

# Yangery BESS

Consultation Summary Report

South Energy

2026-02-04

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Document control		aurecon				
<b>Report title</b>		South Energy Yangery Consultation Report				
<b>Document code</b>		527059_Yangery Bess Consultation Report_171225	<b>Project number</b>	P527059		
<b>File path</b>		<a href="#">RFI-2</a>				
<b>Client</b>		South Energy				
<b>Client contact</b>		Tarek Osman	<b>Client reference</b>			
<b>Rev</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Revision details/status</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Reviewer</b>	<b>Verifier (if required)</b>	<b>Approver</b>
1	3 February 2026	Version 1	Rachael Ralph	Bez Hasenfratz		Bez Hasenfratz
2	4 February 2026	Version 2	Rachael Ralph	Bez Hasenfratz		Bez Hasenfratz
<b>Current revision</b>		<b>2</b>				

Approval			
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# 1 Executive Summary

## 1.1 Project and Developer Overview

The Yangery Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is a proposed renewable energy infrastructure project by South Energy Pty Ltd on behalf of Yangery BESS Development Pty Ltd (the Proponent). South Energy is an Australian-owned, Melbourne-based renewable energy company specialising in large-scale solar and battery developments.

Once operational, the BESS will store excess energy from renewable sources such as solar and wind and release it back to the grid during periods of high demand, supporting grid stability and Victoria's renewable energy transition. The proposed facility will have a storage capacity of 120 MW / 480 MWh, enabling it to deliver four hours of continuous discharge power and supply peak electricity equivalent to 42,000 homes.

It is expected to have an operational life of approximately 15–20 years, with potential for future upgrades or component replacement at the end of its lifecycle.

## 1.2 Purpose and structure of this report

This purpose of this document is to provide a summary of community and stakeholder consultation to support the Project permit and development application.

- **Section 1 Executive Summary** provides an overview of the project, a snapshot of engagement and consultation and overall sentiment to date, anticipated project timeline and planned engagement phases.
- **Section 2 Engagement and Consultation Summary** of the strategic approach taken by South Energy to ensure that all stakeholders were consulted proportionally to the project size and social impact.
- **Section 3 Engagement Outcomes** provides overview of the feedback received; details project response, how input shaped design and program approach and a summary of next steps engagement activities.

## 1.3 Project location, REZ zones and enabling infrastructure

The project is proposed on Tower Hill Road and Conns Lane, Yangery, a 23 hectare site, approximately 59 km south-west of Victoria and 270km from Melbourne's Central Business District (CBD) and 9 km from the Warrnambool township, within the Warrnambool Local Government Area (LGA).

The site is adjacent to the Koroit Zone Substation. The project will include a 66kV connection at the Koroit Zone Substation, with electricity to flow to the local load first and then exported to the transmission network via the existing 220kv transformer to Terang, enabling grid stability and frequency control and ancillary services to the network.

The immediate surroundings comprise of agricultural land with existing farm buffers and a low population density. There is no significant residential development immediately adjacent to the site.

The project is in close proximity to the nearby proposed draft South West REZ zone, being approximately 20km to nearby closest point in Woolsthorpe, Victoria.

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**Legend**

Project area

Basemap: Vicmap, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, Maxar, Vicmap, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, Foursquare, MET/NASA, USGS

Other data: DELWP, Aurecon

Notes: Date: 23/06/2022 Version: 1

AS scale: 1:50,000  
0 0.75 1.5 Kilometers

Job No: P527059  
Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 54

**Yangery BESS**  
Project Context

Figure 1 Project Context

## 1.4 Consultation and engagement snapshot

Between June 2024 and November 2024, South Energy implemented a structured community engagement program for the project, evidenced by consultation records provided.

- **Engagement activities focused on:** raising early awareness, seeking local feedback, and identification of engagement risks.
- **Key engagement activities and stakeholder outreach included:** letter notifications to neighbouring residents, phone calls, meetings and email correspondence with Eastern Maar Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, regulatory agencies, council representatives, MPs, local sustainability/community groups and technical stakeholders.
- **A drop-in community information session:** held on 7 November 2024 at Koroit Senior Citizens Centre Yangery, and advertised through a local newspaper notice.

## 1.5 Overall key engagement insights

**In summary, overall sentiment was mixed but constructive:** many stakeholders expressed concern about fire risk, environmental impact, and local amenity, while others demonstrated neutral or supportive sentiment, seeking reassurance about safety risk, noise, design, and community benefit mechanisms.

- **Engagement reach:** Approx. 40+ direct stakeholders (letters, visits, meeting attendees, group contacts).
- **Primary concerns:** Bushfire risk and emergency preparedness and planning, visual impacts on nearby homes, biodiversity impact, potential effects on property values and community benefit expectations.
- **Sentiment:** Predominantly neutral to positive with the majority of stakeholders open to dialogue.

## 1.6 Project timeline

Table 1 Timeline of development milestones and engagement phases

Indicative timing	Development milestone	Engagement phase	Status
June 2024 to November 2025	Land acquisition Early design and environmental and planning studies	Execute Communications and Engagement plan and consultation summary (this report)	Complete
February 2026	Development application submission	Stakeholder Updates	Upcoming
March 2026	Development approval	Continued community engagement and neighbour dialogue, early community benefits and local industry economic planning	Pending
September 2026	Grid connection	Technical Engagement	Ongoing
December 2026	Financial close	Industry Engagement	n/a
April 2027	Construction commences	Construction Engagement	n/a
April 2028	Operation	Community Benefits Delivery and Social Performance Reporting	n/a

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# 2 Consultation and Engagement Summary

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### 2.1 Engagement approach

South Energy has engaged with the community stakeholders early to seek feedback on the project and influence design. The community engagement activities followed the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Community Engagement Spectrum and aligned with the Inform and Consult elements of the IAP2 Spectrum (see Figure 2).

Throughout the engagement activities, South Energy actively engaged community stakeholders to understand their views and concerns around the project while creating a forum to identify opportunities to enhance the project outcomes from a community perspective.

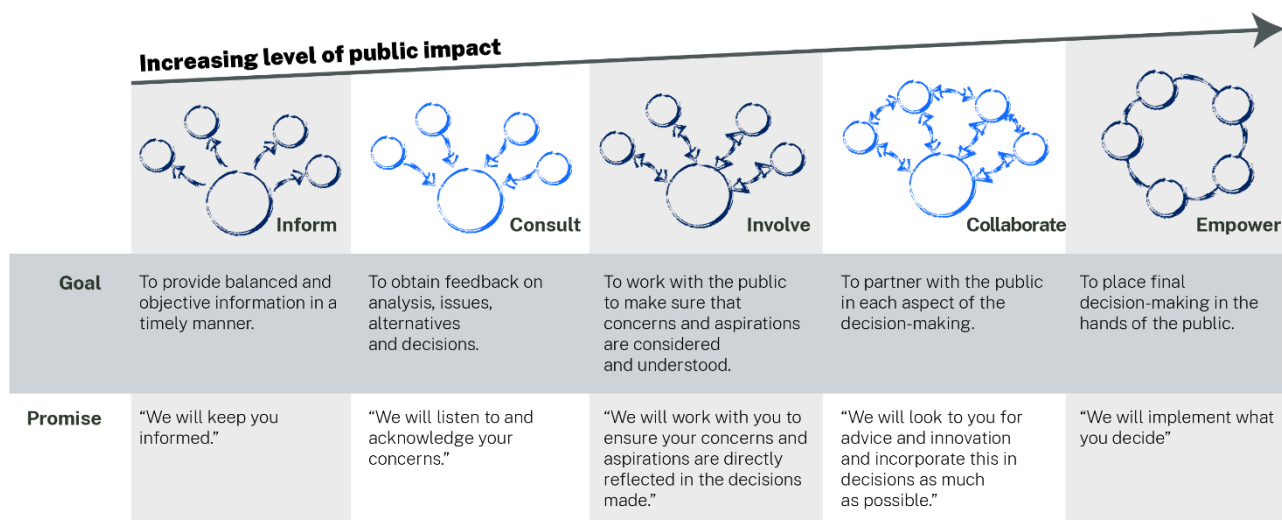


Figure 2 IAP2 Spectrum

### 2.2 Stakeholder analysis and interests in the project

Table 3 outlines key stakeholders' interests, concerns and level of influence regarding the project. South Energy will continue engaging these stakeholders throughout the project planning and approvals phase.

Table 2 Key Stakeholders groups and their interest in the proposal.

Key Stakeholders	Interest in the proposal	Level of Influence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Near Neighbours and Residents within 1 km or project site</b></li> <li><i>No landholders as project site is private land.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fire Risk Management and concerns for safety</li> <li>Access, visual and audio impacts</li> <li>Biodiversity and biosecurity concerns</li> <li>Impact on property prices</li> <li>Fair distribution of community benefits</li> <li>Construction impacts, decommissioning plans.</li> </ul>	Inform/Consult/Involve
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Local Government and Elected Representatives</b></li> <li><i>Warrnambool City Council, Moyne Shire Council, MPs and Councillors</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land use and audio and amenity impacts</li> <li>Community social value and economic benefits</li> <li>Consultation program and consideration of stakeholders' feedback to inform project decisions.</li> <li>Construction impacts, decommissioning plans.</li> </ul>	Inform/Consult/Involve

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jobs creation</li> <li>Community concern for safety and physical risk</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Traditional Owners</b></li> <li><i>RAP Eastern Maar Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural Heritage Assessment</li> <li>Benefits for existing programs being implemented by the corporation</li> </ul>	Involve/Collaborate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Specialist Interest and Environmental Groups</b></li> <li><i>South West Tafe, Koroit &amp; District Fund</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Benefits</li> <li>Access to renewable energy, batteries and lower energy prices</li> <li>Sustainability and energy literacy</li> <li>Wildlife impacts mitigation</li> </ul>	Inform/Consult/Involve
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Industry and Local Business</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jobs, supplier opportunities</li> <li>Tourism opportunities</li> </ul>	Inform/Consult/Involve
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Emergency Services and Response Agencies</b></li> <li><i>Including CFA Specialist and Fire Safety Engineering and Specialist Risk Unit</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fire Safety Study, fire separation zones and access lanes</li> <li>Local Emergency Management Plan and Planning Committee Readiness</li> <li>Local capacity of CFA to effectively support emergency response</li> </ul>	Involve/Collaborate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Regulators and Statutory Authorities</b></li> <li><i>Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and Energy Safe Victoria (ESV)</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental risk and management plans</li> <li>Safety and fire risk controls and management</li> <li>Water, biodiversity and catchment health</li> <li>Compliance and evaluation</li> </ul>	Involve/Collaborate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Government Agencies</b></li> <li><i>Victorian Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), Glenelg-Hopkins Catchment Management Authority</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land use and planning permit process</li> <li>Policy alignment and technical assessment</li> <li>Inter-agency co-ordination.</li> </ul>	Inform/Consult
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Technical</b></li> <li><i>AEMO and TSNP Powercor Australia</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-ordination and formal modelling alignment of connection approach</li> </ul>	Involve/Collaborate

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## 2.3 Summary of engagement activities to date

Table 4 outlines the communications and stakeholder engagement activities undertaken from June 2024 to November 2025, including to promote the Nov 7, 2024, community information drop-in session held at the Koroit Senior Citizens Centre. This table is informed by the South Energy Stakeholder Engagement Log.

Table 4 Consultation activities April 2024 to October 2025 early engagement pre permit application

Activity	Metrics	IAP2 Spectrum		Description
		Inform	Consult	
■ Door Knocks	43	✓	✓	■ Door knocks to neighbours project site
■ Resident Notifications	43	✓	✓	■ 43 letters were posted to neighbours identified in 1km of project site.
■ Stakeholder Briefings	3	✓	✓	■ Local Council and regulator meetings with DTP
■ Traditional Owners	1	✓	✓	■ Introduction of the project
■ Technical Correspondence	3	✓	✓	<p>■ Emails and phone call with CFA to discuss site access preliminary advice, CFA Fire Risk Study and potential meeting to understand the risk of bushfire and how the local CFA preparedness.</p> <p>■ Emails with Powercor to inform grid network capacity and switch station requirements.</p> <p>■ Emails with Warrnambool Regional Airport's coordinator of operations regarding structure heights and safety requirements.</p>
■ Newspaper Advertising	2	✓		■ Community newspaper advert in the Warrnambool Standard two weeks prior to community information session
■ Social Media	2	✓		■ Social media posts by Warrnambool City Council and Moyne Shire Council
■ Press release	1	✓		■ Project press release published on the project website in advance of the community information session to share more information locally about the project.
■ Fact Sheets and Frequently Asked Questions	1	✓		<p>■ Project fact sheets with FAQs are available on the website and hard copies were made available at the drop in session.</p> <p>■ Detail provided in Section 2.6</p>
■ Community drop in session.	1 session 25+ attendees	✓	✓	<p>■ The community information session held locally on November 7, 2024 provided a forum for South Energy to inform the interested community and stakeholders about the project and for stakeholders to raise any questions or issues around the project. The community information session sought to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Provide information on the project – its purpose, need, timeframes.</li> </ul>

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<b>ADVERTISED PLAN</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Gather stakeholder input on potential issues, sensitivities, and opportunities.</li> <li>– Ensure community views are captured in a timely way.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Feedback Form</li> </ul>	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓</li> <li>✓</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Feedback form at drop in session, 12 returned.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Close the Loop Community Drop in session Project Update</li> </ul>	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Project update published to the Project Website to note feedback shared and issues raised,</li> </ul>

## 2.4 Collateral and information provided

Table 3 Materials and information provided at the session

Material Provided	Description
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Project Display Board</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Project Location and Site</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Project FAQs Factsheet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Overview of project purpose, design, and operation and common FAQs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Project Benefits and Development Process Factsheet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Describes community, environmental, and economic benefits.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ About South Energy Factsheet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Ownership, experience, and company values.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ PowerPoint Presentation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Project Presentation that included Map, project timeline, comparable project size</li> </ul>

## 2.5 Community drop in Q&A and attendance

- Approximately 25 community members attended the community information session on November 7, 2024. Table 5 lists the attendees.
- Community members' questions were answered by project team members in an open forum during the drop-in session. Section 3.4 provides the project response to matters raised across all activities for a given theme and a table summarising the responses to specific points presented.

Table 4 List of Community Session Attendees, Koroit Senior Citizens Centre, November 7, 2024

Name	Role	Agency
Tarek Osman	Project manager	South Energy
Linh Nguyen	Project manager	South Energy
Johan Laban	Development director	South Energy
Peter Yu	APAC Sales/Technical Engineer	Battery Supplier
Vicki Askew-Thornton	Senior Energy Projects Liaison Officer	Moyne Shire Council
Ray Kaynes	Chairperson	Koroit and District Fund
Darcy Shanahan	Business Development Officer	South West Tafe
De-identified	Local Resident	N/A
De-identified	Local Resident	N/A

De-identified	Local Resident	N/A
De-identified	Accommodation Provider	Private company
De-identified	Local Resident	N/A
De-identified	Local Resident	N/A
De-identified	Local Resident	N/A
De-identified	Local Resident	N/A
De-identified	Equipment Hire Provider	Private company

### 3 Engagement Outcomes

This section provides outcomes of the engagement, detailing feedback received during the event, broken down by themes and details project response, how input shaped design and next steps of the engagement program.

#### 3.1 Community key insights

The following summarises community values, concerns and expectations across a range of areas.

Overall Sentiment	Theme	Key Insights
Neutral	Participant profile and engagement preferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most participants identified as local residents living within 3-5km indicating engagement reached primarily the affected community.</li> </ul>
Positive	Local values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents expressed strong attachment to the area’s rural character, surrounding bushland, recreational lifestyle and community ties. These values underpin sensitivity to visual change, vegetation changes and the perceived industrialisation of landscape.</li> </ul>
Mixed	Awareness of project and perceptions of renewable energy and BESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness of the project and large-scale battery storage projects more broadly, ranged from low to moderate.</li> <li>Supportive comments referenced the need for energy storage.</li> <li>Concerns raised were centred on fire risk and visual impact.</li> </ul>
Negative (to strongly opposed)	Key issues are visual amenity, fire risk and safety concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visual and noise impacts were the most frequently cited amenity concern, alongside potential changes to land value.</li> <li>Respondents sought assurance on mitigation measures for fire risk, and emergency coordination and preparedness.</li> </ul>
Constructive	Social and economic considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respondents prioritised broad public benefits such as grid reliability, and community investment opportunities over direct employment.</li> <li>Ideas for investment included locally relevant initiatives including community grants, conservation activities and support for emergency services and local clubs.</li> </ul>

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## 3.2 Overall Community feedback and project response

This table summarises feedback received through engagement activities to date as summarised in Section 2.3 (this includes through the drop-in session insights from the survey and media post event.)

Table 5 Table of Community feedback and project response

Theme	Community Feedback	Project Response and Key Message (Sources - Fact Sheet SFS as noted)
Community safety and fire risk management	Participants sought reassurance about how fire risk is managed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The design for the Yangery BESS project will be consistent with Country Fire Authority guidelines, with a firebreak (which also acts as an access track) built within the BESS project and along its boundary. South Energy will work with consultants and relevant authorities to conduct the bushfire management plan, risk management plan and emergency plan”. (Source: FAQ- Fire Risk Mitigation)</li> </ul>
Local Benefits and Energy Costs	Questions about whether the project would lower local power costs or operate as a community battery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“BESS will store excess energy generated such as during day time, and release it during peak demand in the evening.” (Source: FAQ- Clean Energy Economy)</li> <li>“As such the grid can support more capacity of renewables towards meeting Australia’s clean energy goal.” (Source: FAQ- Clean Energy Economy)</li> </ul>
Technology and design and visual amenity	Community asked about the size, layout, the noise levels and timing, and the appearance of the battery system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“BESS components are contained in modular cells which in turn are containerized... The project will cover about 20% of the site area. The remaining will continue to support agricultural activities.” (Source: FAQ- Environmental Impact)</li> <li>“An existing landscape buffer is provided along the project boundary to protect the area’s visual amenity. If deemed required, future landscaping would include a mix of indigenous shrubs and trees of varied heights and will have the added benefit of creating important new habitats for native fauna, thus supporting the region’s biodiversity.” (Source: FAQ- Environmental Impact)</li> <li>Like any equipment, there will be noise from the BESS components, mainly from the cooling systems such as fans. South Energy has engaged a reputable tier-one international consultant with proven expertise in developing and designing battery and renewable energy projects to conduct noise assessments.” (Source: FAQ- Day to Day Operations)</li> </ul>
General Sentiment	Attendees encouraged transparency and community benefits, emphasising 'make it work – but make it safe'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“South Energy believes that clean and sustainable energy is the best solution for mitigating the risk of climate change. Our mission is to work collaboratively with all stakeholders, including government and the community, to ensure a greener future for the next generation of Australians.” (Source: FAQ- South Energy’s Business Values)</li> </ul>

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## 3.3 How engagement influenced design and concept layout

### 3.3.1 Fire and emergency planning incorporated early:

- South Energy has identified fire hazard risks early and will submit a design that can achieve compliance with CFA and Victorian planning requirements.
- As part of our planning process, a Bushfire Hazard Assessment has been prepared. This has already influenced design improvements to ensure the improvements to concept layout.
- These include:
  - Inclusion of dedicated on-site fire water storage
  - Addition of a perimeter fire access loop road and increased spacing between battery units
  - Integration of 24-hour monitoring and automatic suppression systems.
- Early consultation has occurred with CFA, and ongoing consultation will continue into the detailed design stage.

### 3.3.2 Visual impact mitigation strengthened:

- Local feedback about visual amenity led to prioritisation of low-profile battery enclosures finished in neutral, non-reflective colours.

#### Site selection confirmed based on existing infrastructure proximity.

- Engagement reinforced the importance of minimising land disturbance and avoiding new transmission corridors, supporting the decision to locate the facility adjacent to the existing Koroit Zone Substation.

## 3.4 How engagement influenced program approach

As the project continues to progress through development, including advancement of grid connection activities, South Energy is considering returning to the region and establishing a local presence in Q3/Q4 2026, ahead of the construction phase. This would include further community information sessions to provide updates on project milestones, address questions, and continue ongoing engagement with local stakeholders.

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