Engagement Summary Report

Tragowel BESS proposal

Loddon Valley Highway, Tragowel

For Tragowel BESS Pty Ltd (ACN 688 019 534) as trustee for Tragowel BESS Trust (ABN 31 616 656 334)

18 December 2025

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Document history

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1	11/12/2025	Draft Engagement Summary Report	EK + DCM	RW
2	18/12/205	Final Engagement Summary Report	EK + DCM	RW

We celebrate the physical and spiritual connections between Indigenous people and place expressed through the Birrarung Wilam (Common Ground) art project on the banks of Melbourne's Yarra River.

Acknowledgement of Country

Cogency acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we meet, work and write, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung peoples of the Kulin nation, and their connections to land, sea, and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and emerging.

Cogency also extends that respect and acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Tragowel, the Barapa Barapa, Yorta Yorta and Wamba Wamba. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing connection with the land and waterways. We also recognise the resilience, strength, and pride of the Barapa Barapa, Yorta Yorta and Wamba Wamba and First Nations communities and acknowledge that Sovereignty was never ceded.

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Glossary

Abbreviation	Meaning
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
ARENA	Australian Renewable Energy Agency
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
CDIS	Community Drop in Session
CEC	Clean Energy Council
CSEP	Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (VIC)
DFP	Development Facilitation Pathway
DTP	Department of Transport and Planning (VIC)
EAP	Engagement Action Plan
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
IAP2	International Association for Public Participation *(known as the Engagement Institute)*
LGA	Local Government Area
kV	kilovolt
MER	Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting
MW	Megawatt
MWh	Megawatt hour
RDA	Regional Development Australia
REZ	Renewable Energy Zone
Report	Engagement Summary Report

1. Introduction

Cogency Australia Pty Ltd (Cogency), on behalf of Tragowel BESS Pty Ltd (ACN 688 019 534) as trustee for Tragowel BESS Trust (ABN 31 616 656 334) (the Proponent) has prepared this Engagement Summary Report in relation to the proposed development of a utility-scale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), known as the Tragowel BESS (the Proposal). The purpose of this report is to accompany the Planning Application for the Proposal, which is being submitted to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) via the Development Facilitation Pathway (DFP).

The development of energy infrastructure, such as BESS facilities, plays a critical role in supporting the transition to cleaner, more sustainable energy sources. However, the success of such projects hinges not only on technical and regulatory approvals but also on effective and genuine engagement with local communities and stakeholders. Recognising this, the Proponent prioritises proactive, inclusive, and transparent engagement as a core component of their development process across their projects in development.

Effective engagement fosters mutual understanding and collaboration, resulting in outcomes that benefit both the local community and the energy industry. As evidence from various projects across Australia and internationally has demonstrated, when communities are informed and involved from the outset, energy developments are more likely to be successful and sustainable in the long term.

This Engagement Summary Report documents the engagement activities undertaken during the pre- and post-application phases, in accordance with the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) and the Engagement Action Plan (EAP).

The aim of this engagement process is to ensure that the Tragowel, Kerang and surrounding communities, along with other key stakeholders, are proactively informed, consulted, and involved throughout all stages of the Proposal's planning, development, assessment, and delivery. By fostering open lines of communication and addressing community concerns and aspirations, the Tragowel BESS aims to contribute positively to the region's energy future and the broader goals of sustainability and renewable energy transition.

1.1 Proposal overview

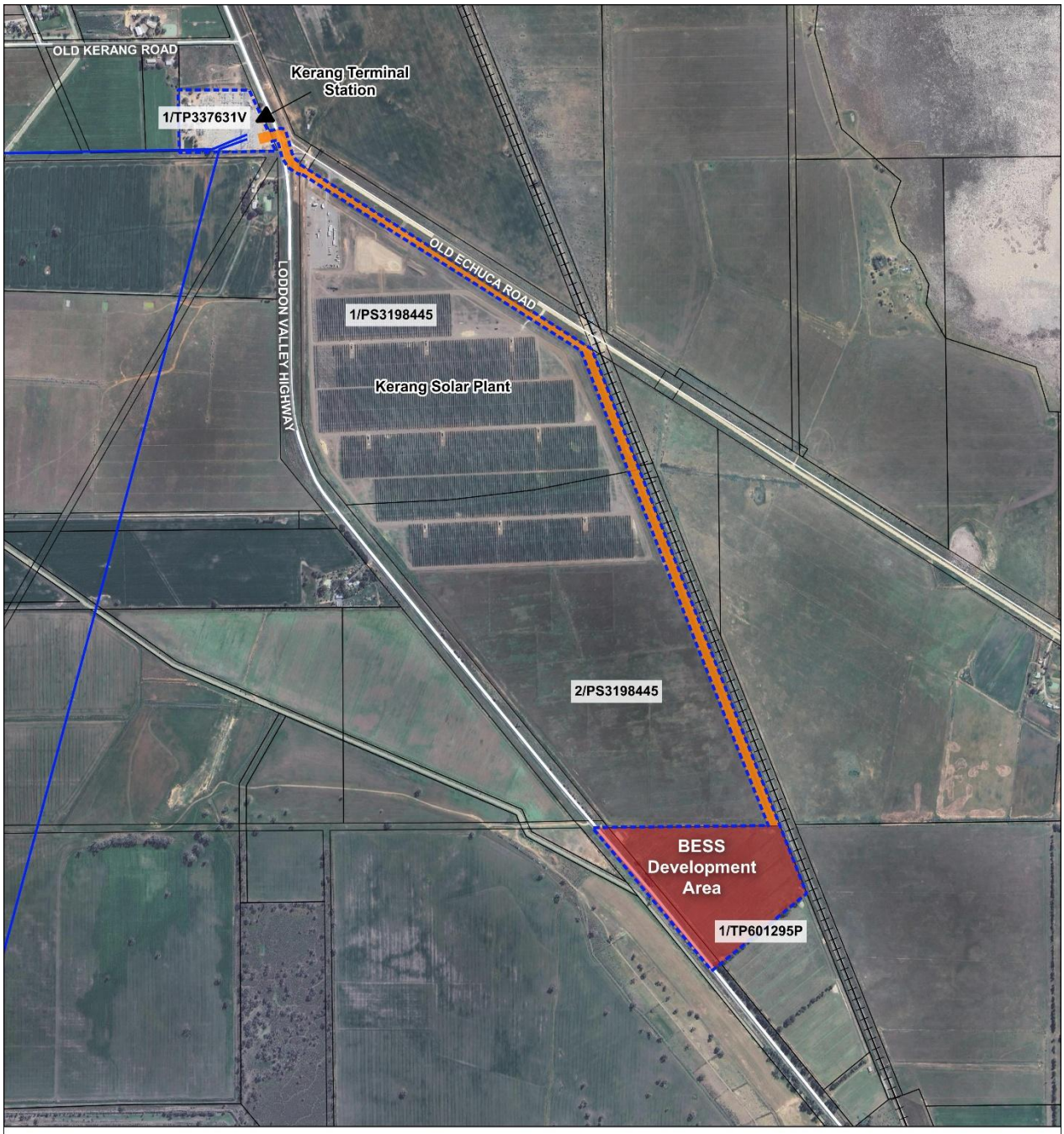
The Proponent is seeking to use and develop an area of surplus agricultural grazing land in Tragowel for the purpose of a BESS. The Proposal is located within the Gannawarra Shire Council Local Government Area, a part of the Loddon Mallee Region of Victoria.

The Proposal is predominantly located at Loddon Valley Highway, Tragowel (no street address). It is comprised of two areas:

- BESS Development Area is the land within the Project Site where the BESS, access points, associated infrastructure and landscape planting are located, and
- Transmission Development Area, being the land used for the transmission cable and easement, running from the north-east corner of the BESS Development Area into the Kerang Terminal Station.

These Development Areas are together referred to as the 'Project Site' (see Figure 1).

The Proposal would involve the construction, operation and decommissioning of a utility-scale BESS with a nominal capacity of up to 200MW/800MWh, providing approximately four hours of energy storage. The development footprint within the Project Site will be approximately 13.8 Ha, incorporating seven Ha for the BESS Development Area (within a 12.3 Ha landholding) and 6.8 Ha for the Transmission Development Area. The Proposal will involve a direct underground transmission connection to the existing nearby 220/66/22kV Kerang Terminal Station to the north-west of the BESS Development Area.



Project Site and Boundaries Plan

0 250 500 m

2405 - Tragowel BESS

LEGEND

Version: 1.0

Date: 16/12/2025

Proposal
- Project Site
- BESS Development Area
- Transmission Development Area

Existing Features
- Roads
- Rail line
- 220 kV Transmission line
- Parcels

Disclaimer: This plan is preliminary and subject to detailed studies and approval.

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Figure 1 - Project Site Context Plan

1.2 About the Proponent

The Proponent is Tragowel BESS Pty Ltd as trustee for Tragowel BESS Trust, which is a company established by Potentia Energy. On behalf of the Proponent, the development of the Proposal is being managed by Green Switch Australia and Potentia Energy, two experienced renewable energy and storage project developers.

1.2.1 Green Switch Australia

Green Switch Australia (Green Switch) is a developer of utility-scale solar and storage projects, overseeing several solar farms in NSW, VIC, and ACT. The Green Switch team has been operating internationally in the renewable energy sector for over 20 years, with a proven success in developing, building, owning, and operating their renewable energy projects. The leadership of Green Switch has delivered over 2.0 GW of solar renewables since 2015.

Green Switch is looking to diversify its operations further into the BESS realm, and the Tragowel BESS, located amongst a cluster of current and developing renewable energy projects in proximity to the Kerang Terminal Station, will be its largest BESS project to date. Green Switch champion long-lasting community relations with a strong focus on landowner relationships.

1.2.2 Potentia Energy

Potentia Energy is a leading Australian renewable energy developer and asset owner, dedicated to supporting the nation's transition to clean energy. With a growing portfolio of utility-scale wind, solar, and battery storage projects, including local projects Cohuna Solar Farm and Girgarre Solar Farm.

Potentia Energy is committed to working respectfully and collaboratively with communities, landholders, and Traditional Owners throughout every stage of project development. Its approach to community engagement is guided by the "Creating Shared Value" philosophy, which recognises that sustainable business success is intrinsically linked to delivering positive economic and social outcomes for local communities.

By proactively engaging with stakeholders and implementing tailored benefit-sharing initiatives, Potentia Energy aims to align project development with local priorities—creating lasting value for both communities and the business.

Potentia Energy is a proud signatory to the Clean Energy Council's Best Practice Charter, reflecting its commitment to transparency, inclusivity, cultural respect, and environmental stewardship. This commitment underpins its dedication to responsible project development and long-term partnership with communities and Traditional Custodians.

1.3 Site context

1.3.1 Overview

The Project Site is located on rural agricultural land in Tragowel. The BESS Development Area is located at Loddon Valley Highway, Tragowel and is part of a larger 23 Ha agricultural land holding that has been split into four separate paddocks. The Proposal will utilise the largest of the paddocks. The Proposal is located approximately 7 kilometres south of Kerang and 60km south-east of Swan Hill. The Project Site is in the Gannawarra Shire Council Local Government Area (LGA) and is part of the broader Loddon Mallee Region of north-western Victoria.

The Project Site is zoned Farming Zone (FZ) under the Gannawarra Planning Scheme and is immediately adjacent to the Kerang Solar Plant currently under development to the north, agricultural grazing land to the south, and the Swan Hill railway line to the east.

The Project Site was selected due to its proximity to several solar farm projects in various stages of development and the Kerang Terminal Station (see Figure 5). The closest dwelling is located approximately 860m east of the BESS Development Area and has therefore been considered in relation to potential noise,

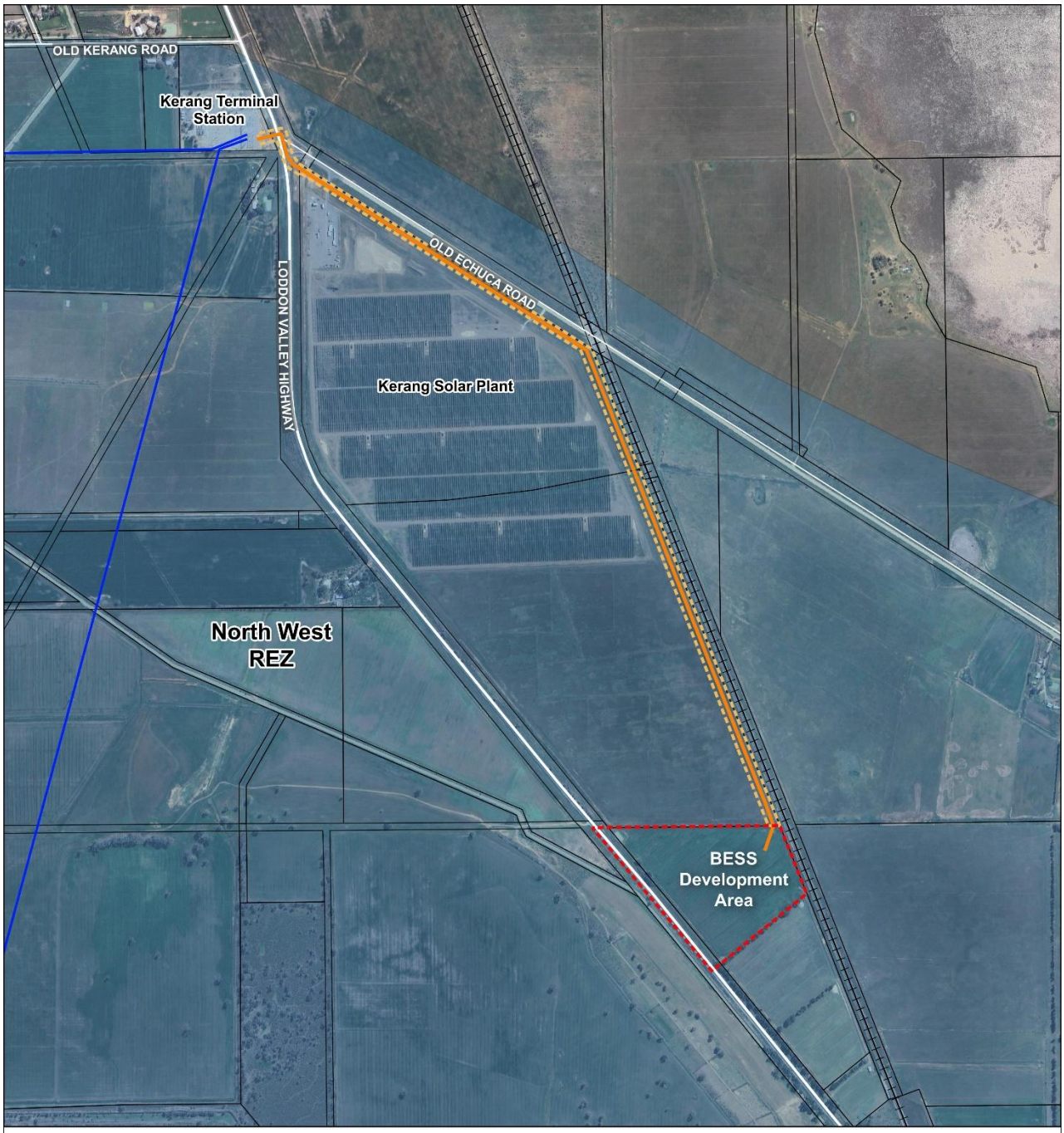
visual amenity and community sentiment concerns. However, the BESS Development Area benefits from existing vegetation along the southern boundary and is advantageously located south of Kerang Solar Plant, effectively screening the BESS from dwellings in the north and south.

1.3.2 North West Renewable Energy Zone

The Project Site is located within the proposed North West Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) (see Figure 2). The North West REZ is one of six proposed REZ under the 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan (VTP) (see Figure 3). The North West REZ (see Figure 4) is located between Kerang and Swan Hill and is comprised of parts of the Swan Hill, Gannawarra, Loddon and Buloke LGAs.

The development of REZs across the state is a key initiative in Victoria's energy transformation. REZs are areas which have been identified as optimal locations to host abundant renewable energy resources, such as solar, wind and battery infrastructure, the full development of which can ensure the timely and cost-effective delivery of secure and clean energy for Victoria.

VicGrid is the responsible entity for planning and delivering the North West REZ.



Renewable Energy Zones Plan

0 250 500 m

2405 - Tragowel BESS

LEGEND

Proposal
- BESS Development Area
- Transmission Development Area
- Underground transmission line

Existing Features
- Roads
- Rail line
- 220 kV Transmission line
- Parcels

VTP Renewable Energy Zones
- North West REZ

Version: 1.0

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Figure 2 - Renewable Energy Zones Plan

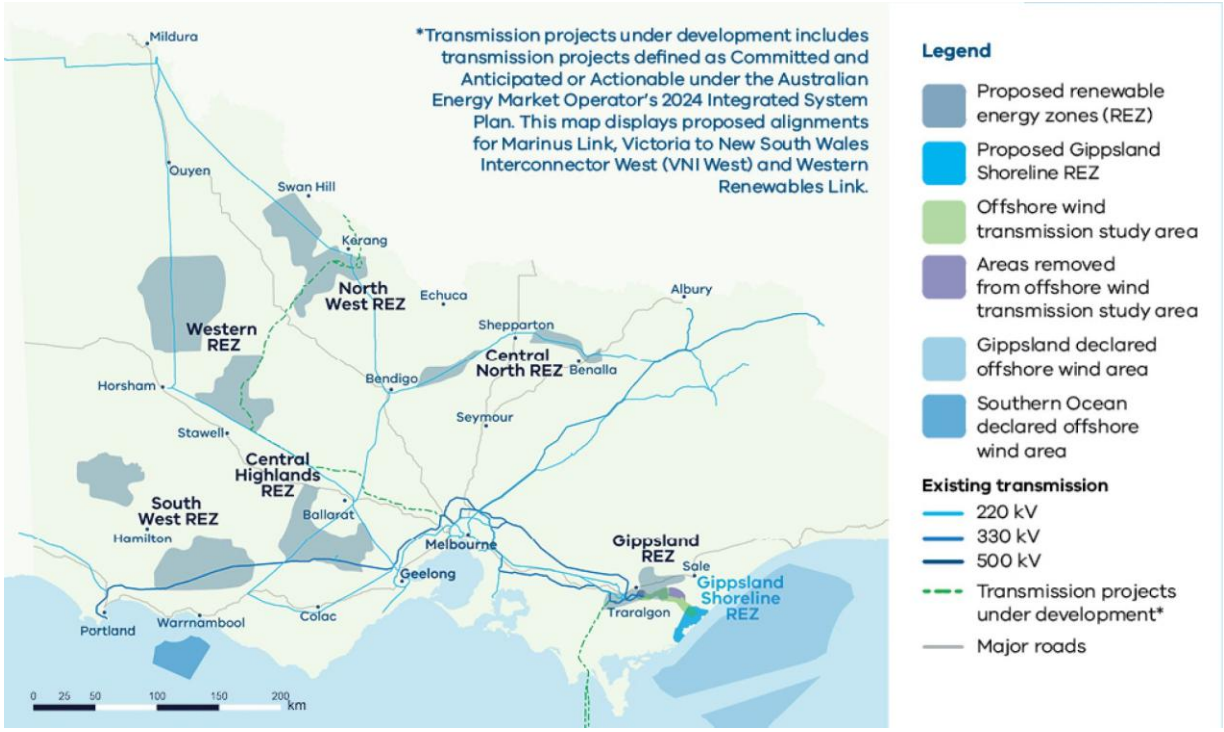


Figure 3 - Victorian Renewable Energy Zones (Source: VicGrid)

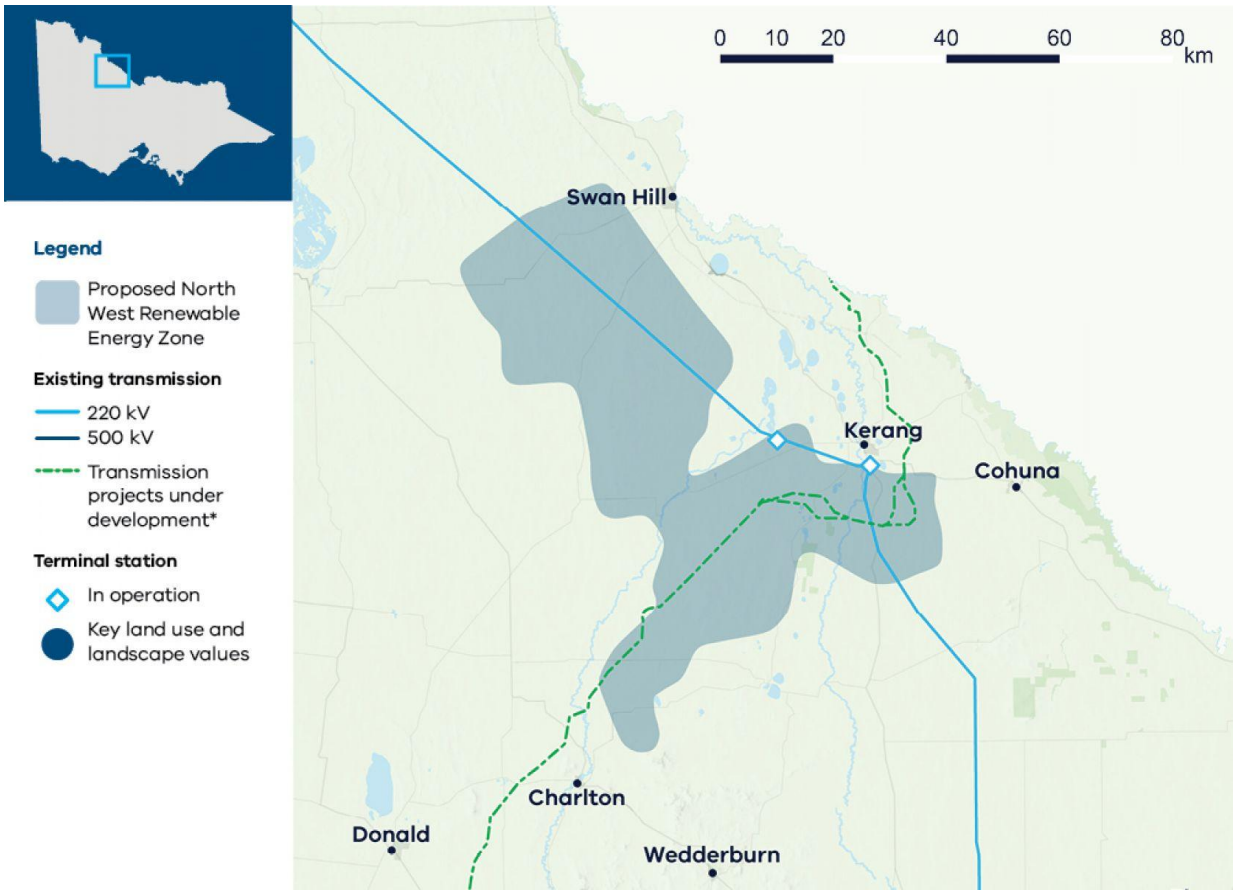


Figure 4 - North West Renewable Energy Zone (Source: VicGrid)

1.4 Existing Energy and Transmission Infrastructure

The Project Site is strategically located within the proposed North West Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). There are a number of renewable energy developments in close proximity to the Proposal, which plans to connect into the Kerang Terminal Station that is located 2.4 km north-west of the BESS Development Area.

These are detailed in Table 1 and include the consultation efforts of the associated developers in engaging and supporting the Kerang/Tragowel community.

Table 1 - Renewable energy & major projects in the area

Project	Key information
Kerang Solar Plant **Distance to Proposal:** Adjacent (north) **Status:** Operational **Developer:** British Solar Renewables (BSR) Energy	The Kerang Solar Plant is an approximately 30 MW solar energy facility connected to the Kerang Terminal Station. The plant is operated by BSR Energy. The land is currently owned by a Green Switch's sister company, Green Switch Australia No 21. The Kerang Solar Plant reached full output in mid-June 2025 and officially opened in October 2025.
Kerang Solar and BESS Hybrid **Distance to Proposal:** Adjacent (east) and 2km north-west **Status:** Approved **Developer:** Australian Clean Energy (ACE) Power	Kerang Solar and BESS Hybrid comprises two closely located sites in southern Kerang, both near the Proposal. Combined, the ACE Power project will provide 161 MW of solar energy and a BESS of 55 MW/110 MWh. The Kerang Solar and BESS Hybrid was approved by Gannawarra Council in 2012. Approval for grid connection was received from AEMO in late 2025. Construction is expected to commence in late 2025. There is little evidence of community consultation other than a mention on the project page presented by ACE Power. It is possible that CleanGen conducted consultation for the project while it was under their jurisdiction. There is no mention of local employment or supply.
Kerang BESS **Distance to Proposal:** 2km **Status:** Approved **Developer:** ACE Power	Within their Kerang Solar and BESS Hybrid project (see above), ACE Power also received approval from the Gannawarra Shire Council in 2012 for the construction of a 103 MW/206 MWh BESS within the northern site. Approval for grid connection was received from AEMO in late 2023. Construction is predicted to start in late 2025.
Kerang (Acciona) Solar Farm **Distance to Proposal:** 4.5km **Status:** Cancelled **Developer:** Acciona	The Kerang (Acciona) Solar Farm is a proposed 40 MW solar energy facility at 62 Collins Road, Kerang. The project received development approval from the Gannawarra Shire Council in 2017. The 100ha site was expected to be developed in late-2018. The Proponent understands that permit has since lapsed and has been cancelled. At the time, Acciona had committed to the provision of a community Shared Benefits Program as well as inviting local employment and supply opportunities.

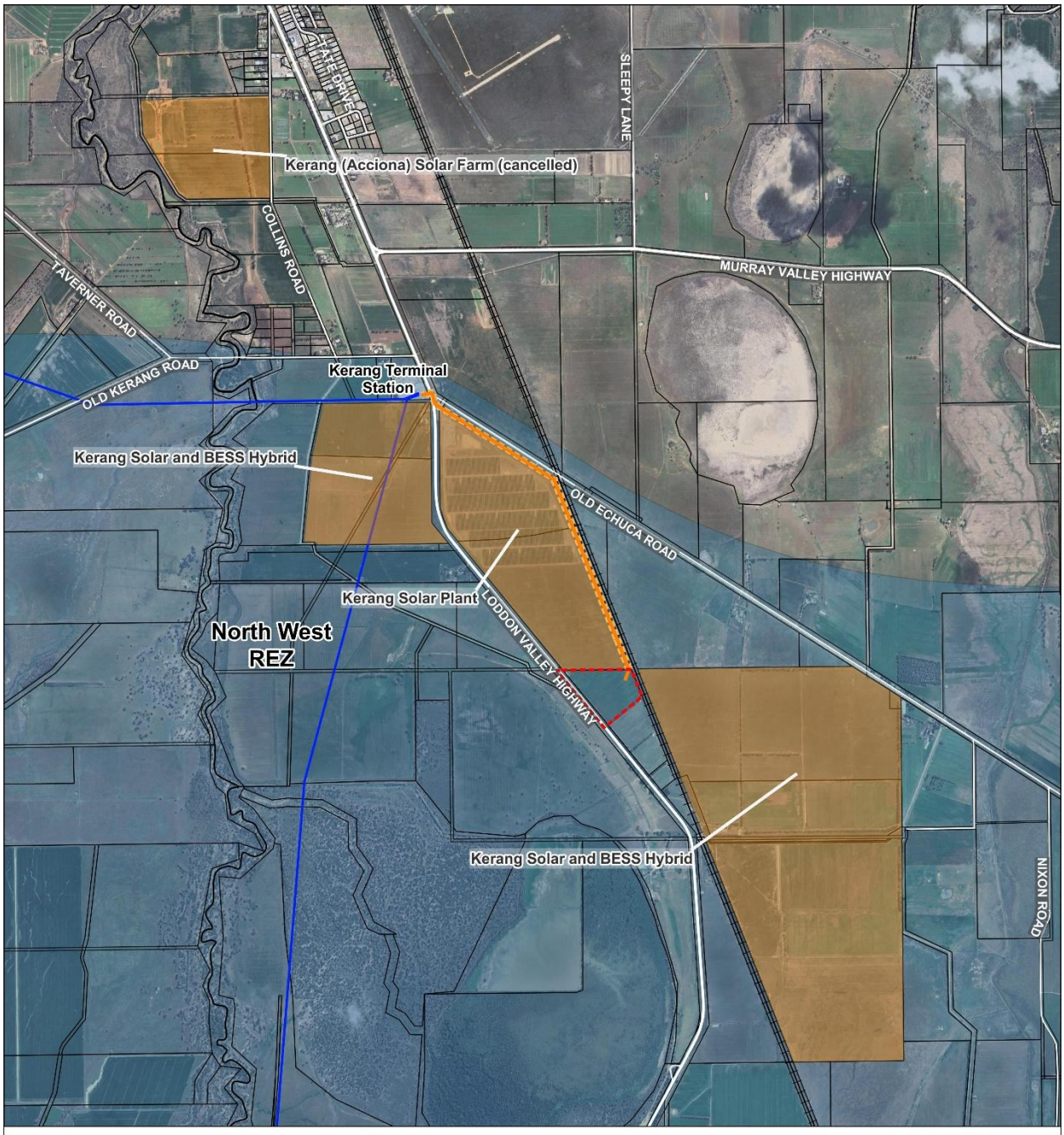


Figure 5 – Renewable Energy Context Plan

2. Guiding principles and objectives

Community and stakeholder engagement is fundamental to delivering positive and effective outcomes for both energy proposals and the local community. Proactive, meaningful and inclusive engagement is essential to building strong relationships with communities and is therefore critical to the success of the renewable energy transition more broadly.

This section outlines the guiding principles and objectives used across all phases of the Proposal, from early planning through to construction and decommissioning.

2.1 Engagement principles

The following nine principles of engagement have been developed based on Cogency's experience through the planning space, and integrate the principles as outlined by the Clean Energy Council as part of the Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Projects. These principles have and would define engagement on the Proposal during all phases, including design, planning, construction, operation and decommissioning.

Mutual benefit and respect

Deliver shared outcomes of mutual benefit in an equitable way for the local host community, landowners, and developer. Provide a space for genuine dialogue where people can participate in respectful discussions that help to identify mutually agreeable solutions. Proactive, well-planned, and regular engagement is effective in achieving mutual understanding and openness.

Relationship-building

Build genuine local relationships, networks and links to key local leaders or organisations, by enabling many avenues for interaction and involvement, and allowing key stakeholders to become project advocates and feedback loops. Help the local community to identify positively with the project and integrate it into their sense of community and place.

Authenticity

Have a strong, authentic, and local presence in the local community by providing dedicated staff who are reliably and readily available as the community's trusted 'translator' of technical knowledge, to explain information to the community and stakeholders in a simple yet effective way and to address any misinformation

Ongoing engagement

Provide diverse and ongoing opportunities for engagement throughout the lifecycle of the project. Monitor and evaluate the community engagement, benefit sharing and social impact management programs to identify areas for improvement and/or modification.

Responsiveness

Listen and respond to community needs and concerns in a comprehensive and timely manner. Maintain a record of the key issues raised and/or complaints received to date and how they were resolved.

Social impact

Understand, minimise, and offset the risk of negative social impacts across a project's lifecycle by taking into consideration the many social factors, and using appropriate social analysis tools and integrating them, alongside the technical and economic factors, into the proposed development.

Inclusiveness

Identify a wide range of different stakeholders across the local and regional communities and ensure that the channels and methods of engagement are tailored to the needs of each stakeholder group so that they are engaged with appropriately and effectively.

Transparency, trust, and accountability

Commit to an ongoing process of monitoring, evaluating, and disclosing information about the project's activities and impacts. Adhere to promises and commitments, to help develop legitimacy and credibility – and ultimately trust – within the community. Provide transparency about the process and how decisions are made.

Fairness

Ensure that consultation is two-way and that opportunities exist for local community members and other stakeholders to participate, with access to balanced information, and having their ideas justly considered, responded to, and incorporated where possible.

Figure 6 – Principles of Engagement

2.2 First Nations engagement

Beyond the statutory requirements of the Proposal, the Proponent is committed to ensuring sensitive and respectful engagement with the First Nations communities. The Proponent's approach to engagement with Traditional Custodians is based on principles adopted from Leading Practice Principles: First Nations and Renewable Energy Projects (2024), the CEC's Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Projects (2018) (Appendix A), and First Nations Clean Energy Network's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Best Practice Principles for Clean Energy Projects (2022).

The Proposal seeks to:

- Engage in a respectful and inclusive manner
- Prioritise clear, accessible, timely and accurate information about the Proposal
- Protect and preserve Country, cultural heritage and the environment
- Ensure economic and social benefits are shared
- Ensure and encourage cultural competency
- Implement feedback, monitor progress and report back.

2.3 Commitment to engagement

The Proponent is committed to an open and transparent community and stakeholder engagement process. This includes ensuring proactive and early engagement, developing a benefit sharing model tailored to the local community and site context, and seeking to create a positive long-term legacy in the region. Furthermore, The Proponent commits to treat members of the local community and other stakeholders fairly, courteously and in a consistent and ethical manner.

The engagement approach for the Proposal has been guided by the Engagement Institute (formerly known as IAP2) Core Values and the Public Participation Spectrum. The spectrum is founded on the premise that different stakeholders will have varied levels of involvement in decision-making.

For the purposes of the Proposal, the Proponent commits to **'inform', 'consult' and 'involve'** the appropriate stakeholders through an effective engagement process based on the objectives and promises outlined in the spectrum in Figure 7.

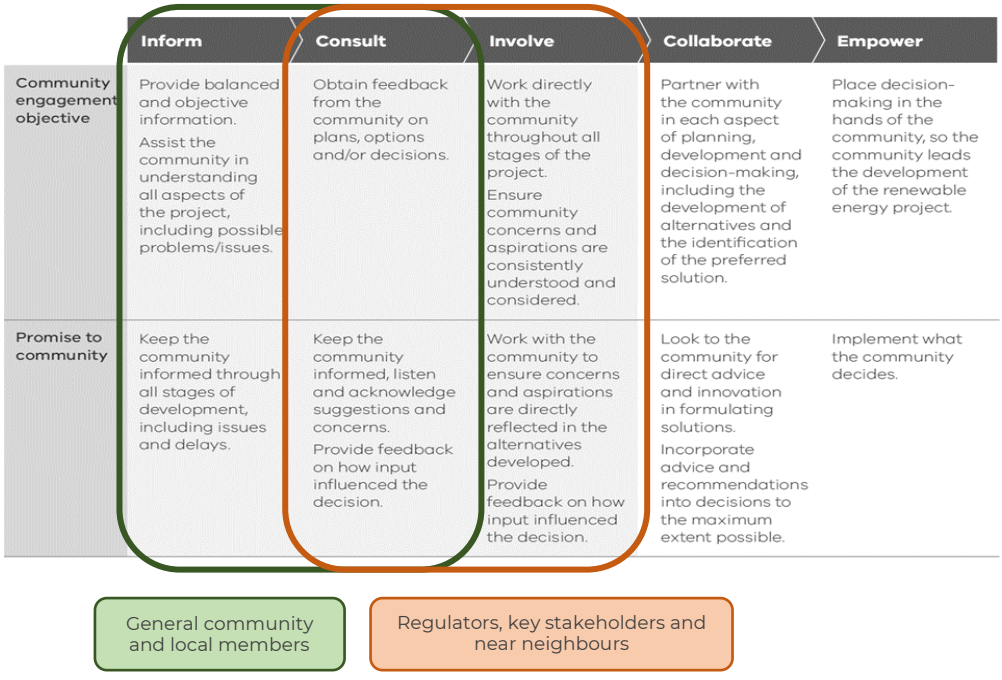


Figure 7 – Engagement commitment in relation to the Public Participation Spectrum

2.4 Engagement objectives

The Proponent acknowledges that active and early engagement with the community and other relevant stakeholders is a crucial part of the planning process. It helps to foster greater understanding of and support for the Proposal, and to improve the design and development outcomes through the exchange of knowledge and information.

The Proponent is committed to delivering best practice engagement, with the overarching objective of ensuring that the identified community and stakeholder groups are proactively and meaningfully informed, consulted and involved and that the benefits of the Proposal are genuinely felt by the local community.

The communication and stakeholder engagement objectives for the Proposal are to:

- Build strong connections with the host landowner, neighbours, local industry and the Tragowel community to gather support for the Proposal during the planning process.
- Promote the Proposal's benefits by establishing clear and consistent messaging to manage misinformation about the Proposal, and by ensuring people can access information, provide feedback, and stay informed.
- Develop a thorough understanding of the local aspirations and concerns that relate to the Proposal and work with them to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.
- Deliver a robust engagement program that informs, consults, and involves stakeholders (as appropriate) throughout the Proposal's lifecycle, and sets clear expectations, to build trust in the processes and understanding of the technology.
- Keep an up-to-date record providing evidence of all engagement activities undertaken throughout the process and to establish a comprehensive database of stakeholders for the life of the Proposal.

The objectives above are being met through the implementation of the Proposal's CSEP and EAP, defined by the Proposal's engagement principles.

3. Community profile

Project acceptance and support is enhanced by tailoring engagement strategies to the community's unique characteristics and concerns. This section outlines and analyses the Tragowel and Kerang communities to support the project team in understanding local values and priorities. Figure 9 shows the Community Context Plan for the area.

3.1 Traditional Custodians

The Traditional Custodians of Tragowel are the Barapa Barapa, Yorta Yorta and Wamba Wamba people. The Barapa Barapa, Yorta Yorta and Wamba Wamba people come from a unique area of forest-wetlands that are located in what is now known as the central Murray Goulburn region in north-east Victoria and southern NSW.

There is no formal Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for the Project Site. Nearby RAPs include Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation and Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation. Other Traditional Custodian groups with an interest in the region include Barapa Country Aboriginal Corporation, Wiran Aboriginal Corporation and Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation. Figure 8 highlights the RAP boundaries in Victoria. On the western boundary of the Proposal, there is an adjacent area of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity which will be a key subject of consultation with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria.

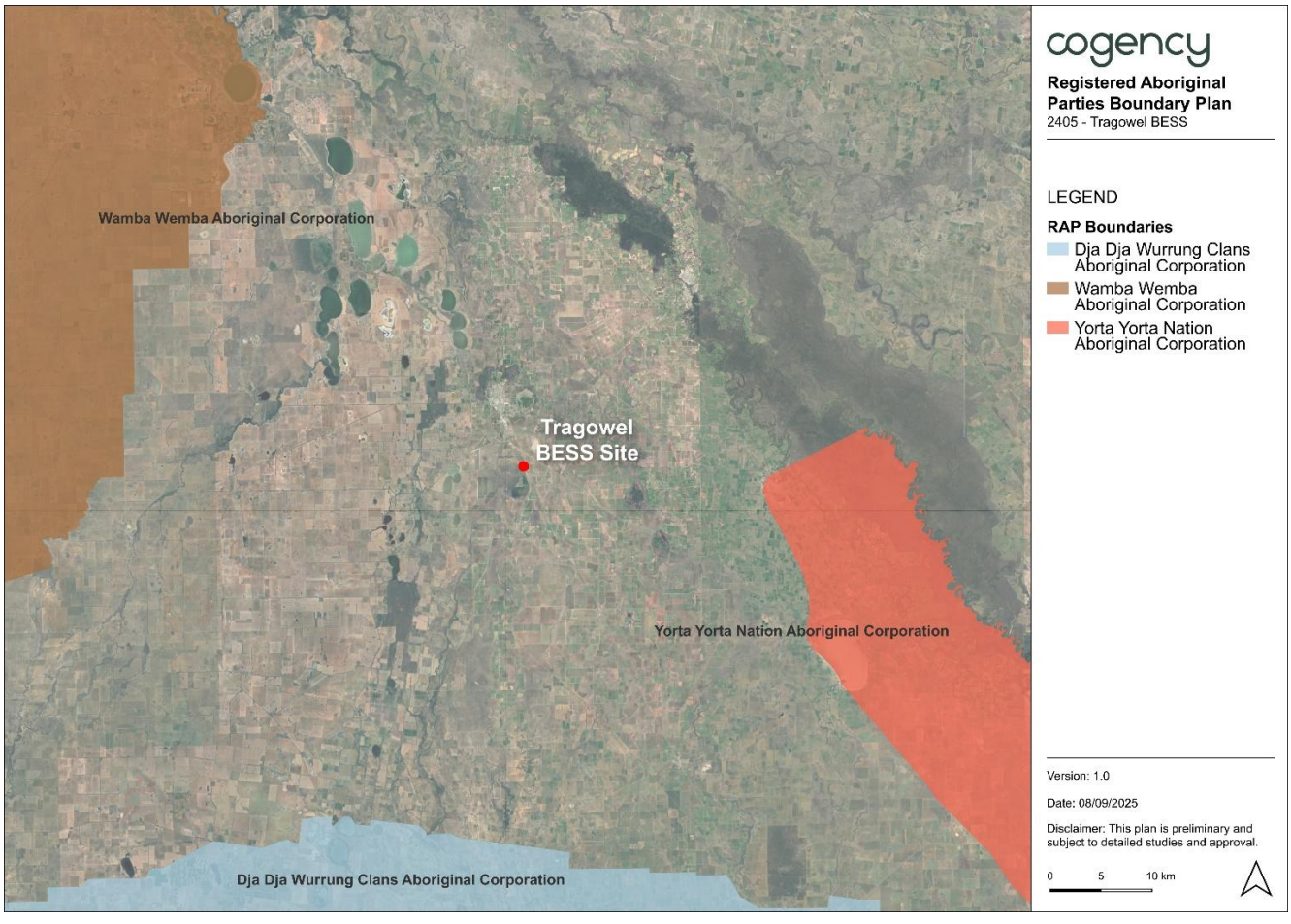


Figure 8 - RAP Boundary Plan

3.2 Community context

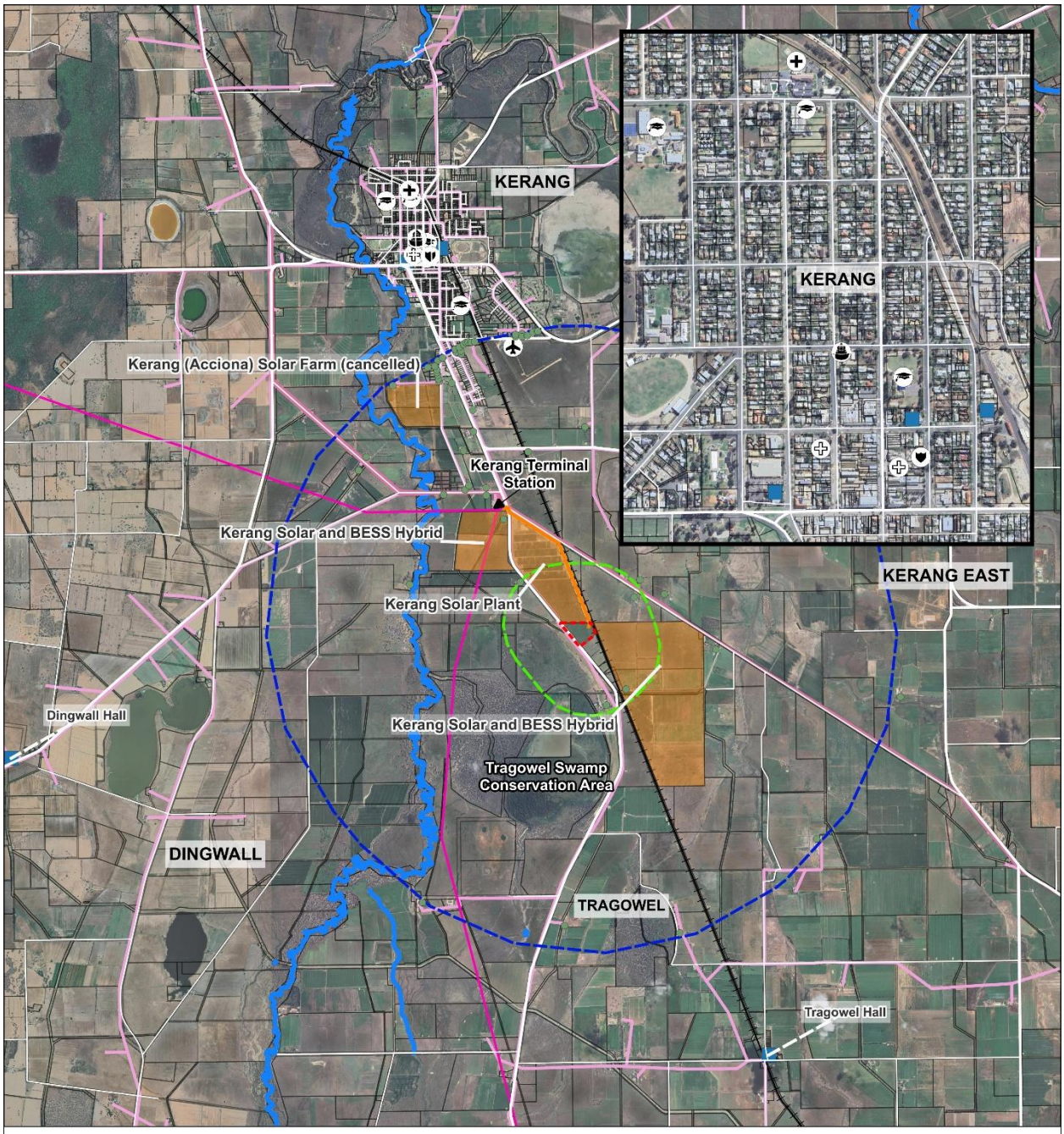
The Project Site is addressed within the Tragowel locality, which is located 267 km north-west of metropolitan Melbourne and 60 km south-east of Swan Hill. Tragowel is historically a farming-irrigation area with low population and settlement. Seven km to the north of the Proposal is the larger Kerang township. Kerang is home to nearly 4000 people as of 2021 and is increasingly well-known for the number of solar projects within the area. The three closest properties to the Proposal are located to the north of the Project Site and therefore fall within the Kerang locality (see Figure 9).

The Project Site is located in the proposed North West Renewable Energy Zone (REZ), one of six proposed REZs under the 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan (VTP). The REZ recognises the opportunity for renewable energy to contribute to long-term social and economic outcomes for the local area and region, and the presence of transmission lines.

Access to the Proposal and Tragowel more broadly is facilitated by the well-connected Loddon Valley Highway, which continues into Kerang to the north and further to Bendigo to the south.

Both Tragowel and Kerang are located within the Gannawarra Shire, a rural region in the north-west of Victoria, bordered to the east by the Murray River and the New South Wales – Victoria border. Characterised by hyper-low density regional living, most localities similar to Tragowel record populations of approximately 100. Kerang is one of the three significant settlements within the township, alongside Cohuna and Koondrook. The main industry of Gannawarra is agricultural production.

The Tragowel/Kerang area has experienced a relative boom in relation to renewable energy ever since the opening in 2019 of the Gannawarra Energy Storage System, being the then-largest battery (25 MW / 50 MWh) and 500 MW solar farm located west of Kerang. The community of Kerang and Gannawarra Shire has benefited from increased business and tourism in the area due to the various renewable projects in and around the municipality. Gannawarra Shire Council has approved numerous solar and BESS projects within the region.



Project Site Context Plan

0 1.5 3 km

2405 - Tragowel BESS

LEGEND

Proposal
- BESS Development Area
- Transmission Development Area
- Underground transmission line

BESS Development Area Buffers
- 1km
- 5km

Existing Features
- Roads
- Rail line
- Dwellings
- Nearby renewable energy projects
- 22 kV Transmission line
- 66 kV Transmission line
- 220 kV Transmission line
- Loddon River
- Parcels

Community Infrastructure
- Airport
- Fire
- Police
- Hospitals
- Medical Centres
- Schools
- Community Halls

Version: 1.0

Date: 16/12/2025

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Figure 9 - Community Context Plan

3.3 Demographic analysis

Table 2 provides a high-level summary of the demographics of Tragowel, identifying aspects of the local community that should be considered when seeking to engage with them on this Project. As Kerang is the main town nearby, please see Appendix B for its demographic analysis, which may help to inform the community benefit sharing as the project progresses.

Table 2 – Tragowel demographic analysis

Category	Key statistics
Population and forecasting	▪ The population of the Gannawarra LGA as of the 2021 Census is 10,683 and Tragowel has a population of 83 people. Since the previous Census in 2016, the population of Tragowel has fallen by 21 residents. ▪ The median age of residents in Tragowel is 48 which is higher than the Victorian state average of 38. ▪ As of the 2021 census, the largest age group is in Tragowel is the 55-64-year-old group with a total of 18 individuals, the second largest age group is the 25-34-year-old group with a total of 15 individuals. ▪ The two most common long-term health conditions in Gannawarra are Arthritis with a total count of 1,551 persons and Asthma with a total count of 1,168 persons.
Ethnicity, migration and languages	▪ In Tragowel as of 2021, 68% of people were born in Australia, compared with 65% in Victoria. ▪ Between 2016 and 2021, the number of people in Tragowel born overseas increased by 4 people. ▪ The only ancestries recorded in Tragowel as of 2021 are Australian and English. ▪ 100% of people spoke English only in comparison to the Victorian state average of 67%, with no households speaking a non-English first language. ▪ 0% of the population identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, compared with 1% in Victoria. ▪ There are no languages, other than English, used at home recorded in Tragowel as of 2021. ▪ As of the 2021 census the largest religious group is Christianity (41%), while 31% of people had no religion and 17% marked as unstated.
Education and employment	▪ 37 people in 2021 were employed, of which 76% work full-time and 24% part-time, higher than the state average of full-time employment being 56% as of the 2021 census. ▪ As of the 2021 census, no residents were currently enrolled in any form of vocational or university education. ▪ The most common highest non-school qualification attained in Tragowel is a Certificate Level (13 people). ▪ As of 2021, 35% of people aged 15 years and over are not in the labour force or have not declared their labour force status. ▪ An analysis of the jobs held by the resident population shows the only three declared industries of employment are Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (21 people), Manufacturing (7 people), and Health Care and Social Assistance (5 people). ▪ The highest count occupations were managers with 28 residents, followed by labourers with 6 residents.
Households, dwellings and home tenure	▪ As of 2021, in Gannawarra there was a total of 35,620 private dwellings averaging 2.3 people per household, and in Tragowel a total of 36 private dwellings averaging 2 people per household. ▪ Households were comprised of 18 (50%) family households, and 10 (28%) single person households. 8 households (22%) were recorded as vacant. ▪ In 2021, most dwellings had either two or three bedrooms. ▪ In 2016, 7 households (19.4%) did not have an internet connection at the dwelling.
Income and unpaid work	▪ The median weekly household income of Tragowel is $1,437 as of 2021, compared to $1,565 in Victoria. ▪ 41 individuals, or 55% of the population did unpaid domestic work a week before Census Night. ▪ 20% of the population over 15 years of age (15 people) reported doing voluntary work through an organisation or group over the past 12 months. ▪ 6 carers were providing unpaid assistance to a person with a disability, long term illness or old age in 2021. This represents 8% of the population aged over 15 years old. ▪ 17 people (23% of people aged 15+) provided unpaid care to children in 2021.

Source: ABS Tragowel, Census 2016 and 2021. https://www.abs.gov.au/census/

3.4 School and education services

There are no educational facilities located within Tragowel. The nearest government primary schools are in Kerang (see Figure 9) and Tragowel's residents are zoned for Kerang South Primary School. Similarly, the closest government secondary school is located in Kerang (Kerang Technical High School). There is also an independent school located in Kerang, Kerang Christian College, which offers P-12 education.

4. Key stakeholders

To engage appropriately and effectively with the local community, critical stakeholders and stakeholder groups who may be affected by and/or have an interest in the Proposal must be identified.

Stakeholders are defined as people, groups, organisations, and communities that may be directly or indirectly impacted by the Proposal, hold a strong interest or have an influence on the Proposal and its outcomes. The stakeholders detailed in this section will likely evolve over time and comprise locally affected individuals, the organisations that represent them in a formal or informal capacity, national or state government authorities, political representatives, and Traditional Custodians or their formal representatives.

It is important to note that as the Proposal progresses, the nature of relevant stakeholders may change. For this reason, it is key that stakeholder identification and analysis are regularly reviewed and updated throughout the Proposal's phases.

Table 3 provides a list of the stakeholders to engage with outcomes of the Proposal. This list will be updated as the Proposal progresses.

4.1 Stakeholder classification

Prior to identifying and analysing stakeholders pertinent to the Proposal, it is critical to define individual stakeholder categories at Proposal inception.

For the purposes of this Report the following definitions have been devised:

- **Adjacent neighbour –** neighbour bordering the Project Site, within a 1 km radius of the BESS Development Area
- **Near neighbour –** neighbour beyond adjacent neighbour, between 1 km and 2.5 km radius of the BESS Development Area
- **Surrounding community** – host community, specifically landowners within 2.5 km and 5 km from the BESS Development Area.

4.2 Stakeholder identification and analysis

Table 3 – Stakeholder identification

Stakeholder identification		
Group	**Sub-section**	**Description**
Host landowner		Landowner of the BESS Development Area.
Neighbours	Adjacent (<1km)	Landowners within 1 km of the BESS Development Area.
	Near (1km - 2.5km)	Landowners between 1 km and 2.5 km from the BESS Development Area.
	Far (2.5-6km)	Landowners between 2.5 km and 5 km from the BESS Development Area.
Local businesses	Near (<6km)	Businesses up to 6 km from the BESS Development Area (inc. Kerang town).
	Far (6-10km)	Businesses between 6 km and 10 km from the BESS Development Area.
	Chambers of Commerce and Industry	Business Kerang Kerang Traders Inc
Traditional Owners	Aboriginal Affairs Victoria	There is no RAP for Tragowel.
	RAP	Nearby RAPs - Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation and Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation. Other Traditional Custodian groups with an interest in the region - Barapa Country Aboriginal Corporation, Wiran Aboriginal Corporation and Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation.

Stakeholder identification		
Group	**Sub-section**	**Description**
	First Peoples State Relations	Responsible for the Victorian Government's work in the areas of cultural rights, self-determination, treaty and truth telling.
Wider communities	Nearby townships	Community beyond 5 km from the Proposal including towns of Kerang, Cohuna, and Koondrook.
	Towns within Council Area	Other townships within Gannawarra Shire.
Print media	Local	Local publications and newsletters, including Gannawarra Times, Country News, North West Farmer, The Guardian (Swan Hill), Riverine Herald, Dairy News.
	State	VIC publications such as The Age, The Herald Sun.
	National	National publications such as the Australian Financial Review, The Australian, Renew Economy and The Weekly Times.
Other media	Local	Local TV and Radio including ACE Radio Swan Hill, Mixx FM 98.7 FM, ABC Radio Mildura-Swan Hill and Vision Christian Radio 88.0 FM.
	State	State TV and Radio including ABC Radio Melbourne, Triple M, Gold FM, and Mixx FM amongst others.
	National	National TV and Radio, including ABC National, 7News, 9News, Sky News, SBS.
Social media	Facebook	▪ Tragowel Community Facebook group. ▪ Kerang & District Community Page Facebook group. ▪ Kerang Notice Board Facebook group. ▪ Cohuna area noticeboard Facebook group.
Federal Government	Relevant Ministers	▪ Minister for Climate Change and Energy, the Hon Chris Bowen MP. ▪ Minster for Environment and Water, the Hon Murray Watt MP. ▪ Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon. Catherine King MP. ▪ Minister for Industry and Science, the Hon Tim Ayres MP. ▪ Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Senator, the Hon. Julie Collins MP.
	Local	▪ Lower House – Dr Anne Webster MP (Nationals) – Member for Mallee ▪ Upper House – All 12 senators in VIC including Leader of the Nationals in the Senate the Hon Bridget McKenzie
	Department Officers	▪ Staff in government agencies such as Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)
	Federal Agencies	▪ John Sheldon, Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner ▪ Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) ▪ Regional Development Australia (RDA)
State Government	Relevant Ministers	▪ Minister for Planning – Hon. Sonya Kilkenny ▪ Minister for Climate Action, Energy and Resources, and the State Electricity Commission – Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio ▪ Minister for Agriculture – Hon. Ros Spence ▪ Minister for Environment – Hon. Steve Dimopoulos ▪ Premier – Hon. Jacinta Allen
	Local	▪ Legislative Assembly (Lower House), Member for Murray Plains – Peter Walsh (Nationals) ▪ Legislative Council (Upper House) – All 5 Members of the Legislative Council (MLC) for Eastern Victoria: Gaelle Broad, Wendy Lovell, Georgie Purcell, Jaclyn Symes, Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell.
	State Agencies	▪ Victorian Department of Transport and Planning ▪ Planning Panels Victoria ▪ DEECCA ▪ Victorian Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) ▪ Victorian Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions ▪ Invest Victoria
Gannawarra Shire Council	Relevant Councillors	Mayor – Garner Smith Deputy Mayor – Ross Stanton

Stakeholder identification		
Group	**Sub-section**	**Description**
		Councillors
	Local	CEO – Geoff Rollinson Director Infrastructure – Wade Williams Director Corporate Services – Amanda Wilson Council Planning & Economic Development Team Director Community Wellbeing – Paul Fernee
Emergency services		Country Fire Authority (CFA) Kerang Fire Brigade Macorna Rural Fire Brigade Appin South Rural Fire Brigade State Emergency Services (SES)
Water authority		North Central Catchment Management Authority Lower Murray Water Goulburn-Murray Water
NGO and Local community organisations	Local committees	Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Cohuna and District Progress Association Kerang Progress Association Kerang Neighbourhood House Kerang & District Agricultural Society
Community action groups	Broad opponent groups	National Rational Energy Network Climate And Energy Realists
	Broad supporting groups	ADAPT Loddon Mallee
Transport and road authorities		DTP – Transport Division / VicRoads
Transmission line operator		AusNet

5. Engagement phases and activities

An Engagement Action Plan (EAP) for the Tragowel BESS engagement process was developed to encompass the entire Proposal lifecycle. The EAP was specifically tailored to the local and regional context of Tragowel and Kerang, ensuring relevance and effectiveness. Each engagement phase was designed to ensure the project team can deliver early, proactive, and meaningful engagement with neighbours, the local community, and other stakeholders. It has been developed with the intention of allowing sufficient time for interested parties to be informed and involved, and for the project team to address any concerns.

During all phases of the Proposal, the Proponent has and continues to commit to informing, consulting, and involving the appropriate stakeholders through an effective engagement process based on the objectives and principles of community engagement best practices and guidelines.

Five core engagement phases were identified, with the primary objective being **to ensure early, proactive, and meaningful engagement** with key stakeholders and the local community. Throughout all phases, the Proponent and the project team have, and would continue to ensure that clear information is communicated regarding the Proposal, its potential impacts, and the mitigation measures proposed to manage them. By actively listening to stakeholders and addressing their concerns, the Proponent aims to enhance the benefits and minimise the impacts on neighbours, the community, and the local environment.

- **Phase 1**: Pre-application early engagement *(Completed)* – Q2 2024 to Q2 2025
- **Phase 2a:** Pre-lodgement engagement (Planning application preparation) *(Completed)* – Q2 2025 to Q4 2025
- **Phase 2b:** Planning application public exhibition *(To be carried out) – Q1 2026 to Q2 – 2026*
- **Phase 3:** Post-exhibition and decision *(To be carried out) – Q3 2026 – Q4 2026*
- **Phase 4:** Construction and operation *(To be carried out) – 2027 to 2028 for construction, with the BESS becoming operational in 2029*
- **Phase 5:** Decommissioning *(To be carried out) – Beyond 2050.*

The following sub-sections detail the engagement activities that have occurred or are planned throughout the above-listed phases.

5.1 Phase 1: Pre-application early engagement

Phase 1 was carried out from Q2 2024 to Q2 2025. A Community & Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) was developed and endorsed at this stage to help establish key engagement and approval objectives for the initial stages of the Proposal, including the establishment of the EAP to outline key engagement phases and activities.

Additionally, this phase involved engagement with a range of key stakeholders as part of the early design stage of the Proposal. The early engagement helped inform the preparation for the next phases of engagement, introducing the Proposal to the broader local community. Table 4 provides a summary of all engagement carried out during Phase 1.

Table 4 - Phase 1 engagement activities

Stakeholders engaged	Engagement activities
▪ DTP ▪ Gannawarra Shire Council ▪ Country Fire Authority ▪ North Central Catchment Management Authority	▪ Pre-application meetings ▪ Formal briefings/presentations

Phase 1 engagement			
Date	**Stakeholder**	**Activity**	**Key details of engagement**
26 April 2024	***DTP***	*Pre-application meeting*	▪ Pre-application meeting, whereby the Proposal was presented to DTP Renewables

			▪ Discussion focused on the planning process and key issues, including the new DFP process, cultural heritage and native vegetation, and bushfire risk ▪ Received high-level feedback and guidance for the planning application process.
17 April 2024	***Country Fire Authority***	*Pre-application meeting*	▪ Meeting with CFA to discuss potential risks and considerations that may inform the design of the BESS. ▪ Presented the project and focused on key issues, including fire risk, infrastructure and mitigation measures, landscape, emergency access, and flooding.
20 May 2024	***Gannawarra Shire Council***	*Pre-application meeting / Formal briefing and presentation*	▪ Presented the project background, rationale, and key features ▪ Focused on the planning process, key engagement expectations, and key issues, including the new DFP process, native vegetation, and landscaping.
29 May 2024	***North Central Catchment Management Authority***	*Pre-application meeting / Formal briefing and presentation*	▪ Pre-application meeting to understand potential flood risks and considerations that may inform the design of the BESS ▪ Presented the project background and focused on key issues, including flood risks and mitigation measures, and engagement expectations.

5.2 Phase 2a: Pre-lodgement (Planning Application Preparation)

Phase 2a took place from Q2 2025 to Q4 2025. This phase served to introduce the Proposal to the broader local community, invite feedback from both community members and key stakeholders, and provide an avenue for the expression of support or concerns. Engagement activities during this period ensured that stakeholders were actively involved, and initial discussions regarding community benefit sharing were initiated.

Concurrently, work progressed on the preparation of the Planning Application. Technical consultants conducted comprehensive assessments and produced detailed reports to inform the refinement of the concept design and support the Proposal's submission to DTP. Table **5** provides a summary of all engagement carried out during Phase 1.

Table 5 - Phase 2a engagement activities

Stakeholders engaged	Engagement activities
▪ Gannawarra Shire Council ▪ First Peoples' State Relations ▪ Adjacent and near neighbours ▪ Broader Tragowel community ▪ Traditional Custodian groups	▪ Face-to-face meetings ▪ Online meetings ▪ Formal briefings/presentations ▪ Direct letter drop ▪ Community door knocking ▪ Community Drop-In Session

Phase 2a engagement			
Date	**Stakeholder**	**Activity**	**Key details of engagement**
16 May 2025	**First Peoples' State Relations**	Face-to-face meeting	▪ Cultural heritage consultant (GML) presented findings of desktop cultural heritage assessment, and discussed methodology for assessments ▪ Agreement that subsurface testing would be agreed upon in consultation with field representations of Barapa Country Aboriginal Corporation and Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation.
21 August 2025	**Surrounding community (5km)**	Direct letter drop	▪ Neighbours within a 5km radius of the BESS Development Area received a letter (42 houses), via Australia Post.
22 August 2025	**Adjacent and near neighbours (1km-2.5km)**	Direct letter drop	▪ Neighbours within a 2.5km radius of the BESS Development Area were hand-delivered letters (9 houses) to inform them of upcoming door-knocking activities and community drop-in session.

17 September 2025	**Adjacent and near neighbours (1km-2.5km)**	Community door knocking	▪ Five of the nine community members who were door-knocked were home. Of those five, two expressed positive sentiment, one was neutral, and two expressed concerns ▪ Concerns were mainly around suspicion of developers, impacts from the existing renewable energy projects, floods, fire risk, and a seeming lack of knowledge around project technology.
17 September 2025	**Gannawarra Shire Council**	Formal briefing/presentation	▪ Re-introduced the Proposal and provided background, rationale, key features, and Green Switch and Potentia Energy history ▪ Focused on the planning process, key engagement expectations, and key issues, including the DFP process, native vegetation removal, fire, noise and traffic issues.
5 November 2025	**Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation, Barapa Country Aboriginal Corporation, Wiran Aboriginal Corporation, and First Peoples State Relations**	Invitations to Community Drop-In Session (CDIS)	▪ Email invitation to First Nations groups to the Tragowel BESS CDIS ▪ Request to distribute the invitation to any other interested parties.
5 November 2025	**Gannawarra Shire Council Planning & Economic Development, Infrastructure and Development, and Community Wellbeing Departments, and Councillors**	Invitations to Community Drop-In Session (CDIS)	▪ Email invitation to key Council Departments and Councillors to the Tragowel BESS CDIS ▪ Request to distribute the invitation to any other interested parties.
21 October 2025	**Member for Mallee (Upper House)** **Dr Anne Webster** **Member for Murray Plains (Lower House)** Peter Walsh	Introduction to the Proposal and invitation to Community Drop-In Session (CDIS)	▪ Introductory letter presenting the Proposal sent to Dr Anne Webster and Peter Walsh. ▪ Peter Walsh accepted the invite for a briefing about the Proposal. The briefing took place at his office in Echuca in December 2025.
8 November 2025	**Councillor**	Phone call & email	▪ Phone call received from Councillor regarding the CDIS and Proposal information ▪ Follow up email provided and project website updated.
11 November 2025	**All stakeholders**	Community Drop-In Session (CDIS) *(Appendix C, Appendix D)*	▪ CDIS was hosted at the Kerang Memorial Hall between 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm. 8 people attended the CDIS ▪ CDIS was advertised for two weeks in the Gannawarra Times and North West Farmers during the weeks beginning 27 October 2025 and 3 November 2025 ▪ On 16 November 2025, invitations to the CDIS were delivered (via mail and direct letter drop) to 51 properties within 5 km of the BESS Development Area ▪ Email invitations were also sent to organisations, including the Gannawarra Shire Council and RAP organisations

	(Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation, Barapa Country Aboriginal Corporation and Wiran Aboriginal Corporation) and CFA ▪ Attendees included officers and a Councillor from the Gannawarra Shire Council, a member of the Kerang Fire Brigade and local community members ▪ Attendees expressed a mix of curiosity, support, and concern regarding the Proposal. While they were generally not opposed to BESS proposals, many were disappointed by the lack of communication from proponents of other BESS or renewable energy projects in the area ▪ Overall, attendees recognised the potential benefits of major infrastructure projects in creating jobs, upskilling local workers, and diversifying the region's economy. However, they emphasised the importance of genuine engagement with the local community, sustainable benefit-sharing ideas, and clear communication ▪ Topics raised by the community included fire and flood risk management, consultation fatigue (amongst the broader community), native vegetation and pest management and ideas for benefit sharing ▪ A thank you email was sent to attendees on 4 December 2025.

In addition to the above activities, the Proponent has contacted the Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation, Barapa Country Aboriginal Corporation and Wiran Aboriginal Corporation to participate in face-to-face meetings, outside of the mandatory Cultural Heritage Management Plan process. To date, the Proponent has not received a response. Subsequent communications have been sent (via email) inviting these RAPs to the community drop-in session. The Proponent is also continuing to engage with First Peoples - State Relations.

5.3 Phase 2b: Planning application and public exhibition

The Planning Application has been lodged and is currently under review by DTP.

During Phase 2b, the Proponent will seek to engage with community members and key stakeholders in anticipation of the public exhibition of the Planning Application, which is expected to occur in early to mid-2026. Public exhibition will provide further opportunity for feedback to be considered in the assessment of the Planning Application. This report will be updated as further engagement is carried out.

5.4 Phase 3: Post-exhibition and decision

During this phase, the project team will respond to submissions received during the public exhibition of the Proposal. A decision from the DTP is expected before the end of 2026. This report will be updated as further engagement activities take place.

While DTP continues its assessment of the Planning Application, the Proponent will remain focused on building relationships with local community members and organisations. These ongoing conversations will help shape the Community Benefit Sharing Program and ensure it reflects local priorities. More information about the Proponent’s commitment to meaningful benefit sharing can be found in section 6.

5.5 Phase 4: Construction and operation

The construction phase is expected to take place between 2027 and 2028, with the BESS proposing to become operational in 2029. During the construction phase, the Proponent would continue to deliver the actions set out in the EAP, with a strong focus on rolling out the Community Benefit Sharing Program (see section 6 for details).

Community engagement will remain a priority throughout this phase. The Proponent would provide updates on the construction progress and notify the local community of any potential local impacts. It would continue to communicate openly and respond to questions or concerns raised by interested or affected community members.

This phase would also see the start of monitoring and evaluation activities and the implementation of the Community Benefit Sharing framework. The Proponent will keep the local community informed about the program’s progress, opportunities to get involved, and updates on how the benefits are being delivered.

5.6 Phase 5: Decommissioning

The decommissioning phase is expected to occur at the end of the Proposal's operational life, anticipated to be initially 23 years, with the option to extend the lease. This phase would focus on reviewing the Project Site, assessing its condition, and developing a decommissioning strategy.

Engagement during this phase would involve consultation with the community to help guide decisions about how the Project Site should be restored to its original condition or adapted for future use.

6. Community benefit sharing

Potentia Energy remains committed to ensuring their projects create tangible benefits for the communities they operate within. They firmly believe that addressing community needs is a fundamental requirement to achieving overall company success. This framework is known as a Creating Shared Value (CSV) philosophy – one that intrinsically links the achievement of business objectives to positive local community outcomes.

As a long-term asset owner with projects across Australia, Potentia Energy recognises the diversity and uniqueness of each community. Potentia Energy is a signatory of the CEC's Best Practice Charter, affirming their dedication to excellence in community engagement and ensuring that their projects adhere to the highest standards of **transparency, inclusivity, and respect.**

The Proponent is currently developing a Community Benefit Sharing Plan for the Proposal that is flexible and tailored to the local needs, culture and context of the Tragowel and Kerang communities. The details of this plan are expected to be shared by mid-late 2026. Further information on this plan is expected to be shared in 2026.

7. Communication methods and tools

To fulfil the engagement approach, a range of tools will be used to support the activities carried out. Communication materials will be objective, balanced, and relayed in an effective manner, free from technical jargon. Feedback will be recorded through the stakeholder database and will be used to inform future design and planning of the Proposal.

A wide range of communication tools and activities have been identified to ensure that the community and stakeholders are effectively informed, consulted, and involved in the Proposal, to reduce to the extent possible:

- The risk of conflict between the community, stakeholders, and the Proposal.
- Any intrusion and disruption to businesses and land uses.
- Concerns around consultation fatigue.

Given that there is a heightened level of community interest in new energy infrastructure and its relationship to renewable energy, the project team sought to undertake an engagement approach that was personal and focused on engagement with referral authorities, surrounding businesses, landowners, neighbours and the local community potentially impacted.

This approach enabled a deeper level of stakeholder and community knowledge regarding the Proposal and greater awareness of the processes to which the Proponent is committed to mitigate or manage potential impacts. Through this process, trust has been developed between the community and the project team.

The focus of communications has been to seek input from the community about the Proposal and to adequately respond to and address enquiries and concerns in a timely manner.

The communication tools that were used to implement the EAP are outlined in Table 6. To date, these tools and activities have been used to provide timely and informative progress updates on the Proposal, as well as opportunities for the community and stakeholders to participate in the planning and design process.

Table 6 – Communication and engagement tools and techniques

Tool	Description and purpose	Stakeholders	Level of engagement
Presentation and briefing pack	To provide clear and concise information about the project as it develops. To notify the stakeholders about key milestones in the project and how to get involved. To avoid the spread of misinformation and to mitigate concerns where possible.	All stakeholders	Inform | Consult |
Introductory door knocking letter	To introduce Green Switch and Potentia Energy and the Proposal. Inform landholders and neighbours of dates, times and process of our door knock, and how to contact the project team.	Neighbouring landowners	Inform | Consult
Direct letter drop	Direct letters delivered either via AusPost or hand-delivered to households within a 5km radius of the BESS Development Area to notify landowners of details surrounding the Proposal, upcoming events (such as the Community Drop In Session), participation opportunities, and project updates. To inform stakeholders of any upcoming assessment activities that may be relevant to their property to provide detailed information about the work and contact details.	Neighbouring landowners	Inform | Consult
Door knocking	Engagement teams go door-to-door to liaise with all dwellings and landowners within 2.5km of the BESS Development Area.	Neighbouring landowners	Inform | Consult

	To provide an opportunity for the project team to meet neighbouring landowners face-to-face. To inform neighbouring landowners about the Proposal, process, and upcoming community information sessions.		
Face to face and online stakeholder meetings/ interviews	To establish rapport and insulate ongoing relationships with primary stakeholders and key neighbours. To inform, consult or involve interested and concerned local community members and stakeholder groups. To identify potential risks and issues associated with the Proposal's construction or operation. To mitigate negative issues or spreading of misinformation. To provide a direct feedback mechanism.	State and Local government Community groups Neighbouring landowners	Inform | Consult | Involve
Contact phone and email address	To establish a point of contact via email and phone to stakeholders wanting to learn more about the Proposal, voice their concerns or raise matters of interest during all phases. To allow for initial introductions and quick responses to community members and stakeholders regarding the Proposal, leading to possible further engagement via the range of other tools/methods listed within this Strategy. To be widely distributed through external communication and media.	All stakeholders	Inform | Consult
Project website/ webpage	To provide clear and user-friendly information about the Proponent, team, and the Proposal itself. To be updated regularly as the Proposal develops to address concerns and mitigate the spread of misinformation. To provide a central location for all technical documents relating to the Proposal, regularly uploaded with up-to-date information. The website can be found at: https://potentiaenergy.com.au/project/tragowel-bess/.	All stakeholders	Inform | Consult | Involve
Surveys & polls (Feedback submission, and Community benefit & supplier registrations)	To provide a platform to receive structured responses on specific issues to obtain quantitative measurable results that can be reported on throughout the Proposal lifecycle. Available via the project website.	All stakeholders	Inform | Consult | Involve
Fact sheets and information posters	To provide clear and concise information about the Proposal as it develops. To be written in plain English to translate complex project information and incorporating the use of visual tools like graphics and iconography where possible. To notify the community about key milestones in the Project and how to get involved. To avoid the spread of misinformation and to mitigate concerns where possible.	All stakeholders	Inform
Media release	To ensure members of the local and wider community are advised about the Proposal status, project	Local media	Inform

	milestones and lodgement details through publications in local and regional media outlets. To engage a wide audience through publications in local, regional, and state media outlets.		
Local advertising	To promote the community information session and project information in the local newspaper and online.	Local media	Inform
Community drop-in sessions	To facilitate strong face to face interactions between the project team (including the Proponent and key technical consultants where needed) and the community / stakeholders. To be informed about the Proposal and consult the project team and government representatives at critical stages of the process. To provide Proposal information through mixed visual media, to assist the community / stakeholders in better understanding the Proposal. To provide an opportunity for community members to clarify information, voice their ideas and concerns, encourage engagement in the planning process and to establish a point of contact for the Proposal.	Nearby landowners Local community members Local politicians	Inform | Consult | Involve
Thank you email	To close the loop with the community and key stakeholders, relaying discussions heard at engagement activities, and the following steps to be carried out. To foster trust and confidence within the community, and to strengthen existing relationships, honouring the Proponent's commitment to transparent communication.	All stakeholders	Inform | Consult | Involve

8. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Monitoring and evaluating the community engagement process and outcomes will be undertaken to help identify successes, areas for improvement or modification, and to learn from experiences. Victorian planning guidelines specify monitoring, evaluation, and reporting requirements and the Proponent commits to integrating the findings of key engagement activities into the evaluation of the Proposal, and to establishing sustainable community engagement methods for the operational life of the Proposal.

As part of the monitoring and evaluation, the Proponent will refer to the below checklist, Figure 10 at each phase of the engagement process set out in section 5 above. This checklist has been adapted from the *Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Projects*.

A Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) plan will be developed following receiving planning approval to be used in conjunction with the EAP.

- ☐ Has the development process and timeline been communicated to the local community through a range of engagement activities?
- ☐ Has the local community had the opportunity to understand the Proposal through information sessions or site visits to other facilities?
- ☐ Is clear information available about the efficiency of the proposed battery and its effects on electricity prices?
- ☐ Is clear information available about the types of services and jobs required for the Proposal, and are there opportunities for locals?
- ☐ Are the Proposal details such as visual renders, clear mapping and timelines available on a website dedicated to the Proposal?
- ☐ Is clear information about any technical or environmental risks associated with the facility, including risk assessments, planning documentation and mitigation plans, publicly available and easily accessible?
- ☐ Have potential impacts on cultural heritage, environmental, landscape or other values been proactively addressed and communicated?

Figure 10 – Monitoring checklist

8.1 Record keeping and stakeholder database

A record of all community engagement activities will be maintained in a dedicated stakeholder register. This has been established to record and track details of all stakeholder and community interactions (including enquiries, complaints, meetings, events and questions) through the Proposal's planning, construction and operational phases. The engagement register will be updated by members of the project team, recording all contact with stakeholders.

The database will also be used as a means of two-way communication, to provide feedback to stakeholders upon considerations made through the planning process based on their input.

Information that will be recorded in the database will include:

- Stakeholder contact details (if available / disclosed)
- Engagement record details including issues raised and activity details
- Summary of key discussion points, including any actions to be addressed.

8.2 Complaint and grievance management

The timely and effective management of enquiries and complaints is critical to the successful delivery of the Proposal. Cogency's Complaint Management Framework has been designed to ensure that complaints are processed in a timely, objective and fair manner.

From inception to completion, stakeholders have been and will continue to be advised of the appropriate channels for enquiring about the Proposal and how to get involved.

During the early development phase of the Proposal, the dedicated point of contact will be the following:

Community & Stakeholder Engagement Consultant: Cogency Australia Pty Ltd (Cogency)

Key contact: Rebecca Wardle, Director

Email: consultation@cogencyaustralia.com.au

Phone: 0452 593 428

As the Proposal progresses into construction and operation, the dedicated point of contact for all enquiries and complaints will be taken on by the Proponent, Potentia Energy. As a priority, all neighbours and key stakeholders will be informed of the change directly. Subsequently, this Report and all associated communication materials will be updated to reflect the new point of contact once finalised.

9. Conclusion and next steps

The Proposal presents a significant opportunity to increase energy storage capacity in Victoria, thereby contributing to enhanced energy security and price stability for households in the region. If approved, it would play a key role in supporting Victoria's transition to a net-zero future.

From the outset of planning and development, the Proponent has made it a priority to be a positive and proactive member of the local community. Genuine engagement with local community members and stakeholders has been central to creating meaningful, lasting impacts. This commitment is demonstrated through early and ongoing engagement with key stakeholders, including neighbouring residents, Gannawarra Shire Council, DTP, CFA, North Central CMA and First Peoples – State Relations in the absence of a RAP.

As outlined in this Report, the Proponent has shown they are committed to proactive and meaningful engagement at all phases of the Proposal. This approach has fostered open and honest communication with key stakeholders, as well as the Tragowel, Kerang and surrounding communities.

While minimising the potential impacts of the Proposal remains a priority, the Proponent is equally committed to maximising the benefits for the local community. Their approach to benefit-sharing funding will be collaborative, tailored, transparent, and aligned with local needs and aspirations.

Looking ahead, the Proponent, with support from Cogency, remain dedicated to nurturing strong relationships with stakeholders in the Tragowel, Kerang and surrounding communities. Through ongoing engagement, valuable insights will continue to be gathered to inform the development of Community Benefit Sharing initiatives, which would continue to evolve as the Proposal progresses through future phases.

This ongoing engagement underscores the Proponent's commitment to being valued members of the community, ensuring that the voices and needs of local communities are heard and addressed throughout the Proposal's lifecycle.

Key next steps as part of the Proponent's ongoing engagement include:

- During Phase 2b (planning application and public exhibition):
  - engage with community members and key stakeholders (via notification letters, factsheets, etc.) in anticipation of the public exhibition of the Planning Application.
  - respond to submissions and enquiries received, including as part of the formal submission response to DTP.
- During Phase 3 (post-exhibition and decision), continue engaging with community and key stakeholders to help shape the Community Benefit Sharing initiatives.

Appendices

Appendix A	Best Practice Charter
Appendix B	Kerang Demographic Analysis
Appendix C	Collateral
Appendix D	CDIS Photos

Appendix A Best Practice Charter

The *Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Projects* is a voluntary set of commitments for Clean Energy Council members designed to clearly communicate the standards that the signatories will uphold in the development of current and new clean energy projects.

Potentia Energy is a proud signatory to the CEC Best Practice Charter, and they adopt the Charter's principles during their engagement activities with project's stakeholders.

The Proponent commits to upholding the following commitments during engagement on the Proposal:

1. We will engage respectfully with the local community, including Traditional Owners of the land, to seek their views and input before submitting a development application and finalising the design of the Proposal.
2. We will provide timely information and be accessible and responsive in addressing the local community's feedback and concerns throughout the life of the Proposal.
3. We will be sensitive to areas of high biodiversity, cultural and landscape value in the development and operation of the Proposal.
4. We will minimise the impacts on highly productive agricultural land and explore opportunities to integrate agricultural production.
5. We will consult the community on the potential visual, noise, traffic and other impacts of the Proposal, and on the mitigation options.
6. We will support the local economy by providing local employment and procurement opportunities, where possible.
7. We will offer communities the opportunity to share in the benefits of the Proposal, and consult them on the options available, including relevant governance arrangements.
8. We commit to using the Proposal to support educational and tourism opportunities, where appropriate.
9. We will demonstrate responsible land stewardship over the life of the Proposal and welcome opportunities to enhance the ecological, cultural and/or agricultural value of the land.
10. During the life of the Proposal, we will recycle waste materials where feasible and commit to responsible decommissioning or refurbishment/repowering of the site at the end of the Proposal's life.

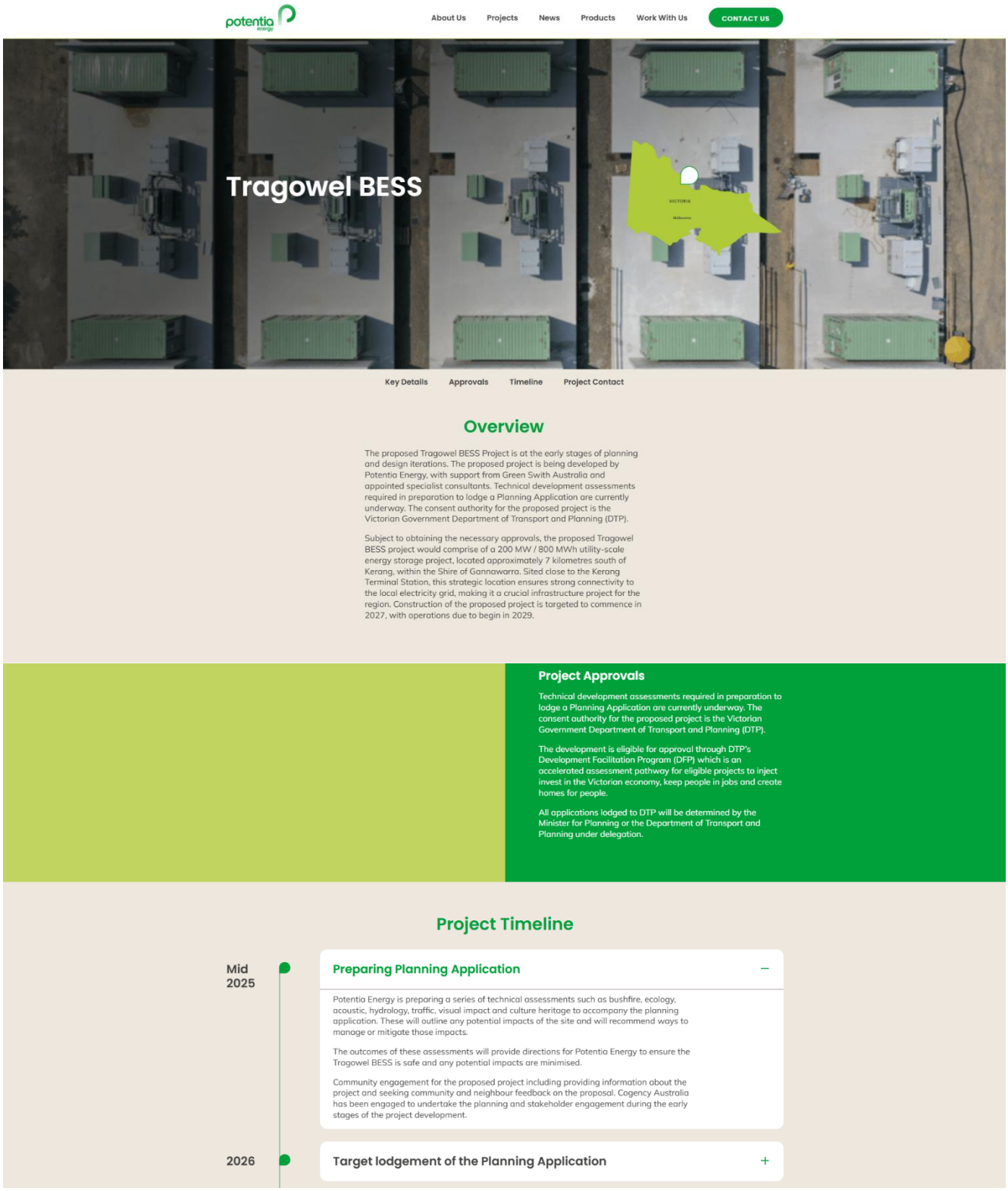
Appendix B Kerang Demographic Analysis

Table 7 – Kerang demographic analysis

Category	Key statistics
Population and forecasting	▪ The population of Kerang as of 2021 is 3960. Since 2016, the population has increased slightly from 3633. ▪ The median age is 51 years old, compared to VIC's median age of 38. ▪ The largest age group is 65-69-year-olds (8.6%).
Ethnicity, migration and languages	▪ In 2021, 86.3% of people in Kerang were born in Australia. ▪ 3.9% of people identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. ▪ The three largest ancestries in 2021 were English, Australian and Scottish. ▪ 90.2% of people spoke English only at home, 0.3% (11 people) spoke Green, and 0.2% (9 people) spoke Greek. ▪ In 2021, 39.0% people identified as not religious and 16.9% of people identified as Catholic.
Education and employment	▪ 46.9% of the population (1,553 people) in 2021 listed that they participated in the labour force, and of those 55.9% (8688 people) work full-time and 32.7% (508 people) work part-time. ▪ An analysis of the jobs held by the resident population in 2021 shows the three most popular occupations were Professionals (238 people or 16.1%), Technicians and Trades Workers (232 people or 15.7%) and Managers (197 people or 13.4%). ▪ The 3 main industries of employment were Local Government Administration (116 people or 7.9%), Hospitals (except Psychiatric Hospitals) (96 people or 6.5%) and Supermarket and Grocery Stores (71 people or 4.8%). ▪ In 2021, 106 people (10.7%) were attending tertiary education. ▪ On Census Day, 71.9% of people travelled to work in a private car.
Households, dwellings and home tenure	▪ There was a total of 1,856 private dwellings in 2021, averaging 2.1 people per household. ▪ Households were comprised of 976 (58.7%) family households, and 642 (38.6%) single person households. ▪ In 2021, 50.6% of households contained three bedrooms. ▪ In 2016, 400 households (27.4%) did not have an internet connection at the dwelling.
Income and unpaid work	▪ The median weekly household income was $1,006 in 2021, compared to $1,759 in VIC ▪ 2,174 individuals, or 65.6% of the population did unpaid domestic work a week before Census Night. ▪ 24.3% of the population (803 people) reported doing voluntary work through an organisation or group over the past 12 months. ▪ 482 carers were providing unpaid assistance to a person with a disability, long term illness or old age in 2021. This represents 14.6% of the population aged over 15 years old. ▪ 713 people (21.5% of people aged 15+) provided unpaid care to children in 2021.

Appendix C Collateral

Tragowel BESS Website



Letter of Introduction

potentia energy

Name of Resident
Address of Resident

20 August 2025

Dear XXXX,

RE: Proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) in Tragowel

On behalf of our clients, Green Switch Australia and Potentia Energy, Cogency is pleased to introduce the Tragowel battery energy storage system (BESS) proposal and inform you of upcoming ground investigation works. We are leading the planning and stakeholder engagement for this project and are working collaboratively with Green Switch Australia and Potentia Energy.

Tragowel BESS

The proposed Tragowel BESS would involve the construction and operation of a utility-scale BESS with a nominal capacity of up to 200 MW/ 800 MWh, meaning it will provide around four hours of energy storage. The BESS is proposed to be developed on a 23-hectare agricultural landholding in Tragowel and the overall development footprint is expected to occupy approximately 7 hectares. The site is addressed Loddon Valley Highway, Tragowel 3579, and is located to the south of the Kerang Solar Plant. The proposal would connect to the existing Kerang Terminal Station via an underground transmission cable.

A BESS is technology that stores electricity in batteries for later use. It helps balance energy supply and demand, supports grid stability, and stores energy from a variety of energy sources, including renewable sources. The battery will participate in the energy market, charging during times when there is excess energy, and discharging that energy at times when demand on the grid is higher.

Green Switch Australia

Green Switch Australia is a developer of utility-scale solar and storage projects, overseeing several solar farms in Victoria, New South Wales, and the Australian Capital Territory.

Green Switch Australia has been operating internationally in the renewable energy sector for over 20 years, with a proven success in developing, building, owning, and operating its renewable energy projects. The leadership of Green Switch has delivered over 2.0 GW of solar renewables since 2015.

Potentia Energy

Potentia Energy is a leading Australian renewable energy developer and asset owner, with a growing portfolio of utility-scale wind, solar, and battery storage projects, including the 34 MW Cohuna and 93 MW Girgarre Solar Farms in Victoria. At Cohuna, Potentia Energy partnered

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with Agriculture Victoria to research how plant and livestock production can co-exist with solar infrastructure. At Girgarre, its strong community partnerships were recognised with the Clean Energy Council's Community Value and Impact award.

With 899 MW in operation, 226 MW under construction, and a strong pipeline of future projects, Potentia Energy is focused on delivering reliable, sustainable, and commercially viable energy. Its approach to engagement is guided by the "Creating Shared Value" philosophy – ensuring that project success is underpinned by meaningful collaboration, benefit-sharing, and respect for communities, landholders, and Traditional Owners at every stage.

Next steps

In the coming weeks, we will be conducting ground investigation works on the proposed site as part of our preliminary design and planning phase, to ensure that a facility can be built and operated safely without disruption to our neighbours. We would like to invite you, as a nearby resident, for a face-to-face meeting with the project team at your property, and provide you with an opportunity to learn more about the proposal.

Please let us know if you are available on one of the following dates and a specific time that we should stop by:

- Wednesday, 17 September 2025 between 11:00am – 6:00pm, or
- Thursday, 18 September 2025 between 8:00am – 4:00pm

Alternatively, if this timing does not work for you, please let us know, and we can arrange an online meeting at your convenience.

Green Switch Australia and Potentia Energy are committed to providing the local community with further information about the project and its potential benefits. The project team are also working on a series of stakeholder engagement activities, including a Community Drop-In Session hosted in the coming months – details of which will be shared with you in due course – providing an opportunity for project stakeholders to meet the project team and ask any questions you may have about the proposed project.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Cogency on 0452 593 428 or at consultation@cogencyaustralia.com.au.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Wardle

Rebecca Wardle
Co-Founder & Director
Cogency Australia

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Sydney NSW 2000.
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Letter of Invitation

potentia energy

15 October 2025

Dear Owner/Occupier,

RE: Proposed Tragowel battery energy storage system (BESS) upcoming engagement

On behalf of our clients, Green Switch Australia and Potentia Energy, Cogency is pleased to invite you to the upcoming Community Drop-In Session for the Tragowel battery energy storage system (BESS) proposal. Cogency has been engaged to lead the project's planning and early stage engagement for the proposed Tragowel BESS.

Potentia Energy would be the owners and operators of the proposed Tragowel BESS. Potentia Energy is being assisted by Green Switch Australia in the development of the proposal. Both Potentia Energy and Green Switch Australia have extensive experience in the development and operation of renewable energy projects throughout Australia.

Together, they bring over 25 years of expertise in the field, prioritising the community at every stage.

Tragowel BESS

The proposed Tragowel BESS, subject to approvals, would comprise the construction and operation of a 200MW (megawatt) / 800MWh (megawatt hour) BESS. The utility-scale facility will deliver approximately four hours of energy storage to help maintain grid stability.

It would have a development footprint of approximately 7 hectares on an agricultural property at Loddon Valley Highway, located south of the Kerang Solar Plant. The project would connect to the existing Kerang Terminal Station via transmission cable.

Community Drop-In Session – Tuesday 11 November

The project team seeks to meet with Tragowel and Kerang residents and interested community members and organisations to introduce the proposal and receive preliminary feedback.

In recent weeks, the project team has met with several neighbours of the proposed development, providing an opportunity to begin gathering initial feedback and comments.

We are now preparing to expand our engagement activities to include the broader community and other interested groups. The upcoming Drop-In Session presents an opportunity to make initial comments and have those considered in the Planning Application, which is currently under development.

Once the Planning Application is lodged with the Department of Transport and Planning, interested parties will have the opportunity to make a formal submission, which will be considered by the State Government as part of its assessment of the Planning Application and decision-making process.

We are targeting to submit the Planning Application in December 2025.

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Proposed Tragowel BESS Community Drop-In Session	
Come by to learn more about the proposal, view the plans and technical reports and ask questions. No RSVP required.	
Date	Tuesday 11 November 2025
Time	1.00pm – 5:00pm
Location	Kerang Memorial Hall, 4 Nolan St, Kerang 3579

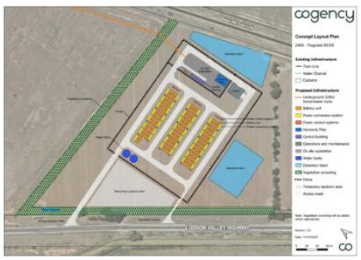
Should you have any questions, please contact Cogency on 0452 593 428 or via consultation@cogencyaustralia.com.au.

We look forward to meeting you in November and discussing the proposal further.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Wardle

Rebecca Wardle
Co-Founder & Director
Cogency Australia



Proposed Tragowel BESS Concept Layout Plan

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Newspaper Advertisement

Tragowel BESS Proposal

Community Drop In Session

Preparation of a planning application is underway for the Tragowel battery energy storage system (BESS) proposal at Loddon Valley Highway, Tragowel.

We're keen to provide more opportunities for community members and stakeholders to meet the project team, ask questions and share initial feedback on the proposal.

Drop in to speak with the project team and learn more about Potentia Energy and Green Switch Australia's proposal for a 200 MW / 800 MWh BESS, located near the Kerang Terminal Station.

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Tues, 11 November
Time: 1-5pm
Venue: Kerang Memorial Hall, 4 Nolan St, Kerang

No RSVP required – please stop by at any time.

We look forward to meeting you!

Contact us

0452 593 428
consultation@cogencyaustralia.com.au
potentiaenergy.com.au/project/tragowel-bess/

Door knock – "Sorry, We missed you!" Cards

Sorry, we missed you

We are in the area today conducting a door knock for the Tragowel Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) to discuss the early design and planning for this proposal.

If you would like more information, please feel free to contact us at the details listed below.

Kind regards,
Potentia Energy and Green Switch Australia

Contact us

0452 593 428
consultation@cogencyaustralia.com.au
potentiaenergy.com.au/project/tragowel-bess/

Sorry, we missed you!

Factsheet

The Tragowel BESS is a proposed battery storage project designed to improve energy reliability and deliver lasting benefits for the local community.

The Tragowel battery energy storage system (BESS) is a proposed 200 MW/800 MWh utility-scale energy storage project, located approximately 7 kilometres south of Kerang, within the Shire of Gannawarra. Sited close to the Kerang Terminal Station, this strategic location ensures strong connectivity to the local electricity grid, making it a crucial infrastructure project for the region.

Supporting local energy reliability

The proposed Tragowel BESS would help to strengthen the local electricity network. A BESS is designed to store surplus energy, when customer demand is low and release it when demand is high, supporting a more stable, efficient, and reliable supply of power.

This technology helps manage fluctuations in the electrical grid and can ease pressure, especially during busy periods. By doing so, the Tragowel BESS would help contribute to keeping electricity reliable and affordable for homes and businesses across northern Victoria and beyond.

Helping power a cleaner future

The proposed Tragowel BESS would support local jobs and procurement during construction, with ongoing opportunities for regional contractors and suppliers. Green Switch Australia and Potentia Energy are committed to creating lasting value by prioritising community needs and building strong local partnerships.

The project would improve how renewable energy is stored and used, helping Victoria transition to a cleaner, more sustainable energy system. Strengthening infrastructure like this not only future-proofs our energy network but also delivers long-term benefits for the community.

Why this site?

The proposed site for the project has been carefully chosen for its suitability to support the Tragowel BESS and its associated infrastructure. The site is flat and has been historically used for grazing and cropping. Its location near the Kerang Terminal Station allows for a direct connection to the electricity network.

Existing roadside vegetation helps screen the site from view, reducing visual impacts from nearby roads and properties. The site also has direct access to the Loddon Valley Highway, meaning no upgrades are needed to local roads, and minimal disruption is expected during construction and operation.

Meet the developers

The project is being developed by Green Switch Australia and Potentia Energy, two experienced renewable energy companies with a strong track record delivering large-scale solar and battery storage projects across Australia and internationally. Both developers are committed to respectful, transparent and collaborative engagement with communities, landholders and Traditional Custodians throughout every stage of project development.

Green Switch Australia operates across Victoria, NSW and the ACT, and brings over 20 years of combined local and international experience. Since 2015, the team has delivered more than 200 renewable energy projects and is focused on building long-term, genuine relationships with host communities.

Potentia Energy is a leading Australian asset owner and developer with an expanding portfolio of utility-scale wind, solar and battery storage projects, including the Cohuna and Girgarre Solar Farms in Victoria. Its community engagement is guided by a "Creating Shared Value" philosophy, which ensures projects are developed in line with local priorities and include tailored benefit-sharing initiatives that deliver lasting value to communities.

Planning process

- Site selection and preliminary investigations
- Technical assessment and community engagement
- Planning Application preparation
- Planning Application submission and assessment
- Public exhibition and community submissions
- Planning approval
- Grid connection approval *subject to Planning Approval
- Construction *subject to Planning Approval
- Operation *subject to Planning Approval

Technical studies

We are currently carrying out a suite of technical studies to inform the Planning Application.

The following technical studies are underway:

- Biodiversity Assessment
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Assessment
- Agricultural Impact Assessment
- Transport Impact Assessment
- Noise Impact Assessment
- Fire Hazard and Risk Assessment
- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
- Hydrology and Flooding Impact Assessment and Stormwater Management Strategy

Want to know more?

We welcome **community feedback** to better understand local values and priorities, and inform planning for potential benefit sharing initiatives to be undertaken by the project.

Scan the QR code for our Community Survey!

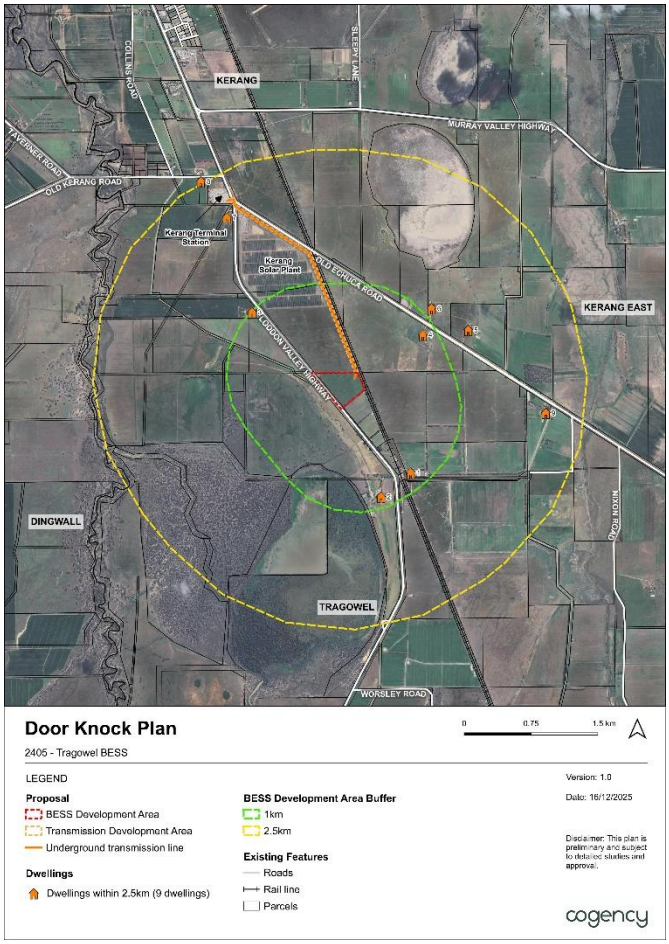
We will reach out again when the Planning Application is on public exhibition in the coming months and share further details about the next steps in the project's community engagement activities.

Should you have any questions, please reach out to our friendly team for further information or to request a meeting.

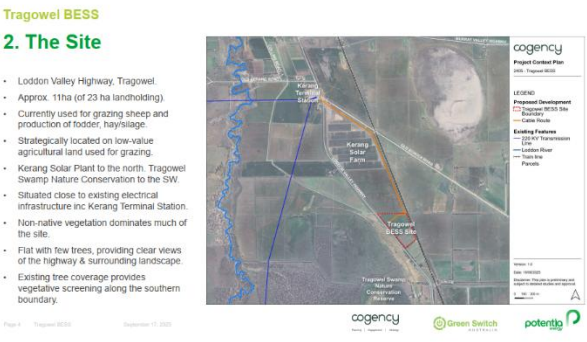
Contact us

0452 593 428
consultation@cogencyaustralia.com.au
potentiaenergy.com.au/project/tragowel-bess/

Door knock plan



Presentation to Gannawarra Shire Council

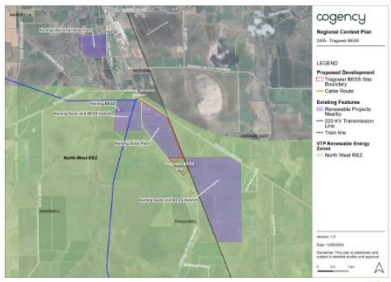


Tragowel BESS

3. Other Renewable Energy Projects

There are several renewable energy developments in proximity to the Project that plan to use the Kerang Terminal Station, including:

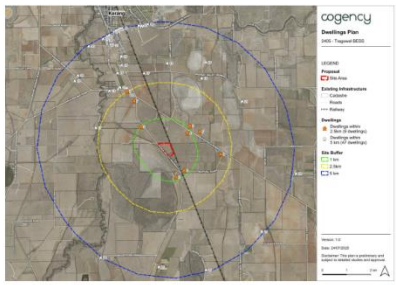
- Kerang Solar Plant (adjacent)
- Kerang Solar and BESS Hybrid (approx. 2km NW)
- Kerang BESS (approx. 2km NW)
- Kerang (Acciona) Solar Farm (approx. 4km (NW)



Tragowel BESS

4. Nearby Sensitive Receptors

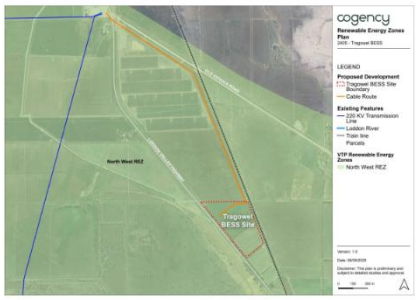
- 9 Dwellings have been identified within 2.5km of the project site
- 47 Dwellings have been identified within 5km of the project site.



Tragowel BESS

5. Renewable Energy Zone

- The proposal is located within the proposed VTP North West REZ.



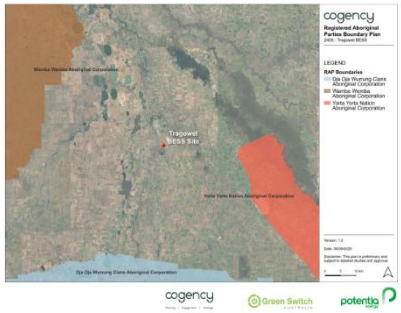
Tragowel BESS

6. RAP

There is no Registered Aboriginal Party for the project site.

Three Traditional Custodian groups with an interest in the region have been engaged as part of the CHMP process, including:

- Barapa Barapa Aboriginal Corporation (BBAC),
- Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation (WWAC) and
- Wiran Aboriginal Corporation (WAC).



Tragowel BESS

7. Site Photos

View from north west corner of BESS site looking east over the BESS site area. Photograph taken from Loddon Valley Highway road reserves

View above taken from west boundary of BESS site looking to south east

Tragowel BESS

7. Site Photos

View from northern boundary looking east and south

Tragowel BESS

7. Site Photos

Kerang Terminal Station substation. Photo is taken from Old Echuca Road junction with Loddon Valley Highway looking directly west to the substation. 220kV powerline from Bendigo, is on the left (south) side of the image (pylon).

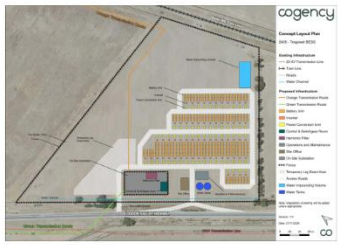
View looking north along Loddon Valley Highway towards the point where new junction will facilitate right turning into the BESS site.

Tragowel BESS

8. The Proposal

The proposed 200 MW / 800 MWh utility-scale BESS development would include the following:

- Underground transmission connection to the Kerang Terminal Station
- BESS units
- Inverters and transformers
- Switch rooms and control building
- Substation and associated electrical infrastructure
- Storage containers and water tanks
- Landscaping/Screening
- Operations and maintenance building
- Car parking
- Access points and internal tracks
- Firebreaks
- Security fencing and monitoring systems
- Native vegetation removal
- Earthworks

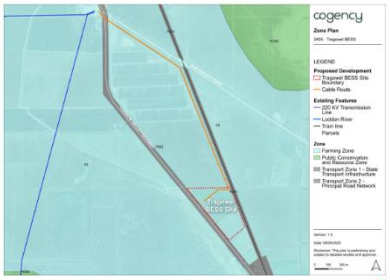


Tragowel BESS

9. Zoning

Farming Zone

- To provide for the use and encourage retention of agricultural land.
- To ensure non-agricultural uses do not adversely affect the use of land for agriculture.

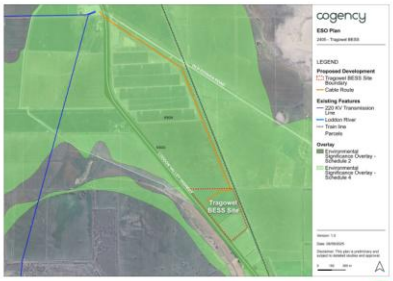


Tragowel BESS

10. Overlays

ESO4 and ESO2

- Identify land potentially liable to inundation and likely to suffer from poor drainage.
- Ensure development is compatible with the flood hazard and local drainage conditions and will not cause a significant rise in flood levels.

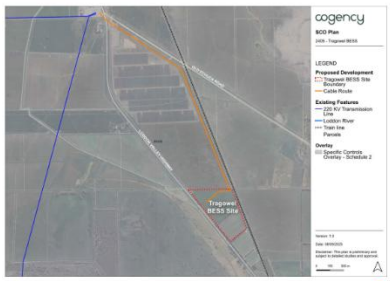


Tragowel BESS

11. Overlays

SCO2

- Does not apply to BESS land use
- Applies to the use and development undertaken by or on be behalf of Goulburn-Murray Water for:
- Goulburn-Murray Water Connections Project.
- Goulburn-Murray Water - Water Efficiency Project.
- *Goulburn-Murray Water: Connections Project and Water Efficiency Project Incorporated Document, November 2021*



Tragowel BESS

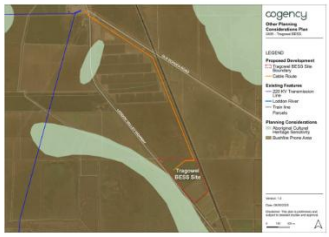
12. Other Planning Considerations

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity

- Areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage; however, no Aboriginal cultural heritage artefacts identified during complex testing
- Preliminary Aboriginal cultural heritage investigations completed, with a CHMP underway
- Low likelihood of further cultural heritage being present
- Selected transmission cable route will not impact heritage values

Bushfire Prone Areas

- The entirety of the site is within a designated bushfire-prone area
- CFA *Design Guidelines and Model Requirements for Renewable Energy Facilities* (2025) have been applied to the siting and design of the BESS to minimise the impact of potential bushfires and fire risk.



Tragowel BESS

13. Key Considerations

- Preliminary technical investigations are underway and have helped to inform the design of the BESS Site.
- Several factors have been carefully assessed to ensure the BESS is designed in a way that is responsive to the local environment and community context.

Key planning & design considerations for the BESS:

- **Flooding impacts and stormwater management:** Initial assessments have been carried out to understand potential flood risks and stormwater flows across the site.
- **Cable Route Investigations:** Two potential transmission routes explored. Final route selected > least environmental and technical constraints.
- **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Considerations:** Site assessments and complex testing have been undertaken to ensure potential Aboriginal cultural heritage values are protected.

Tragowel BESS

14. Engagement

Progress to date

- Preliminary engagement with key stakeholders (Council, Traditional Custodians, and neighbouring properties) has occurred and will continue throughout the planning process.
- Near-neighbour engagement took place in September 2025.
- A **mailout** was completed to all residents within 5km of the project in mid-August.
- Door knocking to residents within 2km of the project will occur on **Wednesday, 17 September, and Thursday, 18 September**, to introduce the project, inform residents of ground investigation works, and answer questions.
- The engagement program will be scheduled to allow ample time for interested parties to be informed and involved, well in advance of lodging the planning permit application.
- The proposal will be introduced to the broader local community via local newspapers and a **Community Drop-In Session** to be held later in the year.

Tragowel BESS

15. Next Steps

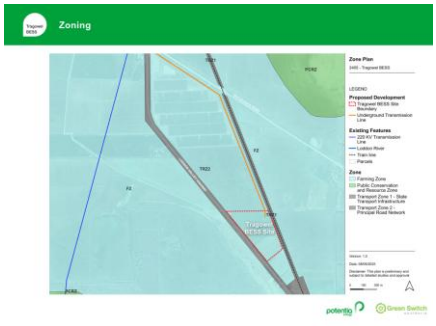
The following technical studies are currently being prepared for the proposal:

- Traffic (OneMileGrid)
- Ecology (Ecolink)
- Agriculture (Ag Challenge)
- Fire (FRC)
- Noise (SLR)
- Hydrology (DCE)
- Cultural Heritage (GML)
- Visual (Peter Haack)

- Ground Investigation works are to be completed at end-September.
- After completing the technical studies, we anticipate finalising and lodging the planning permit application by Q4 2025 or Q1 2026.
- The Planning Application will be submitted via the Development Facilitation Program (DFP) under Clause 53.22 (significant economic development).
- The Planning Minister is the Responsible Authority under Clause 72.01, with the Council able to make a submission.
- Pending approval, construction of the proposal is expected to begin in 2027 and be fully operational by 2028.

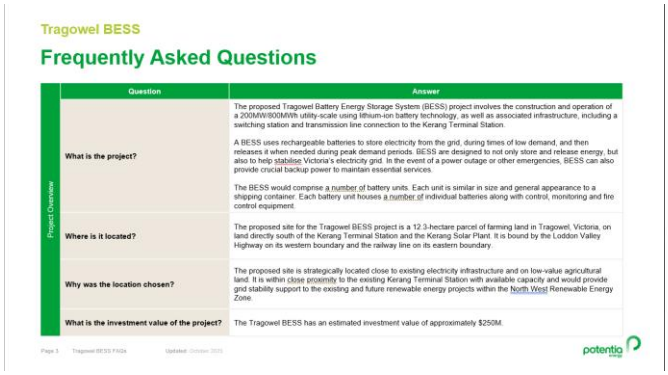
Thank You

CDIS 1 – Information Boards



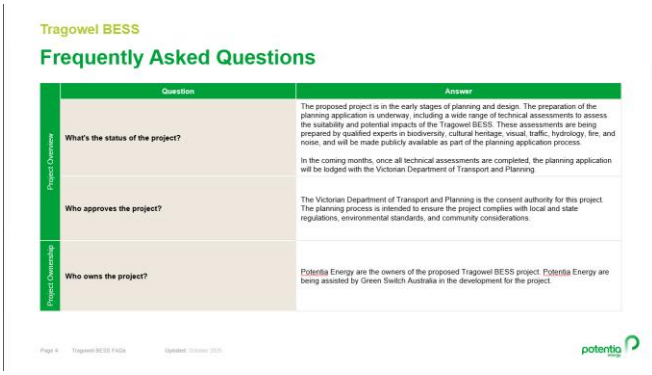
Benefit sharing brainstorm poster

Frequently Asked Questions


Tragowel BESS

Frequently Asked Questions

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


Tragowel BESS

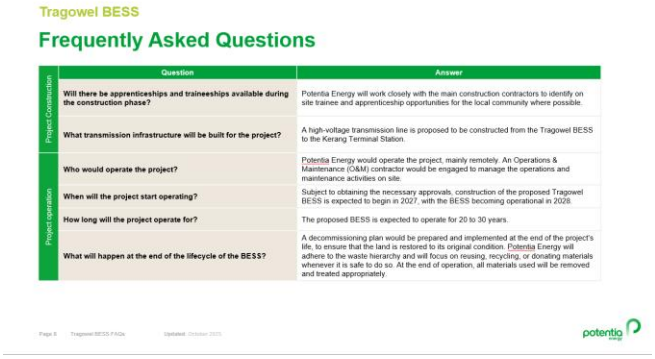
Frequently Asked Questions

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


Tragowel BESS

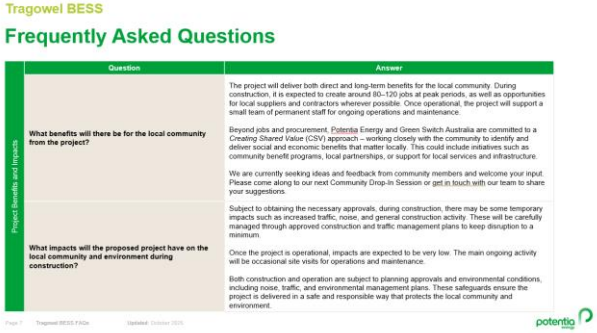
Frequently Asked Questions

	Question	Answer
Project Ownership	Who are Potentia Energy and Green Switch Australia?	Potentia Energy is a leading Australian renewable energy developer and asset owner, with a growing portfolio of utility-scale wind, solar, and battery storage projects, including the 34 MW Cohuna and 93 MW Girgarre Solar Farms in Victoria. At Cohuna, Potentia Energy partnered with Agriculture Victoria to research how plant and livestock production can co-exist with solar infrastructure. At Girgarre, its strong community partnerships were recognised with the Clean Energy Council's Community Value and Impact award. Potentia Energy is focused on delivering reliable, sustainable, and commercially viable renewable energy. Its approach to engagement is guided by the "Creating Shared Value" philosophy – ensuring that project success is underpinned by meaningful collaboration, benefit-sharing, and respect for communities, landholders, and Traditional Owners at every stage. Green Switch Australia is a developer of utility-scale solar and storage projects, overseeing several solar farms in Victoria, New South Wales, and the Australian Capital Territory. Green Switch Australia has been operating internationally in the renewable energy sector for over 20 years, with a proven success in developing, building, owning, and operating its renewable energy projects. The leadership of Green Switch has delivered over 2.0 GW of solar renewables since 2015.
	Who owns the proposed project site?	The land is owned by a local landholder. A long term lease from the current landowner is in place for the construction and operation of the proposed Tragowel BESS. At the end of the lease term, the BESS and associated project infrastructure would be removed, and the land will be restored to its pre-lease condition as farmland. This restoration is a requirement of the lease.
Project Construction	Who would construct the proposed project?	Potentia Energy would manage the construction phase of the proposed project and would engage an EPC (Engineering, Procurement, Construction) contractor to undertake the construction works. Local subcontractors will be prioritised to the extent possible.
	How many jobs would be created during construction?	Subject to obtaining the necessary approvals, approximately 80 to 120 construction staff are anticipated to be on site during construction peaks. Potentia Energy and Green Switch Australia will work closely with the main construction contractors to identify local capability and capacity for construction roles and prioritise local engagement where possible.


Tragowel BESS

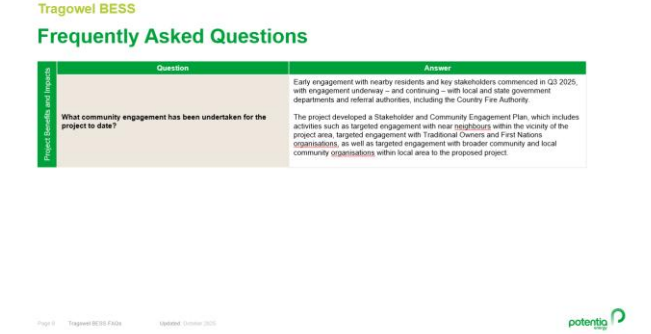
Frequently Asked Questions

	Question	Answer
Project Construction	Will there be apprenticeships and traineeships available during the construction phase?	Potentia Energy will work closely with the main construction contractors to identify on site trainee and apprenticeship opportunities for the local community where possible.
	What transmission infrastructure will be built for the project?	A high-voltage transmission line is proposed to be constructed from the Tragowel BESS to the Kerang Terminal Station.
Project operation	Who would operate the project?	Potentia Energy would operate the project, mainly remotely. An Operations & Maintenance (O&M) contractor would be engaged to manage the operations and maintenance activities on site.
	When will the project start operating?	Subject to obtaining the necessary approvals, construction of the proposed Tragowel BESS is expected to begin in 2027, with the BESS becoming operational in 2028.
	How long will the project operate for?	The proposed BESS is expected to operate for 20 to 30 years.
	What will happen at the end of the lifecycle of the BESS?	A decommissioning plan would be prepared and implemented at the end of the project's life, to ensure that the land is restored to its original condition. Potentia Energy will adhere to the waste hierarchy and will focus on reusing, recycling, or donating materials wherever it is safe to do so. At the end of operation, all materials used will be removed and treated appropriately.


Tragowel BESS

Frequently Asked Questions

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


Tragowel BESS

Frequently Asked Questions

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

Appendix D CDIS Photos

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Planning | Engagement | Strategy

Cogency provides planning, environmental assessment and stakeholder engagement services for the renewable energy, property, clean tech and circular economy sectors.

Our collaborative teams bring a uniquely nuanced understanding of planning processes and the technical aspects of renewable energy property, infrastructure and circular economy projects, which helps to build a strong rapport and trust with local community members and stakeholders.

Unlike many in-house engagement and planning teams that are managed separately, our planners work in collaboration with our engagement practitioners to ensure that stakeholder and community consultation is at the heart of the planning process and a critical tool for delivering positive outcomes for our clients.

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