

ADVERTISED PLAN

Cranbourne West Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), Evans Road, Cranbourne West 3977 – Fire Management Plan (FMP)



Fire Management Plan - Details

The Cranbourne West BESS site is not located in a Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO), but falls within a Bushfire Prone Area (BPA).

a. Facility description

The Cranbourne West BESS facility will comprise battery storage units, inverter and MV Transformer Stations, underground 220kV high voltage connection to the existing Cranbourne AusNet terminal station, 220kV/33kV site substation, onsite warehouse for spares storage, site parking, internal access roads and drainage. The facility will be securely fenced.

b. Operating hours

The Cranbourne West BESS will operate autonomously 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Scheduled maintenance will be undertaken during normal business hours

c. Contact details

The Cranbourne West BESS site falls within the Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) Southern District 2 response area and the primary response station is Cranbourne Station 92 (FS92).

In the event of a fire onsite:

- Call 000 Emergency response;
- Inform local Cranbourne Fire Station (Address: 8-10 Arundel Street, Cranbourne VIC 3977; FRV contact number: 1300 367 617)
- The BESS facility site supervisor is responsible for providing a briefing to the responding authorities on arrival
- The designated assembly area (shown as AA) is at the intersection of the court bowl and Rangebank Drive.

d. Fire mitigation/vegetation management

Fire mitigation measures applicable to the Cranbourne West BESS site include:

- The maintenance of a firebreak as per the requirements of the *Guidelines for Renewable Energy Installations* (CFA 2021), and detailed as follows:
 - A fire break area of at least ten (10) metres width as shown in this FMP must be maintained around the perimeter of the BESS facility (including around all containers and infrastructure). The fire break must comprise either mineral earth or non-combustible mulch such as crushed rock, and be free of vegetation and obstructions at all times. No materials are to be stored in the firebreak area.
- Continued clearance of at least two (2) metres between the lowest branches and ground level within the adjoining vegetation screening.
- All plant and heavy equipment must carry at least a 9-litre water stored-pressure fire extinguisher with a minimum rating of 3A, or firefighting equipment as a minimum when on-site during the summer Fire Danger Period.
- Removal of any long grass and/or deep leaf litter from areas where plant and heavy equipment will be working.
- During the declared Fire Danger Period, where possible grass within 100m of the BESS facility is to be maintained at below 100mm in height.
- Restrictions and guidance from emergency authorities provided during the Fire Danger Period, days of high fire danger and Total Fire Ban days must be adhered to.

e. Access

A four-metre-wide perimeter road must be provided within the 10m perimeter firebreak to provide access to emergency response vehicles. Roads must be of all-weather construction and capable of accommodating a vehicle of 15 tonnes. Passing bays must be incorporated at least every 600 metres, and be at least 20 metres long with a minimum trafficable width of 6 metres. Where roads are less than 600 metres long, at least one passing bay must be incorporated.

f. Water supply

Water hydrants must be clearly identifiable and unobstructed. Hydrants will be located at 120m intervals along Rangebank Blvd.

g. Fire behaviour and bushfire hazards

Previous bushfires have occurred in the region, including two small grassfires, one of which occurred 2kms north of the site in 2015, and the other 4kms north east in 2009. The next closest bushfire was 6km north west of the site in 2019. The broader surrounding land use, particularly to the north, east and south currently supports residential development, while the subject site (as well as land to the west of Evans Road) is earmarked in the Cranbourne West Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) for future development as a Business Park. As such, bushfire hazards in the area are limited. The main bushfire hazard in proximity to the subject site is the linear strip of planted vegetation adjacent to the eastern boundary. This area has been classified as follows:

- **Forest** – Dense plantings of trees and shrubs on mounded soil including Rough-barked Manna-gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis* subsp. *pyroriana*), Gippsland Red-gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis* subsp. *mediana*), Swamp Gum (*Eucalyptus ovata*), Burgan (*Kunzea* sp.), Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*), Black Wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*), Common Cassinia (*Cassinia aculeata*), Swamp Scrub (*Melaleuca ericifolia*).
- **Shrubland** – Dense area of shrub dominated by Burgan, located within transmission line easement.

Remaining adjacent bushfire hazards are limited to any areas of unmanaged grassland within the subject site and surrounding properties, which when ungrazed/not slashed and fully cured, may represent a risk. This hazard is considered to be present until the subject site is developed as per the planned future use as a Business Park.

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