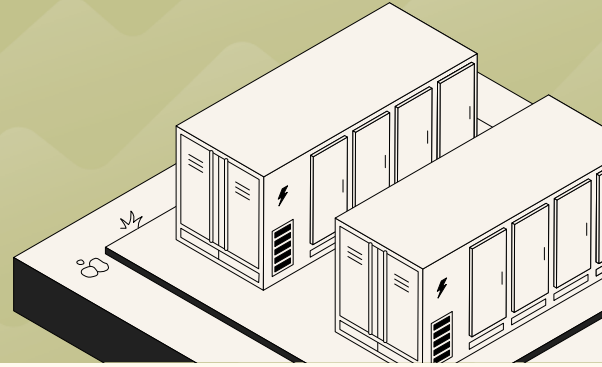
Appendix I FAQs

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FAQS

Grahamvale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)



General FAQs

What is proposed?

Avenis Energy is proposing to construct and operate a 480MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) located five km northeast of Shepparton City Centre, in Grahamvale, Victoria. The Project will connect into the adjacent AusNet Shepparton Terminal Station to import and export electricity into the transmission network. The purpose of the development is to assist the national electrical grid at times of peak demand and during adverse network operation, ensuring stability of supply.

What is a BESS?

A BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) is a system that stores electrical energy using a collection of batteries. It captures power from various generation sources on the transmission network including solar and wind. The system helps mitigate the intermittency of these sources by offering backup power to overcome network constraints, including adverse weather conditions and limited grid capacity. BESS plays a vital role in supporting the broader use of decentralised energy sources and infrastructure, helping to minimise the risk of widespread power outages. The technology of the battery units is relatively similar to the kind of battery you have in your phone.

Why is this Project needed?

The project would support the national electricity network during peak times and during adverse network operation, ensuring stability of supply.

Furthermore, the Victorian Government is committed to increasing the state's renewable energy share to over 65% by 2030 and 95% by 2035. This initiative is expected to generate approximately \$9.5 billion in economic activity and create 59,000 jobs by 2035 (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change, 2024a). Additionally, it will help lower energy costs, saving households an average of \$110 and businesses \$3,700 each year, while reducing Victoria's carbon emissions by around 55 million tons (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change, 2024b). Currently, VIC's renewable energy penetration stands at 37.8%.

This project will support these targets by creating jobs, lowering electricity prices, and reducing carbon emissions.

Who is Avenis?

Avenis Energy is dedicated to developing utility-scale battery energy storage projects, and large-scale renewable energy projects that deliver clean, green energy into the transmission network, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and helping minimise the impacts of climate change. Avenis prides itself on working closely with landowners, near neighbours, key stakeholders and the wider communities where our projects are proposed.

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The Avenis team has significant experience in the industry across all elements of the development cycle, from site selection, planning and permitting to engineering, construction and operation. The team has been working together since 2018 and is solely dedicated to the Australian market, with a proven track record of developing high quality community sensitive projects.

The Process

How does the Development Application process work?

Given the significance of the Project, the development will be assessed by the Victorian Government rather than at the local council level.

A development application requires a rigorous impact assessment process to be undertaken for the Project, including many independent reviews, surveys, and environmental assessments.

These assessments will be included in the planning permit application, which will be an in-depth document presenting the results of the specialist assessments and the detailed planning information regarding the development. The planning permit application will also provide key decision-makers in the government with the necessary information to assess whether approvals should be granted and to determine any applicable conditions.

You can learn more about the process on the Victorian Government's Department of Transport and Planning website.

Who approves the Project?

The Minister for Planning will determine whether to grant development approval, under Victoria's new Development Facilitation Program (DFP). A decision will likely be made within four to 12 months following submission of the planning permit application.

When will construction commence and how long will it take?

The construction timeline depends on several factors, including securing a planning permit, selecting a construction company, obtaining grid connection approval, negotiating a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), and completing the Financial Close process. Once contractors are appointed, construction is expected to take approximately 18 months.

How long will this project operate for? What happens after that?

The project is designed for an operational lifespan of up to 50 years. After this period, the site may either be decommissioned and restored to its original use as freehold land, or the utility will be upgraded and repurposed, subject to future energy requirements, landowner agreements, and lasting approvals.

Design Considerations

What does a BESS look like?

BESS utilities comprise of a series of units that resemble 20-foot shipping containers. This modular configuration is based on site parameters, system capacity and storage duration.

Why Shepparton?

Selecting an appropriate site for a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) requires careful evaluation of several key factors, such as access to the electricity grid, existing land use, potential environmental impacts, and existing infrastructure.

In this case, the site was chosen due to its proximity to the Shepparton Terminal Station and surrounding environment, which make it well-suited for the development.

Shepparton is the hub of Victoria, a role reflected in its strategic position within the state's transmission network. This utility will serve as a critical storage hub along the backbone of Victoria's 220kV transmission network, reinforcing the region's importance in maintaining energy reliability and stability.

Will there be any visual impact?

The installation of a BESS will inevitably have some effect on the visual landscape; however, the BESS modules are unlikely to produce any glare or reflections. As part of the development application process, an independent technical assessment is undertaken to evaluate visual impact. If necessary, screening measures — such as vegetation or artificial barriers — can be implemented to minimise any potential impacts.

The proposed site is already well shielded by surrounding trees, but Avenis remains committed to working closely with the local community to address any concerns, questions or suggestions.

Will there be any noise impact?

Like all utility developments, BESS facilities may generate noise during operation. However, as part of the development application process, an independent technical assessment will be undertaken to evaluate noise levels, any potential impacts, and provide clear mitigation measures to be incorporated into the BESS design to prevent regulatory noise emission levels at close by receivers.

Technical

What type of battery units will be used?

The equipment manufacturer is yet to be finalised; however, the manufacturer will be a global recognised leader in battery research and development. The Project will incorporate the latest technology available at the time of construction, ensuring high performance and reliability. Furthermore, the manufacturer will be well-positioned to provide ongoing technological updates to the equipment as needed. Generally, the battery units will be of similar technology to the battery used in your phone.

How high will the battery units be?

The BESS units are typically the size of a 20-foot shipping container and will be installed on low-lying foundations; as such, the units are not expected to exceed 5.5m above the natural ground level. It is expected that the project area will be at the same height or lower than other existing features in the landscape.

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How will construction traffic be managed?

Construction traffic will primarily access the development site via Grahamvale Road, with Verny Road serving as a secondary access point when needed. During the estimated 18-month construction phase, vehicle types will range from light commercial vehicles to 26-metre B-Doubles. As part of the planning permit process, an independent traffic and transport assessment will be conducted. Before construction begins, a construction traffic management plan will be implemented to effectively manage and mitigate any potential impacts. Construction will only commence once the necessary planning approvals are in place.

Will there be electricity outages during construction?

No outages are expected during the construction phase. Once the BESS is operational, it will help to increase the grid stability and reduce outages.

Is there a health risks associated with EMF's from a BESS?

Electromagnetic fields (EMFs) naturally exist in the environment, with electric fields occurring in the Earth's atmosphere and static magnetic fields generated by the planet's core. EMFs are also produced whenever electricity is used, including in household appliances such as refrigerators and microwaves.

Daily exposure to low-frequency EMFs from common electrical devices is not considered a risk to human health (NSW Government, 2022). For reference, the EMF levels of a kitchen stove range from 2 to 30 milligauss (mG), while a hairdryer emits between 1 and 70 mG. Standing at the edge of a transmission powerline easement typically exposes a person to 10–50 mG, whereas directly underneath a transmission powerline, levels range from 20 to 200 mG.

The International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) has established a human exposure limit of 2,000 mG (NSW Government, 2022). The EMF levels produced by a BESS are generally lower than those of household appliances and remain undetectable beyond the site boundary.

Technical and engineering authorities, including the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA), have found no evidence of adverse electromagnetic radiation effects associated with large-scale battery storage systems.

Environmental

Do batteries increase fire risk?

The Project will not increase the risk of bushfires in the area. The BESS design will fully comply with the latest regulatory guidelines and requirements for BESS utilities, including provisions for clearance, accessibility, firefighting water supply, and firebreak buffer zones.

Avenis will collaborate with relevant fire service agencies to establish clear access requirements for the BESS in the event of a bushfire in the area, or a fire within the facility. Before construction commences, site-specific Emergency Management Plans will be developed to address fire prevention and response strategies during construction, operation, and decommissioning.

Avenis remains committed to working with the CFA to ensure the final design meets all required safety standards and best practices.

How will fire risk be managed onsite?

The likelihood of an onsite fire is very low. However, the proposed battery units are designed with multiple layers of protection to prevent onsite fires. Each unit will be equipped with advanced detectors, such as heat and carbon monoxide sensors, to identify abnormalities and automatically initiate a shutdown if needed. Additionally, these systems will send real-time alerts to our control room, where the battery units are continuously monitored, allowing for a swift response to any potential issues.

Additionally, built-in fire suppression systems, including dry pipe and inert gas systems, are in place to extinguish any internal fires.

A buffer zone around each battery unit will further help to prevent the spread of fire. We will also work closely with fire authorities to ensure that all safety protocols are established and clearly understood in the unlikely event of an emergency.

Is the site affected by flooding?

The BESS infrastructure is expected to remain stable in the unlikely event of flooding. An independent assessment will evaluate hydrology and address risk and mitigation measures, as required.

Is there a contamination risk?

The BESS components will be equipped with spill containment measures, including plates, bunding, spill trays, and absorbents. In the unlikely event of a spill, these measures will ensure that any substance will be fully contained.

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Social and Economic

How will Shepparton benefit from the Project?

We intend to work with local product suppliers and service providers, which will boost the local economy by creating job opportunities, both directly through construction and operational roles and indirectly through supply chain demands. Local businesses will also benefit from increased demand for building materials, equipment, plant hire, and other ongoing goods and services. Hotels and restaurants will also benefit from visiting workers and project staff. This economic activity could stimulate growth, support small businesses, and enhance community prosperity.

How many jobs will be created during construction of the Project?

The project will create a range of employment opportunities, from skilled positions to manual labour jobs, with the workforce potentially tallying 180 at the peak of construction. Prioritising qualified local contractors is a key focus for Avenis in the development of the Project.

How many jobs will be available during operations of the Project?

Avenis Energy envisage four permanent roles for the operation of the project. Maintenance contracts would also be required and would likely be met by local contractors, including plant hire, fence repair, road grading, etc.

What other benefits will the community receive?

Avenis is dedicated to making long-term investments in the regions and communities where we operate. Meaningful engagement with the local community is a key priority, ensuring that our project delivers both economic and social benefits.

The insights gathered from our community engagement work will help shape community benefit programs that create positive, lasting value for the local area.

Additional benefits may include potential upgrades to roads and intersections, and the provision of affordable, zero-emissions electricity to support the region's energy needs.

Will there be always a contact on-site in case of emergency?

A dedicated 24/7 contact will be provided during construction and operation. The Project will also be continuously monitored by remote CCTV.

Furthermore, the Operations Manager, and other staff members will be stationed near the Project.

How can local suppliers get in touch?

EMAIL US AT

grahamvale@avenisenergy.com.au

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