

Appendix C - Communication Materials

Bendigo BESS

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Introduction Letter to Neighbours

Bendigo BESS

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30 March 2026

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Dear Neighbour,

Early feasibility investigations for a proposed Battery Energy Storage System next to AusNet's Bendigo Terminal Station.

We're writing to you today to introduce Pacific Blue and share some early information about a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project we are in the early stages of investigating on land adjacent to the AusNet Bendigo Terminal Station.

Pacific Blue is part of the Pacific Hydro Group. Founded in Melbourne in 1992, Pacific Hydro has helped shape Australia's renewable energy sector for more than 30 years, including developing some of the country's first wind farms and first privately owned hydroelectric projects. We also proudly own Tango Energy, an energy retailer focused on value that serves households and businesses across Victoria.

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A grid-scale BESS stores electricity when supply is abundant, including when renewable generation is strong, and can release that electricity back into the network when demand increases. This helps support the stability and reliability of the electricity system, particularly during periods of peak demand or network stress. In a region such as Bendigo, where power outages can be a real frustration for homes and businesses, infrastructure of this kind has the potential to improve network resilience over time by helping keep more electricity available when it is needed most.

The site we are investigating is directly adjacent to existing electricity infrastructure at the Bendigo Terminal Station. This means the project could make use of existing grid infrastructure and would not require any new transmission towers to connect to the network – it is making full utilisation of existing infrastructure.

If the project were to proceed, it would include BESS units, which look similar to shipping containers, along with electrical connection equipment, a control building, security fencing and landscaping. However, we want to be clear that the project remains at a very early stage. Layout, design and other key features are still being assessed, and no decision has been made about whether the project will progress to the next step of design.

At this stage, Pacific Blue is undertaking feasibility investigations only. This work will take some time before our Board is asked to consider whether the project should progress further. If it does, the

project would be subject to a formal planning and approvals process, including assessment by the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning, with input from the City of Greater Bendigo and other relevant authorities.

A range of technical studies are expected to be undertaken as part of this assessment, including environmental, safety, fire, noise, traffic and site-related studies. This will also include consideration of the site's historical mining and waste storage uses, and any decontamination requirements, if needed. We understand that, for neighbouring businesses, proposals of this nature can naturally give rise to questions about matters such as fire safety and noise. We know that these are important considerations that arise, and we would welcome the opportunity to hear any early questions or perspectives you may have. This is so your views, suggestions, or concerns can be properly considered as technical studies are researched, designed and undertaken to form more comprehensive reports and recommendations.

Before broader public consultation begins, we wanted to contact nearby industrial and commercial neighbours first. Our aim is to open an early line of communication and better understand any operational considerations, local knowledge, future plans or site-specific matters that may be relevant as studies are scoped and carried out. For nearby neighbours, there may be particular matters you would want properly examined from the outset, and we would value the opportunity to understand those early so they can help inform the way this work is approached.

We would welcome the opportunity to speak with you. This could be by phone, email, over a coffee, or in a small meeting with other neighbouring businesses. We are also happy to work around your schedule, including outside standard business hours if that is easier.

Our Community Relations team is currently planning for members of our Melbourne-based team to be available in Bendigo for several days in April to meet with neighbouring businesses. If you would like to meet with us, please email Enquiries@pacificblue.com.au with your contact details, availability, and any early questions or matters you would like us to consider.

We are also planning to hold a broader community information session in May, where community members will be invited to learn more about the project and share their views. As a nearby neighbour, however, we wanted to reach out to you first so that local questions, practical considerations and early feedback can help inform our feasibility work before the project is introduced more broadly.

Kind regards,



Lachlan Sturt
Head of Corporate Affairs
Pacific Hydro

E: Enquiries@pacificblue.com.au

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Community Information Session Flyer Mailout

Bendigo BESS

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Bendigo BESS

Introduction to the Project

Project Overview

Pacific Blue, part of the Pacific Hydro group, is developing the Bendigo Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in Golden Square, adjacent to the existing 220kV Bendigo Terminal Station.

The Bendigo BESS is expected to have a capacity of 201 MW / 866 MWh, providing enough stored energy to support more than 77,000 homes for up to four hours during periods of peak demand. By storing electricity when it is abundant and releasing it when it is needed most, the project will help improve grid reliability and keep homes and businesses connected.

The project is still in its early design phase, and Pacific Blue is seeking local input to help shape the proposal and ensure it supports both the electricity network and the Bendigo community.

What is a BESS?

A BESS is a giant re-chargeable battery. It stores electricity when there is plenty available or when demand is low.

Then it sends that electricity back into the grid when demand is high. For example, dinner time is a daily peak in demand across Victoria

This helps keep the electricity supply steady and reliable.

Why Bendigo?

The project will be built on previously unused industrial land that was historically used for mining and waste storage.

This gives us a chance to improve land that has few other uses. The location of the Bendigo BESS has been chosen for its:

- Low environmental sensitivity
- Proximity to grid connection infrastructure
- Flat, cleared terrain suited for construction
- Accessibility to arterial road network for construction logistics

Local Community Information Sessions

Pacific Blue will be holding three community information sessions so that locals are able to meet the team, learn about the project, and share feedback with us on the proposal.

19 May 2026

at the Kangaroo Flat Library,
23 Lockwood Rd, Kangaroo Flat

Session 1: 1 - 2.30pm
Session 2: 3 - 4.30pm
Session 3: 5.30 - 7pm

To find out more, and to register your interest in attending, please visit:
pacificblue.com.au/Bendigo



Pacific Hydro representatives at a recent community information session for the Clements Gap BESS in SA.




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Left: Finalisation of our Clements Gap BESS project in South Australia, which is nearing completion **Right:** Sponsorship of a community run athletics carnival nearby to our Clements Gap BESS Project.

What's Next?

Like any large-scale development, there are many steps to work through before the project can move ahead.

The project will require a planning permit, with approval from the Minister for Planning through the Department of Transport and Planning. It will also be referred to the City of Greater Bendigo Council and other relevant authorities.

In order to receive approval, a series of technical studies and management plans will help shape the project. These studies, such as environmental assessments, grid impact studies, and risk and hazard investigations, will also provide the opportunity to incorporate community feedback.

We understand you may have questions or ideas about how this project should be designed and how it can benefit the local area, and we welcome those conversations. As planning continues, we'll take time to learn about what matters most to your community, including environmental values, local heritage, and other interests.

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About Pacific Hydro

Founded in Australia in 1992, Pacific Hydro (also known as Pacific Blue) is a leading Australian energy company.

As a renewable energy generator, we develop, own, and operate hydro stations, wind and solar farms across Australia, and have done so for more than 30 years. We don't just invest in our generation projects; we invest in communities.

As one of the first companies in Australia to provide large-scale benefits to the communities which surround our energy projects, we believe in giving back with real impact.

For 20 years, we've been supporting local initiatives that provide genuine and positive social, environmental and economic benefits. Since its launch, our Sustainable Communities Fund has provided more than \$6 million to over 1,000 local projects across regional Australia, delivering small changes that make a big difference.

Keep Up to Date



pacificblue.com.au/Bendigo

Sign up for email updates, straight to your inbox, or find out more.

Social Impact Assessment

As part of planning for this project, a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) is being carried out to understand how this project may affect local residents and the broader community.

Have your say by contacting us using the details below or scanning the QR code to complete a short survey on our website.

Contact Us

Pacific Blue welcomes input from the community and stakeholders. We understand that we don't always get it right, and we want to be informed when we miss the mark. If you have any feedback, good or bad, please feel free to reach out to us through the below channels.

 1800 730 734

 Enquiries@pacificblue.com.au

 pacificblue.com.au/Bendigo

 Level 13/700 Collins Street, Docklands, Victoria, 3008



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Community Information Session Presentation

Bendigo BESS

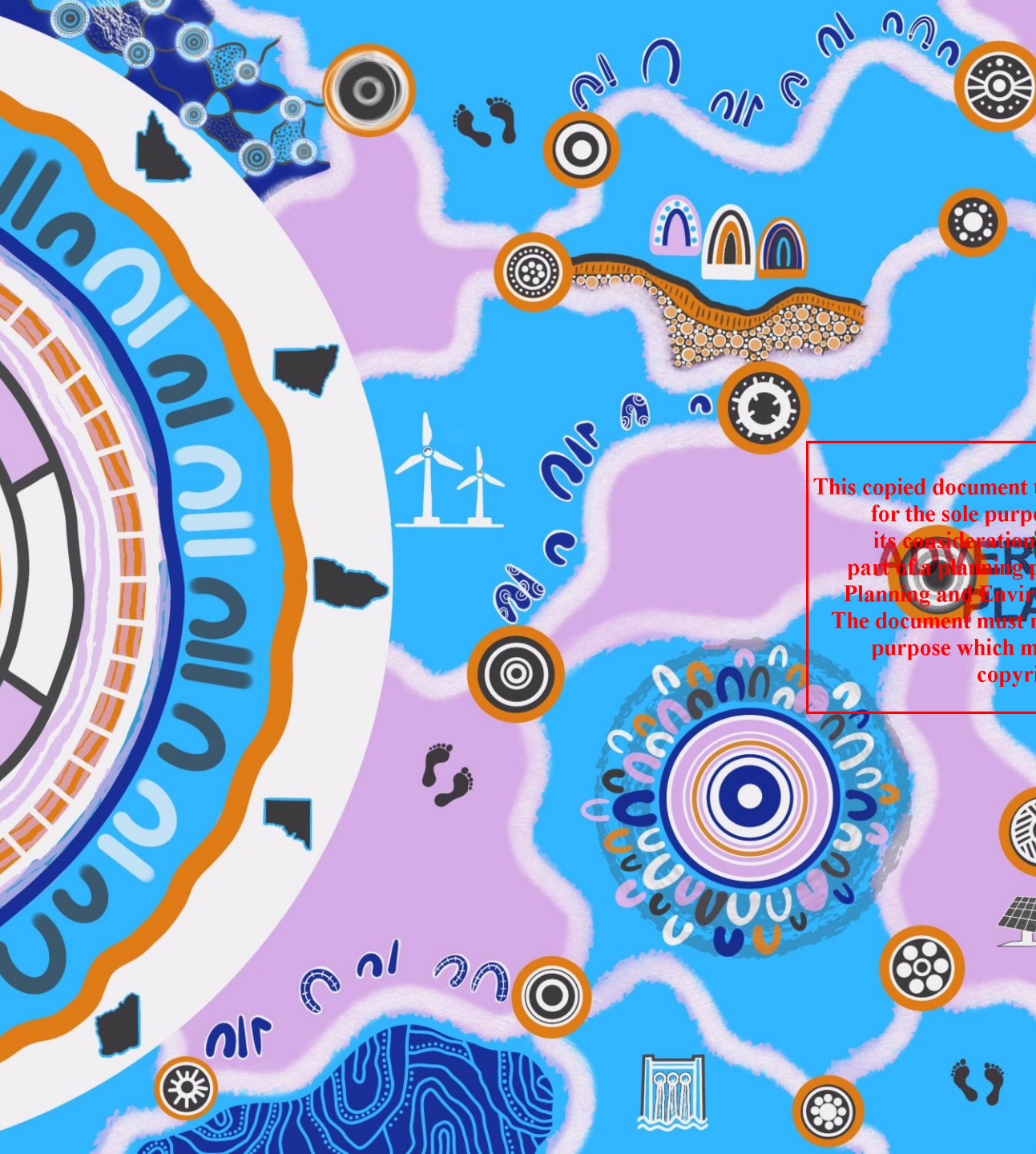
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Bendigo Battery Energy Storage Project

19 May 2026

Presented by: Pacific Blue

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Pacific Blue acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community.

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we pay our respect to them, their cultures and to Elders past and present.

On Dja Dja Wurrung Country

*Artwork by Jeanette Tapau, Bindal and Birriah
Traditional Owner Woman from the Birri Gubba
Nation in North Queensland*

Introduction to the Team

Hannah Coffey

Mark Rathbone

Executive Manager,
Development



David Huang

Project Development Manager



Mariah Stellato

Senior Manager, Enviro,
Sustainability and Planning



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Caitlin Barnes

Senior Project Engineer



Hannah Coffey

Stakeholder Relations



Rose Campbell

Social Impact, Cogency



Eliza Kane

Planner, Cogency



About PacificBlue



Founded in Australia in 1992,
with over **30 years'** experience in
renewable energy generation.



Built some of Australia's **first**
commercial renewable energy
assets across the country.



Owens and operates more than
660 MW of wind, solar and
hydro assets across Australia.



Has a development pipeline
exceeding **2.5 GW**.



Operates Tango Energy retail brand,
supplying over **180,000** customers
nationwide.



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Owned by



State Power Investment Corporation (SPIC)

The world's largest renewable energy investor,
third largest generator in the world,
and operating in **47** countries.



Largest renewable
energy investor



Operating in
47 countries



Third largest
generator in
the world

QUICK FACTS ABOUT BENDIGO BESS

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1

**EXPECTED
201MW / 866MWh
(4-HOUR DURATION)**

Large-scale energy storage to support our growing region.



2

**CONNECTS DIRECTLY
INTO THE EXISTING
220 kV NETWORK
INFRASTRUCTURE**

Direct connection to strengthen the local energy network.



3

**ENOUGH CAPACITY TO
POWER APPROXIMATELY
77,000 HOMES*
PEAK DEMAND**

On hot summer days when air conditioning use is at a maximum.



4

**SUPPORT BENDIGO AND
THE SURROUNDING AREA
IN PERIODS OF CONSTRAINED
ENERGY SUPPLY**

Help reduce local blackouts and keep the community powered.



5

**SUPPORT THE WIDER
TRANSMISSION NETWORK
BY PERFORMING
NETWORK SERVICES**

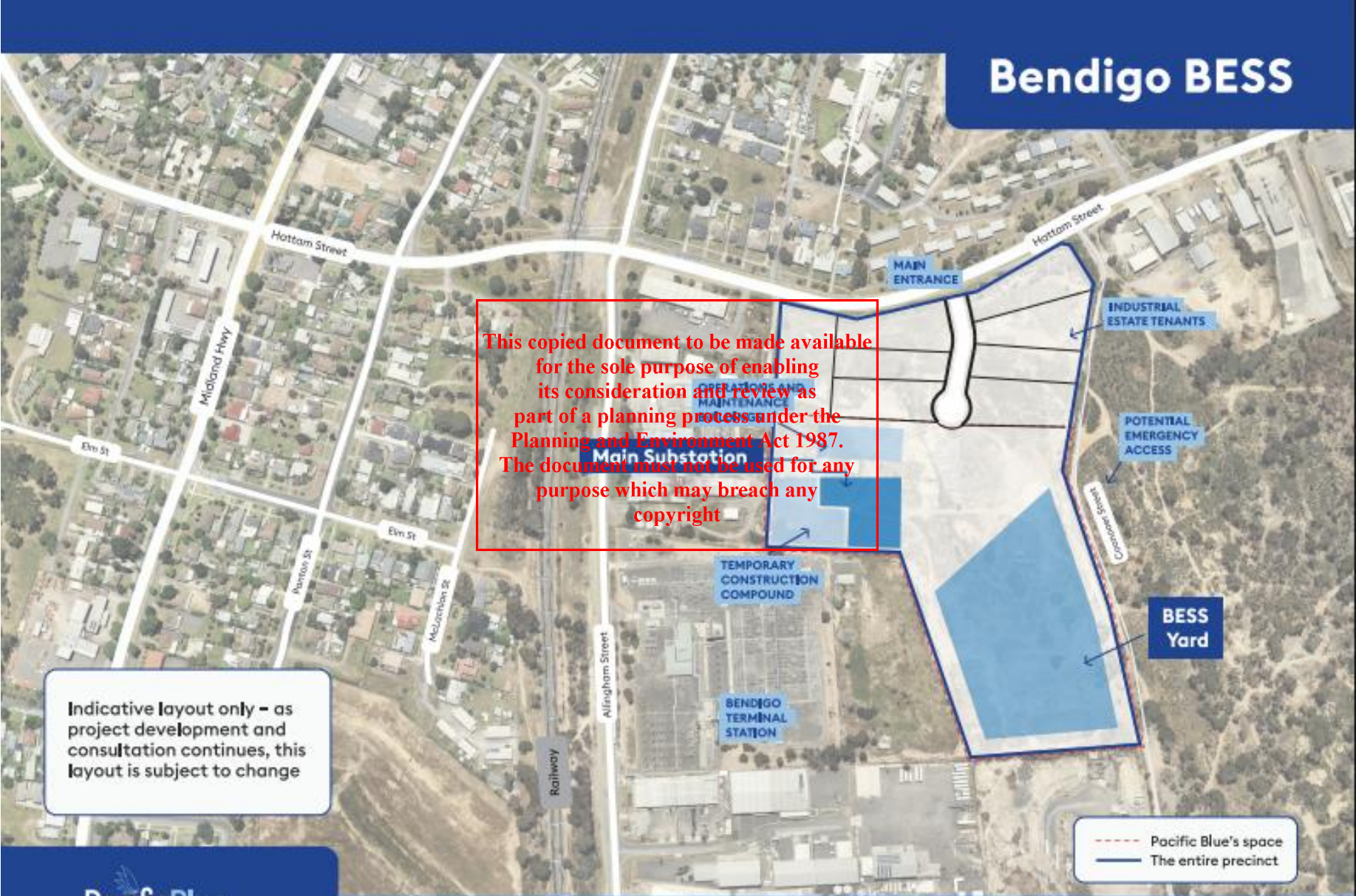
Such as voltage and frequency services when required.



The Bendigo BESS will store energy when supply is high and release it when it's needed most.



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What is a BESS?

A BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) is like a giant rechargeable battery.

STORE

Stores electricity when there is plenty available or when demand is low.



SEND

Sends electricity back into the grid when demand is high, such as on a hot day.



Helps balance energy supply and demand.



Supports grid stability.



Stores energy from a variety of energy sources, including renewable sources.

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WHAT'S INSIDE A BESS?

A BESS is comprised of shipping containers integrated with:



Battery cells and racks



Cooling systems



Control systems



Fire detection and protection systems

BUILT FOR THE LONG TERM



A typical BESS facility has a lifespan of between
20 – 25 YEARS.

After this time, the project could either:



Be decommissioned, with the land restored for other uses.

OR



Be upgraded and repowered to continue its operation.

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Why here?

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The neighbouring Bendigo Terminal Station reduces the need for new transmission lines.



Using this site means the project can be built on **land that has already been disturbed** by activities including mining and waste storage, rather than new or undeveloped areas.



The land is already **zoned for industrial purposes** and suitable for this type of infrastructure.



There is **good access to major roads**, helping to reduce traffic impacts during construction and operation.



The facility itself would have a **relatively small footprint** of about five hectares, helping to keep activities contained within the site.



The surrounding area is **mainly industrial land**, with separation from homes and other more sensitive areas.

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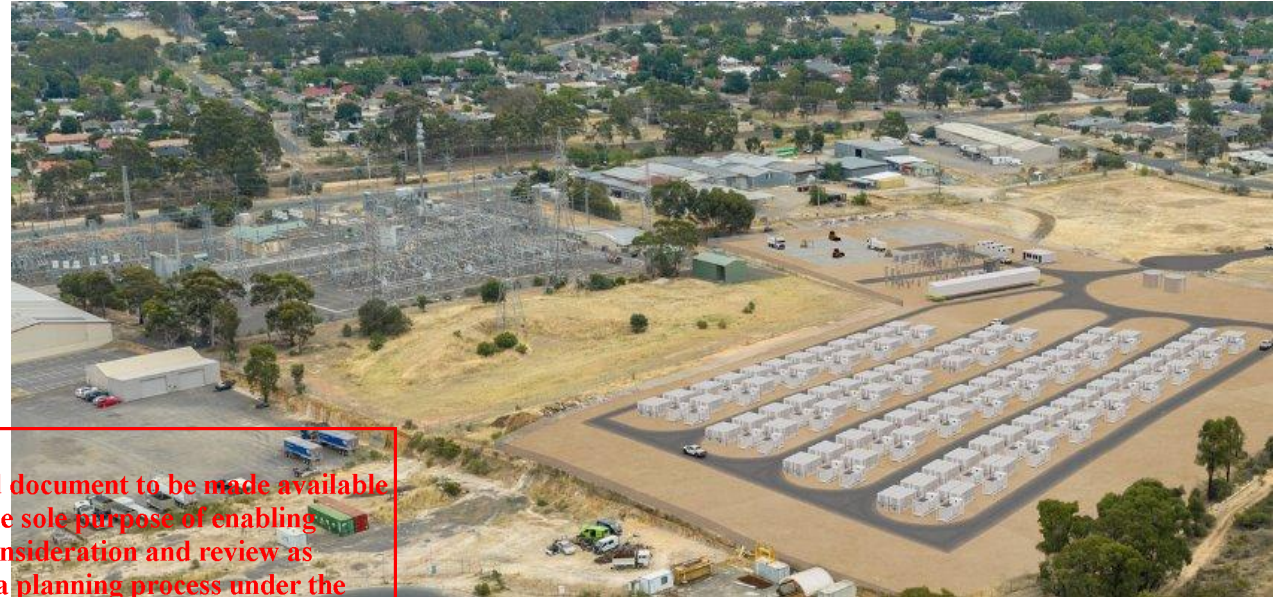


What will it look like?

The Bendigo BESS compound will have a security perimeter fence surrounding a full hardstand area. The compound will contain:

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-  BESS containers
-  Substation and associated electrical infrastructure
-  Transmission connection infrastructure, including HV transformer, protection devices, earthing systems, connecting infrastructure and switch gear
-  Above ground and underground electrical and communication cabling
-  Water storage systems and fire-fighting infrastructure
-  Access points and internal tracks
-  Operation and maintenance building
-  Switch room and control room
-  Security fencing and monitoring systems
-  Car parking for maintenance personnel



Artist's impression of the Bendigo BESS from above, looking North West



Artist's impression of the Bendigo BESS from above, looking South West

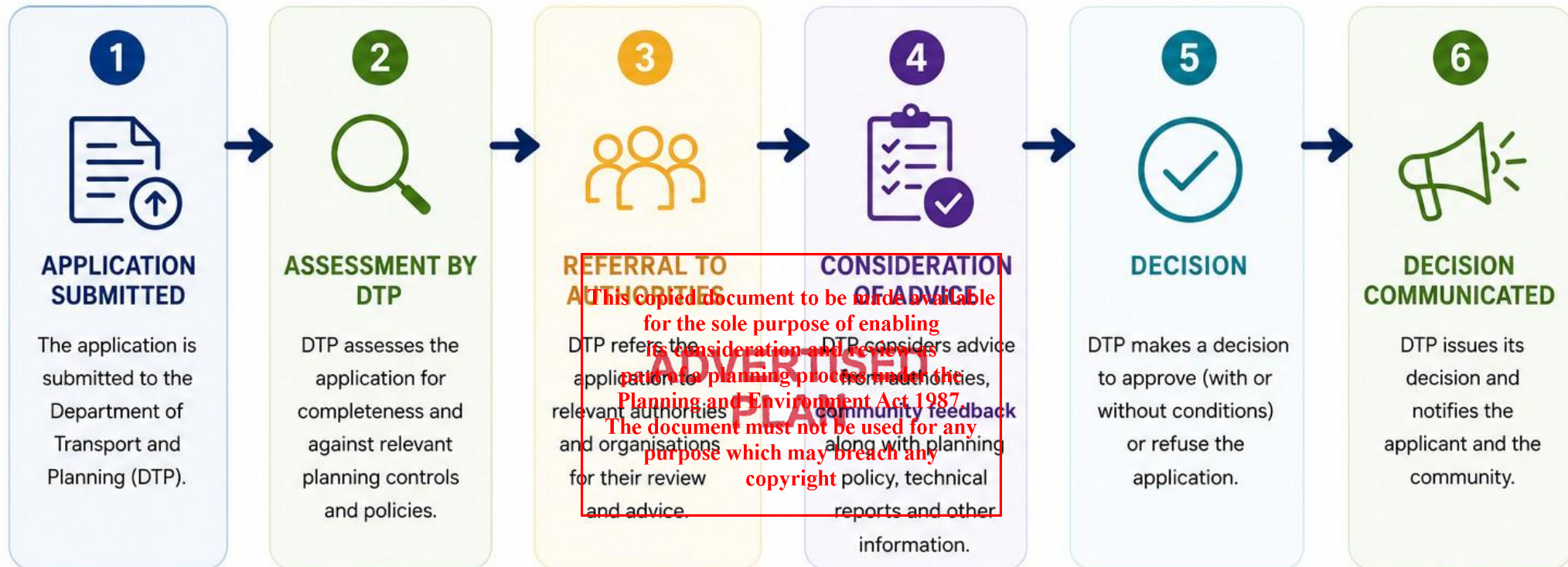
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BESS PLANNING APPLICATION PROCESS

Submitted to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP)



Department
of Transport
and Planning



REFERRAL AUTHORITIES AND ORGANISATIONS



CITY OF GREATER
BENDIGO



COUNTRY FIRE
AUTHORITY (CFA)



POWERCOR



AUSNET TRANSMISSION
GROUP



Department
of Energy,
Environment
and Climate
Action

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY,
ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE ACTION (DEECA)

Note: The above process is a general overview and may vary depending on the specifics of the application.

Mariah Stellato

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We are working with a number of consultants to undertake a range of technical and environmental studies

These studies help us understand and manage potential impacts to ensure the project is safe, sustainable and benefits the local community.



Biodiversity

Assessing local flora, fauna and habitats to protect biodiversity.



Fire safety

Assessing fire risks and ensuring appropriate safety measures.



Stormwater management

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Managing stormwater quality, flows and potential impacts.



Traffic impact

Assessing traffic volumes, safety and access impacts.



Landscape and visual impact

Assessing the potential effects on landscape character and views.



Construction and Operational noise

Measuring and managing noise during construction and operation.



Social impact

Understanding and managing potential impacts on people and communities.



Economic impact

Assessing potential economic benefits and impacts.



Mineshaft investigation

Identifying and assessing any existing mineshafts and associated risks.



Geotechnical

Assessing ground conditions to inform safe and effective design and construction.

Early engagement is underway

We are in the early stages of getting to know the community and understanding local perspectives. We are seeking **input** from people who are interested in or potentially impacted by the project so local perspectives can help inform planning and design.

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We have met with

- ✓ Local MPs
- ✓ City of Greater Bendigo Council
- ✓ DJAARA
- ✓ Bendigo TAFE
- ✓ Country Fire Authority (CFA)
- ✓ Golden Square Community Action Group
- ✓ Golden Oaks Aged Care residents
- ✓ Identifying additional stakeholders and opportunities for community input

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Initial contact made with local groups including:

- ✓ Bendigo Sustainability Group
- ✓ Kangaroo Flat Community Enterprise



Social Impact Assessment

As part of our planning, a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) is being carried out to understand how the project may affect local residents and the broader community.

The assessment looks at social, environmental and economic factors to identify potential impacts and opportunities that can help guide positive outcomes.

Have your say

Scan the QR code to complete a short survey and share your feedback.



Visit www.pacificblue/bendigo to find out more



Engagement will continue

We will continue listening to community feedback as investigations and planning progress. We welcome suggestions on other groups, organisations or individuals we should speak with.

Development Timeline

We are in the early stages of the development process. The timeline below provides an overview of the key project phases and anticipated timeframes.

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Timeframes are indicative and subject to change. The project will progress through regulatory approvals, detailed design and procurement before construction begins.

Thank you | QandA

We look forward to engaging with the local community to transform this long-underutilised site, vacant for decades, into a landmark energy hub.

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For more information, please email:

enquiries@pacificblue.com.au



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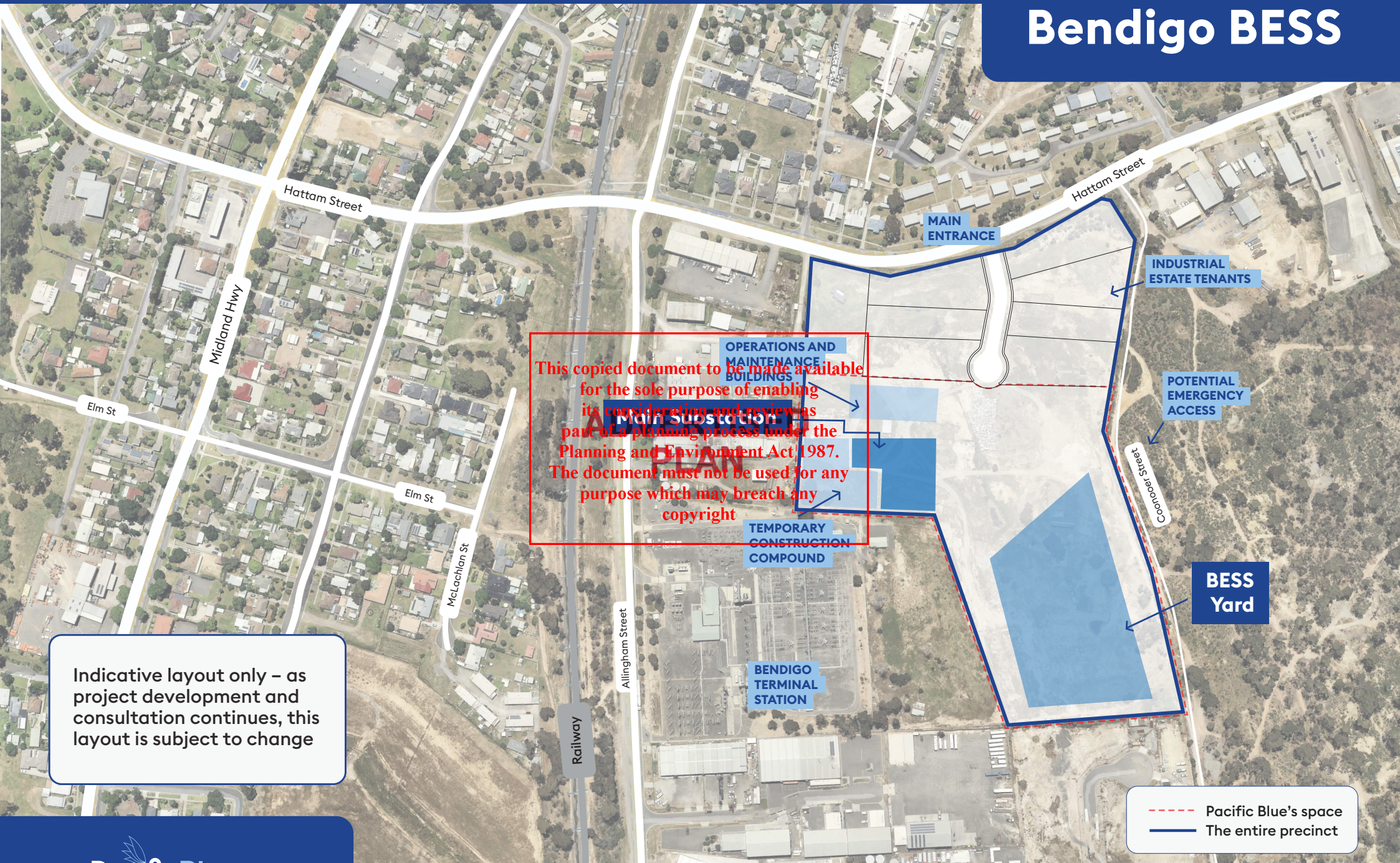
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Community Information Session Map

Bendigo BESS

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Bendigo BESS



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Community Information Booklet

Bendigo BESS

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Bendigo BESS

Frequently Asked Questions

May 2026

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Who is Pacific Blue?

Founded in Australia in 1992, Pacific Blue (also known as Pacific Hydro) is a leader in renewable energy, having generated 100% renewable energy for over 30 years.

Today, Pacific Blue owns and operates a high quality and diversified portfolio of wind, solar and hydro renewable energy assets, with a total generation capacity of over 660 MW and a significant development pipeline of over 2.5 GW across Australia.

Pacific Blue also owns and operates Tango Energy, with over 180,000 customers across Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia.

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Who owns Pacific Blue today?

Pacific Blue is owned by the State Power Investment Corporation (SPIC), which is one of the five major power generation groups in China and ranks as the largest solar and second-largest wind power generator in the world. As of 2025, SPIC placed 265 in the Fortune Global 500, with over 120,000 employees globally and operations in 47 countries. SPIC is committed to renewable energy development and providing the necessary support to ensure Pacific Blue's long-term success.



Clements Gap BESS, Pacific Blue's most recently completed battery project

Battery Technology

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What is a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)?

A BESS is a giant rechargeable battery connected to the electricity grid. It stores electricity when there is plenty available or when demand is low. Then it sends that electricity back into the grid when generation is low or demand is high. It stores energy from a variety of energy sources, including renewable sources, and supports grid stability by helping balance energy supply and demand and regulate grid frequency and voltage.

A BESS is generally comprised of a series of 20-foot containers integrated with battery cells and racks, cooling systems, control systems, and fire detection and protection systems. Other infrastructure you may see on a BESS site includes inverter stations, control and monitoring facilities, high-voltage substation, internal access tracks, firefighting equipment, and security fencing.



Indicative layout only – as project development and consultation continues, this layout is subject to change



What is the lifespan of a typical BESS facility?

A typical BESS facility has a lifespan of between 20 and 25 years. After this time, it could either be decommissioned, with the land restored and rehabilitated for other uses, or be upgraded and repowered to continue its operation.

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Why is a BESS needed?

Australia is in the midst of an energy transformation and is experiencing rapid growth in renewable energy generation and the closure of traditional coal fired power stations. Battery storage is a critical enabler of the energy transition, designed to store and release energy and provide support in a flexible way to stabilise the electricity grid.

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What does MW and MWh mean?

MW is an abbreviation for megawatts. It is the measurement of the rate at which electricity is being produced or consumed at any given moment. For example, a BESS rated at 50 MW can discharge electricity at a maximum rate of 50 MW at any given moment from a charged state.

MWh is an abbreviation for megawatt-hours. It is the measurement of the total amount of electricity produced or consumed over time. In a BESS, MWh is often used to describe the energy storage capacity and express storage duration. For example, a BESS of 50 MW / 100 MWh can discharge electricity at a maximum rate of 50 MW from a fully charged state for up to 2 hours.

What are the advantages of BESS?



BESS offers several key advantages compared to other forms of energy storage, making them a popular choice for grid stability, renewable integration, and various applications. The main advantages include:

1. high efficiency and fast response time;
2. scalability and modularity;
3. location flexibility;
4. low maintenance;
5. ability to offer a wide range of auxiliary services to the grid.

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The cost of battery has also been declining dramatically in recent years due to technology advancement, making large-scale implementation economically viable nowadays.

How are fire risks associated with BESS being managed?

Many people may have seen media coverage of battery fires and may have concerns about how this risk is managed, particularly for BESS facilities located near communities and bushland.

While battery fires are uncommon, they can occur if systems are damaged or not operating as intended. Lithium-ion batteries can, in rare cases, experience thermal runaway - where heat builds up faster than it can dissipate - so careful design and management are essential.

Modern BESS facilities include multiple layers of safety systems. Each battery unit has a management system that continuously monitors performance, temperature and cell health, along with built-in fire detection and suppression systems to limit the spread of any incident.

While planning for this project is still underway and the final system has not yet been selected, Pacific Blue has commenced early



consultation with potential technology suppliers to better understand their products and safety features and help inform ongoing planning and decision-making. Large-scale fire testing undertaken by many of the potential suppliers has demonstrated how these designs can contain fire within a single unit.

At a site level, layout and spacing are designed to reduce risk. As part of the development process, a Fire Safety Study will be undertaken in line with the relevant standards and guidelines and in collaboration with the Country Fire Authority (CFA), to inform fire response measures, water supply, and emergency access.

We understand this is an area of interest and will continue to share information as the studies progress.

What are the health impacts of BESS?

We recognise that people may have questions about the potential health impacts of BESS particularly given the scale of this type of infrastructure and its proximity to homes and the local community.

BESS is a well-established technology that is widely used across Australia and internationally. It is subject to strict safety standards, design requirements and regulatory oversight. Based on current evidence and these regulatory frameworks, BESS is not considered to present health risks to neighbours or the broader community.

We understand that people may still have questions or concerns, and we are committed to providing clear information and responding to these as the project progresses.

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Project Overview

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What storage capacity will Bendigo BESS have?

The Bendigo BESS is expected to have a maximum capacity of 201 MW/ 866 MWh, capable of powering approximately 77,000 Victorian households for 4 hours during peak demand periods. This capacity may be subject to change as the project progresses through the development and design process.

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How big will the BESS facility be?

The site spans approximately 5 hectares of land within a planned industrial park next to the existing 220kV Bendigo Terminal Station. The Bendigo BESS is expected to have around 224 modular battery and power conversion units. The actual space may be subject to change as the project progresses through the development and design process.

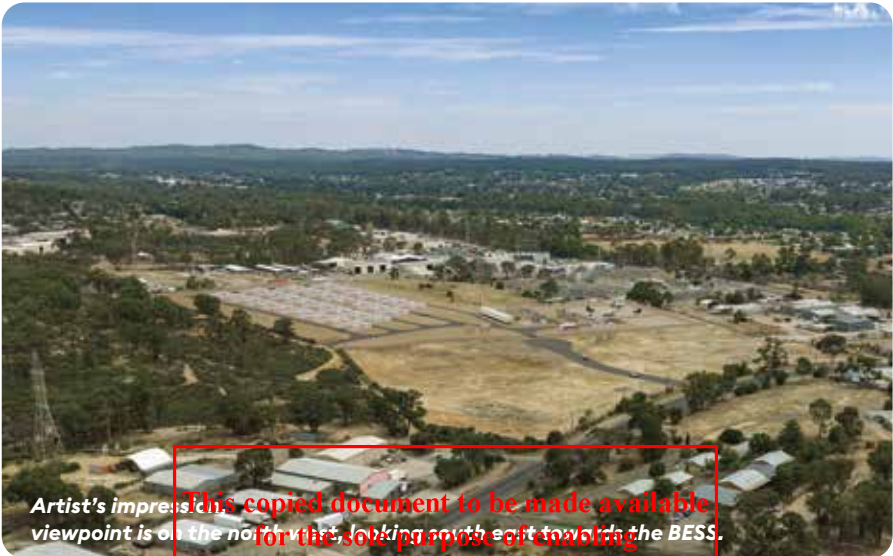
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When will construction for Bendigo BESS start?

Development of a large-scale BESS is a significant undertaking. It is expected to take around 3 to 3.5 years to complete comprehensive assessments, obtain relevant approvals, and finalise financing and procurement contracts before construction begins onsite. Construction is likely to take 18-24 months from commencement to full operation.

Construction is expected to begin in late 2028 and be completed in 2030.





Where is the site for the BESS?

The Bendigo BESS will be developed on the outskirts of the Bendigo CBD in Golden Square, bordered by Hattam, Allingham, Gray and Coonooer streets located next to the existing 220kV Bendigo Terminal Station.

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Why has this site been chosen?

The site has been selected due to its low environmental impact, appropriate zoning, and largely cleared, relatively flat terrain. It offers good access to the arterial road network and is located next to existing electrical infrastructure, allowing for a straightforward connection.

The proposed BESS compound has also been strategically positioned at the southern section of the site to create more distance from sensitive receptors.

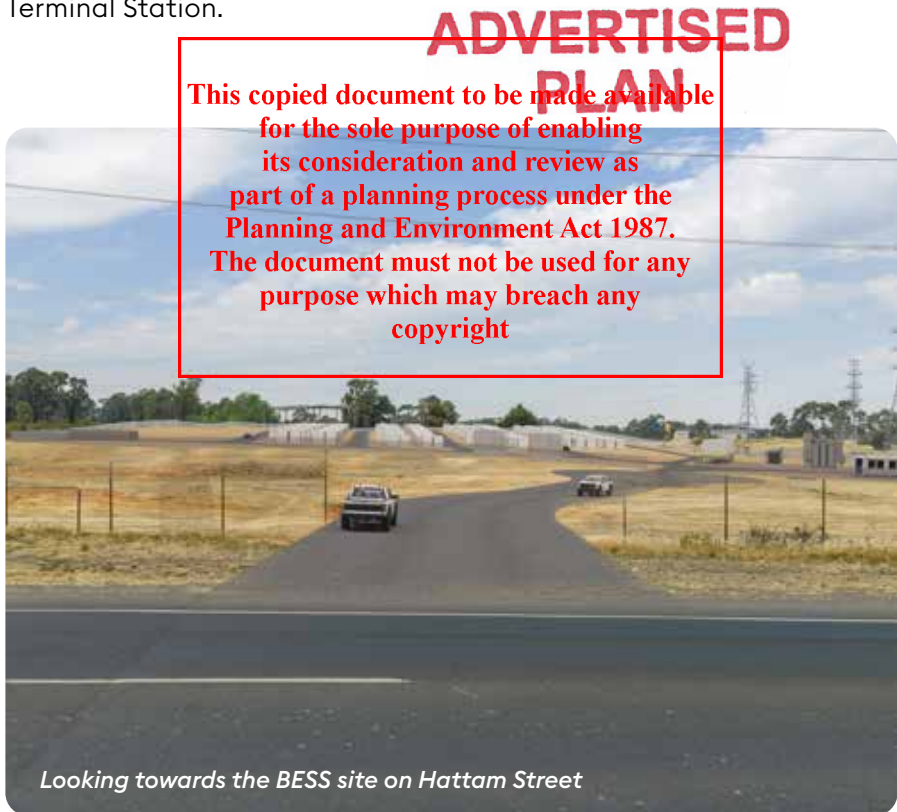


What is the land currently being used for?

The site consists of unused industrial land that was formerly used for historic mining and waste storage. It is now being developed into an industrial precinct. The project gives us an opportunity to use and improve previously disturbed land that has few other uses.

Where will the BESS connect?

The Bendigo BESS will connect to the existing 220kV Bendigo Terminal Station.



What other infrastructure is needed for the Bendigo BESS project?

Other infrastructure commonly found in a typical BESS project includes an onsite substation or collector station, control rooms, operation and maintenance facilities, and parking lots. As the site is located directly adjacent to the AusNet substation, minimal, on-site transmission infrastructure is all that is required for grid connection.

What is the planning and approval process for the Bendigo BESS project?

The Bendigo BESS is subject to a planning approval process, meaning that the project will need to obtain a planning permit through the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) as the regulatory authority, with referral to the City of Greater Bendigo Council and other relevant authorities, such as CFA.

In support of the planning permit application, Pacific Blue will undertake relevant environmental and planning assessments, including noise, fire safety studies, traffic impact, landscape and visual, social impact, ecology and regulation reviews. These assessments will help demonstrate how potential impacts to the community and environment will be managed and minimised. In addition, the project will also build on the original assessments completed as part of the industrial estate, which the project will be situated within.

Together, these assessments and the planning process provide confidence to the State Government, Council and the community that the project can be delivered responsibly, with impacts properly considered and mitigated throughout its life.



Construction and Operation

Will the BESS be visible and what can be done to hide it?

Throughout project development, a landscape and visual study will be prepared to understand potential visual impacts, and the potential measures to minimise these impacts. For example, native vegetation screening along site boundaries may occur to reduce visual impacts to sensitive receptors.

How much noise will construction and operation of the BESS create?

We recognise that noise is often a key concern for nearby residents, particularly during construction and for ongoing operations. To help minimise potential impacts, the proposed BESS has been strategically located in the southern section of the site to increase separation from sensitive receptors.

Although it may not be noticeable beyond a certain distance, some unavoidable, localised noise will occur during both 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 deliveries or movements. All construction activities will occur during designated hours set by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and will occur in line with the approved Environmental Management Plan.



During operations, BESS may create some localised noise. The main source of noise is associated with the inverters and cooling fans required to regulate the operating temperature of individual battery cells.

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 guidelines and within applicable limits. This assessment will also inform whether the proposed BESS will require some form of noise reduction measures (e.g. noise attenuating walls) to ensure ongoing compliance.

We understand that people may have different sensitivities to noise and will continue to share information as these studies progress.

Will trees need to be cut down?

The site consists of previously cleared, unused industrial land that was formerly used for historic mining and waste storage. Some vegetation and scattered trees may need to be removed from the site to facilitate design and construction of the project.

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To ensure this is done correctly, an ecology assessment building on existing assessments of the industrial estate and in accordance with the relevant State Acts and Guidelines, will be completed to inform any permit requirements to remove vegetation.

Pacific Blue is also completing a voluntary referral under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999* to inform any permit requirements prior to removal.

What will the impact to local roads be?

We recognise that increased traffic and changes to local roads can be a concern for nearby residents and road users.

A traffic and transport assessment will be undertaken to identify impacts and mitigation measures required under the local road networks and intersections. Planning approval is required under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright.

We will continue to share information about traffic impacts and any proposed changes as planning progresses.

Where will local workers be accommodated?

Where possible, Pacific Blue will seek to engage local contractors and employees to deliver the project. In Golden Square, and Bendigo more broadly, there are a range of existing accommodation options available.

Before construction begins, Pacific Blue will work with Council and the successful construction contractors to address housing and associated infrastructure needs to ensure they are understood and addressed appropriately.



Will this mean disruption to local power supply?

The connection of the battery and construction of the facility is not anticipated to affect local power supply.

How will Pacific Blue manage impacts from construction?

An Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will be prepared prior to construction by the successful contractors to provide a comprehensive framework for managing all environmental matters and mitigation measures associated with the construction of Bendigo BESS. As part of the development process, studies and assessments will be undertaken, which will help guide requirements specific to this site and this plan.

We aim to reduce the impact of our works on the community and the environment with:

- ✓ Standard construction hours and scheduling of work;
- ✓ Well-maintained equipment and plants;
- ✓ Monitoring and management of all construction activities, ensuring all standards and guidelines are met;
- ✓ Regular project updates for our neighbours and the community, including information on any changes to local traffic conditions;
- ✓ Listening to feedback and suggestions on how local impacts might be reduced; and
- ✓ Noise and vibration mitigation measures including, but not limited to, commencing noisy activities (e.g. jack hammering) after 9.00 am, locating noisy equipment so that any impact on neighbouring premises is minimised.



Working with Communities

How will you consult with neighbours and the community?

At Pacific Blue, we take community feedback and questions seriously. Our consultation process will be clear, ongoing, and tailored to our community.

Here's what you can expect.

- ✓ We will keep you informed with clear, honest, and timely information about the project.
- ✓ We will actively listen through information sessions, community updates, and direct channels for your questions and feedback.
- ✓ We will respond to your input and use what we learn to shape our plans and address community priorities.
- ✓ We are here for the long haul, and we will continue to engage with the community throughout the project's life.

Will there be economic opportunities for local people?

Pacific Blue will work with its selected delivery contractors to examine the potential for local employment and to identify areas where learning and upskilling can occur to maximise local benefits.

It is likely that some skills required to deliver the battery project may not be available locally or close to the site.



However, other possible indirect opportunities to create economic benefit from the project may include property rental, catering, coffee carts and other enterprises (subject to Council approval).

Will this mean cheaper electricity for the local community?

The BESS will participate in the national energy market, charging during times when there is excess energy and discharging that energy at times when demand on the grid is high. This helps smooth out price spikes, improves reliability, and supports a cleaner energy system.

While a single battery like the Bendigo BESS does not directly change an individual household's power bill on its own, it contributes to broader cost savings across the energy system, especially as more batteries and renewable projects are built.

Here's why:

Wholesale vs retail

The project will operate in the wholesale energy market, where electricity retailers buy electricity. Lower and more stable wholesale prices eventually help create the conditions for lower retail prices.

Your retailer decides your bill

Household electricity bills are set by energy retailers and include network charges, retail costs, and government charges. While the project does not set these prices, it helps create a more efficient system that retailers operate within.

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How are you engaging with Traditional Custodians on this project?

The Bendigo BESS is located on the traditional lands of the Dja Dja Wurrung, and Pacific Blue has commenced engagement with DJAARA, including undertaking a Cultural Heritage site visit, and undertaking Cultural Competency Training.

Pacific Blue is proud of its work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia in the communities where we operate. We engage early and respectfully, and we strive to implement the learnings that our company, and industry, has heard. We will continue to work closely with Traditional Owners throughout the duration of the project.

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Is a cultural heritage management plan required?

Based on an initial assessment, a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) is not required for the Bendigo BESS. However, Pacific Blue is committed to protecting and preserving cultural heritage and is currently engaging with the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (DJAARA).

A site walk took place early in Pacific Blue's program and identified that no cultural heritage sites were observed onsite. The project team, along with a number of other Pacific Blue team members, recently participated in Cultural Competency training with DJAARA. In addition, stop work procedures will be in place in the event of an unexpected cultural heritage find during construction.

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Community Benefit Sharing Program

Giving back to the communities where we work

Pacific Blue is committed to giving back to the communities that host our clean energy projects with positive and lasting social, environmental and economic benefits.



What are the benefits to the local community?

Pacific Blue has a strong track record of sharing the benefits with the communities in which it operates through its Community Funding Program. As one of the first in the renewable energy industry, Pacific Blue has been operating this fund for over 20 years. In consultation with the Bendigo community, Pacific Blue will develop a community funding arrangement to share the benefits of hosting the BESS and enable local groups and not-for-profits to be able to apply for funding.



Learn more

www.pacificblue.com.au/communityfund

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