



Engagement Summary Report

Tramway Road BESS

Monash Way, Hazelwood North, Victoria

For Eku Energy Pty Ltd

7 May 2025

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

cogency

Planning | Engagement | Strategy

Document Details

Tramway Road BESS

Project No: 2408
Report Name: Engagement Summary Report
Revision: 2
Date: 7 May 2025
Client: Eku Energy Pty Ltd

This document has been prepared for, and for the exclusive use of, the client listed above, and is subject to the fee proposal and terms of conditions between Cogency and the client. Cogency accepts no liability for any use of, or reliance upon, this document by any party other than the client.

Cogency Australia Pty Ltd
cogencyaustralia.com.au
office@cogencyaustralia.com.au

Document history

Revision	Date	Description	Author	Approved
1	16/12/2024	Draft Engagement Summary Report	AC	RW
2	29/04/2025	Draft Engagement Summary Report	GC	RW
3	07/05/2025	Final Engagement Summary Report	AC, DMM	RW

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright



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 Hazelwood North, the Gunaikurnai people. 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 Gunaikurnai and First Nations communities and acknowledge that Sovereignty was never ceded.

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

Executive Summary

Ekus Energy Pty Ltd (Ekus Energy) (the 'Proponent') appointed Cogency Australia Pty Ltd (Cogency) to prepare a Community & Stakeholder Engagement Plan and lead the engagement activities for the proposed development of the Tramway Road BESS - a utility-scale battery energy storage system (BESS) in Hazelwood North, Victoria, referred to as the 'Proposal.'

Ekus Energy is committed to ensuring the community and stakeholders are proactively and meaningfully informed, consulted and involved in the planning and development of the Proposal, and that the benefits are genuinely felt by local people and businesses.

This Engagement Summary Report provides details of the engagement undertaken for the Tramway Road BESS in 2024 and early 2025, as well as expected future engagement activity for the Proposal.

The main phases of engagement throughout the lifecycle of the Proposal include:

- **Phase 1:** Pre-application early engagement (completed)
- **Phase 2a:** Pre-lodgement (Planning Application Preparation) (completed)
- **Phase 2b:** Planning application public exhibition (to be continued)
- **Phase 3:** Post-exhibition and decision (to be started)
- **Phase 4:** Construction and operation (to be started)
- **Phase 5:** Decommissioning (to be started)

During all phases of the Proposal, the appropriate stakeholders have and will be effectively informed, consulted and involved in the process based on the objectives and principles of community engagement best practices and guidelines.

By actively listening to stakeholders and addressing their concerns, the Proponent aims to enhance the benefits derived from the Tramway Road BESS and minimise the impacts on neighbours, the community, and the local environment.

This Engagement Summary Report and the attached Engagement Action Plan will continue to be periodically updated to reflect the progress of the Proposal, incorporate community input, and address any emerging needs and issues.

Overall, it is considered that the Tramway Road BESS will have a net positive impact on the local communities of Churchill and Hazelwood North. As part of the planning and design process, a range of measures have been proposed to minimise or mitigate any potential impacts where possible. In addition, Ekus Energy is committed to ongoing engagement with a wide range of stakeholders as well as the delivery of a community benefit sharing program that is tailored to meet the needs of local residents.

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

Table of Contents

- Executive Summary 4**
- Glossary 7**
- 1. Proposal overview..... 8**
 - 1.1 Introduction..... 8
 - 1.2 About Eku Energy..... 8
 - 1.3 The Proposal..... 8
 - 1.4 Site and context..... 9
 - 1.5 Other renewable energy projects in the area..... 11
- 2. Guiding principles and objectives 14**
 - 2.1 Engagement principles..... 14
 - 2.2 First nations engagement principles..... 14
 - 2.3 Commitment to engagement..... 15
 - 2.4 Engagement objectives 15
- 3. Community snapshot..... 17**
 - 3.1 Traditional Owners..... 17
 - 3.2 Regional context..... 17
 - 3.3 Community profile..... 19
 - 3.4 Stakeholder identification..... 20
- 4. Engagement phases and activities..... 23**
 - 4.1 Phase 1: Pre-application early engagement..... 23
 - 4.2 Phase 2a: Pre-lodgement (Planning Application Preparation) 24
 - 4.3 Phase 2b: Planning application public exhibition 27
 - 4.4 Phase 3: Post-exhibition and decision 31
 - 4.5 Phase 4: Construction and operation..... 31
 - 4.6 Phase 5: Decommissioning..... 31
- 5. First Nations engagement and collaboration..... 32**
- 6. Community benefit sharing and local procurement..... 33**
- 7. Communication methods and tools..... 34**
- 8. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting..... 36**
 - 8.1 Record keeping and stakeholder database..... 36
 - 8.2 Complaint and grievance management 37
- 9. Conclusion and next steps..... 38**

- Appendix A Best Practice Charter
- Appendix B Engagement action plan
- Appendix C Introductory collateral
- Appendix D Community Drop-in session #1 collateral
- Appendix E Community Drop-in session #2 collateral
- Appendix F Proposal media coverage

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

Table of Figures

- Figure 1 – Map of Victorian REZs..... 9**
- Figure 2 – Regional Context Plan 10**
- Figure 3 – Renewables Projects Plan..... 13**

Figure 4 – Principles of Engagement.....14
Figure 5 – Engagement commitment in relation to the IAP2 spectrum15
Figure 6 – Map of Gunaikurnai clans.....17
Figure 7 – Community Context Plan.....18
Figure 8 – Community drop-in session #1.....27
Figure 9 – Community drop-in session #2.....30
Figure 10 – Monitoring checklist.....36

List of Tables

Table 1 – Other renewable energy & major projects in the area.....11
Table 2 – Churchill demographic analysis (ABS, 2021).....19
Table 3 – Stakeholder identification20
Table 4 – Overview of Phase 1 engagement23
Table 5 – Overview of Phase 2a engagement.....25
Table 6 – Overview of Phase 2b engagement (complete and ongoing)27
Table 7 – Overview of expected Phase 3 engagement.....31
Table 8 – Communication tools and activities.....34

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

ADVERTISED PLAN

Glossary

Abbreviation	Meaning
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
BESS	Battery energy storage system
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
CEC	Clean Energy Council
CDCA	Churchill & District Community Association
CFA	Country Fire Authority
CHMP	Cultural Heritage Management Plan
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
DTP	Department of Transport and Planning
GCCN	Gippsland Climate Change Network
GLaWAC	Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation
IAP2	International Association for Public Participation
LGA	Local Government Area
kV	kilovolt
MW	Megawatt
NEM	National Energy Market
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party
REZ	Renewable Energy Zone

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright.

1. Proposal overview

1.1 Introduction

Cogency Australia Pty Ltd (Cogency), on behalf of Eku Energy Project (Australia) Pty Limited (Eku Energy), has prepared this Engagement Summary Report (the 'Report') in relation to the proposed development of the Tramway Road battery energy storage system (BESS) – a utility-scale BESS in Hazelwood North, Victoria, hereby referred to as the 'Proposal'.

Community and stakeholder engagement is fundamental to delivering positive and effective outcomes for both renewable energy projects and the local community. Evidence from across Australia and internationally has shown that effective engagement increases the likelihood of establishing and maintaining renewable energy facilities that maximises mutual benefit for all stakeholders. Proactive, meaningful, inclusive, and robust engagement practices can therefore be seen as an investment in two outcomes: the future success of the renewable energy industry, and strong local communities.

This Engagement Summary Report aims to provide an overview of the stakeholder and community engagement that has occurred and will continue to occur in the planning and development of the Proposal. To date, Eku Energy, with the support of Cogency Australia, has sought to ensure that the community and stakeholders are **proactively and meaningfully informed, consulted and involved** throughout the Proposal's lifecycle.

1.2 About Eku Energy

Eku Energy (the Proponent) is a global energy storage development specialist who develop, build and operate energy storage systems with a key focus in Australia, Japan and the United Kingdom. Owned by two global financial powerhouses, Macquarie Asset Management and British Columbia Investment Management Corporation, Eku Energy was established to meet the growing need for utility-scale battery storage worldwide, and exclusively focus on BESS technologies and their applications.

Eku Energy's mission centres around developing and managing advanced energy storage systems that enhance grid stability, integrate renewable resources, and provide reliable, clean energy to communities. With a commitment to excellence and sustainability, the Proponent leverages cutting-edge technology and industry expertise to deliver projects that not only meet but exceed environmental and performance standards.

The Proponent strives to collaborate with relevant agencies, councils, government departments and other key stakeholders, and seeks to meaningfully engage with First Nations peoples to maintain their strong commitments to engagement, consultation and benefit sharing. The Proponent also identifies and establishes partnership opportunities for the supply of services or goods, ensuring the benefits of renewable energy developments are shared with First Nations and local communities, reinforcing their dedication to a resilient, low-carbon energy future.

1.3 The Proposal

The Tramway Road BESS is a proposed utility-scale BESS Proposal in Hazelwood North, Victoria that will deliver an increase in energy storage capacity across the Latrobe Valley Region, strengthening energy and price stability for Victorian households, and supporting Victoria's net-zero emissions target.

The Proposal will be one of the largest battery storage projects in Victoria with a proposed nominal capacity of up to 300 MW / 1200 MWh, providing critical energy storage and stability for the National Energy Market (NEM). The Proposal will involve a direct connection to the adjacent AusNet managed 500kV / 220kV Hazelwood Terminal Station directly to the north of the Proposal site, sitting adjacent to the proposed Marinus Link transmission line and converter station.

The BESS area covers approximately 8 hectares and includes battery units, a switching station, transmission connection infrastructure, access points, vegetation screening, security fencing, and associated infrastructure and works.

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

The development of the Tramway Road BESS, representing c. \$300 to \$400 million investment, is expected to create approximately 150 jobs during the peak of construction. During operation, the Proposal will be supported by 5-10 people for the lifetime of the Proposal across a range of operational roles. The Proposal will supply electricity to the NEM, helping to support energy demand during peak periods, and will have operational life span of approximately 30 years.

1.4 Site and context

The Proposal site is addressed 675 Monash Way, Hazelwood North, and is part of a larger 34-hectare agricultural land holding approximately 6km south of Morwell and 2km north of Churchill. The site is in the Latrobe City Local Government Area (LGA) and is part of the broader Latrobe Valley Region of eastern Victoria.

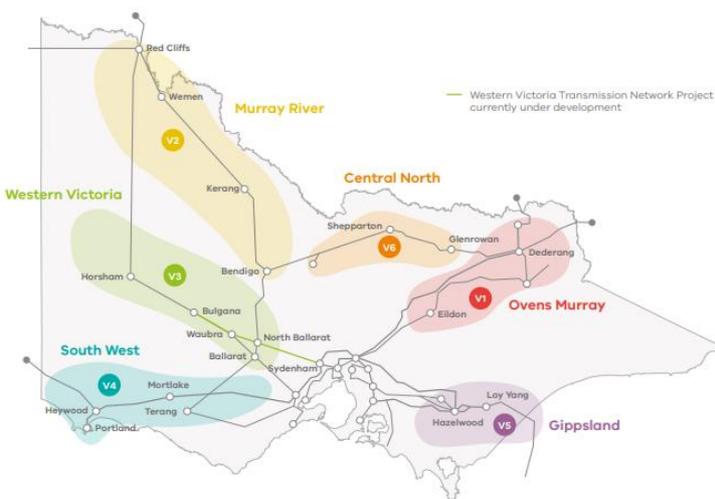
The site is within the Gippsland Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) (see Figure 1). The development of Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) across the state is a key initiative in Victoria’s energy transformation. REZs are areas of abundant renewable energy resources such as solar and wind, the full development of which can ensure the timely and cost-effective delivery of secure and clean energy for Victoria.

The Gippsland REZ is a planned infrastructure corridor to deliver new transmission infrastructure that will support the connection of new renewable generation and storage projects to the system. This is particularly important for Gippsland given the generation fleet is transitioning away from coal-fired generation towards solar, wind and energy storage resources. The Gippsland REZ will provide up to 2100MW of anticipatory network capacity for future renewable energy generation projects. BESS, hosted within or adjacent to REZs can increase and optimise the renewable energy hosting capacity of the zone.

In 2022, State Government identified an 85km corridor across Gippsland to develop new transmission infrastructure, connecting locally produced renewable energy to the grid, known as the Gippsland Renewable Energy Zone transmission project (G-REZ). VicGrid is the responsible entity for planning and delivering the G-REZ.

The site is currently used for grazing activities and has been previously cleared for agricultural purposes. The land is zoned Farming Zone (FZ1) under the Latrobe Planning Scheme and is immediately adjacent to the operational Jeeralang Power Station and Hazelwood Terminal Station to the north, and agricultural grazing land to the west, south, and east. Tramway Road runs parallel to the site’s eastern boundary, and Eel Hole Creek runs east-west across the site.

The site has been intentionally chosen due to its location immediately adjacent to existing electrical infrastructure and on non-productive agricultural land (see Figure 2).



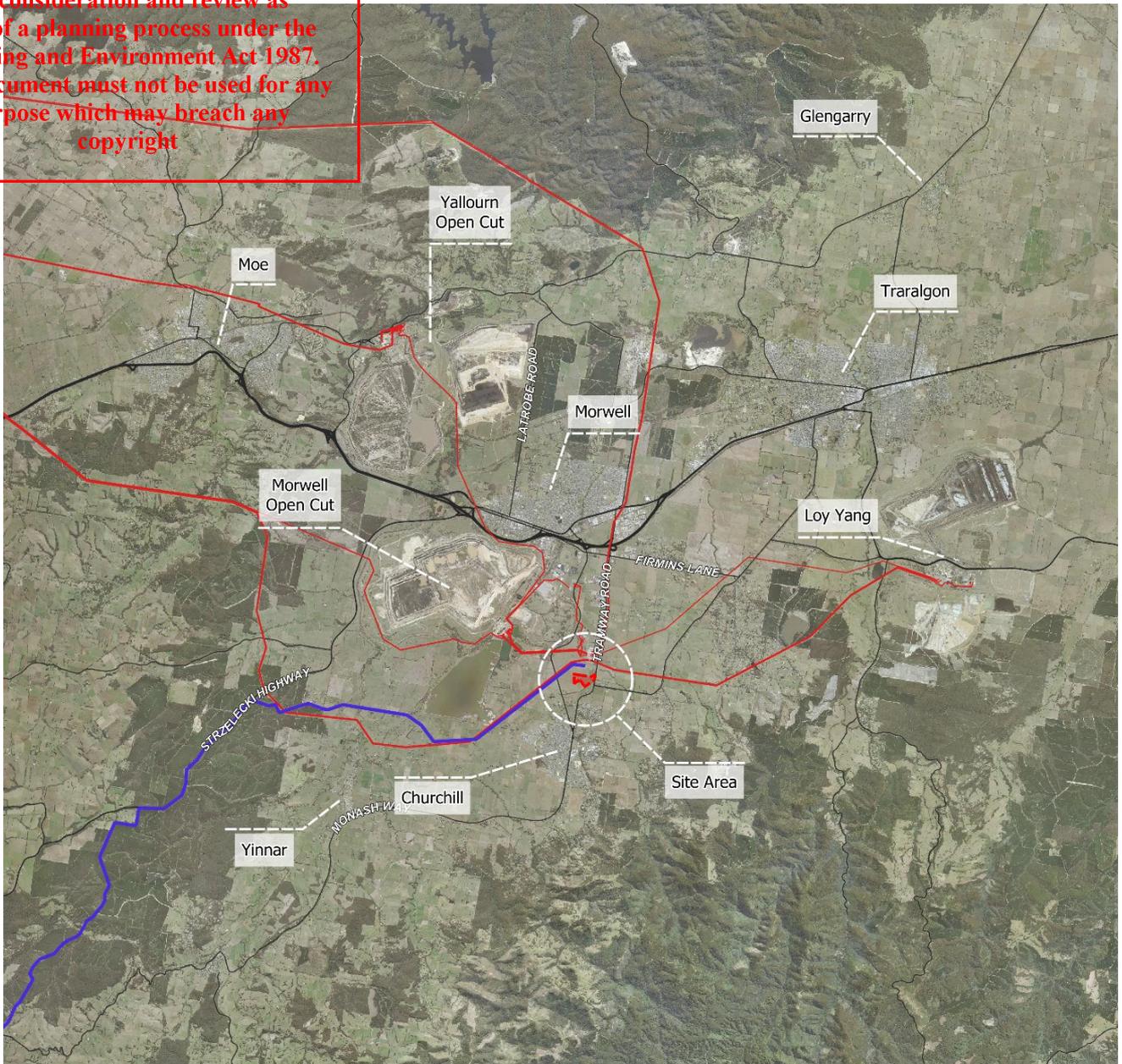
This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

ADVERTISED PLAN

Figure 1 – Map of Victorian REZs¹

¹ DELWP. (2021). *Victorian Renewable Energy Zones Development Plan*. The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright



Legend 

-  Project Area
- Proposed Infrastructure**
-  Marinus Link
- Existing Infrastructure**
-  Transmission Lines
-  Roads

0 3 6 9 km 

cogency
Regional Context Plan
 2408 - Tramway Road BESS

Figure 2 – Regional Context Plan

ADVERTISED PLAN

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright.

15 Other renewable energy projects in the area

The site is located within the Gippsland REZ, with the closest renewable energy developments to the Proposal described in Table 1 and displayed on Figure 3.

Table 1 - Other renewable energy & major projects in the area

Project	Key information
Marinus Link Distance to Proposal: Adjacent Status: Planning / EES underway Developer: Marinus Link	Marinus Link is a proposed undersea and underground electricity and data interconnector between Tasmania and Victoria. Community and stakeholder engagement is underway, including landholder discussions, the creation of a Consumer Advisory Panel, and stakeholder engagement programs in Tasmania and Victoria.
Wooreen BESS Distance to Proposal: 1.5km Status: Approved Developer: Energy Australia	Wooreen BESS is a proposed four-hour utility-scale battery of 350 MW capacity, which is scheduled to be in operation before the end of 2026. No details on community & stakeholder benefit sharing were found.
Bennetts Creek BESS Distance to Proposal: 3.28km Status: Approved Developer: Flow Power	Located in Hazelwood North the Bennetts Creek BESS has a footprint of approximately 2.3 ha and a planned output of 100 MW / 200 MWh. Flow Power is working with local stakeholders through a community benefit scheme, industry engagement and local job creation.
Latrobe Valley BESS Distance to Proposal: 3.35km Status: Under Construction Developer: Tilt Renewables	The Latrobe Valley BESS, with a capacity of 100 MW, is located beside the existing Morwell Terminal Station on Monash Way, just south of the Princes Freeway. Tilt Renewables has opted to deliver a benefit sharing program by partnering with Federation University to create a scholarship that provides a stipend to students studying an environments, conservation, or social work degree. The program will begin when the Latrobe Valley BESS is operating and continue until 2044.
Hazelwood BESS Distance to Proposal: 3.56 km Status: Operational Developer: ENGIE and Eku Energy	The Hazelwood Battery Energy Storage System is a 150 MW/150 MWh utility-scale project located in Victoria's Latrobe Valley. It aims to support grid stability by storing energy and discharging it during peak demand.
Hazelwood North Solar Farm Distance to Proposal: 7.5km Status: Approved Developer: Manthos Investments	The Hazelwood North Solar Farm is an approximately 450 MW photovoltaic solar energy facility with a BESS of approximately 1800 MWh capacity, a substation, and associated infrastructure. Community engagement for this landowner-led proposal involved multiple community drop-in sessions, fact sheets and letters, and a door knock.
Delburn Wind Farm Distance to Proposal: 22km Status: Approved Developer: OSMI Australia and Cubico Sustainable Investments	The Delburn Wind Farm will be constructed in the Strzelecki Ranges. A Community Benefits Scheme has been developed that includes Neighbourhood Profit Sharing, a Community Development Fund, and a Community Co-investment initiative.
Frasers Solar Farm Distance to Proposal: 27km Status: Approved Developer: South Energy	Frasers Solar Farm is located about 5 km north of Glengarry, a small town within the Latrobe Valley, Victoria. No details on community & stakeholder benefit sharing were found.
Fulham Solar Farm Distance to Proposal: 45km Status: Under Construction Developer: Octopus Australia and Clean Energy Finance Corporation	The Fulham Project is a proposed solar farm of 80 MW with a BESS of up to 120 MWh to be located on 400 acres of farmland within Wellington Shire. No details on community & stakeholder benefit sharing were found.
Toora Wind Farm Distance to Proposal: 45km Status: Operational Developer: Toora Wind Farm Pty Ltd	Toora Wind Farm is a wind farm located north of Wilsons Promontory in South Gippsland and was completed in 2002. Consultation with the Toora community has resulted in financial contributions and sponsorship programs to support a range of cultural, educational, sporting, environmental and welfare initiatives in the region.

Project	Key information
<p>Glenmaggie Hydro Power Station Distance to Proposal: 48km Status: Operational Developer: Pacific Hydro Investments Pty Ltd</p>	<p>In 1994 Pacific Hydro installed a small generation station at Lake Glenmaggie with twin turbines, giving a total capacity of 3.8 megawatts, which supply power to the state network. No details on community & stakeholder benefit sharing were found.</p>
<p>Gippsland Renewable Energy Zone transmission project (G-REZ) Distance to Proposal: Immediate Status: Planning Developer: VicGrid</p>	<p>In 2022, State Government identified an 85km corridor across Gippsland to develop new transmission infrastructure, connecting locally produced renewable energy to the grid.</p> <p>The development of Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) across the state is a key initiative in Victoria's energy transformation. REZs are areas of abundant renewable energy resources such as solar and wind, the full development of which can ensure the timely and cost-effective delivery of secure and clean energy for Victoria.</p> <p>The Gippsland REZ will provide up to 2100MW of anticipatory network capacity for future renewable energy generation projects.</p> <p>VicGrid is the responsible entity for planning and delivering the G-REZ.</p>

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

ADVERTISED PLAN

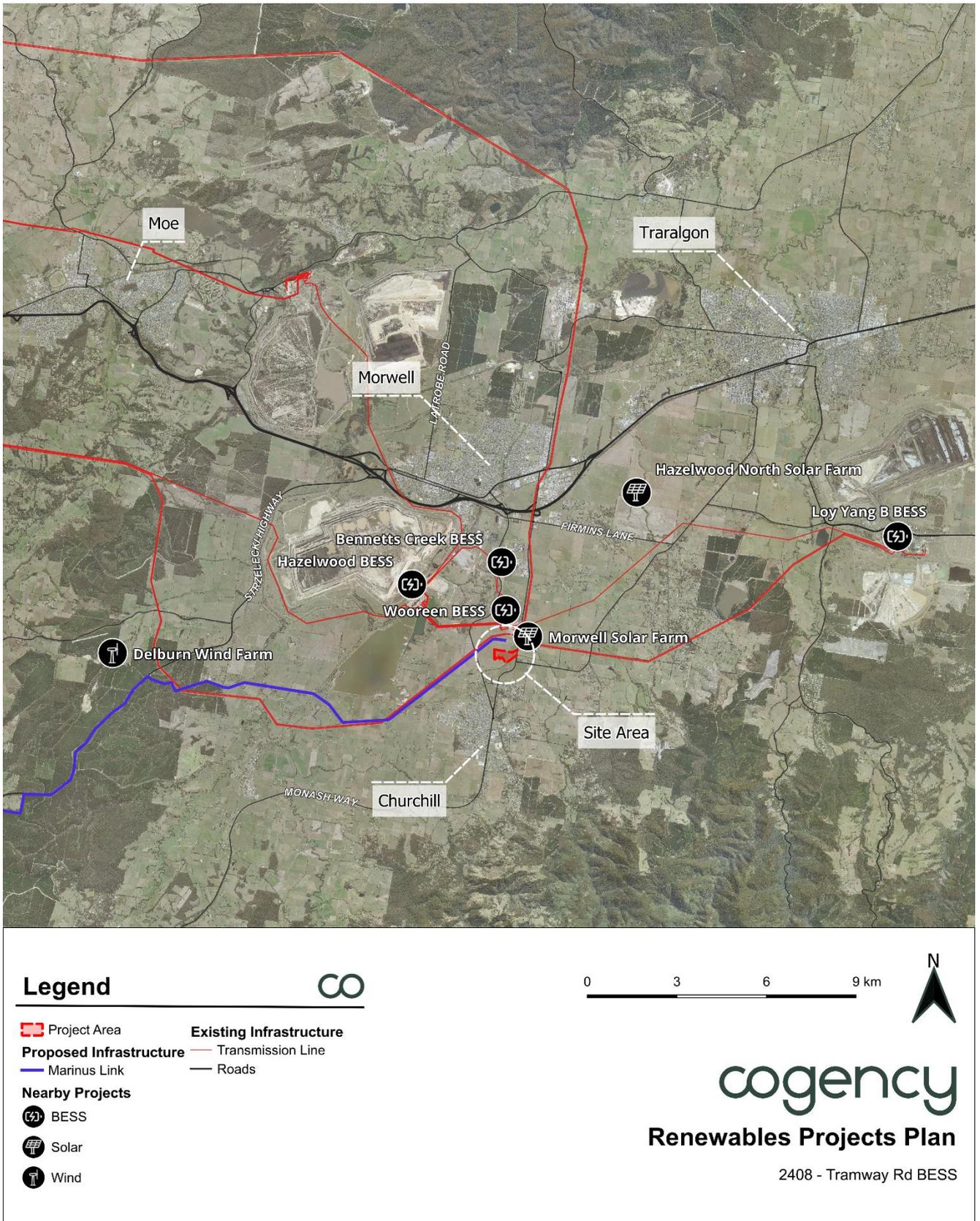


Figure 3 – Renewables Projects Plan

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

ADVERTISED PLAN

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose without the express written permission of the copyright owner.

2. Guiding principles and objectives

Community stakeholder engagement is fundamental to delivering positive and effective outcomes for the local community. Proactive, meaningful, inclusive and robust engagement is a direct investment in both strong communities and the success of the energy transition.

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 Proposals*.

The following nine principles of engagement will 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 Proposal advocates and feedback loops. Help the local community to identify positively with the Proposal 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 Proposal. 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 feasibility

Understand, minimise, and offset the risk of negative social impacts across a Proposal’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 Proposal’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 4 – Principles of Engagement

ADVERTISED PLAN

2.2 First nations engagement principles

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

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

The Traditional Owner is acting on principles adopted from [Leading Practice Principles: First Nations and Community Energy Proposals \(2024\)](#) and the CEC's Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Proposals (2019) (Appendix A).

The Proposal seeks to:
Engage in a respectful and inclusive manner

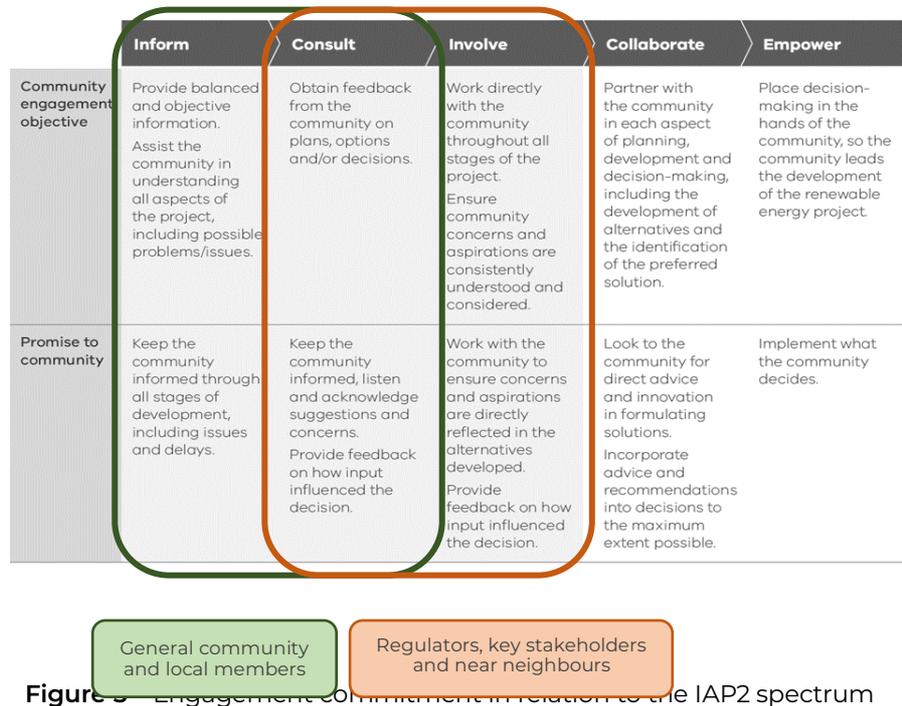
- Prioritise clear, accessible, timely and accurate information about the Proposal
- Protect and preserve Country, cultural heritage and the environment
- Ensure economic and social benefits are shared
- Ensure and encourage cultural competency
- Implement feedback, monitor progress and report back.

2.3 Commitment to engagement

Eku Energy 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, Eku Energy pledges to treat members of the local community and other stakeholders fairly, courteously and in a consistent and ethical manner.

The engagement approach for the Tramway Road BESS Proposal has been guided by the 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 this Proposal, Eku Energy **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 5.



2.4 Engagement objectives

Eku Energy 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.

ADVERTISED
PLAN

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 Tramway Road BESS are to:

- Build strong connections with the host landowner, neighbours, local industry and the wider Churchill and Hazelwood North communities 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 which 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 Tramway Road BESS Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Engagement Action Plan, defined by the Proposal's engagement principles.

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

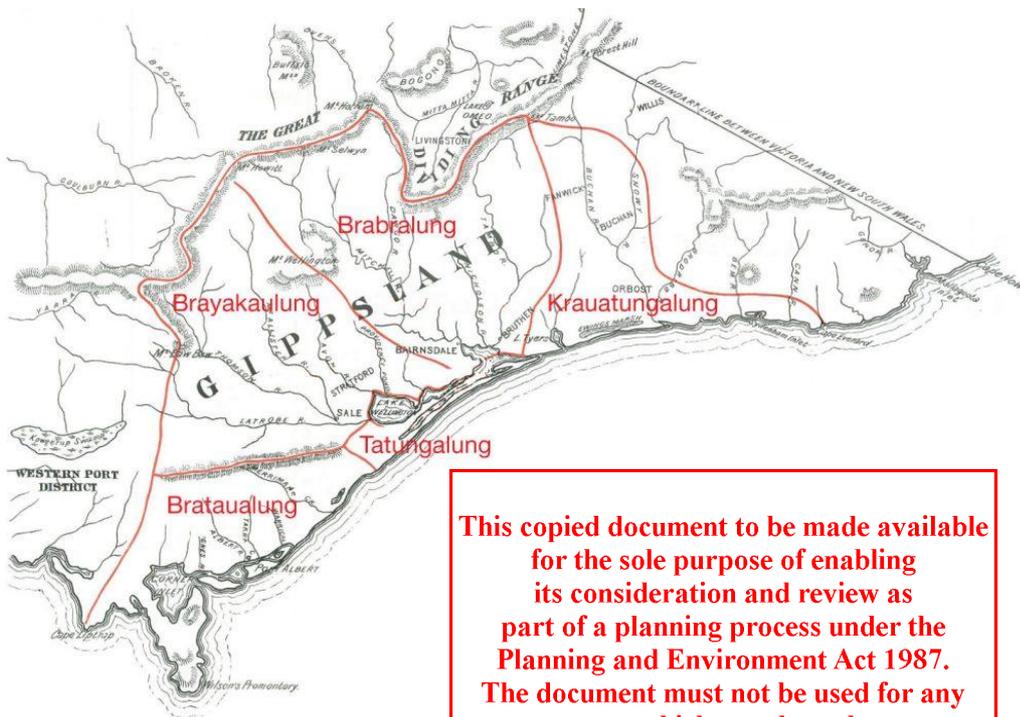
**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

3. Community snapshot

ADVERTISED PLAN

3.1 Traditional Owners

The Traditional Owners for Hazelwood North and Latrobe Valley are the Gunaikurnai people, also referred to as the Gunnai or Kurnai. The Gunaikurnai people are recognised by the Federal Court and State of Victoria as the Traditional Owners of a significant portion of Gippsland, covering approximately 10% of Victoria’s land area. There are approximately 3,000 Gunaikurnai people made up of five major clans and their territory includes the coastal and inland areas to the southern slopes of the Victorian Alps (GLaWAC, 2024). The Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Party (GLaWAC) is the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for the Gunaikurnai as determined by the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Vic).



This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

Figure 6 – Map of Gunaikurnai clans²

3.2 Regional context

The site is located in the Latrobe Valley, a distinct geographical district in Victoria that is nestled between the Strzelecki Ranges to the south and the Great Dividing Range to the north. During the 19th century it was occupied by colonial settlers and land was cleared for sheep and cattle grazing, as well as agricultural cropping.

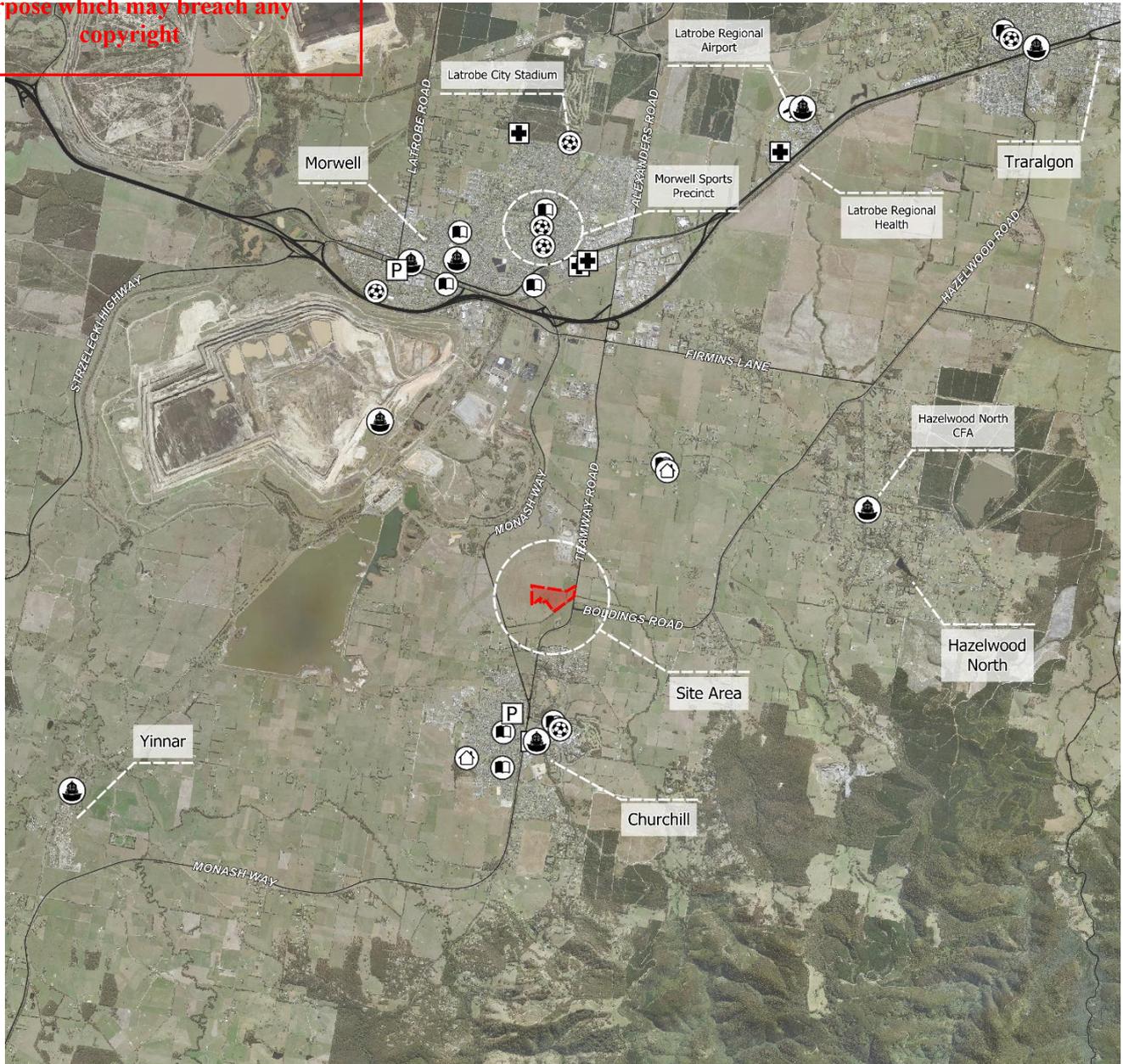
The Latrobe Valley is the heart of Victoria’s current energy generation and supply. During the mid-twentieth century, large parcels of land were acquired for the construction of a new coal-fired power station completed in 1971, with additional land compulsorily acquired for the newly planned town of Churchill. While Hazelwood Power Station was decommissioned in 2017, the remaining coal-fired generators in the Latrobe Valley still produce the majority of Victoria’s electricity supply. The three-remaining coal-fired generators; Yallourn, Loy Yang A, and Loy Yang B, are expected to cease electricity production in 2028, 2035, and 2048 respectively.

Churchill is strategically positioned with direct access to the Princes Freeway, a key arterial route that connects the Latrobe Valley to Melbourne to the west of Victoria and continues eastward towards Sale and the Gippsland Lakes region. Churchill benefits from its proximity to the Gippsland rail line, which offers

² GLaWAC. (2024). *Our Story*. Retrieved from Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation: <https://gunaikurnai.org/our-story/>

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

The Proposal site is within proximity to community infrastructure such as schools in Hazelwood North, Churchill and Morwell, public halls, the Morwell Town Hall, and the Latrobe Regional Hospital (see Figure 7).



Legend		0	2	4	6 km	
Proposal	Project Area	Fire				
Existing Urban Features	Police	Sports				
Airport	Medical Centre	Existing Infrastructure	Roads			
Public Hall	School					

cogency
Community Context Plan
2408 - Tramway Road BESS

Figure 7 – Community Context Plan

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright.

5.3 Community profile

While the site is addressed in the Hazelwood North vicinity, the closest community to the Proposal is the town of Churchill, 2km south of the Proposal site (see Figure 7). Churchill is located immediately south of the major settlements of Morwell and Traralgon within the Latrobe City Council area. Prior to European settlement the region was occupied by the Gunaikurnai people who are the Traditional Owners of the vast majority of the land in present-day Gippsland.

The Proposal site is located less than 800m from the closest cluster of dwellings within Churchill, zoned General Residential Zone and Rural Living Zone. As per the recent ABS Census³, Churchill was home to 4,924 people within approximately 2,202 private dwellings. Home to Federation University which hosts 2,000 on-campus students and 400 staff, Churchill is Gippsland’s University town. It was originally established in the 1960s as a purpose-built town to provide accommodation for workers and their families who were involved in the construction and maintenance of the Hazelwood Power Station.

Table 2 provides a high-level summary of the demographics of Churchill, identifying aspects of the local community that were, and will continue to be, considered throughout engagement activities.

Table 2 – Churchill demographic analysis (ABS, 2021)

Category	Key statistics
Population and forecasting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The population of Churchill as of the 2021 census is 4,924 people. Since the previous census in 2016 the population of Churchill has grown by 141 residents. The median age of residents in Churchill is 38 which is equivalent to the Victorian state average of 38. As of the 2021 census the largest age group in Churchill is the 20-24-year-old group with a total of 361 individuals, the second largest age group is the 60-64-year-old group with a total of 438 individuals.
Ethnicity, migration and languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Churchill as of 2021, 78% of people were born in Australia, compared with 65% in Victoria. Between 2016 and 2021, the number of people in Churchill born overseas increased by 270 people. The three largest ancestries in Churchill as of 2021 are Australian, English, and Scottish. 86% of people spoke English only in comparison to the Victorian state average of 67%, with only 8% of households speaking a non-English first language. 3% of the population (146 people) identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, compared with 1% in Victoria. 145 people spoke a language other than English at home, the dominant language used at home other than English is Italian. As of the 2021 census the largest religious group is Catholic (16%), while 51% of people had no religion and 10% marked as unstated.
Education and employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,816 people in 2021 were employed, of which 48% work full-time and 35% part-time, with the state average of full-time employment being 56% as of the 2021 census. As of the 2021 census 7% of residents were undertaking a vocational qualification, on par with the Victorian average. In 2021, 164 people were attending university. This represents 11% of the population, compared to 17% in Victoria. As of 2021, 42% of people aged 15 years and over are not in the labour force. An analysis of the jobs held by the resident population shows the three highest industries of employment are hospitals (107 people), social assistance services (73 people), supermarket and grocery stores (60 people). The highest count occupation is community and personal services workers with 271 residents, followed by technicians and trades workers with 264 residents.

³ ABS. (2021). *Churchill 2021 Census QuickStats*. Retrieved from Australian Bureau of Statistics: <https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/SAL20561>

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

Households, dwellings and home tenancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As of 2021, in Churchill there was a total of 2,202 private dwellings averaging 2.3 people per household. ▪ Households were comprised of 19,915 (65.1%) family households, and 9,859 (32.2%) single person households. ▪ In 2021, 50.9% of households contained three bedrooms. ▪ In 2016, 5,507 households (19.5%) did not have an internet connection at the dwelling.
Income and unpaid work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The median weekly household income of Churchill is \$1,109 as of 2021, compared to \$1,565 in Victoria. ▪ 2,638 individuals, or 66% of the population did unpaid domestic work a week before Census Night. ▪ 600 carers were providing unpaid assistance to a person with a disability, long term illness or old age in 2021. This represents 15% of the population aged over 15 years old. ▪ 1,063 people (27% of people aged 15+) provided unpaid care to children in 2021.

3.4 Stakeholder identification

To engage appropriately and effectively with the local community and stakeholders, an important first step was to identify the full list of community and stakeholder groups who may be affected by and/or have interest in the Proposal, as outlined in Table 3 below.

Table 3 – Stakeholder identification

Stakeholder identification		
Group	Sub-section	Description
Neighbours	Near (<1.5 km)	Landowners up to 1.5 km from the Proposal site. There are ~120 dwellings within 1.5 km of the Proposal site, including ~32 dwellings within 1 km.
	Far (1.5-3 km)	Landowners between 1.5 km and 3 km from the site boundary.
	Energy Australia (Jeeralang Power Station)	Owners and operators of Jeeralang Power Station
	AusNet (Hazelwood Terminal Station)	Owner and operator of Hazelwood Terminal Station
	Marinus Link	Proponent of proposed Marinus Link interconnector project.
Local businesses	Near (<2 km)	Businesses up to 2 km from the site boundary.
	Far (2-5 km)	Businesses between 2 km and 5 km from the site boundary.
Traditional Owners		The Traditional Owners of the Tramway Road BESS site is the Gunaikurnai people. RAP for the area is the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC).
Wider communities	Nearby townships	Community within 10 kilometres of the Proposal including towns of Churchill, Hazelwood, Hazelwood North, Morwell, Loy Yang, and Traralgon.
	Council communities	Other communities in Latrobe City LGA.
Print media	Local	Local publications and newsletters, including the Latrobe Valley Express, Gippsland Times, Morwell Advertiser, and Traralgon Journal.
	State	Victorian publications such as The Age and The Herald Sun.
	National	National publications such as The Australian Financial Review, and The Australian, Renew Economy
Other media	Local	Local TV and Radio including 99.5 & 99.9 FM Gippsland's TRFM, ABC Gippsland, and Gippsland FM 104.7.
	State	State TV and Radio including ABC Radio Melbourne, Triple M Melbourne amongst others.
	National	National TV and Radio, including ABC National, 7News, 9News, Sky News, SBS.

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

Stakeholder identification			
Group	Sub-section	Description	
Social media	Facebook	Hazelwood North community Facebook page, Latrobe City Council Facebook page, Latrobe Valley Express Facebook page	
	Federal government	Relevant Ministers	Minister for Climate Change and Energy Minster for Environment and Water Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Minister for Industry and Science, Mr. Ed Husic MP Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
		Local	Lower House – Member for Gippsland Upper House – All 12 senators in Victoria
		Department Officers	Staff in government agencies
Federal government	Federal Agencies	Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)	
	State government	Relevant Ministers	Minister for Planning Minister for Climate Action, Energy and Resources, and the State Electricity Commission Minister for Agriculture Minister for Environment Premier
		Local	Legislative Assembly (Lower House), Member for Morwell Legislative Council (Upper House) – All 5 Members of the Legislative Council (MLC) for Eastern Victoria
State Agencies	Victorian Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) Planning Panels Victoria DEECA (including Gippsland office) Victorian Environmental Protection Authority Victorian Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions Invest Victoria TAFE Gippsland Federation University		
Local government	Relevant Councillors	Mayor Deputy Mayor Central Ward	
	Local	Latrobe City Council CEO Latrobe City Council General Manager Regional City Planning and Assets General Manager, Regional City Strategy and Transition Other local councillors	
Emergency services		Country Fire Authority (CFA) Morwell Fire Brigade State Emergency Services (SES)	
Water authority		Gippsland Water Corporation West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (CMA)	
NGO and Local community organisations		Gippsland Climate Change Network (GCCN), Churchill & District Community Association (CDCA), Voices of the Valley, Friends of the Earth, Advance Morwell , The Morwell Club , Committee for Gippsland, Life After Coal , Gippsland Multicultural Service, Heart Focus Community Care, Hazelwood North Public Hall, Hazelwood North Reserve, Churchill United Soccer Club, Churchill Community Hub .	

Stakeholder identification		
Group	Sub-section	Description
Community action groups		Responsible Renewables Strzelecki Community Alliance Better Transmission Gippsland
Transport and road authorities		DTP
Transmission line operator		AusNet
Neighbouring operators		AusNet Marinus Link

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

4. Engagement phases and activities

An Engagement Action Plan for the Tramway Road BESS engagement process was developed to encompass the entire Proposal lifecycle (see Appendix B). The plan was specifically tailored to the local and regional context of Churchill, 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.

The Engagement Action Plan was structured to give ample time for interested parties to be consulted, informed, and provided a space to provide comments prior to the submission of the Planning Application. During all phases of the Proposal, Eku Energy committed 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.

This Engagement Summary Report and the Engagement Action Plan will continue to be periodically updated to reflect the progress of the Proposal, incorporate community input, and address any emerging engagement needs and issues.

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 project team have and will 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
- **Phase 2a:** Pre-lodgement (Planning Application Preparation)
- **Phase 2b:** Planning application public exhibition
- **Phase 3:** Post-exhibition and decision
- **Phase 4:** Construction and operation
- **Phase 5:** Decommissioning

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

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

4.1 Phase 1: Pre-application early engagement

The Pre-application early engagement phase was carried out from May 2024 to September 2024. A Community & Stakeholder Engagement Plan was developed at this stage to help establish key engagement and approval objectives for the initial stages of the Proposal, including the establishment of an Engagement Action Plan to outline key engagement phases and activities.

This phase also involved engagement with a range of stakeholders as part of the early design and preparation for the next phases of engagement prior to introduction of the Proposal to the broader local community. This phase was designed to ensure that any feedback, questions or concerns regarding the design of the Proposal could be considered with ample time before the lodgement of the Planning Application to DTP.

Table 4 provides an overview of the engagement activities that occurred in Phase 1.

Table 4 – Overview of Phase 1 engagement

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

Stakeholders engaged	Engagement activities
----------------------	-----------------------

DTP	Face-to-face meetings
Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC)	Online meetings
AusNet	Briefings/presentations
Marinus Link	Initial contact via email
	Phone calls

Phase 1 engagement			
Date	Stakeholder	Activity	Key details of engagement

9 September 2024	GLaWAC	Notice of intent (NOI) to complete Cultural Heritage Management Plan	Sent by Cultural Heritage consultants (<i>GML Heritage</i>) to GLaWAC and Latrobe City Council.
7 October 2024	DTP	Online meeting	<p>Kick-off meeting to introduce key Proposal details, potential impacts and risks, renewable energy developments in the area, community engagement and preparation of the planning application. Other items discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Relevant planning controls and application lodgement details ▪ Nearby existing and proposed projects, such as Marinus Link ▪ Noise and fire risk requirements and mitigation measures ▪ Bushfire mitigation measures and their importance ▪ Community and stakeholder engagement, including feedback from prior BESS applications in proximity to the site.

ADVERTISED PLAN

14 October 2024	GLaWAC	Online meeting	<p>Meeting facilitated by Cultural Heritage consultants (GML Heritage). The GLaWAC is the RAP for the Hazelwood North area. Being the Traditional Owners of the site, engagement with GLaWAC has been prioritised through the planning and design phases of the Proposal. An inception meeting was held with GLaWAC on 14 October 2024. The aim of the meeting was to inform the Gunaikurnai representatives of the Proposal and to discuss the Cultural Heritage Management Plan, as well as to give the RAP an opportunity to provide any oral history of relevance, ask questions and provide feedback.</p> <p>Broadly, the following was discussed in the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Proposal and approaches taken by the Cultural Heritage consultants (GML Heritage) ▪ Presentation of the desktop assessment findings, identifying moderate potential for subsurface stone artefact distributions to be present in the southern portion of the activity area ▪ Agreement that a joint standard and complex assessment to be undertaken ▪ Details on potential transmission routes ▪ Details on first stage of complex testing.
Multiple	AusNet	Online meetings	Regular meetings between the Proponent and AusNet took place during this period, to confirm the grid connection aspects.
Multiple	Marinus Link	Online meetings	Regular meetings between the Proponent and Marinus Link took place during this period, to introduce the Proposal and discuss development interface.

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

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

The Pre-lodgement phase was carried out from October 2024 to December 2024. This phase aimed to introduce the Proposal to the broader local community, sought feedback from the community and key stakeholders, and provided an opportunity to express their support or concerns. Throughout this phase,

community members and key stakeholders were engaged and the discussion around community benefit sharing commenced.

In addition, the Planning Application was prepared during this period. Technical consultants carried out detailed technical assessments and produced robust reports for the Proposal to support concept design refinement and lodgement to DTP.

Table 5 provides an overview of the engagement activities that occurred in Phase 2a.

Table 5 – Overview of Phase 2a engagement

Stakeholders engaged	Engagement activities
Nearby neighbours	Website launch and updates
Churchill & Hazelwood North communities	Initial contact via mailout or email
Wider Latrobe Valley community	Phone calls, Letter, Fact Sheet, Door-knocking
Latrobe City Council (Planning Team)	Community Drop-In Session
Churchill and District Community Association (CDCA)	Meetings
Gippsland Climate Change Network (GCCN)	
West Gippsland CMA	
CFA	

ADVERTISED PLAN

Phase 2a engagement			
Date	Stakeholder	Activity	Key details of engagement
28 October 2024	All stakeholders	Website launch	A website was developed to introduce the Proposal to the local community, to keep them informed about further developments and to provide an opportunity to contact the project team with any enquiries. The website can be seen in Appendix C and accessed at https://ekuenergy.com/tramwayroad .
30 October 2024	Neighbouring properties	Introductory mailout	A letter of introduction and fact sheet were mailed to 70 properties within 1.2km of the site to introduce the Proposal and encourage attendance at the community drop-in session. A copy of this letter and the fact sheet, as well as a map of all properties that received communication can be seen in Appendix C.
7 November 2024	Immediate neighbours	Door knock	<p>A community door knock was held on 7 November 2024 to reach out to those living closest to the Proposal and introduce the proposed Tramway Road BESS, explain BESS technology and the need for it, while offering to answer any questions or address immediate concerns. The Cogency engagement team door knocked 36 dwellings within a 1.2 km radius of the proposed BESS, with calling cards left for residents who were not available on the day. A map of all properties that received a door knock and a copy of the calling card can be seen in Appendix C.</p> <p>The key topics raised during the door knock are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Questions about how the BESS would interact with the Liberal-National Coalition’s proposed nuclear power plant at Loy Yang, if developed. ▪ Many residents in the subdivision to the south-west of the site were largely unconcerned about noise or viewpoints being negatively impacted.
19 November 2024	All stakeholders	Community drop-in session #1	A Community drop-in session was held on 19 November 2024 from 2pm-6pm at the Churchill Public Hall, 4 Marina Drive, Churchill. The purpose of the session was to give the local community and other stakeholders an opportunity to meet the project team, learn more about the Proposal and to ask questions in person. The drop-in session was hosted by Eku Energy and Cogency and included members of the project team, with attendees encouraged to provide contact information to receive updates on the Proposal. Information included fact sheets, a site plan, multiple A1 boards (including ‘What is a BESS’, ‘About Eku Energy’, ‘Project Details’, and

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

Phase 2a engagement

Date	Stakeholder	Activity	Key details of engagement
------	-------------	----------	---------------------------

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

			<p>'Community Benefit Sharing', and an Artist Impression of the BESS. Copies of all information is available in Appendix D.</p> <p>The Community drop-in session was advertised in the local newspaper (Latrobe Valley Express) on 6 November and 13 November 2024 (refer to Appendix D). Letter invitations and fact sheets were sent to neighbouring properties and email invitations, which included the project fact sheet, were sent to the following stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Latrobe City Council – including the Planning team and incoming councillors and mayor ▪ GLaWAC ▪ Churchill & District Community Association (CDCA) ▪ Gippsland Climate Change Network (GCCN) <p>The above stakeholders were invited to distribute the invitation email to their networks.</p> <p>28 attendees were presents at the drop-in session, including local community members, representatives from CDCA and GCCN, as well as representatives from nearby energy projects including Marinus Link, and Energy Australia (proponents of nearby Wooreen BESS). Refer to Figure 8 and Appendix D for photos taken at the session.</p> <p>The following topics raised at the information session and discussed with the project team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fire management questions ▪ A number of ideas for benefit sharing ▪ Potential for use of green concrete during construction ▪ Construction timetable. <p>A valuable outcome of the drop-in session was a brainstorming activity that generated several ideas for benefit sharing within the local community, including the potential sponsorship of the Churchill Market, where residents can come to find out more about the Proposal and receive updates on the development process. Refer to Appendix D for a photo of the completed activity.</p>
<p>19 November 2024</p>	<p>Gippsland residents</p>	<p>Television news coverage</p>	<p>WIN Gippsland attended Community drop-in session and produced segment on television news bulletin informing wider Latrobe Valley community of Proposal.</p> <p>Coverage included an interview with an Eku Energy representative and contained information about collaboration with the CFA to manage fire risk, as well as the promotion of local employment opportunities during construction and operation.</p> <p>A summary of the media coverage is provided at Appendix D.</p>
<p>30 November 2024</p>	<p>Gippsland residents</p>	<p>Radio interview</p>	<p>Gippsland FM Radio interview with Proposal lead to inform wider Latrobe Valley community of Proposal in a 30-minute interview.</p> <p>The following topics were discussed during the interview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The scale of the Proposal, including size and site location ▪ The role of BESS in the energy grid ▪ Mitigation strategies for local community such as noise walls and vegetation screening ▪ Construction timelines and opportunities for local job creation. <p>A summary of the media coverage is provided at Appendix D.</p>
<p>November 2024</p>	<p>West Gippsland CMA</p>	<p>Meeting</p>	<p>Meeting facilitated by Hydrology consultants (<i>DCE</i>) to receive feedback on Proposal and incorporate into the design.</p>
<p>November 2024</p>	<p>CFA</p>	<p>Meeting</p>	<p>Meeting facilitated by Fire consultants (<i>Fire Risk Consultants</i>) receive feedback on Proposal and incorporate into the design.</p>

ADVERTISED PLAN

Phase 2a engagement			
Date	Stakeholder	Activity	Key details of engagement
2 December 2024	Latrobe City Council	Online meeting	Kick-off meeting to introduce key Proposal details, community engagement and planning controls, including hydrology and vegetation removal. Broadly the Council gave in-principle support of the Proposal.
4 December 2024	Community drop-in session attendees	Email	Closing-the-loop email sent to attendees of Community drop-in session to encourage further feedback and queries and inform of next steps. A copy of this email is provided in Appendix D.



Figure 8 – Community drop-in session #1

ADVERTISED PLAN

4.3 Phase 2b: Planning application public exhibition

The Planning Application was lodged in December 2024 and is currently under review by DTP. The public exhibition phase is expected to take place in Q2/3 2025.

The Proponent is now engaging community members and key stakeholders in anticipation of the public exhibition of the Planning Application. The public exhibition will provide a further opportunity for feedback to be considered.

Engagement during Phase 2b seeks to consult with stakeholders and the local community as the Proposal is formally exhibited to the public. Engagement activities which have been and are expected to be undertaken are summarised below in Table 6.

Table 6 – Overview of Phase 2b engagement (complete and ongoing)

Stakeholders engaged	Engagement activities
DTP	Further contact via email
Latrobe City Council	Phone calls
GLaWAC	Website updates
Gippsland TAFE	Community Drop-In Session (at the Churchill Shop Local May Market)
Gippsland Climate Change Network (GCCN)	Meetings
Federation University	
Voices of the Valley	
Friends of the Earth	
Nearby neighbours	
Churchill & Hazelwood North communities	
Wider Latrobe Valley community	

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

Phase 2b engagement

Date	Stakeholder	Activity	Key details of engagement
4 April 2025	Neighbouring properties	Proposal update mailout	A proposal update fact sheet was mailed to 70 properties within 1.2km of the site, to provide an update on the Proposal including the indicative layout plan and the Churchill Shop Local May Market details. A copy of the fact sheet is at Appendix E.
11 April 2025	GLaWAC	Meeting	<p>Meeting facilitated by Cogency to provide an update on the Proposal and early engagement to date. Discussion regarding the First Nations engagement, benefit sharing and procurement which the Proponent has taken into consideration. Key takeaways included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Latrobe City Council runs a First Nations / procurement program which works with industry in employment and training pathways ▪ GLaWAC provides cultural safety and awareness programs ▪ Community benefits should be specific for First Nations people, rather than part of a competitive pool of the wider community ▪ GLaWAC has a community benefit policy and administers a trust fund which is to be reviewed to consider how it may be expanded to address new types of industry and projects such as BESS ▪ GLaWAC identified the Whole of Country Plan, Energy Strategy (soon to be released) and Pathway to Partnerships as key documents for the Proposal to consider.
11 April 2025	Gippsland TAFE	Meeting	<p>Meeting facilitated by Cogency to provide an update on the Proposal and early engagement to date. Discussion regarding Gippsland TAFE's latest programs and initiatives, and opportunities for the Proponent's benefit sharing. Key takeaways included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identification of the Gippsland Womens Fellowship Project as a key initiative which additional funding and partners are being sought to support ▪ Identification of the proposed Clean Energy Centre in Morwell which provides an opportunity for a developer, like Eku Energy, to contribute to aspects of the development (e.g. solar, BESS or electric vehicle facilities) ▪ Identification of funding opportunities related to student scholarships or transferring industry expertise via guest lectures and the like ▪ Gippsland TAFE is currently preparing a Project Plan and Communication Plan (soon to be released) which will provide details regarding projects and initiatives and their funding requirements ▪ Noted that Star of the South, an offshore wind farm proposed in the region, has developed a list of suppliers which could be considered for the Proponent's upcoming procurement plan ▪ Discussion and provision of key personnel and contacts regarding Gippsland TAFE's existing relationship with GLaWAC, along with connections to industry, government and First Nations and the Gippsland TAFE Koori Engagement Team.
15 April 2025	Gippsland Climate Change Network (GCCN)	Meeting	<p>Meeting facilitated by Cogency to provide an update on the Proposal and early engagement to date. Discussion regarding GCCN's latest initiatives and benefit sharing ideas.</p> <p>GCCN provided broad support for the Proposal, including support for the proposed Community Benefits Sharing Investment Principles.</p>
16 April 2025	Federation University	Meeting	<p>Meeting facilitated by Cogency to provide an update on the Proposal and early engagement to date. Discussion regarding the Proponent's consideration of local procurement and benefit sharing. Key takeaways included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussion regarding partnership models which could be explored between Eku Energy and the university ▪ Identification of funding opportunities including Hardship scholarships, and contribution to the Latrobe Valley STEM Foundation Studies Centre. Hardship scholarships are critical, as hardship is high

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

ADVERTISED PLAN

Phase 2b engagement

Date	Stakeholder	Activity	Key details of engagement
			<p>in this region, but there is a lack of support. Federation University receives over 3,000 hardship applications per year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identification of placement and learning opportunities including the 60-day paid placement 'Recruitment Partners' program or 'Coop Cadetships', a blend of work and learning.
Q2 2025	Voices of the Valley	Meeting	Meeting to be facilitated by Cogency to provide an update on the Proposal and early engagement to date. Discussion regarding the Proponent's consideration of local procurement and benefit sharing.
Q2 2025	Friends of the Earth	Meeting	Meeting to be facilitated by Cogency to provide an update on the Proposal and early engagement to date. Discussion regarding the Proponent's consideration of local procurement and benefit sharing.
Q2 2025	Latrobe City Council	Meeting	Meeting to be facilitated by Eku Energy & Cogency on 13 May 2025 to provide an update on the Proposal and early engagement to date. Discussion regarding the First Nations engagement and procurement which the Proposal has taken into consideration along with local procurement and benefit sharing.
3 May 2025	All stakeholders	Community drop-in session #2	<p>The project team hosted a market stall and provided financial sponsorship for the Churchill Shop Local May Market, Churchill Shopping Precinct, Monash Way, Churchill 3842. Eku Energy provided financial sponsorship for the market and hosted one of the many stalls on the day. The market is run by the Churchill and District Community Association and seeks to support local businesses and employment for Churchill and surrounds.</p> <p>The session provided an accessible forum for interested community members to informally discover more about the Proposal and what to expect during the upcoming public exhibition of the application, with information boards provided that contained detailed information about the Proposal.</p> <p>The project team engaged with 70 community members who were largely supportive of the Proposal, with the following topics discussed with the project team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fire and smoke risk and mitigation ▪ Battery chemistry technology used in the BESS ▪ Local employment opportunities <p>Attendees were additionally asked to brainstorm the types of initiatives and infrastructure they would like to see supported by any benefit sharing program, with the following ideas proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding for a Resilience Trailer to support disaster relief efforts ▪ Funding for community gardens and local food banks ▪ Improvements to local infrastructure, including local parks and bike trails. <p>A record of all engagement material, including information boards, local advertising and event photos are available at Appendix E.</p>
Q2/3 2025	All stakeholders	Notification letter	DTP to send mandatory notice to neighbours about the Proposal.
Q2/3 2025	All stakeholders	Response to submissions	The Proponent will review and provide responses to the submissions received from the public and referral authorities, and make any necessary updates to the Proposal
Q2/3 2025	All stakeholders	Website updates	Website to be updated with details on Proposal status, as well as information about upcoming engagement activity.

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

ADVERTISED PLAN



Figure 9 – Community drop-in session #2

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

4.4 Phase 3: Post-exhibition and decision

The Planning Application assessment will continue and a decision is expected in Q3/4 2025. The Proponent seeks to consider and respond to submissions lodged during public exhibition of the Proposal.

Engagement during Phase 3 seeks to respond to submissions lodged during public exhibition of the Proposal. Expected engagement activities are summarised below in Table 7.

Table 7 – Overview of expected Phase 3 engagement

Expected phase 3 engagement			
Date	Stakeholder	Activity	Key details of engagement
Q3/4 2025	All stakeholders	Proposal team continues to respond to enquiries, as required	To ensure interested parties are provided with communication about their issues and concerns.
Q3/4 2025	All stakeholders	Meeting	Further stakeholder meetings, if required
Q3/4 2025	Local community	Meeting	Meetings with objectors, if required
Q3/4 2025	All stakeholders	Engagement Strategy & collateral	Updates as required to ensure that the Proposal is well positioned to transition into an active Proposal and address stakeholder issues and impacts

4.5 Phase 4: Construction and operation

The construction and operation phase is expected to commence in 2027 and begin operations in 2029. This phase aims to continue to implement the actions as laid out in the Engagement Action Plan, with key focus on the facilitation of Community Benefit Sharing Program.

Engagement during Phase 4 will involve updates on construction progress including notification of any local area impacts, as well as ongoing responsive communication with any interested or affected parties, commencement of monitoring and evaluation reporting as well as implementation of the Community Benefit Sharing framework. Engagement regarding the Community Benefit Sharing framework will seek to keep the local community informed of the progress, opportunities and implementation of the program.

4.6 Phase 5: Decommissioning

The decommissioning phase is expected to take place at the end of the Proposal’s lifespan (approximately 20 years), focusing on site review and evaluation, and will involve the development of a decommissioning strategy. The engagement during Phase 5 will seek to consult with community to determine how the site will be returned to its original condition.

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

ADVERTISED PLAN

5. First Nations engagement and collaboration

Ekü Energy recognises and values the importance of First Nations knowledge and participation in regional development. As a critical stakeholder, the Proposal team prioritised engagement with the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Party (GLaWAC).

An initial pre-application meeting with GLaWAC in Phase 1 of the Proposal is detailed in Chapter 4.1 with a Cultural Heritage Management Plan to be completed in parallel with the planning application process. Further meetings will be held with GLaWAC throughout the preparation and review of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

Separately to the Cultural Heritage Management Plan, a meeting was held with the Economic Development representative of GLaWAC during Phase 2b of the Proposal, to discuss First Nations engagement, benefit sharing and procurement, as detailed at Chapter 4.3.

In addition to the meetings with GLaWAC, Ekü Energy is also meeting with other stakeholders including Latrobe City Council, Gippsland TAFE and Federation University to discuss opportunities for First Nations engagement and collaboration further.

The Proposal team will continue to engage with First Nations people and representatives to understand their priorities and tailor long-lasting economic, social, cultural, and environmental benefits through the Engagement Action Plan initiatives and the Benefit Sharing Program. First Nations procurement is also being considered as part of the Proposal.

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

6. Community benefit sharing and local procurement

Ekü Energy take community engagement and benefit sharing seriously, and are committed to ensuring their approach is collaborative, tailored, transparent and aligned to local needs and aspirations. Ekü Energy is also exploring local procurement opportunities to ensure that the Proposal has a positive impact on businesses within the region.

By undertaking proactive and meaningful engagement with local stakeholders, Ekü Energy aims to be a positive and proactive member of the local community and seeks to engage with community members to create positive, lasting impacts. Ekü understands that Community Benefit Sharing is the process of sharing the benefits and rewards of a renewable energy development with host communities and local communities, and that understanding local values helps to determine where opportunities exist to deliver direct community benefit.

The development of a Benefit Sharing framework is underway and will be further developed in parallel with the Planning Application Assessment. Part of the Benefit Sharing framework preparation included seeking feedback from the community during the November 2024 Community Drop-in session (refer to Chapter 4.2, Figure 8).

Ekü Energy is working closely with the Churchill and Hazelwood North communities and other key local stakeholders through the comprehensive community and stakeholder Engagement Action Plan (Appendix B) to inform the development of the Benefit Sharing framework. This ensures a tailored approach to the Community Benefit Sharing Program for Churchill, Hazelwood, the Gunaikurnai people, and the Latrobe Valley region.

Ekü Energy understands that local procurement is the process of contracting with local businesses, located in the areas close to the development for goods and services. Engagement to date has identified that Star of the South, an offshore wind farm proposed in the region, has developed a list of suppliers which could be considered for the Proposal.

To date, Ekü Energy has met with or is arranging meetings with a number of stakeholders to discuss community benefit sharing and local procurement opportunities, including:

- Latrobe City Council
- GLaWAC
- Gippsland TAFE
- Gippsland Climate Change Network (GCCN)
- Federation University
- Voices of the Valley
- Friends of the Earth.

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright.

7. Communication methods and tools

A wide range of communication tools ensured that the Churchill and Hazelwood North communities and stakeholders were effectively informed, consulted and involved in the Proposal, to reduce to the extent possible:

- The risk of conflict between community, stakeholders, and Eku Energy
- Any intrusion and disruption to land uses
- Potential impacts of energy infrastructure development.

Communication materials for the Tramway Road BESS sought to be **objective, balanced and free from technical jargon.**

Given that there is a heightened level of community interest in new energy infrastructure and its relationship to renewable energy, the Proposal 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 Eku Energy is committed to mitigate or manage potential impacts. Through this process, trust has been developed between the community and the Proposal 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 Engagement Action Plan are outlined in Table 8. 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 8 – Communication tools and activities

Tool	Description and purpose	Stakeholders	Level of engagement
Presentation and briefing pack	To provide clear and concise information about the Proposal as it develops. To notify the stakeholders about key milestones in the Proposal and how to get involved. To avoid the spread of misinformation and to mitigate concerns where possible.	All stakeholders	Inform Consult
Face to face and online stakeholder meetings	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.	All stakeholders	Inform Consult
Proposal website	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.	All stakeholders	Inform Consult

ADVERTISED PLAN

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

Tool	Description and purpose	Stakeholders	Level of engagement
	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://ekuenergy.com/tramwayroad		
Fact sheets and information posters	To provide clear and concise information about the Proposal as it develops. To notify the community about key milestones in the Proposal and how to get involved. To avoid the spread of misinformation and to mitigate concerns where possible. Printed versions at Council offices or other key public locations to announce key milestones.	All stakeholders	Inform
Letter of introduction	Direct letters delivered to households within a 1.2km radius of the Proposal to notify landowners of details surrounding the Proposal, upcoming events (such as the Community Drop-in Session), participation opportunities, and Proposal updates. To inform stakeholders of any upcoming construction activities that may be relevant to their property to provide detailed information about the work and contact details.	Neighbouring landowners Local businesses	Inform Consult
Door knocking	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.	Neighbouring dwellings	Inform Consult
Local advertising	To promote the community information session and Proposal information.	Local media	Inform
Community drop-in session	To facilitate strong face to face interactions between the project team (including the Proponent and key technical consultants) and the community / stakeholders. To be informed about the Proposal and consult the project team and government representatives at a critical stage 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 Wider Latrobe City Council community Local businesses Local politicians	Inform Consult
Thank you email	To facilitate strong face to face interactions between the project team (including the Proponent and key technical consultants) and the community / stakeholders. To be informed about the Proposal and consult the project team and government representatives at a critical stage of the process (i.e. pre-lodgement of the planning application and during the public advertising period). 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.	All stakeholders	Inform Consult

ADVERTISED PLAN

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of putting its consideration and review as part of planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document will not be used for any purpose including, but not limited to, copyright.

6. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the community engagement process and outcomes will be undertaken to help identify areas for improvement or modification, and to learn from experiences. While Victorian planning guidelines specify monitoring, evaluation, and reporting requirements, Eku Energy 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 Eku Energy will refer to the below checklist, Figure 10, at each phase of the engagement process. This checklist has been adapted from the [Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Proposals](#).

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

- 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 Proposal 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 engagement database. This will be 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. This will include an engagement register which 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
- Engagement record details including issues raised and activity details
- Summary of key discussion points, including any actions to be addressed.

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

8.2 Complaint and grievance management

The timely and effective management of enquiries and complaints is critical to the successful delivery of the Proposal. Eku Energy has a Complaints Management Procedure that is used across all their development and operational projects. The policy aims to establish an open and transparent complaint handling process and ensure complaints and queries are handled fairly and objectively.

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

The Complaints Management Procedure (CMP) is underpinned by the following principles:

1. Complaints can be received via multiple channels
2. Complaints are assessed and explored impartially by staff
3. Action is taken to resolve the complaint, where reasonable
4. Responses to complaints are returned as soon as possible
5. Complaints are reviewed to understand issues and improve, where applicable
6. Complaint information is managed in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988*
7. The CMP applies to all project staff.

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

Eku Energy has established and joined a dedicated anonymous and independent Speak Up channel, '[Whistle B](#)' which supports anonymous online reporting and supports Eku Energy in maintaining a transparent business climate. This platform is available through the Whistle B site and on delivery sites, and is open to all members of the community, stakeholders, staff or contractors.

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

9. Conclusion and next steps

The Tramway Road BESS presents an opportunity to increase energy storage capacity in Victoria, thereby strengthening energy and price stability for Victorian households and supporting the state's net-zero transition.

From the outset of planning and development, Eku Energy has aimed to be a positive and proactive member of the local community and has sought to engage with community members to create positive, lasting impacts. This has been made evident through the proponent's commitment to preliminary and ongoing engagement with key stakeholders including nearby neighbours, Latrobe City Council and GLaWAC.

As demonstrated within this report, Eku Energy has remained committed to proactive and meaningful engagement at every critical phase of the Proposal. This approach has helped facilitate open and honest dialogue with key stakeholders and the broader community.

While aiming to minimise the potential impacts of the Proposal, Eku Energy will also strive to maximise the benefits for the local community and is committed to ensuring its benefit sharing approach is collaborative, tailored, transparent and aligned to local needs and aspirations.

Looking ahead, Eku Energy, with the support of Cogency, remains committed to fostering strong relationships with key stakeholders and the local Churchill and Hazelwood North communities. Through the comprehensive engagement process, insights will be gained that will help identify initiatives related to the Community Benefit Sharing Program, which will continue to evolve as the Proposal progresses through future phases.

This continued engagement highlights Eku Energy's dedication to being a positive and proactive member of the community, ensuring that the local community's needs are heard and addressed throughout the Proposal's lifecycle.

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

Appendices

Appendix A	Best Practice Charter
Appendix B	Engagement action plan
Appendix C	Introductory collateral
Appendix D	Community Drop-in session #1 collateral
Appendix E	Community Drop-in session #2 collateral
Appendix F	Proposal media coverage

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

Appendix A Best Practice Charter

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.

Eku Energy has and will continue to uphold 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 to the extent possible.
- 5 We will consider the potential visual, noise, traffic and other impacts of the Proposal and implement the appropriate mitigation measures.
- 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.

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright.

Appendix B Engagement action plan

The engagement action plan is the basis for an effective, efficient engagement process. This action plan has been developed to meet the engagement requirements of all engagement cases) must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright.

Information sharing and opportunities for a wide range of stakeholders to be consulted on the Planning Application prior to and subsequent of submission.

Deliverables	Purpose	Details	Responsibility	Status
Phase 1: Pre-application early engagement				
May – September 2024				
Draft Community & Stakeholder Engagement Plan	To identify key stakeholders in the planning process, determine parameters around the Proposal and mitigate concerns about the Proposal.	Includes stakeholder mapping and demographic analysis Draft to be reviewed by Proponent and endorsed To be later expanded to become a Engagement Summary Report	Cogency	Complete
Develop a stakeholder register	To keep accurate and detailed documentation of the individuals engaged with, their contact details and interests/concerns.	Document to be updated regularly to include all interactions and outreach efforts	Cogency	Complete
Develop a neighbouring dwellings map	To provide a clear understanding to the project team of those nearest to the development and who is most likely to be impacted by the Proposal.	For internal purposes only To aid in door knocking	Cogency	Complete
Key Stakeholder Meetings	To meet with the most important stakeholders to inform them about the Proposal and seek feedback.	Briefing pack required. Stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ State Government ▪ Landowners ▪ Marinus Link ▪ Traditional Owners ▪ Country Fire Authority ▪ AusNet ▪ 	Cogency	Complete
Traditional Owner engagement	To formally acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, detail the Proposal and any issues they foresee. Commence discussion about Cultural Heritage Management Plan.	Background and context Understand potential cultural significance of the site Understand assessment processes	Cogency	Complete
Seek landowners' intelligence, if required	To identify surrounding neighbours, their interests, history, and motivations.	Seek one on one phone calls or meetings with landowner	Eku Energy	Complete
Prepare title searches of	To understand who owns nearby properties, as well as who is living in each	Data to be integrated into stakeholder register	Cogency	Complete

ADVERTISED PLAN

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a neighbouring process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

Deliverables	Purpose	Details	Responsibility	Status
Identifying neighbouring properties	To plan the development.			
Review and endorse the Strategy	To update the draft strategy based on findings of other tasks.	For review and refinement. Meeting to discuss document suggested to refine messaging, timelines and stakeholder risks.	Cogency & Eku Energy	Complete
Phase 2a: Pre-lodgement (Planning Application preparation)				
October – December 2024				
Draft communication materials	To create communication materials that can be used for neighbour discussions, stakeholder meetings and community consultation.	Include a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short PowerPoint presentation Website content Proposal introduction letter Proposal fact sheet(s) FAQs Sorry I missed you letter Media release Consultation advertisement Display boards and other items 	Cogency	Complete
Develop project website or webpage	To provide a single source of truth online about the Proposal.	To include Proposal overview, Proposal benefits, planning and approvals process, timeline, community consultation, benefit sharing opportunities, news and updates, and contact information Use existing Eku Energy website if suitable.	Cogency & Eku Energy	Complete
Send letter of introduction	To notify neighbours about the Proposal and seek to meet with them, if desired.	Registered post 70 properties within 1.2 kilometres of the site	Cogency	Complete
Neighbour meetings or door knock	To proactively engage with neighbours about the Proposal and build their understanding of how impacts and benefits.	All neighbours within ~1.2km radius Will require communication materials	Cogency & Eku Energy	Complete
Advertise information session	To ensure Eku Energy community has enough time to plan to attend the session and look at the website available.	Local newspaper advertising Email invitation to key stakeholders	Eku Energy	Complete
First Community 'drop in' session	To provide an accessible forum for interested community members to	Held at Churchill Public Hall	Cogency & Eku Energy	Complete

ADVERTISED PLAN

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of the planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

Deliverables	Purpose	Details	Responsibility	Status
(hosted by the project team)	To informally discover more about the Proposal and provide feedback.	Supported by several Proposal display boards Attended by Eku Energy and consultant team		
Prepare Engagement Summary Report	To prepare a summary of the engagement to date, detailing key meetings, issues and actions.	Benefit sharing intelligence collected through community and stakeholder consultation	Cogency	Ongoing
Close the loop with neighbours	To ensure neighbours understand they are proactively engaged in the design process and have some aspects of control over choices that impact them early on, including potential benefits.	Offer another meeting in person or online to run through the revised plans and other mapping/visual documentation Provide an update on the planning process timeline and community engagement Inform them about lodgement of the Planning Application	Cogency	Complete
Benefit Sharing Framework drafted	To develop a strategy to provide socio-economic benefits to the Churchill / Hazelwood North / Latrobe City community.	Based on intelligence gathered through stakeholder and community feedback.	Cogency & Eku Energy	Ongoing
Phase 2b: Planning application public exhibition Q2/3 2025				
Send Proposal update	To provide neighbours with a Proposal update including the indicative layout plan and the Churchill Shop Local May Market details.	Registered post 70 properties within 1.2 kilometres of the site	Cogency	Complete
Key stakeholder meetings	To provide an update on the Proposal and early engagement to date. Discussion regarding the First Nations engagement, benefit sharing and procurement which the Proposal has taking into consideration.	Stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GLaWAC Gippsland TAFE GCCN Federation University Voices of the Valley Friends of the Earth Latrobe City Council 	Cogency & Eku Energy	Ongoing
Second Community drop-in session	To provide an accessible forum for interested community members to informally discover more about the Proposal and provide feedback during the public exhibition of the application.	Held at Churchill Shop Local May Market Supported by several Proposal display boards Attended by Eku Energy and consultant team	Cogency & Eku Energy	Complete
Notification letter	Department will send mandatory notice to neighbours about the	Details to be confirmed	DTP	To be started

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright.

Deliverables	Purpose	Details	Responsibility	Status
Proposals can receive submissions and respond to enquiries, as required	To ensure interested parties are provided with communication about their issues and concerns.	Community and stakeholders can make submissions on the planning application Response to submissions to be prepared if required	DTP & Cogency	To be started
Website updates	To provide details on Proposal status, as well as information about upcoming engagement activity.	Website updates	Cogency & Eku Energy	Ongoing
Phase 3: Post-exhibition and decision Q3/4 2025				
Meeting with decision-making authorities / referral authorities	To progress the application and receive a decision on the planning application. Note: The Proponent may seek to modify the consent conditions or appeal the decision	DTP will assess the proposal and application Consent Authority (The Minister for Planning) determines the application Should it be approved, more impact assessments and design updates may be required	TBC	To be started
Updates to Engagement Strategy & collateral	To ensure that the Proposal is well positioned to transition into an active Proposal and address stakeholder issues and impacts.	Update website and collateral, if required Prepare for construction and operation phases	TBC	To be started
Further stakeholder meetings, if required	To ensure that all stakeholders, including objectors, have an opportunity to seek answers and the project team can respond appropriately.	If required. For example, with objectors, local council, landowners, Country Fire Authority or surrounding neighbours.	TBC	To be started
Phase 4: Construction and operation 2027 – onwards (~20 years)				
Ongoing implementation of Engagement Plan	To provide milestone updates about the Proposal and other items related to construction, safety and operations.	Update website and collateral Proposal updates, as required Stakeholder communication, as required Engagement with impacted neighbours and the community to continue Establish a Business Services Register The construction period of the Proposal will begin	TBC	To be started
Announcement and implementation of	To provide information on benefit-sharing subsidy	Inform local community of the progress, opportunities and	TBC	To be started

Deliverables	Purpose	Details	Responsibility	Status
benefit sharing approach	rollouts, and ensure Proposal is associated with beneficial outcomes for Churchill / Hazelwood North.	implementation of the benefit sharing.		
Phase 5: Decommissioning <i>~2050 subject to design life</i>				
Site review and evaluation communication	To communicate how the site will be returned to its original condition.	Undertaken in accordance with the applicable regulations that govern the safe transport and disposition of used equipment or waste. Development of communication associated with the Decommissioning Management Plan.	TBC	To be started

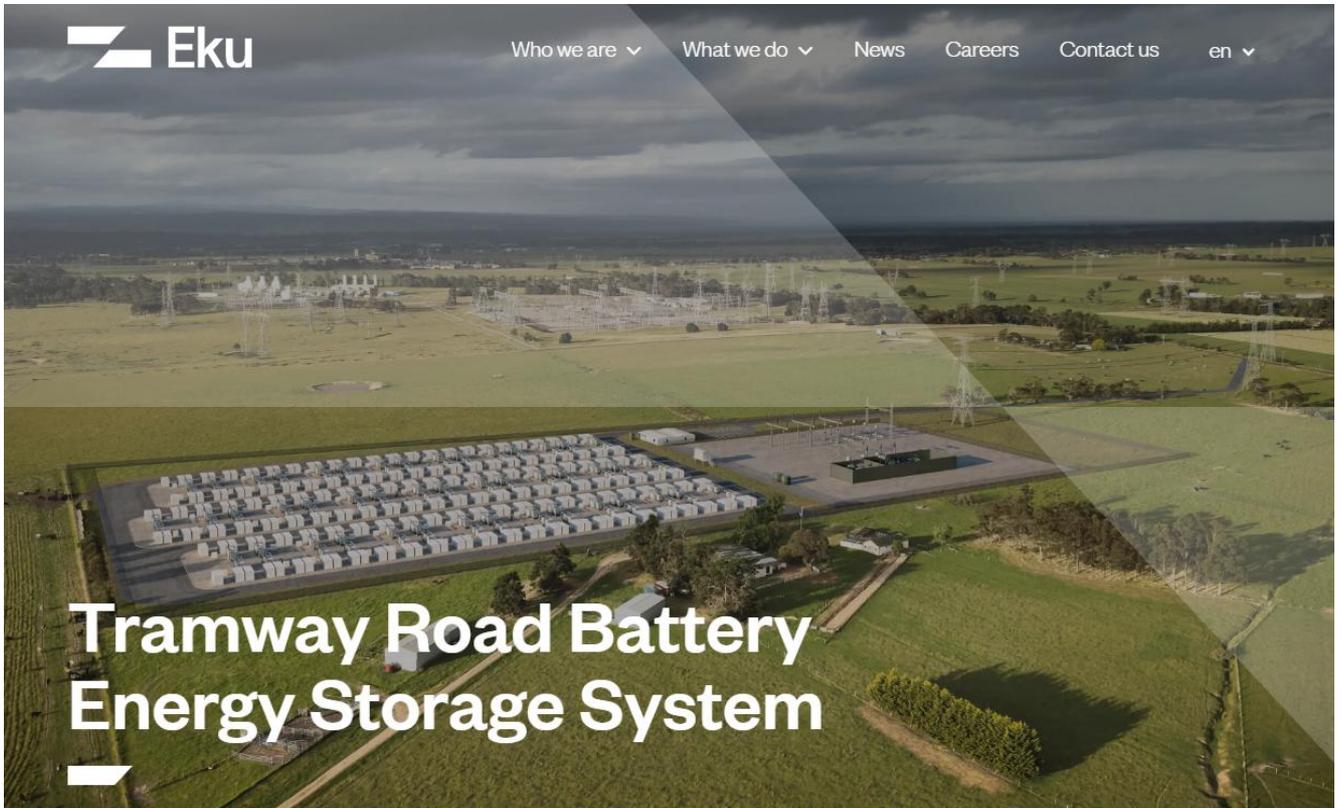
This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

Appendix C Introductory collateral

Tramway Road BESS website

Available at <https://ekuenergy.com/tramwayroad>



Projects / Tramway Road Battery Energy Storage System

Australia

300MW / 1200 MWh

Overview

Tramway Road is a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project up to 300MW / 1200 MWh in size in the Latrobe Valley in Gippsland, Victoria. Strategically located with a direct connection to the adjacent Hazelwood Terminal Station, the site will deliver safe, secure and reliable energy to Victorians and support the region's energy transition.

The project is under development with planning and environmental studies underway. Once in operation, Tramway Road BESS will support the growth of renewable energy in Gippsland, including the future development of offshore wind in Gippsland, while helping Victoria reach its net zero emissions goals.

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

ADVERTISED PLAN

This copied document to be made available for its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which infringes copyright

Tramway Road BESS Proposal



30 October 2024

To Owner/Occupier,

RE: Tramway Road BESS – Letter of introduction

On behalf of our client team, we are writing to provide information on a proposal to develop the 'Tramway Road BESS' – a 300MW battery energy storage system (BESS) adjacent to Hazelwood Terminal Station. We also wish to notify you about upcoming door knocks and invite you to a community drop-in session to be hosted by the project team.

About the project

The proposed 'Tramway Road BESS' and associated infrastructure is adjacent to the Hazelwood Terminal Station at 675 Monash Way, Hazelwood North, approximately 6 kilometres south of Morwell and 2 kilometres north of Churchill. The project is being developed by Eku Energy, a specialist clean energy storage business, delivering over 16 gigawatt hours of battery energy storage across Australia. Tramway Road BESS will generate real and lasting social and economic benefits, including creating local job opportunities and providing reliable energy storage to support Victoria's energy transition. A map of the site area under investigation is included overleaf.

The Tramway Road BESS would occupy approximately 4-5 hectares of land in Hazelwood North and has been selected due to its location on non-productive agricultural land immediately adjacent to existing electrical infrastructure. It is also strategically positioned away from significant public viewpoints and sensitive receptors.

Following engagement with local stakeholders, a Planning Permit Application will be prepared and lodged with the Minister for Planning (Department of Transport and Planning [DTP]). The Minister will then assess the proposal and place the application on public notice, with comments invited in due course.

Community consultation

Our project team seeks to speak to any interested neighbours, residents and other groups to explain more about the proposal and receive feedback.

Door knocks – Thursday 7th November

We will be conducting door knocks of properties in proximity to the proposed BESS investigation area on Thursday 7th November between 8am-4pm. The purpose of these door knocks is to introduce ourselves and the proposal, and invite you to attend our next community engagement sessions.

If you are not home at the time of our visit, we will leave a calling card in your mailbox. Furthermore, if you would like to arrange a specific time for us to visit, please reach out to us (see contact details below).

Community Drop-In Session – Tuesday 19th November

In addition, as part of the early engagement prior to lodging a planning application, we are hosting a community drop-in session, which we cordially invite you to attend (details below):

Table with 2 columns: Field (Date, Time, Location) and Value (Tuesday 19 November, 2:00pm-6:00pm, Churchill Public Hall - 4 Marina Parade, Churchill)

Following the above engagement activities, the preparation of the planning permit application will be finalised. Once lodged with DTP, the application will go on public notice and there will be an opportunity for the public and other authorities to make submissions for consideration by DTP. We encourage you to speak with our team should you wish to discuss the proposal and ask any questions you may have directly.

Phone: 0452 593 4298
Email: consultation@cogencyaustralia.com.au

Website: www.ekuenergy.com/tramwayroad

ADVERTISED PLAN

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

Tramway Road BESS Proposal

If you have any questions or concerns about Tramway Road BESS, please do not hesitate to contact us via the details provided below.

Warm regards,

Rebecca Wardle

Rebecca Wardle
Co-Founder & Director
Cogency Australia



Legend



- Property boundary
- Proposed BESS investigation area
- Cadastre
- 500 KV transmission line
- Marinus Link
- Marinus Link Converter Station
- Waterway

0 100 200 m



cogency

Site Plan

2408 - Tramway Road BESS

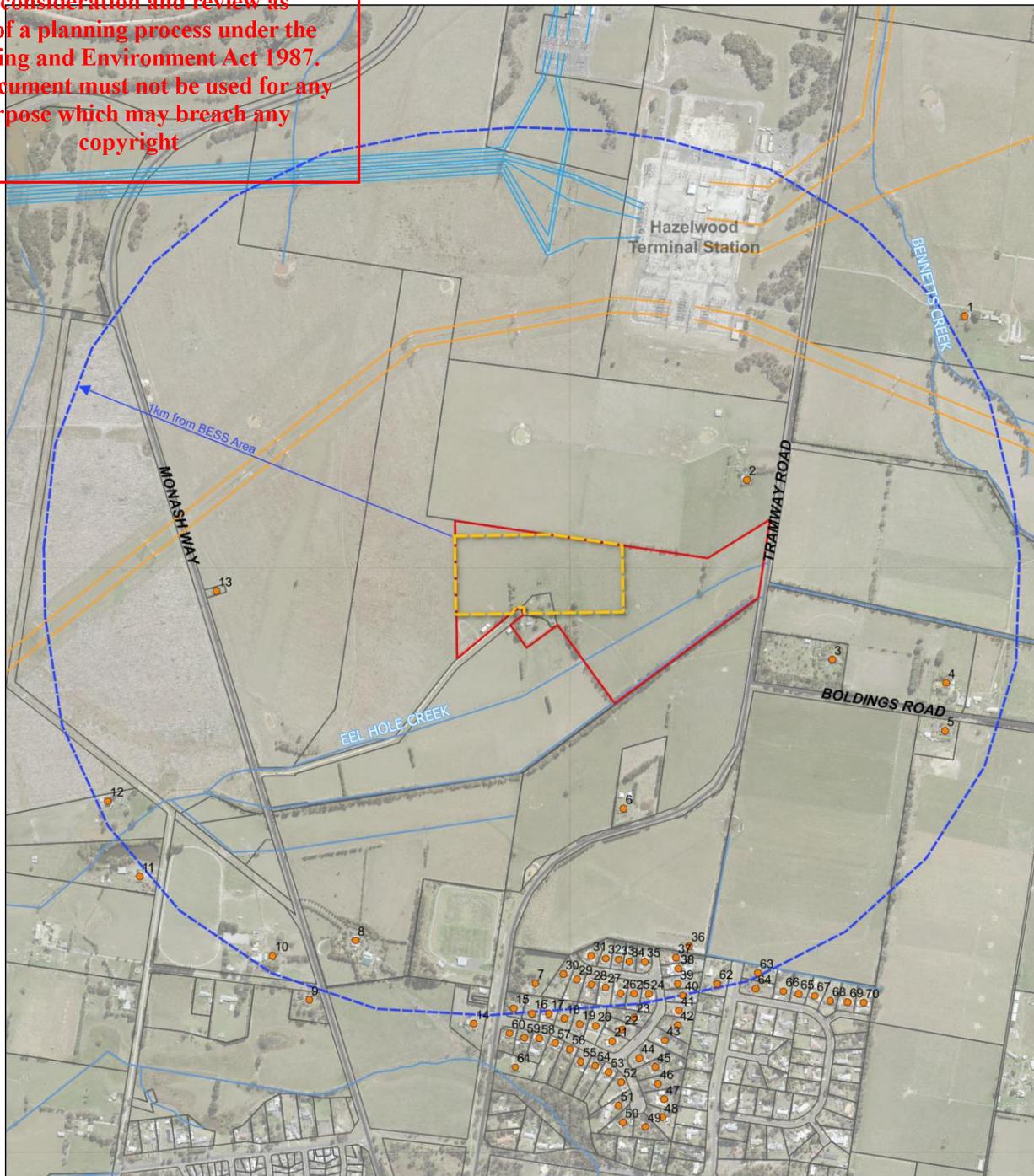


Phone: 0452 593 4298
Email: consultation@cogencyaustralia.com.au

Website: www.ekuenergy.com/tramwayroad

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

This copied document to be made available for the purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright



- Proposal**
- BESS Area
- 1km BESS Area Buffer
- BESS Property Area
- Existing Infrastructure**
- Dwellings
- Roads
- Cadastre



Mailout Plan
2408 - Tramway Road BESS

ADVERTISED
PLAN

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

Trainway Road BESS Gippsland



INFORMATION SUMMARY #1



NOVEMBER 2024

Proposal

Eku Energy seeks to develop a battery energy storage system (BESS) on approximately 4-5 ha of land at 675 Monash Way, Hazelwood North.

Battery storage is a critical enabler of the energy transition, designed to store and release energy and provide support to stabilise Victoria's electricity grid.

The proposal includes a 300MW/1200MWh BESS, switching station, as well as associated connection infrastructure into the existing and directly adjacent 500kV / 220kV Hazelwood Terminal Substation.

The site was identified due to its location next to existing electrical infrastructure and on non-productive agricultural land. It is also strategically positioned away from significant public viewpoints and sensitive receptors.

As part of the planning process, we are currently working on several assessments, including biodiversity, cultural heritage, visual, and noise, as well as a Fire Management Plan that will be written in collaboration with the Country Fire Authority.

Benefits

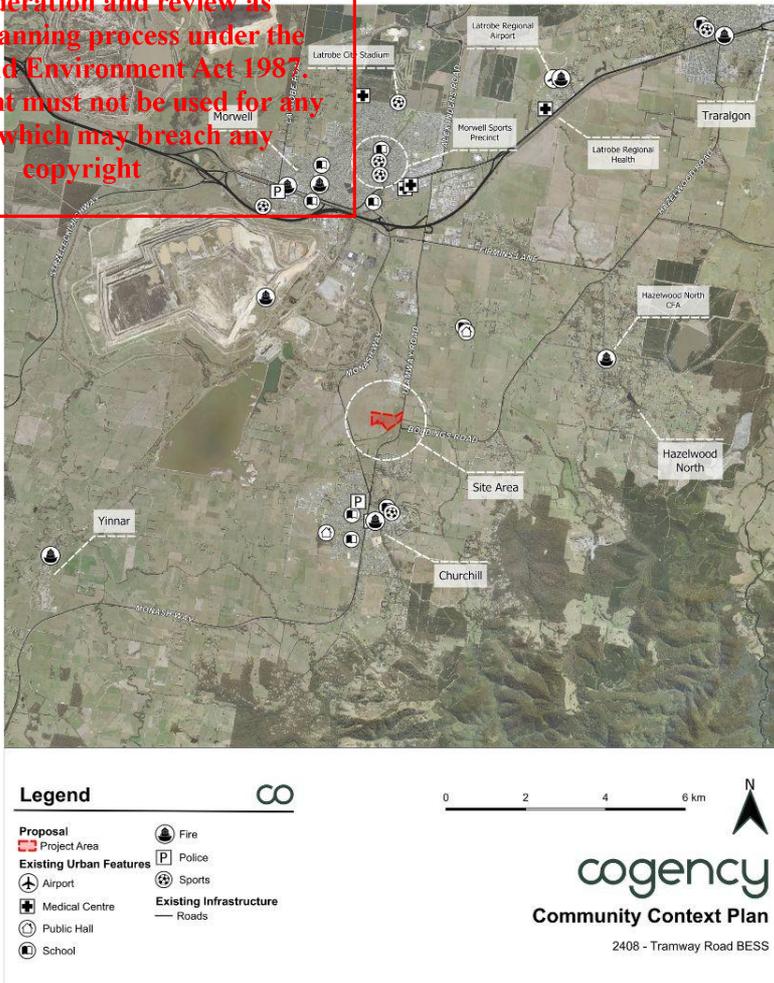


- Making use of land adjacent to existing electrical infrastructure
- Providing energy storage to support renewable energy generation and system reliability
- Contracting for local contractors during construction and operation
- Benefit sharing framework to support the local community

Eku Energy is a global battery storage business on a mission. We're working across the full project life cycle to develop, build, and manage energy storage assets with the aim of advancing the energy transition and facilitating the delivery of safe, secure, reliable clean energy.

ADVERTISED PLAN

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright



Proposal overview

The project site is addressed 675 Monash Way, Hazelwood North and is part of a larger 34-hectare agricultural land holding approximately 6-kilometres south of Morwell and 2-kilometres north of the heart of Churchill.

The site is located within VicGrid's renewable energy zone study area. These areas are parts of Victoria that have the potential to host the new energy generation, storage and transmission infrastructure required to support Victoria's energy transition.

The site is currently used for grazing activities and has been previously cleared for agricultural purposes. The land is zoned Farming Zone (FZ1) under the Latrobe Planning Scheme and is immediately adjacent to the operational Jeeralang Power Station and Hazelwood Terminal Station to the north and agricultural grazing land to the west, south, and east. Tramway Road runs parallel to the site's eastern boundary, and Eel Hole Creek runs east-west across the site.

Safety

Ekü Energy's absolute priority is creating a safe working environment. We proactively manage our construction and operations to achieve zero harm to people, assets and the communities in which we operate.

Community benefit sharing

Ekü Energy aims to be a positive and proactive member of the local community and seeks to engage with community members to create positive, lasting impacts.

We are committed to ensuring our benefit sharing approach is collaborative, tailored, transparent and aligned to local needs and aspirations.

Ekü Energy, with the support of our planning and engagement consultant - Cogency Australia - will engage with the Latrobe City Council, local residents, local stakeholders, and the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation to discuss opportunities for benefit sharing.

Planning and consultation

Ekü Energy seeks to meet with neighbours, local residents and interested groups to conduct early engagement to explain the proposal and receive feedback on the early concept design.

Prior to lodging a planning application, Ekü Energy will host a community drop-in session and contact surrounding residents to discuss the proposal.

Cogency Australia has been engaged to lead the planning application and engagement program.



Cogency has been engaged by Ekü Energy to undertake the planning, project management, environmental, and community engagement program for the proposal.

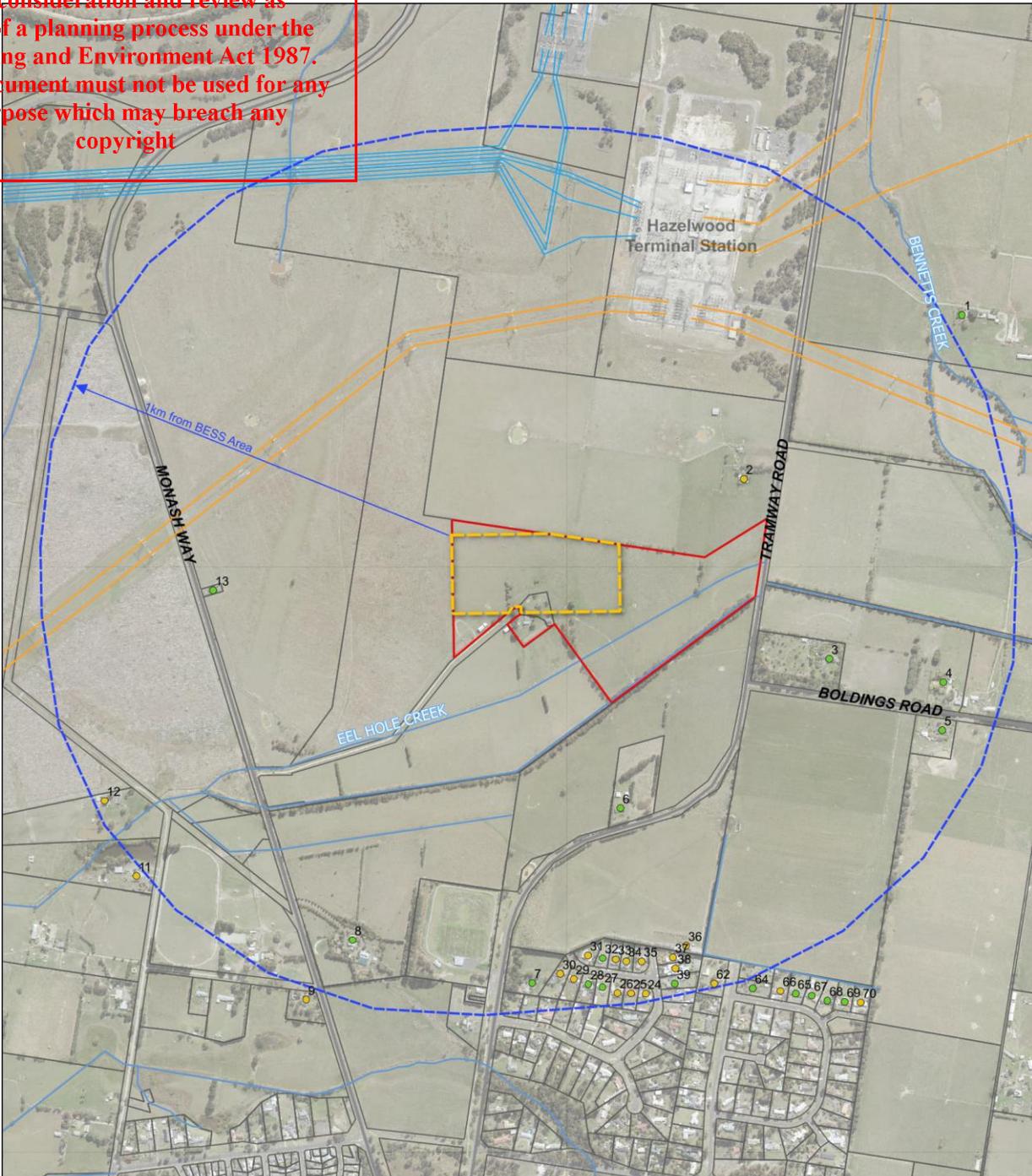
cogencyaustralia.com.au
www.ekuenergy.com/tramwayroad

Contact us

Rebecca Wardle
 Co-Founder & Director
 0452 593 428
consultation@cogencyaustralia.com.au

ADVERTISED
 PLAN

This copied document to be made available for **Door knock map** enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright



- Proposal**
 - BESS Area
 - 1km BESS Area Buffer
 - BESS Property Area
- Existing Infrastructure**
 - Roads
 - Cadastrate
- Dwellings Door Knocked**
 - Yes
 - Attempted

0 250 500 m



Door Knock Plan
2408 - Tramway Road BESS

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

This copied document to be made available for door knock calling card its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright



Tramway Road Battery Energy Storage System

The proposed Tramway Road BESS in Hazelwood North is designed to store and release energy and provide grid support services. It includes battery units, inverters, substation, vegetation screening and fencing



Sorry, we missed you



We are in the area today conducting a door knock for the Tramway Road 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,
Eku Energy and Cogency Australia

For more information, please visit our website or contact Cogency

 <https://ekuenergy.com/tramwayroad>

 0452 593 428

 consultation@cogencyaustralia.com.au



ADVERTISED PLAN

Appendix D Community Drop-in session #1 collateral

Advertisement

Published in the Latrobe Valley Express on 6th November and 13th November 2024



YOU'RE INVITED

Tramway Road BESS proposal



Community Drop-in session

Drop in to learn more about Eku Energy's proposal for a 300MW/1200MWh battery energy storage system (BESS), switching station, and associated connection infrastructure, adjacent to the 500kV / 220kV Hazelwood Terminal Substation.

Come by to learn more about the proposal, view the plans and ask questions.

No RSVP required – drop by anytime. Light refreshments provided.

We look forward to meeting you.

Date: Tuesday 19 November 2024

Time: 2:00pm-6:00pm

Venue: Churchill Public Hall (4 Marina Pde)

Contact us

www.ekuenergy.com/tramwayroad

0452 593 428

consultation@cogencyaustralia.com.au



This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

ADVERTISED PLAN

This copied document to be made available for information boards detailing its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

Tramway Road BESS

Eku Energy seeks to develop a battery energy storage system (BESS) on approximately 4-5 hectares of land at 675 Monash Way, Hazelwood North.

Battery storage is a critical enabler of the energy transition, designed to store and release energy and provide support to stabilise Victoria's electricity grid.

The proposal includes a 300MW / 1200MWh BESS, switching station, as well as associated connection infrastructure into the existing and directly adjacent 500kV / 220kV Hazelwood Terminal Substation.

The site is located within VicGrid's renewable energy zone study area. These areas are parts of Victoria that have the potential to host the new energy generation, storage and transmission infrastructure required to support Victoria's energy transition.

Benefits

- ✓ Making use of land adjacent to existing electrical infrastructure
- ✓ Providing energy storage to support renewable energy generation and system reliability
- ✓ Contracting for local contractors during construction and operation
- ✓ Benefit sharing framework to support the local community

Design Considerations

As part of the planning process, we are currently working on several assessments to ensure the design and layout will minimise impact on the local community. This includes biodiversity, cultural heritage, visual, and noise assessments, as well as a Risk Management Plan that will be written in collaboration with the Country Fire Authority.

- 300MW Storage Capacity
- 150 Construction jobs (approximate)
- 6 Operational jobs (approximate)

Location

The site at 675 Monash Way, Hazelwood North is adjacent to Hazelwood Power Station, and is part of a larger 34-hectare agricultural land holding approximately 6km south of Morwell and 2km north of Churchill.

The site was identified due to its location next to existing electrical infrastructure and on non-productive agricultural land. It is also strategically positioned away from significant public viewpoints and sensitive receptors.

The site is currently used for grazing activities, and the land is zoned Farming Zone (FZ1) under the Latrobe Planning Scheme.



Legend

- Property Boundary
- Proposed BESS Investigation Area
- Casefile
- 500 kV Transmission Line
- Morwell Line
- Morwell Line Converter Station
- Waterway

Scale: 0, 100, 200 m

What is a BESS?

Tramway Road BESS

A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is a large-scale energy storage facility that stores and releases energy to the electricity grid.

A BESS comprises a number of "enclosures" or battery units (broadly resembling a shipping container), inverters, transformers and other electrical equipment. The site will also include access tracks, water tanks, site offices, amenities and screening.

Energy storage is essential in supporting the safe, secure and reliable operation of Australia's National Electricity Market. A BESS provides fast responding, dispatchable energy to the grid to ensure that electricity supply remains reliable and stable.

At times of excess supply in the grid, such as during the middle of a sunny day, the BESS will charge by importing electricity from the grid. During times of lower supply and higher demand, such as the early evening, the BESS will discharge, exporting electricity into and stabilising the grid. BESS is dispatchable and can help to balance the grid and support variable energy sources, including household rooftop solar. A BESS also provides a range of essential system services, such as frequency and voltage support which ensure the grid operates securely.

What kind of batteries do we use?



Eku Energy uses Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) cells in our battery energy systems. Durable and with an extensive lifespan, LFP battery cells have a broader thermal operating range and release less energy during thermal runaway than other battery technologies. This means they have a lower risk of overheating or catching fire due to their unique safety features.

BESS Benefits

- Provides additional dispatchable storage capacity for the National Electricity Market.
- Increases energy reliability to support the energy transition.
- Provides essential system services to ensure the grid remains secure.

Battery Enclosures

The enclosure houses multiple racks of modules and contains monitoring and communications equipment, a cooling system, and a fire detection and suppression system.



Site Plan

Tramway Road BESS



Legend

- Property Boundary
- Proposed BESS Investigation Area
- Casefile
- 500 kV Transmission Line
- Morwell Line
- Morwell Line Converter Station
- Waterway



Eku

Tramway Road BESS

Eku Energy is a global battery storage business on a mission.

We are working across the full project life cycle to develop, build, and manage energy storage assets with the aim of advancing the energy transition and facilitating the delivery of safe, secure, reliable clean energy.

- Long-term partner
- Specialist technology-enabled developer
- Globally diverse player

Eku Energy is jointly owned by Macquarie Asset Management managed fund and British Columbia Investment Management Corporation (BCI).

With the backing of two global financial powerhouses, we are working to advance the clean energy transition.



Our Approach

Eku Energy is a specialist energy storage business established to meet the growing need for utility-scale battery storage worldwide. We bring deep technical knowledge and local market expertise to deliver battery storage solutions.

Our absolute priority is creating a safe working environment. We proactively manage our operations to achieve zero harm to our people, assets, and the communities in which we operate.

We have expertise developing BESS projects across Australia, including:

- ✓ Hazelwood BESS (VIC), operational
- ✓ Rangelbank BESS (Cranbourne, VIC), under construction
- ✓ Willamdale BESS (ACT), under construction



ADVERTISED PLAN

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

Artist Impression

Tramway Road BESS



Aerial artist impression of Tramway Road BESS looking north towards the Hazelwood Terminal Station
Indicative impression and layout only (a detailed landscape & visual impact assessment and montages will be prepared for the planning application)

cogency Eku

Benefit Sharing

Tramway Road BESS



Eku Energy aims to be a positive and proactive member of the local community and seeks to engage with community members to create positive, lasting impacts.

Our Commitment

We take community engagement and benefit sharing seriously. We are committed to ensuring our approach is collaborative, tailored, transparent and aligned to local needs and aspirations.

Eku Energy, with the support of our planning and engagement consultant - Cogency Australia - will engage with the Latrobe City Council, local residents, local stakeholders, and the Gunaakurna Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation to discuss opportunities for benefit sharing.

Potential Funding Opportunities

Eku Energy welcome input from the local community on the design of a benefits sharing program. This includes understanding local values and understanding where there are opportunities to deliver direct community benefit.



Employment and Education
Initiatives that support educational or employment outcomes



Social Connectedness
Initiatives that support community connectedness, wellbeing and livability



Environmental
Initiatives that drive sustainability outcomes

TAILORED

Eku's benefit sharing programs will be tailored because every community has different needs and aspirations.

ALIGNED

Eku will ensure that Community Investment is aligned to local strategic documents and will confirm this through ongoing consultation during the lifecycle of the project.

TRANSPARENT

Eku will design and deliver for benefit sharing through a transparent process with each community.

COLLABORATIVE

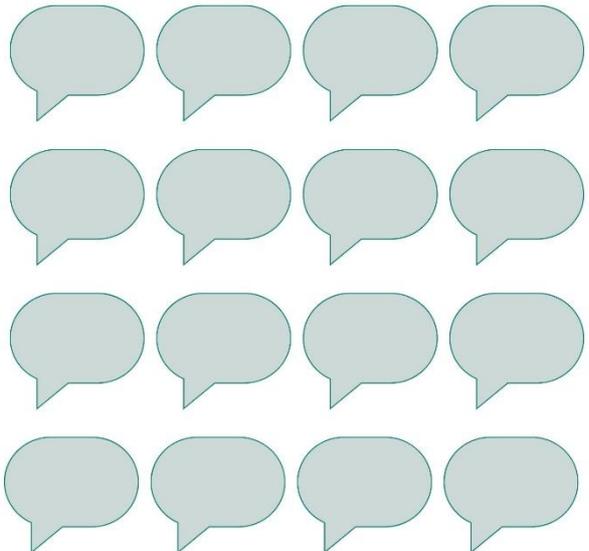
Eku seeks to develop collaborative long-term relationships with communities and become a supportive neighbour.

cogency Eku

COMMUNITY BENEFIT SHARING BRAINSTORM

What types of initiatives and infrastructure would you like to see us contribute to the Hazelwood community?

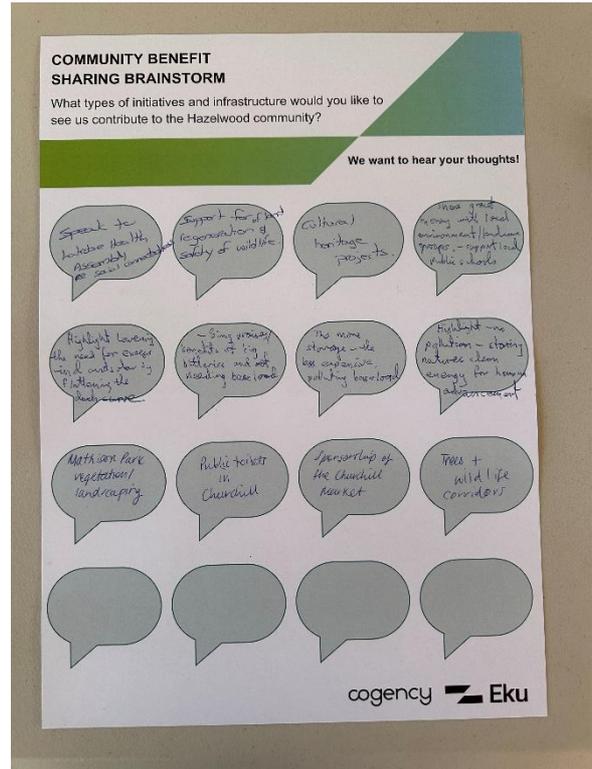
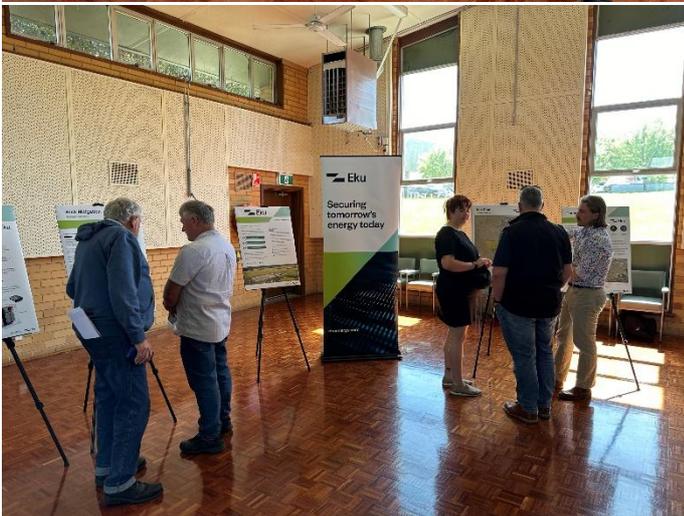
We want to hear your thoughts!



cogency Eku

ADVERTISED PLAN

Photos of session



This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

ADVERTISED PLAN

Thank you email

Thank you for attending!
Tramway Road BESS



Thank you for joining us at our recent Community Information Day for the Tramway Road Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). We greatly appreciate your time, interest, and feedback at this early stage of development, and we will be incorporating your feedback as we move forward with the next steps of the project.

We have assembled a team of experienced consultants who are currently conducting detailed technical assessments in areas such as biodiversity, cultural heritage, visual amenity, and noise assessment. We will also prepare a Risk Management Plan that will be written in collaboration with the Country Fire Authority.

We are also moving forward with preparation of the planning application for the project, with an aim to submit a planning application in the coming weeks.

We will keep you informed as the project progresses and provide further information when the planning application is ready to be lodged.

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or would like additional information about the project. You can contact us at 0452 593 428 or via email at consultation@cogencyaustralia.com.au

Further updates and resources will also be available on our website at www.ekuenergy.com/tramwayroad.

Thank you once again for your engagement with the Tramway Road BESS project.

Best regards,

Rebecca Wardle

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

Appendix E - Community Drop-in session #2 collateral

Proposal Update fact sheet

Next steps

Once the Department of Transport and Planning is satisfied that all relevant information has been received, the proposal will be placed on public exhibition.

During the public exhibition period, the local community and other stakeholders will be invited to review the proposal and lodge a submission to the Department to provide feedback.

As a neighbour, you will be notified by letter indicating when the public exhibition period has commenced, along with information detailing how to make a submission.

Scan me to find out more information



Ekue Energy

Ekue Energy is a battery storage business on a mission.

We are a specialist energy storage business established to meet the growing need for utility-scale battery storage.

We bring deep technical knowledge and local market expertise to deliver battery storage solutions.

Our absolute priority is creating a safe working environment. We proactively manage our operations to achieve zero harm to our people, assets, and the communities in which we operate.

Cogency Australia has been engaged to lead the planning and engagement on behalf of Ekue Energy.



April 2025

Tramway Road BESS

PROJECT UPDATE

Dear resident,

Following our initial communication in November 2024, we are writing to you to provide a progress update on Ekue Energy's proposal to develop the 'Tramway Road BESS', a 300 MW battery energy storage system (BESS) in Hazelwood North.

Ekue Energy

Contact us



Should you have any questions or concerns about the Tramway Road BESS, please do not hesitate to contact us.

✉ consultation@cogencyaustralia.com.au

☎ 0452 593 428

🌐 www.ekueenergy.com/tramwayroad



What's been happening?

The planning application has been lodged with the Department of Transport and Planning, with initial review by the Department underway. The application is currently being refined by the project team based on Department and stakeholder feedback.

Technical consultants have and are continuing to conduct assessments to inform the application, including the indicative layout plan and preferred transmission route.

Community input, including feedback from our initial Community Drop-In Session in November is also being taken into consideration. The updated layout and final technical reports will be shared during the public exhibition period.

Planning Pathway



Indicative layout plan of the Tramway Road BESS

- 150kV Transmission Route
- Auxiliary Transformer
- Battery Block
- Inverter
- BMS Kiosk
- Car Parking
- HV Switch Room
- Switching Station
- Control Room
- Harmonic Filters
- Operations & Maintenance
- Water Tank
- Retention Pond
- Hard Stand
- Feeder Cables
- Access Roads
- Temporary Lay Down Area
- Noise Wall
- Fence
- Vegetation Screening

Come visit us at the market

Ekue Energy are sponsors of the upcoming Mother's Day Market at the Churchill Shopping Centre on Saturday 3 May.

The project team will be hosting a stall where you can drop by and discuss the Tramway Road BESS proposal.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Market stall details

🕒 Saturday 3rd May 2025

🕒 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

📍 Mother's Day Market
Churchill Shopping Centre



ADVERTISED PLAN

Churchill Shop Local Community Flyer

Sponsored by Eku Energy and distributed on local Facebook groups as well as Churchill Shopping centre



This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

Newspaper Advertisement

Published in the Latrobe Valley Express on 23rd April 2025



ADVERTISED PLAN

Tramway Road BESS proposal

Visit our stall at the upcoming Churchill Mother's Day Market to learn more about Eku Energy's proposal for a 300MW / 1200MWh battery energy storage system (BESS), switching station, and associated connection infrastructure, adjacent to the Hazelwood Terminal Substation.

Come by to learn more about the proposal, view the plans and ask questions.

- Saturday 3 May 2025**
- 9:00 am - 1:00 pm**
- Churchill Shopping Centre**

Scan the QR to visit our website for more information



This copied document to be made available for the Information Boards its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

Tramway Road BESS

Ekü Energy seeks to develop a battery energy storage system (BESS) on approximately 4-5 hectares of land at 675 Monash Way, Hazelwood North.

Battery storage is a critical enabler of the energy transition, designed to store and release energy and provide support to stabilise Victoria's electricity grid.

The proposal includes a 300kW / 1200MWh BESS, switching station, as well as associated connection infrastructure into the existing and directly adjacent 500kV / 220kV Hazelwood Terminal Substation.

Location

The site at 675 Monash Way, Hazelwood North is adjacent to Hazelwood Power Station, and is part of a larger 94-hectare agricultural land holding approximately 8km south of Morwell and 2km north of Churchill.



Project status

The planning application has been lodged with the Department of Transport and Planning, with initial review underway. The application is currently being refined by the project team based on Department and stakeholder feedback, including community feedback from our initial Community Drop-In Session in November.

Technical consultants have and are continuing to conduct assessments to inform the application, including the indicative layout plan and preferred transmission route. The updated plan and final technical reports will be shared during the public exhibition period.

- Pre-application engagement
- Planning Application lodgement
- Public exhibition period
- Application decision
- Construction and operation

Next steps

Once the Department of Transport and Planning is satisfied that all relevant information has been received, the proposal will be placed on public exhibition.

During the public exhibition period, the local community and other stakeholders will be invited to review the proposal and lodge a submission to the Department to provide feedback.



What is a BESS?

Tramway Road BESS



A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is a large-scale energy storage facility that stores and releases energy to the electricity grid.

A BESS comprises a number of battery units that resemble shipping containers, inverters, transformers and other electrical equipment. The site will also include access tracks, water tanks, site offices, amenities and screening.

Energy storage is essential in supporting the safe, secure and reliable operation of Australia's National Electricity Market. A BESS provides fast responding, dispatchable energy to the grid to ensure that electricity supply is reliable and stable.

At times of excess supply in the grid, such as during the middle of a sunny day, the BESS will charge by importing electricity from the grid. During times of lower supply and higher demand, such as the early evening, the BESS will discharge electricity into the grid to stabilise it. A BESS can help to balance the grid and support variable energy sources, including rooftop solar. It also provides a range of essential system services, such as frequency and voltage support which ensure the grid operates securely.

BESS Benefits



Provides additional dispatchable storage capacity for the National Electricity Market.



Increases energy reliability.



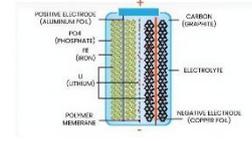
Provides essential system services to ensure the grid remains secure.

Battery Units

The enclosure houses multiple racks of modules and contains monitoring and communications equipment, a cooling system, and a fire detection and suppression system.



What kind of batteries do we use?



Ekü Energy uses Lithium (Iron) Phosphate (LFP) cells in our battery systems. Durable and with an extensive lifespan, LFP battery cells have a broader thermal operating range and release less energy during thermal runaway than other battery technologies. This means they have a lower risk of overheating or catching fire due to their unique safety features.

Risk Mitigation

Tramway Road BESS



Fire Risk Management

Ekü Energy's absolute priority is creating a safe working environment. We proactively manage our operations to achieve zero harm to our people, assets, and the communities in which we operate.

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) utilise lithium-ion technology. While fires associated with BESS technology are rare, there are risks and hazards that need to be managed in their design, construction and operation.

The BESS meets industry-leading safety standards and will be specifically designed to manage and mitigate fire risk. The battery system will be equipped with safety systems which continuously monitor, detect, isolate and alert the operators to any potential anomalies. Comprehensive safety features within both the hardware and software technology will mitigate any risks of fires occurring or propagating between containers.

Lithium-ion batteries, if damaged or faulty, can experience a thermal runaway event which may result in a fire. Thermal runaway in lithium-ion batteries is an overheating of the battery cell which results in a chemical reaction. This process occurs when the temperature within the battery cell exceeds a certain point - that is, the heat generated is greater than the heat that is dispersed.

While fires are rare, we have engaged a specialist fire risk advisor for the Tramway Road BESS. A detailed Fire Management Plan has been prepared, in accordance with the Design Guidelines and Model Requirements: Renewable Energy Facilities 2021 (CFA Guidelines), and will be available to view during the public exhibition period.

The CFA Guidelines provide specific fire detection and protection requirements including the installation of firefighting water supplies, detection and suppression systems, as well as bushfire protection measures.

Ekü Energy are committed to engaging with the CFA to minimise fire and bushfire risk to the fullest extent possible.

Noise Mitigation

There will be some localised noise associated with the construction and operation of the proposed BESS.

During the construction phase, anticipated noise will be associated with activities such as earth works, civil works and truck movements. All construction activities will occur during designated hours and in line with the approved Construction Environmental Management Plan.

During operation, the main source of noise is associated with the BESS's inverters and cooling fans required to regulate the operating temperature of individual battery cells. The proposed Tramway Road BESS has been strategically positioned at the north-western section of the property in order to minimise impacts on surrounding residents.

Detailed noise assessments and studies are currently underway by a specialist noise consultant to ensure that the design and operation of the BESS is in line with EPA noise regulations and other applicable limits. This assessment will also inform whether the BESS will require noise attenuation measures to ensure ongoing compliance.



Benefit Sharing

Tramway Road BESS



Ekü Energy aims to be a positive and proactive member of the local community and seeks to engage with community members to create positive, lasting impacts.

Our Commitment

We take community engagement and benefit sharing seriously. We are committed to ensuring our approach is collaborative, tailored, transparent and aligned to local needs and aspirations.

Ekü Energy, with the support of our planning and engagement consultants - Cogency Australia - has begun to engage with the Latrobe City Council, Federation University, Gippsland TAFE, local residents and stakeholders, and the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation to discuss opportunities for benefit sharing.

Potential Funding Opportunities

Ekü Energy welcome input from the local community on the design of a benefits sharing program.

This includes understanding local values and understanding where there are opportunities to deliver direct community benefit.



Employment and Education

Initiatives that support educational or employment outcomes



Social Connectedness

Initiatives that support community connectedness, wellbeing and livability



Environmental

Initiatives that drive sustainability outcomes

TAILORED

Ekü's benefit sharing programs will be tailored because every community has different needs and aspirations.

ALIGNED

Ekü will ensure that community investment is aligned to local strategies and will confirm this through consultation during the project's lifecycle.

TRANSPARENT

Ekü will design and deliver for benefit sharing through a transparent process with each community.

COLLABORATIVE

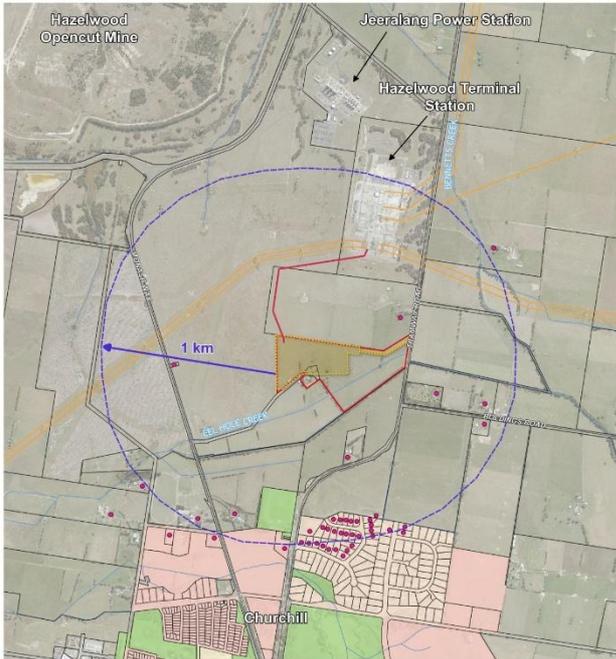
Ekü seeks to develop collaborative long-term relationships with community and become a supportive neighbour.



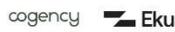
ADVERTISED PLAN

Site Context Plan

Tramway Road BESS



- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Proposed | Existing Features | Planning |
| Proposed Transmission Route | Property | Residential Zone |
| Development Area | 500kV Transmission Lines | Rural Living Zone |
| BESS Site | Waterways | Public Park & Recreation Zone |
| Neighboring Dwellings | Roads | Public Use |



This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

ADVERTISED PLAN

Indicative Layout Plan

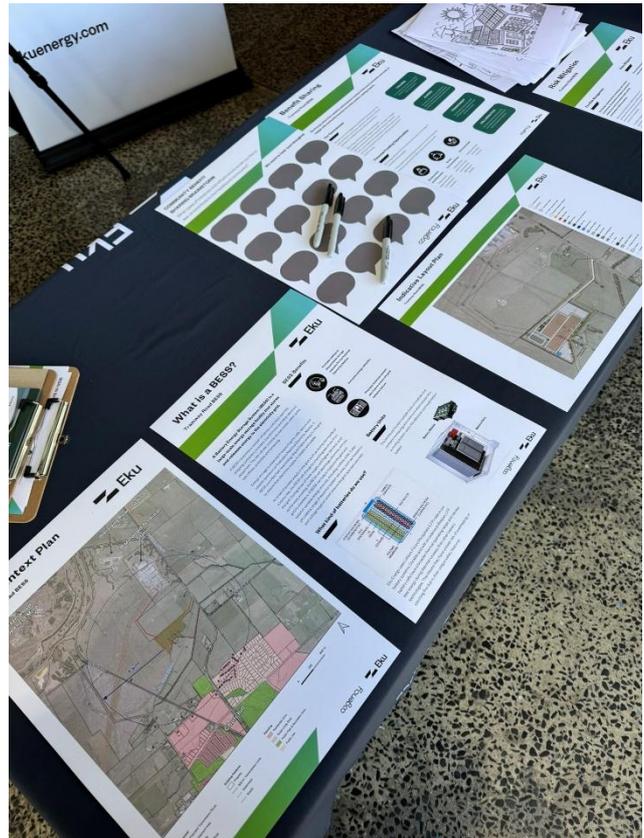
Tramway Road BESS



- | |
|--------------------------------|
| Development Area |
| BESS Site |
| Transmission Towers |
| 500kV Transmission Route |
| Proposed Transmission Easement |
| Auxiliary Transformer |
| Battery Block |
| Inverter |
| BES Panel |
| Circulators and Maintenance |
| Water Tank |
| Retention Pond |
| Switching Station |
| Harmonic Filters |
| Control Room |
| HV Switching Room |
| Hand Stand |
| Fence |
| Noise Wall |
| Vegetation Screening |
| Temporary Lay Down Area |
| Car Parking |
| Access Roads |



This copied document to be made available for public inspection enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright



**ADVERTISED
PLAN**



This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

ADVERTISED PLAN

Appendix F Proposal media coverage

Media coverage			
Outlet	Media	Date/Time	Topic
WIN Gippsland	Television News Interview	19 November 2024	Proposal Overview, employment opportunities, fire risk management
Gippsland FM	Radio Interview	30 November 2024	Proposal Overview, employment opportunities, impact management

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

**This copied document to be made available
for the sole purpose of enabling
its consideration and review as
part of a planning process under the
Planning and Environment Act 1987.
The document must not be used for any
purpose which may breach any
copyright**

ADVERTISED PLAN

cogency

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.

www.cogencyaustralia.com.au