

Prepared for Avenis Energy on behalf of AE BESS 10 Pty Ltd ATF AE BESS 10 Unit Trust

Community Engagement Summary Report

Winton BESS Planning

July 2025

Project Number: 230795

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Table of contents

- Acronyms and abbreviations 3**
- Executive summary 4**
- 1. Situational Context 6**
 - 1.1. Overview6
 - 1.2. Design elements.....6
- 2. Methodology 7**
 - 2.1. Stakeholder analysis.....7
 - 2.2. Engagement activities17
- 3. Community and stakeholder feedback 23**
 - 3.1. How feedback was logged and considered23
 - 3.2. Engagement activity feedback24
 - 3.3. Feedback survey.....33
- 4. Findings 36**
 - 4.1. Main concerns and opportunities36
 - 4.2. Mitigations.....38
 - 4.3. Key takeaways.....42
- 5. Future engagement recommendations 43**
 - 5.1. Post-submission engagement43
 - 5.2. Monitoring and evaluation44
- 6. Conclusion..... 45**

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Figures

- Figure 2-1 Overview of engagement activities.....17
- Figure 2-2 Sponsorship of Benalla Arts Festival20
- Figure 2-3 Project team at community market.....21
- Figure 2-4 Community benefit sharing ideas22
- Figure 3-1 Community Feedback Survey - Respondents' proximity to the proposed Project34
- Figure 3-2 Community Feedback Survey - Respondents' level of support for the proposed Project.....34
- Figure 3-3 Community Feedback Survey - Respondents' rating of value of local area35

Figure 3-4 Community Feedback Survey - Respondents reason for interest in the Project35
 Figure 4-1 Top 10 topics discussed during engagement (not including survey data)36

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Tables

Table 2-1 Stakeholders, their interests and recommended engagement approach7
 Table 2-2 Stakeholder analysis: Broader community and region.....8
 Table 2-3 Stakeholder analysis: Government agencies/utility owners9
 Table 2-4 Stakeholder analysis: Council.....10
 Table 2-5 Stakeholder analysis: State and Federal MPs11
 Table 2-6 Stakeholder analysis: Education.....12
 Table 2-7 Stakeholder analysis: Construction companies13
 Table 2-8 Stakeholder analysis: Advocates and objectors.....14
 Table 2-9 Stakeholder analysis: Community organisations/special interest groups.....15
 Table 2-10 Engagement activities in detail17
 Table 3-1 Stakeholder feedback summary24
 Table 4-1 Mitigation approaches38
 Table 6-1 Opportunities and challenges45

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Appendices

Appendix A Posted letters – Project introduction A-I
 Appendix B – Posted letters – Second roundB-IV
 Appendix C – Sensitive receiver map C-V
 Appendix D – Newspaper advertising D-VI
 Appendix E Project poster E-VII
 Appendix F – Fact sheet..... F-VIII
 Appendix G – FAQ document G-X
 Appendix H – Business cards.....H-XIV
 Appendix I – Community surveyI-XV
 Appendix J – CSES.....J-XVI

Acronyms and abbreviations

BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
BRCC	Benalla Rural City Council
CBS	Community benefit scheme
CSES	Community and Stakeholder Engagement
CSP	Community Strategic Plan
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
DTP	Department of Transport and Planning
ES	Engagement strategy
ha	hectares
km	kilometres
kV	kilovolt
LSC	Land and social capability
LEP	Local Environment Plan
LGA	Local government area
m	metres
MW	Megawatt
NEM	National Energy Market
REZ	Renewable Energy Zone
VIA	Visual Impact Assessment
VIC	Victoria
VPA	Voluntary Planning Agreement

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Executive summary

Avenis Energy Pty Ltd (Avenis) on behalf AE BESS 10 Pty Ltd ATF AE BESS 10 Unit Trust (The Applicant) is proposing the development of the Winton Battery Energy Storage System (the Project). The Project would involve the construction, operation and decommissioning of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with a capacity of up to approximately 120 Megawatts (MW) / 480MWh (4 hours).

The Project would be located within the Benalla Rural City Council (BRCC) Local Government Area (LGA), approximately 14 kilometres (km) northeast of the Benalla, opposite the Glenrowan Terminal Station. The Project would connect directly into the 66 kilovolt (kV) Glenrowan Terminal Station located to the southeast on an adjacent site.

The Winton BESS would assist in the stabilisation of the national energy grid, reduce energy wastage, ease peak demand, and support Australia’s transition to renewable energy. The Project is anticipated to produce approximately 80-90 jobs during the peak construction period, with 1-2 full-time ongoing roles expected once operational.

Methodology

A comprehensive stakeholder analysis was developed in October 2024 to inform the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (CSES). Engagement activities during the planning permit application period for Victorian (VIC) utility installations focussed on understanding community sentiment, identifying potential impacts and possible mitigation measures, and preparing engagement recommendations post submission. Engagement methods included two rounds of posted letters, emails, phone calls, Project materials (Fact Sheet and FAQ), an online survey, a community pop-up information session, and face-to-face and online meetings.

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Community and Stakeholder Feedback

Feedback to date, has been gathered and analysed over a period of six (6) months. This included multiple in-person conversations with approximately fourteen sensitive receivers and community members (over three [3] property visits and three [3] meetings), one (1) in-person meeting with Council, 84 posted letters, three (3) phone calls, 62 emails, and four (4) online meetings with a Members of Parliament (MP) and Council representatives. Opportunities and concerns were identified in relation to the Project and are outlined below.

Opportunities	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for community benefit sharing tailored to the Benalla and Winton communities, with a focus on accessible and lasting legacy outcomes. • Exploration of potential agricultural and environmental uses for residual land. • Opportunities for local partnerships, including a 7-hectare vegetation planting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumulative impacts during the construction period, particularly when considering nearby developments. • Concerns in relation to visual impact • Concerns regarding noise during both construction and operation phases. • Access and traffic management during

<p>initiative and potential landscape linkages or ecological corridors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in a potential new or modified bus route servicing Bowers Road. • Potential for worker accommodation to be delivered in partnership with Winton Raceway. 	<p>construction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal property impacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Land devaluation ○ Increases in property insurance • Differentiating the Project from surrounding solar farms • Fire management or reputation of BESS's and their perceived risk of fires.
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Recommendations

To address the challenges identified through engagement, it is important for Avenis to maintain strategic and transparent communication with nearby sensitive receivers—particularly Receiver 1 (R1)—as well as with the broader community. This includes ongoing engagement through face-to-face meetings, invitations to participate in relevant assessments during the planning process, regular updates to local Members of Parliament, and collaboration with community groups and other key stakeholders.

In line with Victoria’s planning and approvals framework, continued efforts should be made to provide timely, accessible information as the Project progresses through the planning permit application and associated assessment stages. Particular attention should be given to visual mitigation strategies for R1, as outlined in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), with outcomes clearly communicated to interested stakeholders.

In addition, Avenis recognises the importance of addressing misinformation relating to the energy transition, especially in communities experiencing rapid change. Wherever possible, efforts will be made to provide fact-based, clear information to support informed community understanding.

The development of a legacy Community Benefit Scheme (CBS), designed in collaboration with the local community, will help ensure that benefits are specific, locally relevant, and accessible for the duration of the Project. A well-designed CBS provides an opportunity to deliver long-term value to the Benalla and Winton communities, aligned with their identified needs and priorities.

Conclusion

Community sentiment toward the Project is generally positive, with appreciation for the early engagement efforts and strong interest in potential local partnerships.

Moving forward, it is critical for Avenis to implement a clear CBS, mitigate any identified concerns where possible, continue to keep communication lines open, and maintain robust engagement efforts to ensure stakeholders are well-informed throughout the VIC planning application process, notice period, and beyond.

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1. Situational Context

1.1. Overview

Avenis Energy Pty Ltd (Avenis) on behalf AE BESS 10 Pty Ltd ATF AE BESS 10 Unit Trust, is pursuing development approval for a BESS in Winton, Victoria (VIC), approximately 14 km northeast of the Benalla township and opposite the Glenrowan Solar Farm.

The proposed BESS is located within the Benalla Rural City Council Local Government Area (LGA) in the Hume region of VIC and is zoned Rural Primary Production (RU1) under the Benalla Regional Local Environmental Plan 2013 and is within the Central Northern Victoria REZ.

The expected capacity and storage duration for the BESS would be approximately 120 MW/480 MWh (4-hour storage) and will connect directly into the 66 kV Glenrowan Terminal Station located to the east on an adjacent site. The BESS will be located on a maximum development footprint of 10 hectares (ha) however, the final BESS would be significantly smaller than this area.

Other nearby towns include Winton 6 km south-west, Glenrowan 9.5 km north-east, and Wangaratta 24 km north-east.

The Project would contribute towards the stabilisation of the national energy grid, ease energy wastage, ease peak demand, and support Australia's transition to a renewable energy future through the implementation of a large-scale BESS.

1.2. Design elements

The Project would include the following key built form features:

- 120 MW BESS including:
 - Battery containers
 - Inverters
 - Transformers
 - Cooling systems if required
 - Fire suppressions systems
 - Switch rooms
- Switchyard
- New access road to the site
- Parking, site office and amenities for operational use.

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Temporary infrastructure, including construction facilities, site offices and amenities, tool and material storage sheds, construction staff car parking, component laydown areas and truck parking and unloading would also be required.

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2. Methodology

2.1. Stakeholder analysis

A full stakeholder analysis was completed in October 2024 to inform the CSES. The focus of early engagement activities informing the planning application phase is understanding, documenting, and assessing community sentiment on the proposed BESS, and preparing engagement recommendations for Avenis as the Project moves through the application process, notice period, and beyond. The quality of the relationship with all stakeholders mentioned below is neutral.

Table 2-1 Stakeholders, their interests and recommended engagement approach

Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Interest (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Quality of relationship (very poor, poor, neutral, strong, very strong)	Engagement needs and/or expectations
Residential properties within 4 km (pending Noise Assessment) radius of the proposed site. Neighbouring property owners listed in Figure 4-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property impacts Noise impacts Visual impacts Access changes Environmental changes Commercial agreements Community benefits Governance and ownership of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a strong partnership with the community. Keep neighbours informed about the Project from early in the planning phase. Identify impacts and mitigations through a collaborative process. Discuss neighbour benefit sharing options directly. Provide opportunities to raise issues and provide 	H	H	Strong - multiple attempts to contact sensitive receivers, noting not all chose to engage/participate, while ongoing conversation occurred with multiple others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent engagement To be informed first of any information Open and transparent dialogue Opportunity for discussions and feedback Face-to-face discussions Personalised relationships formed Discussions regarding impacts and possible

	developing entity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts on agricultural outputs 	feedback.				mitigations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborative approach towards mitigation development Understanding of cumulative impacts.
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Broader Community and Professional consultees

Inform, consult, involve

This group will be engaged through broader communications during the development application phase through a community drop-in session where applicable, a public notice and communications through the council. Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the Project webpage.

Table 2-2 Stakeholder analysis: Broader community and region

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Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Interest (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Quality of relationship (very poor, poor, neutral, strong, very strong)	Engagement needs and/or expectations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benalla township including residents, businesses, and organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise impacts Transport access impacts or changes Environmental changes Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an understanding of and opportunity to participate in the Project Provide opportunities to raise issues and provide feedback Discuss Community Benefit Sharing options. 	M	M	Neutral – attempts to engage with the wider community through pop-ups, advertisements, and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing Project updates Information readily available Opportunity for discussions and feedback Identification of benefits.

	benefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance and ownership of the developing entity • Regional economic development. 				posters around town	
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Government agencies/utility owners

Inform, consult, involve

This group should be engaged directly by NGH Planning team through phone calls, emails and distributing letters, and a direct face-to-face meeting where possible. Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the Project webpage.

Table 2-3 Stakeholder analysis: Government agencies/utility owners

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Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Interest (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Quality of relationship (very poor, poor, neutral, strong, very strong)	Engagement needs and/or expectations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DTP • VIC Farmers Federation • Landcare Group • Clean Energy Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on local infrastructure • Assessment process • Consideration of impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce the Project • Develop and maintain a positive relationship • Identify opportunities and concerns. 	H	H	Very strong – ongoing agency consultation underway. Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing engagement regarding updates • Information readily available • Face-to-face discussions • Discussions regarding issues

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Parks and Wildlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration and mitigation of concerns Consultation process Application of standards and frameworks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 			with local MP facilitated.	mitigation, opportunities.
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Council

Inform, consult, involve

This stakeholder should be engaged directly through phone calls, distributing letters, and a direct face-to-face meeting where possible. Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the Project webpage.

Table 2-4 Stakeholder analysis: Council

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Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Interest (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Quality of relationship (very poor, poor, neutral, strong, very strong)	Engagement needs and/or expectations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benalla Rural City Council Planning and Economic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts on local infrastructure Assessment process Consideration of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce the Project Develop and maintain a positive relationship Identify and leverage council communication channels 	H	H	Very strong – ongoing Council consultation underway.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing engagement regarding updates Information readily available Face-to-face discussions

Development	impacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration and mitigation of concerns • Consultation process • Application of standards and frameworks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify opportunities to support the local economy/community. 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions regarding issues mitigation, opportunities • Community benefits/VPA discussions • Discussions regarding use of Council roads, etc.
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State and Federal MPs

Inform, consult, involve

This group should be engaged directly through phone calls, distributing letters, and a direct face-to-face meeting where possible. Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the Project webpage.

Table 2-5 Stakeholder analysis: State and Federal MPs

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Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Interest (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Quality of relationship (very poor, poor, neutral, strong, very strong)	Engagement needs and/or expectations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Federal Member for Indi, Dr 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on local infrastructure • Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce the Project • Develop and maintain a 	H	H	Strong – Consultation with Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing engagement regarding updates

<p>Helen Haines MP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member for Euroa, Mrs Annabelle Cleeland MP 	<p>process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of impacts Consideration and mitigation of concerns Consultation process Application of standards and frameworks. 	<p>positive relationship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify opportunities to support the local economy/community. 		<p>for Euroa facilitated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information readily available Face-to-face discussions Discussions regarding issues mitigation, opportunities Community benefits/VPA discussions Understanding of cumulative impacts.
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Education

Inform, consult, collaborate

This group should be engaged through broader communications during the Approvals phase through a community open drop-in session, a public notice (print) and communications through council. Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the Project webpage.

Table 2-6 Stakeholder analysis: Education

Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Interest (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Quality of relationship (very poor, poor, neutral, strong, very strong)	Engagement needs and/or expectations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TAFE Benalla Benalla Flexible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts on local infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure organisations are updated on education and 	L	L	Strong/Neutral – attempts to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing engagement regarding possible

Learning Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benalla P-12 College FCJ College Benalla Benalla Primary School NE-Tracks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of impacts Community Benefits. 	vocational opportunities associated with the Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify relevant community benefit scheme opportunities. 			engage were made. Face to face meeting facilitated with NE-Tracks.	involvement in educational opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information readily available Opportunity for discussions and feedback.
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Business groups/small business

Inform, consult

Outside of the sensitive receivers identified, this group should be engaged through broader communications during the Approvals phase through a community open drop-in session, a public notice (print) and communications through the council. Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the Project webpage.

Table 2-7 Stakeholder analysis: Construction companies

Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Interest (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Quality of relationship (very poor, poor, neutral, strong, very strong)	Engagement needs and/or expectations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benalla Business Network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the chamber to identify any local businesses 	H	M	Neutral – attempts to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing engagement regarding updates

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction companies that may contribute to the battery facility construction and installation like Konig Construction Group and Currie Electrical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skills training Community benefits 	<p>that may be impacted by the Project (positive or negative).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify opportunities to develop or utilise local capability. 			<p>engage were made.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information readily available Opportunity for discussions and feedback Identification of possible opportunities/participation.
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Advocates and Objectors

Inform, consult

Outside of the sensitive receivers identified, this group should be engaged through broader communications during the Approvals phase through a community open drop-in session if applicable, a public notice (print) and communications through council. Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the Project webpage.

Table 2-8 Stakeholder analysis: Advocates and objectors

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Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Interest (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Relationship (vp, p, n, s, vs)	Engagement needs and/or expectations
<p>Advocates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewable Energy Benalla Benalla Sustainable Future Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional growth Community benefits Governance and ownership of the developing entity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider opportunities for partnerships and community events Consider advocacy opportunities Potential for partnerships. 	H	M	<p>Very strong - Face to face meeting facilitated with Benalla Sustainable Future Group.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing engagement regarding updates Information readily available Opportunity for discussions and feedback Identification of possible advocacy activities.

<p>Objectors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWA • Meadow Creek Agricultural Community Action Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property impacts • Visual impacts • Access changes • Environmental changes • Commercial agreements • Community benefits • Governance and ownership of the developing entity • Impacts on agricultural outputs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and address concerns as required • Prepare responses to known concerns based on previous Projects • Manage issues constructively and efficiently • Ensure equity in the engagement (allow other stakeholders time to talk in information sessions) 	<p>H</p>	<p>M/L</p>	<p>Neutral – attempts to engage were made.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing engagement regarding updates • Information readily available • Opportunity for discussions and feedback.
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Community organisations/special interest groups

Inform, consult

Outside of the sensitive receivers identified, this group should be engaged through broader communications during the Approvals phase through a community open drop-in session, a public notice (print) and communications through council. Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the Project webpage.

Table 2-9 Stakeholder analysis: Community organisations/special interest groups

Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Interest (H,M,L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Relationship (vp, p, n, s, vs)	Engagement needs and/or expectations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tomorrow Today - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property impacts • Visual impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify interests and opportunities to partner and 	<p>M</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Very strong -</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing engagement

<p>Benalla’s independent community foundation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regent Honeyeater Project • Apex, Rotary, Lions, CWA, Probus • Sporting clubs like the Winton Motor Raceway or Benalla Saints Football Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access changes • Environmental changes • Commercial agreements • Community benefits • Governance and ownership of the developing entity • Impacts on perceived land use change. 	<p>contribute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for opportunities to address concerns during the planning phase regarding impacts on productive land. 		<p>Face to face meeting facilitated with Regent Honeyeater Project and online meeting held with Winton Raceway.</p>	<p>regarding updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information readily available • Opportunity for discussions and feedback.
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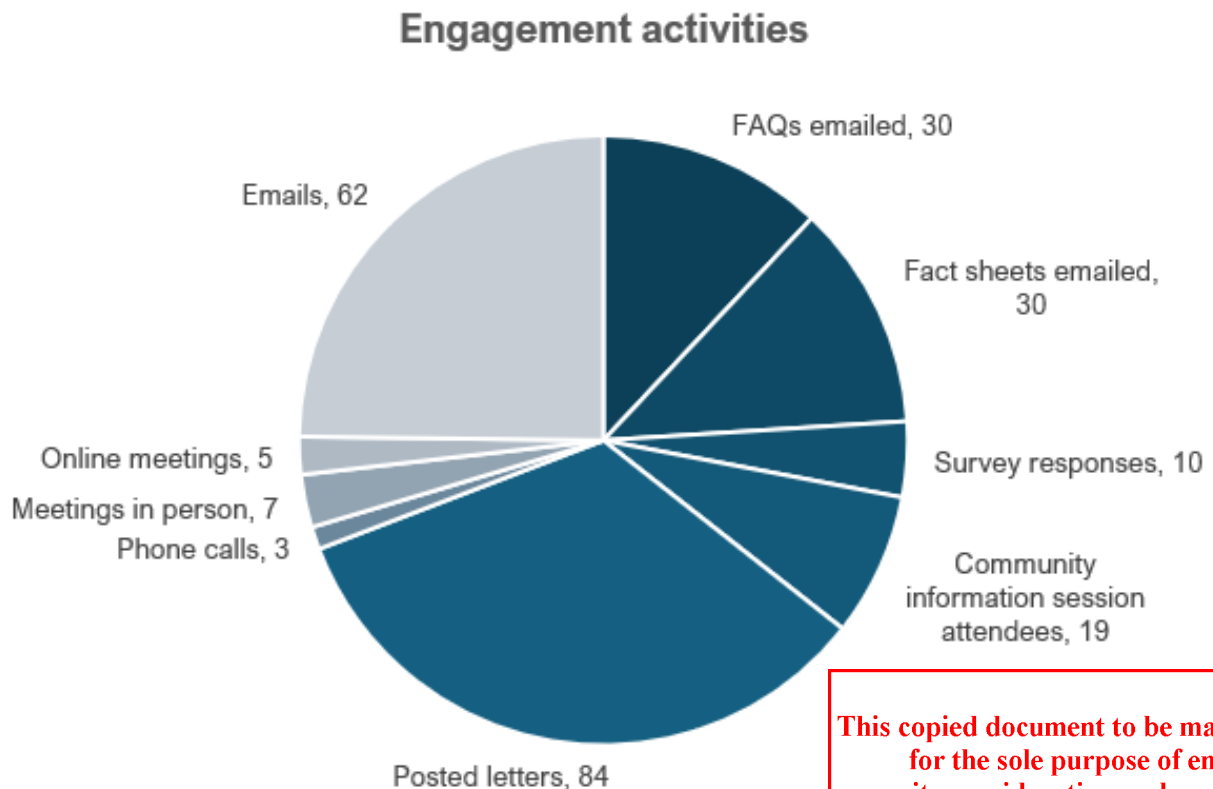
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2.2. Engagement activities

Based on the stakeholder analysis (outlined in section 2.1), a stakeholder register was developed by NGH, which enabled the distribution of materials and consultation with both the wider community as well as identified stakeholders.

In summary, this report has been informed by the following engagement activities:



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Figure 2-1 Overview of engagement activities

Table 2-10 Engagement activities in detail

How	Who	Why	When
Posted letters (Appendix A and Appendix B)	Sensitive receivers within 4 km of the Project site (Appendix C) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 42 letters posted (identifiable addresses) x 2 (84 total) 	Introduce the Project, inviting them to reach out for more information or a meeting, and directing them to complete the online survey.	11 November 2024 30 January 2025

How	Who	Why	When
Emails	Targeted stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 62 emails 	Introduce the Project, invite them to reach out for more information or a meeting, and direct them to complete the online survey.	12 November 2024 – 14 March 2025
Face-to-face meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benalla Regional City Council Benalla Sustainable Future Group representatives Sensitive receivers within 4 km (4 attendees over 3 meetings) Regent Honeyeater Project representatives NE Tracks representatives 7 meetings in total	To introduce the Project, understand concerns, request feedback, and help inform mitigations and build on potential CBS.	Between 26 November 2024 – 21 February 2025
Newspaper advertising (Appendix D)	Wider community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benalla Ensign Newspaper 	To invite the community to attend the upcoming pop-up information session and direct them to complete the online survey or visit the Project website.	5 February 2025
Project poster at the Creating Community Connections Expo (Appendix E)	Wider community.	To introduce the Project, invite the community to reach out for more information or a meeting, and direct them to complete the online survey.	21 February 2025
Pop-up information session at Benalla Farmers Markets	Wider community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19 stall attendees 	To introduce the Project, understand concerns, request feedback, and help inform mitigations and build on potential CBS.	22 February 2025 from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
Phone calls	Sensitive receivers, First Nations representatives, and other identified stakeholders.	Introduce the Project, invitation to an in-person meeting, discussions regarding	Between 10 October and 17 October 2024

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How	Who	Why	When
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 phone calls 	participation in preliminary Social Impact Assessment (SIA), and discuss potential CBS.	
Fact sheet (Appendix F)	All stakeholders where possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 copies delivered via email Available in face-to-face meetings and the pop-up information session. 	To introduce the Project and direct stakeholders to complete the online survey.	Distributed from September 2024
FAQ document (Appendix G)	All stakeholders where possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 copies delivered via email Available in face-to-face meetings and the pop-up information session. 	To introduce the Project and answer known questions.	Distributed from September 2024
Business cards (Appendix H)	Wider community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available during in-person meetings and the pop-up information session. 	To provide contact information and direct stakeholders to the community survey and the Project website.	20 – 21 February 2025
Online survey (Appendix I)	Wider community. Available on the fact sheet and letters. 10 responses received	To request feedback on the Project to help inform mitigations and build on potential CBS.	11 November 2024 – 21 March 2025
Online meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member for Euroa, Mrs Annabelle Cleeland MP Joel Spencer – Winton Raceway Courtney Naughton – BRCC (multiple) 	To introduce the Project, understand concerns, request feedback, inform mitigations, discuss accommodation opportunities, and build on potential CBS.	Between 4 March – 12 March 2025 + Ongoing meetings with BRCC
Sponsorship of Benalla Street Art	Wider community.	To build brand awareness and positioning within the local area.	Between 11 – 13 April 2025

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How	Who	Why	When
Festival			
Project website	Wider community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 488 page views 	To introduce the Project and answer known questions.	From November 2024



Figure 2-2 Sponsorship of Benalla Arts Festival

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Figure 2-3 Project team at community market

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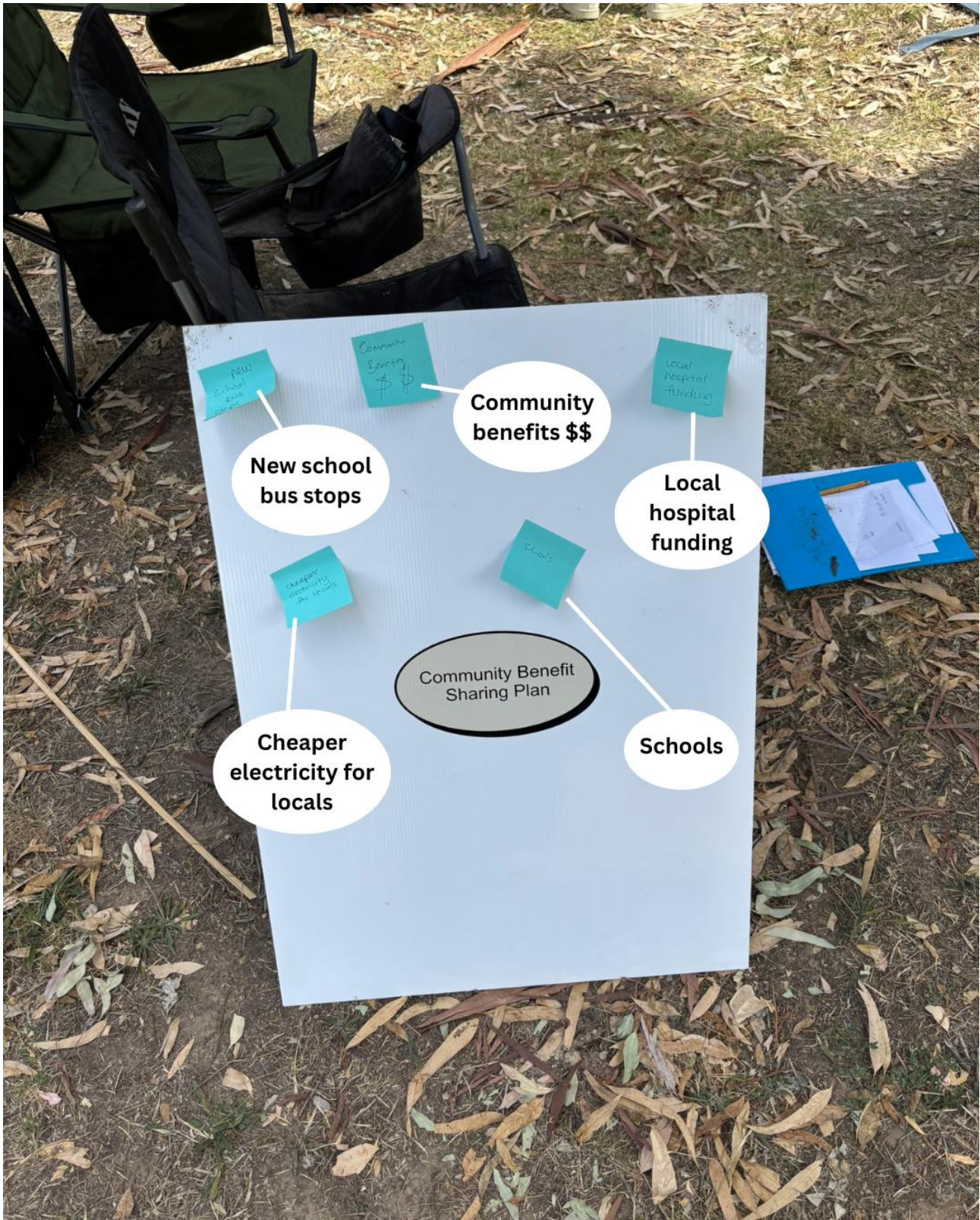


Figure 2-4 Community benefit sharing ideas

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3. Community and stakeholder feedback

3.1. How feedback was logged and considered

Engagement for the Winton BESS has been guided by the principles outlined in the Project’s engagement strategy (October 2024), which commit to providing clear information, encouraging participation, working in partnership with stakeholders, supporting informed decision-making, and contributing to regional resilience. These principles align with the Victorian Community Engagement Guidelines for Major Energy Projects and have shaped both the intent and method of stakeholder engagement to date.

All consultation activities have been recorded in a central stakeholder management system, which captures individual interactions, recurring issues, and agreed actions. This system ensures that feedback is tracked over time, enabling the Project team to identify key themes and demonstrate how community input has influenced project planning and engagement responses.

Through ongoing, open engagement, Avenis has worked collaboratively with stakeholders to understand and respond to concerns. This has included adjusting engagement approaches, clarifying project information, and exploring solutions that reflect community needs and expectations.

The overall approach has been iterative and transparent, supporting informed participation and helping to build trusted, long-term relationships that will carry through the life of the Winton BESS.

The following section provides an overview of the feedback and consultation records undertaken to date, summarising key themes, concerns, and opportunities identified through engagement with community members and stakeholders.

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3.2. Engagement activity feedback

Several emails, phone calls, face-to-face and online meetings were facilitated with Council, professional consultees, sensitive receivers, and community members. The table below outlines the stakeholder feedback received.

Table 3-1 Stakeholder feedback summary

Stakeholder	Meeting type	Concerns/comments	Actions by NGH and highlighted interests
<p>Benalla Rural City Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 BRCC representatives 	<p>Face-to-face meeting at Council Chambers (21/02/2025).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided an overview of the Project, planning progress, and timelines. Discussed community concerns regarding the solar farm to the north and outlined consultation efforts, including upcoming meetings and attendance at the farmers' market. Raised community benefit sharing; BSC previously helped administer Winton's solar farm funds and is keen to leverage benefits from this Project. Addressed job opportunities, highlighting both construction and ongoing roles, with a preference for local workforce sourcing. Discussed accommodation challenges given multiple concurrent developments and potential use of dongers at Winton Raceway. Confirmed that residual land could support livestock, and that native vegetation removal is expected to be minimal, with plans to be submitted to Council. Provided updates on visual impact assessment (results to be shared once completed) and sleeper removal (EPA expects completion by June). Explained land purchase would occur post-approval. Discussed road reserve ownership and security of use for capital raising, confirming no easements are required but Dial Before You Dig registration is necessary. Noted that works within the road reserve require Council permission, with Council being the sole authority granting approvals. Explored potential co-location with Mokoan Solar Farm's overhead line and considered direct bore preference for DTP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-introduced the Project Provided informational materials Project considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodation Workforce procurement Environmental and land use considerations Road reserve Advertising for visibility Community Benefit Fund Ongoing engagement and Project updates.

Stakeholder	Meeting type	Concerns/comments	Actions by NGH and highlighted interests
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarified the road reserve is Crown Land managed by Council, designated for 'General Public Use.' Discussed legal rights regarding Mokahan's access via AusNet and the implications for this Project. Confirmed land purchase option remains valid for 4.5 years, pending grid and DA approvals. 	
<p>Sensitive receivers - R1</p>	<p>In-person meeting (21/02/2025).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents raised concerns about noise impacts, and questioned how modelling was done without onsite data. NGH confirmed background data from similar Projects was used. Concerns regarding visual impacts were noted. Residents asked about screening or landscaping to reduce visibility and mitigate the area's increasingly industrial feel. Health concerns were raised around toxic fumes and battery fires, with residents seeking clear emergency procedures and hazard management plans. Questions were asked about the Project's effect on property values, with requests for independent valuations or compensation. Avenis will provide Clean Energy Council fact sheets on insurance and property impacts. Liability in the event of a fire damaging neighbouring homes was also queried. It was confirmed the existing house will be removed to prevent squatters and no one will live onsite. Access will be via Bowers Road, with left-in/left-out turns from the highway. A traffic management plan will be developed. Two driveways are planned due to fire risk requirements and flooding issues. Residents asked if Bowers Road will be upgraded. School buses no longer stop due to lack of a turnaround. Residents requested a turning bay if road widening occurs. Fire management was discussed, including fire breaks, Asset Protection Zones, gravel roads, and onsite water tanks. The land will not be rezoned to industrial. Sleeper removal is scheduled for June under EPA oversight. The O&M contract includes obligations to keep grass low. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-introduced the Project Provided informational materials Project considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fire and safety - Access and traffic considerations - Construction impacts - Visual and noise impacts - Insurance impacts - Property value impacts - Neighbour benefits Ongoing engagement and Project updates.

Stakeholder	Meeting type	Concerns/comments	Actions by NGH and highlighted interests
		<p>Avenis may lease remaining land for grazing; resident expressed interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents’ feel “squeezed out” by nearby developments. Suggestions included landscaping and improved property signage to reduce impacts. A neighbour benefit scheme was discussed, including one-off or ongoing payments to nearby residents, as well as a broader community fund. A "Re-switch" benefit for homes within 1km of the BESS site was also proposed. Clarity was requested on who qualifies as a “direct neighbour.” One adjacent landowner was previously unaware of the Project and will need further engagement. A return visit is planned, with technical reports to be provided. 	
<p>Sensitive receivers – R9</p>	<p>In-person meeting (21/02/2025).</p>	<p>Concerned about the loss of RU1 prime agricultural land and whether it would be reclassified as industrial.</p> <p>Questioned why rural and regional communities bear the burden of large-scale developments.</p> <p>Expressed frustration with the planning system and new fast-track approvals, feeling it limits community influence.</p> <p>Asked about fire protections and the level of assessment. Discussed fire breaks, roads, and water tanks as mitigation measures. Also raised concerns about electrical fires and appropriate response.</p> <p>Expressed frustration that detailed fire management plans are only developed post-approval.</p> <p>Noted their concerns are about large-scale battery storage, despite owning a Tesla battery themselves. Questioned why the battery is being placed at this location. Avenis explained proximity to substation and need to store excess electricity.</p> <p>Asked about construction timelines. Expected start around 2027, with 6–12 months of work.</p> <p>Raised concerns about land values, acknowledging both potential impacts and increases due to development interest.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced the Project Provided informational materials Project considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fire and safety - Road upgrade considerations - Construction impacts - Loss of agricultural land - Land value impacts - Community benefits Ongoing engagement and Project updates.

Stakeholder	Meeting type	Concerns/comments	Actions by NGH and highlighted interests
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposed Council receiving community benefit-sharing funds. Suggested funds be directed to hospitals, schools (staff and resources), school camps, and local roads. • Raised concerns about road grading. Avenis explained required remediation works. • Asked if the transmission wire would be underground. Confirmed it would be. 	
<p>Benalla Sustainable Future Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 attendees 	<p>In-person meeting (21/02/2025).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asked how electricity market trading works and whether it is cheaper than nuclear storage. Confirmed it is. • Discussed local government support for similar Projects, including backing from federal and state nationals. • Discussed fire risks, fire suppression, and management plans. • Enquired about contamination and control measures plus noise assessments. • Discussed the total Project lifespan and component types. • Asked whether Avenis would retain ownership post-approval. Avenis provided an overview of the finance model. • Asked about heat generation during charging and discharging. • Enquired about radiation and EMF risks. Confirmed it is considered safe. • Raised interest in a community battery initiative • Asked how community benefit sharing is administered. • Noted that sodium-ion batteries, which are rare-earth mineral-free and reusable, are being developed in Queensland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced the Project • Provided informational materials • Project considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fire and safety - Health and well-being - Community benefits • Ongoing engagement and Project updates.
<p>Regent Honeyeater Project</p>	<p>In-person meeting (21/02/2025).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressed interest in maximising community benefits. • Explored potential agricultural and environmental uses for residual land. • Discussed vegetation and land use, including a 7ha planting initiative, landscape linkages, and vegetation breaks ranging from 20–100m. Discussed a 2ha site for seed plantings. • Emphasised the importance of maintaining relationships and Indigenous species monitoring. • Noted internal changes at FRV and the complexity of contract processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced the Project • Provided informational materials • Project considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land uses - Community benefits • Ongoing engagement

Stakeholder	Meeting type	Concerns/comments	Actions by NGH and highlighted interests
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preferred an upfront sum for funding rather than yearly grants, which were considered too difficult to manage. Discussed screening and planting supply, including a species list. Found previous grant processes challenging when based on annual planting targets rather than specific outcomes. Confirmed that grants are funded, with the organisation’s running costs estimated at \$15k per year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> and Project updates.
<p>NE Tracks</p>	<p>In-person meeting (21/02/2025).</p>	<p>Introduced the Project and provided an overview of NE Tracks, which operates 31 programs across the state as part of the local learning and employment network, focusing on school-to-work pathways and industry engagement.</p> <p>Noted community concerns about the Wangaratta solar farm and the Meadow Creek development on prime agricultural land, which is planning for sheep grazing.</p> <p>Explained that this Project is not a solar farm and clarified the role of the battery in the wider energy infrastructure. Concerns appeared to ease after this explanation.</p> <p>Raised general fire concerns from the community and briefly discussed mitigation measures.</p> <p>Expressed personal support for such developments.</p> <p>Discussed community benefit-sharing opportunities, particularly around industry engagement and hands-on activities for students.</p> <p>Raised interest in career expo events, which typically cost \$30,000–\$40,000 to facilitate, with sponsorship fees covering event costs. Mentioned a previous \$46,000 grant application.</p> <p>Explored opportunities for school visits, work experience programs, and trade engagement.</p> <p>Indicated they are always open to support and collaboration opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced the Project Provided informational materials Project considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fire and safety - Community benefits - Employment Ongoing engagement and Project updates.
<p>Member for Euroa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online meeting (04/03/2025) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided an overview of the Project and consultation activities conducted during the site visit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced the Project and introduced the

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Stakeholder	Meeting type	Concerns/comments	Actions by NGH and highlighted interests
<p>Anna Cleeland MP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 x emails between 12/02/2025 and 04/03/2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed community benefit sharing, with Annabelle highlighting local trust issues due to past Projects, many of which have followed a generic approach or focused on TAFE sponsorships in Albury, drawing people away from the local area. Suggested a medical accommodation and traineeship proposal as a potential initiative but noted that many similar Projects struggle to retain participants. Expressed a preference for local TAFE engagement over programs that require travel to Albury. Requested the visual impact assessment once completed. Avenis and NGH provided an overview of fire concerns and mitigation measures. Annabelle enquired whether the CFA had been consulted. It was confirmed that a meeting was held with the State CFA the previous week. Avenis flagged new guidelines for insurance; and confirmed that this information would be sent through. Annabelle noted she already has CEC fact sheets. Avenis acknowledged the need to address the issue of outages and reassured that the Project would help address this. Annabelle agreed. Mentioned the need for a direct point of contact for Project-related questions. Avenis confirmed they are available to assist. Asked about the Project timeline. An overview provided, with construction expected to begin around 2027. Raised concerns about road conditions. 	<p>Applicant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided informational materials Project considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual impacts Construction impacts Community benefits Fire Ongoing engagement.
<p>Community member</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phone call (17/02/2025) 2 x emails between 14/02/2025 and 17/02/2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spoke with community member who mentioned they own land next to the Goat Cheese farm but could not recall the exact address. Mentioned they have a shed on their property used for accommodation and plans to expand this facility in the future. Concerned that the development may impact her plans but stated they would not formally object. Does not wish to meet with the Project team but prefers to review materials independently. (Materials have already been sent.) Suggested that a Project phone number would be beneficial. After an explanation of the BESS location in the back corner, their concerns eased. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced the Project and introduced the Applicant Provided informational materials Project considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbour engagement Visual impacts

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Stakeholder	Meeting type	Concerns/comments	Actions by NGH and highlighted interests
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asked how many battery containers Avenis is anticipating installing and requested an example of what a BESS sounds like during charging and discharging, specifically interested in the discharge noise. (Avenis to confirm.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise impacts Ongoing engagement.
<p>Benalla Rural City Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal Liaison Officer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phone call on 20/11/2024. 3 x emails between 12/11/2024 and 05/02/2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spoke with Aboriginal Liaison Officer to gather local context on the Traditional Owners of the Benalla area. Acknowledged the importance of engagement while recognising that Traditional Owner groups are often over-consulted, especially at this time of year. They advised that they may not be the best contact and recommended reaching out to the Yorta Yorta Traditional Aboriginal Corporation (YYNAC) Mentioned a Cultural Advisor at YYNAC who could be a useful contact. When asked about Elder Chris Thorne, they clarified that he is not Yorta Yorta but runs cultural awareness programs and works out of Odyssey House. After the call, they emailed through a contact at YYNAC for NGH and Avenis to follow up with. Multiple follow up emails from NGH were sent requesting a contact from the Benalla Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group — no response received. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced the Project and introduced the Applicant Provided informational materials Ongoing engagement with First Nations community.
<p>Benalla Rural City Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manager of Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phone call on 19/11/2024. 4 x emails between 12/11/2024 and 05/02/2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They noted that NGH and Avenis had been trying to reach them and appreciated the follow-up. NGH outlined planned engagement activities and indicative timelines, highlighting the upcoming consultation blackout period and the importance of early relationship-building. When asked for insight into the local community, they said they expected some resistance to the BESS but noted that a nearby solar farm had progressed through the DA process, so they assumed this Project might follow a similar path. Referred to the engagement approach taken by the solar farm and suggested similar activities, such as letters and information sessions. Their main concern was visual impact, and they expressed interest in speaking with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explained the Project and introduced the Applicant Provided information material Project considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual impacts Community engagement Ongoing engagement.

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Stakeholder	Meeting type	Concerns/comments	Actions by NGH and highlighted interests
		<p>Avenis about potential screening options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asked if any imagery of the proposed BESS was available. NGH explained that the Project is still in early investigation stages, and only maps have been developed at this point. 	
<p>Community members x 19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pop-up information stall at Benalla Farmers Market (21/02/2025) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spoke to 19 attendees. Of those, 15 people were positive or neutral trending positive, and 4 were negative. Also met with R6; indicated they had only received one of the two correspondences, provided PO Box details. Didn't have any concerns regarding the Project. • Large majority of the topics discussed were focused on the technology and purpose of the development, and the way that it would contribute to the large energy network. • Community benefit sharing was a big theme, a lot of people found the annual funding through grant applications cumbersome. One attendee discussed the sharing of benefits locally, through reduced energy prices. Discussed the various platforms that allow this. • Discussions also focused on the safety of the Project, both fire and EMF perspectives. One person the team spoke to said that he was sceptical towards the Project, but felt we were doing a good job with the consultation. • Many people indicated they didn't want more solar farms, but visibly relaxed when they realised the Project was a battery and not a solar farm. This misunderstanding of what the Project is was a common theme. • Concerns included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The recycling of the components at end of life (2 x people) - Trees dying from coal plants being shut down (2 x people) - Chinese made parts = invasion of China (1 x person) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced the Project and introduced the Applicant • Provided informational materials • Project considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decommissioning - Health and wellbeing - Community benefits - Fire / safety • Ongoing engagement.
<p>Winton Raceway representative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online meeting (12/03/2025) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial discussions have commenced regarding available accommodation options in the area. • Construction will require accommodation for approximately 100 people over a 12-month period, starting mid-2027. Winton Raceway could be a viable option for this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explained the Project and introduced the Applicant • Provided information

Stakeholder	Meeting type	Concerns/comments	Actions by NGH and highlighted interests
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avenis to continue discussions with representative as the Project progresses, particularly around lodgement (June or July 2025). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> material Project considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worker accommodation Ongoing engagement.
<p>Benalla Rural City Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manager of Economic Development and Sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online meeting (from 04/04/2025) Monthly meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion held around boring under the highway and leasing arrangements. Similar issues noted on other regional projects. A nearby battery project facing comparable constraints was mentioned. Avenis indicated interest in potential collaboration. Accommodation availability raised as a possible constraint due to increased local construction. Avenis noted early discussions with local facilities. Avenis outlined internal discussions regarding a potential Community Benefit Scheme, including energy credit options for neighbours. Local generation certificates were discussed as a potential benefit-sharing mechanism. Avenis agreed to explore relevance for battery projects. Engagement ongoing with ARTC and EPA regarding sleeper removal, scheduled for winter. Nearby landholder feedback was discussed. Avenis noted previous meetings, with questions raised around noise, visual impact, and local road upgrades. General support for renewables was noted. Council-managed road confirmed. BRCC suggested inviting infrastructure representatives to provide advice on road upgrades. Opportunities discussed for involvement in the Benalla Festival, including potential display space and interactive materials. Avenis confirmed planning is progressing, with easement issues being a key focus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodation impacts Construction impacts Community benefits Ongoing engagement.

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3.3. Feedback survey

The community feedback survey was created as another opportunity for community members to share their input in an easy and accessible way. It was made available through multiple channels, including the posted letter, fact sheet, and emails, to ensure broad access and encourage participation.

The survey contained 17 questions and was developed on the Survey Monkey platform. A total of ten (10) responses were received between 11 November 2024 and 21 March 2025, and a summary of the data is included below.

- Five (5) respondents live within 5 km of the Project site
- Four (4) respondents support the Project, and two (2) oppose
- When considering the values of the local area, six (6) respondents nominated landscape and views
- When asked what are the main reasons the respondent is interested in the Winton BESS, three (3) respondents selected the potential negative impacts on the local area, and three (3) selected I want to build my understanding of the Project
- When considering what respondents like about renewable energy Projects in general, five (5) respondents nominated community benefits including funds for community Projects
- When considering what respondents like about renewable energy Projects in general, five (5) respondents nominated community benefits including funds for community Projects
- Three (3) respondents emphasised the critical role of storage in supporting the energy network and maximising the benefits of solar, with strong support for local ownership models and the need to shift solar generation to evening peak demand
- When asked what concerns respondents have about potential impacts of large-scale renewable energy developments generally, six (6) respondents nominated visual impacts
- When considering local landscape characteristics and their importance, the following was nominated as being most important:
 - Hills and trees
 - Views of landscape, hills ,valleys, wetlands & local native vegetation increasing biodiversity.
 - Views of surrounding ranges
 - Country side, farm land, wetlands, hills and valleys
- When considering potential **environmental** impacts from the proposed Project, the following were considered important:
 - Four (4) respondents selected reducing carbon emissions/action on climate change
 - Three (3) respondents selected native vegetation impacts
 - Two (2) respondents selected potential for impacts to waterways
 - Two (2) respondents selected fire management practices
- When considering **social and economic** impacts of the proposed Project, the following were considered important:
 - Five (5) respondents selected community benefit opportunities from the Project
 - Four (4) respondents selected potential impacts to property values
 - Three (3) respondents selected providing proactive action against climate change
 - Three (3) respondents selected supporting grid stability and energy supply
- When considering **amenity** factors of the proposed Project, the following were considered important:
 - Five (5) respondents selected the potential for visual impacts for near neighbours

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- Two (2) respondents selected transportation planning and the use of local roads
- Two (2) respondents selected potential for noise impacts for near neighbours
- Two (2) respondents selected temporary construction impacts (i.e., noise, traffic, dust).

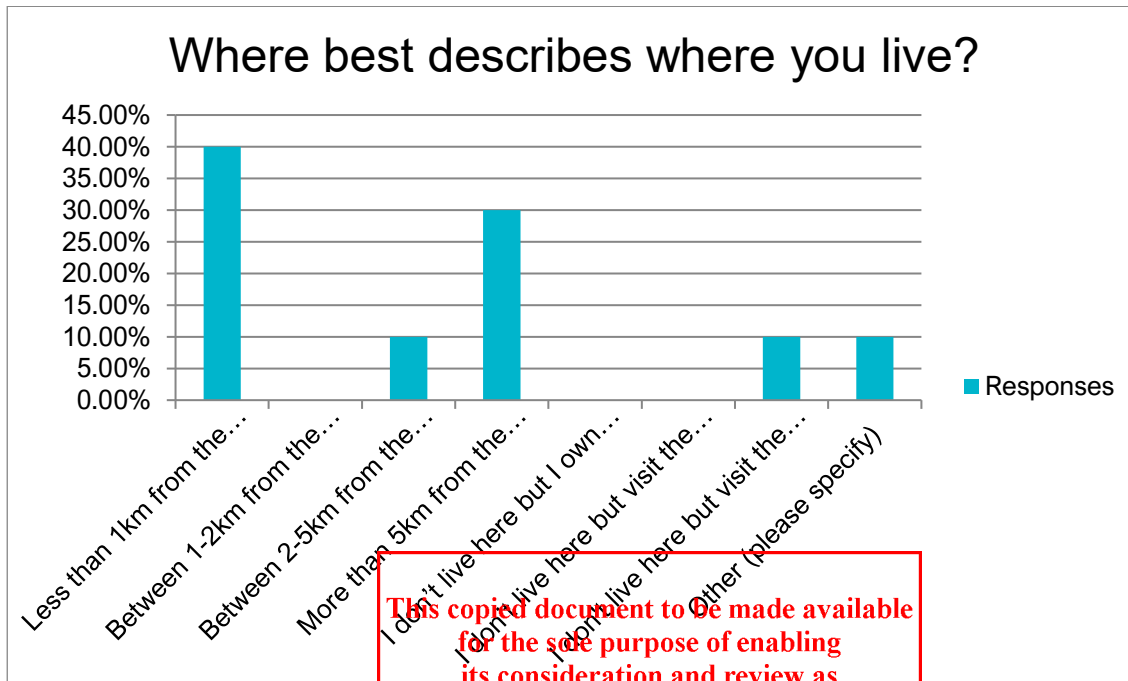


Figure 3-1 Community Feedback Survey - Respondents' proximity to the proposed Project

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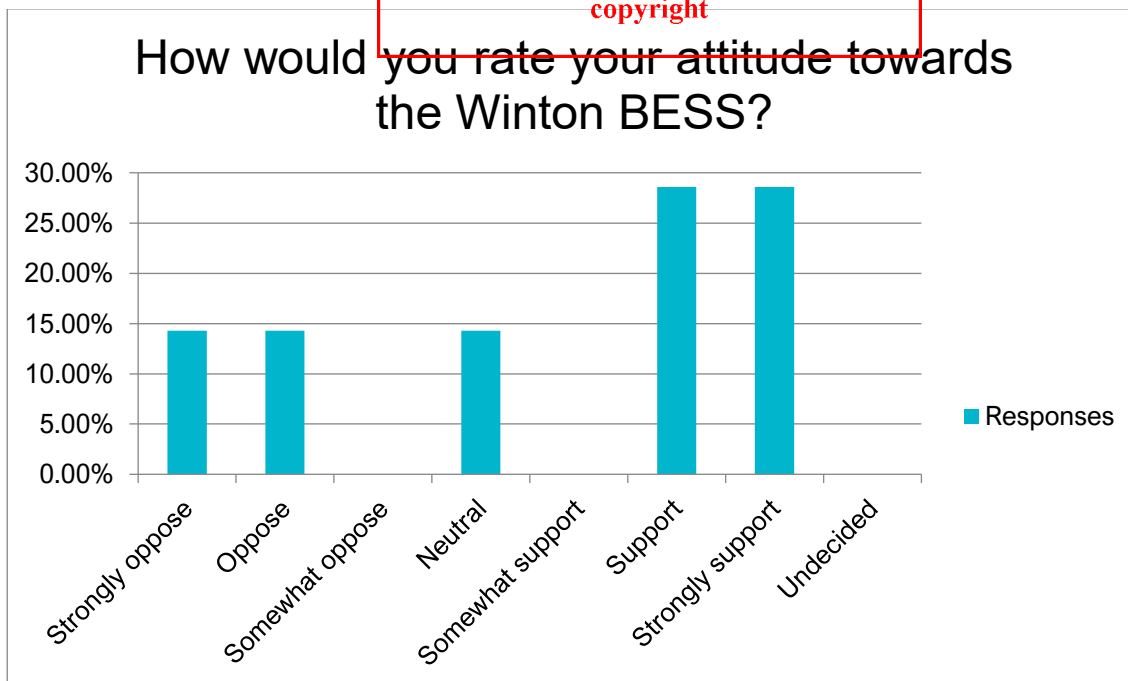


Figure 3-2 Community Feedback Survey - Respondents' level of support for the proposed Project

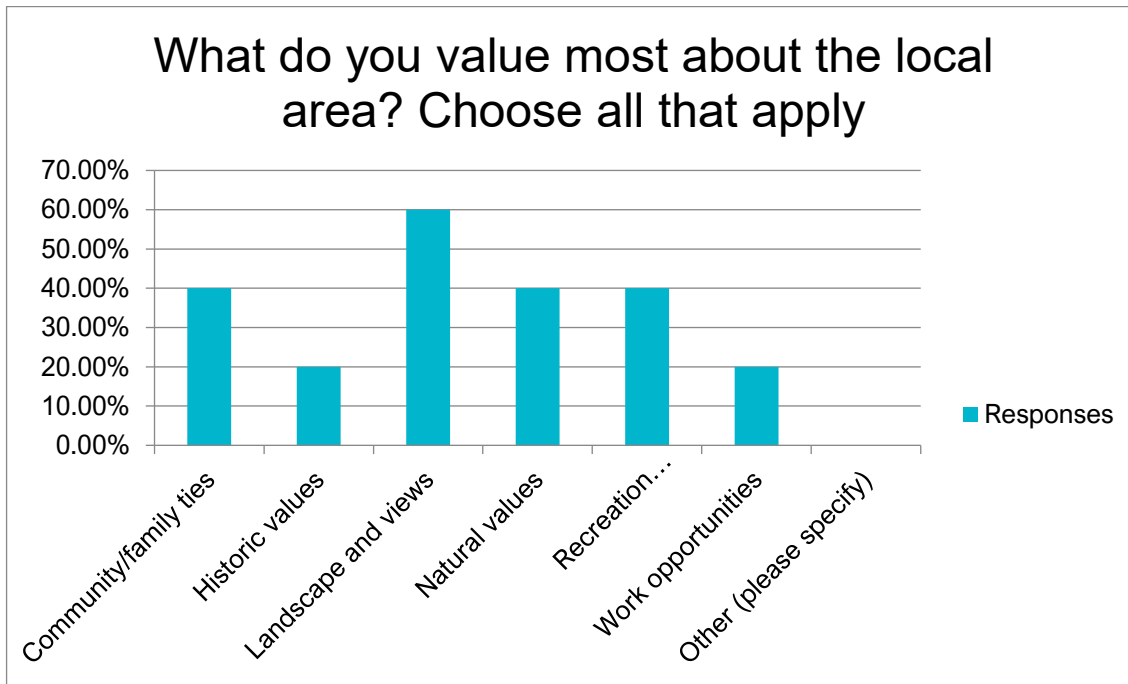


Figure 3-3 Community Feedback Survey - Respondents' rating of value of local area

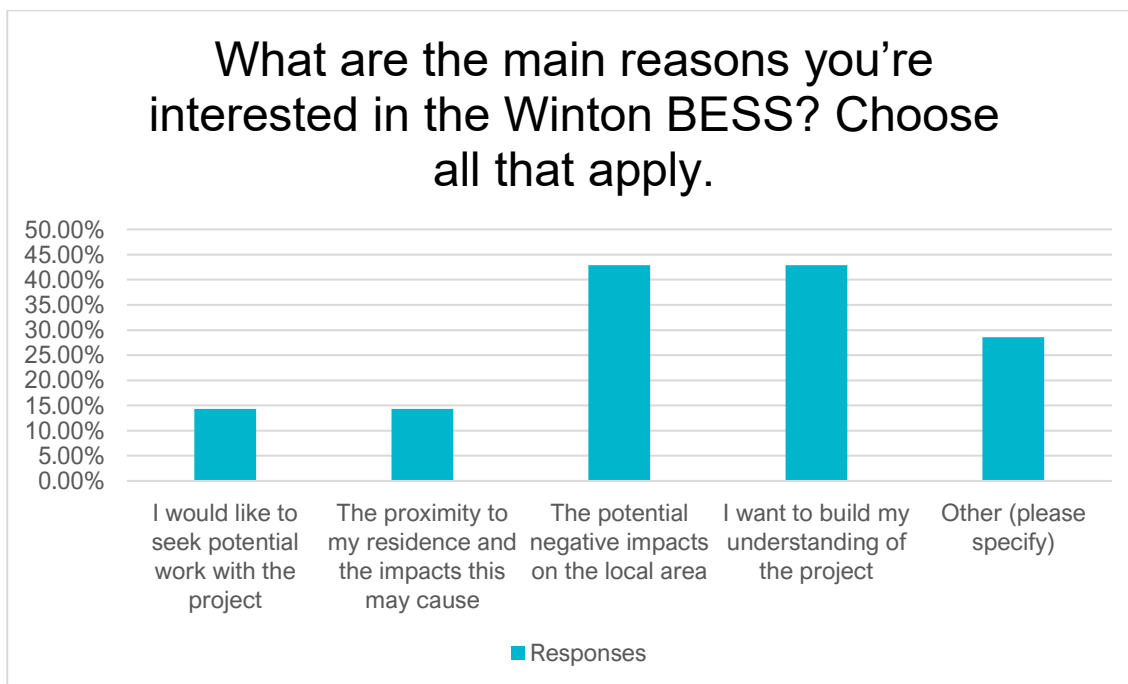


Figure 3-4 Community Feedback Survey - Respondents reason for interest in the Project

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4. Findings

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4.1. Main concerns and opportunities

The feedback received throughout the planning process presented a range of perspectives and inputs for the Applicant to consider.

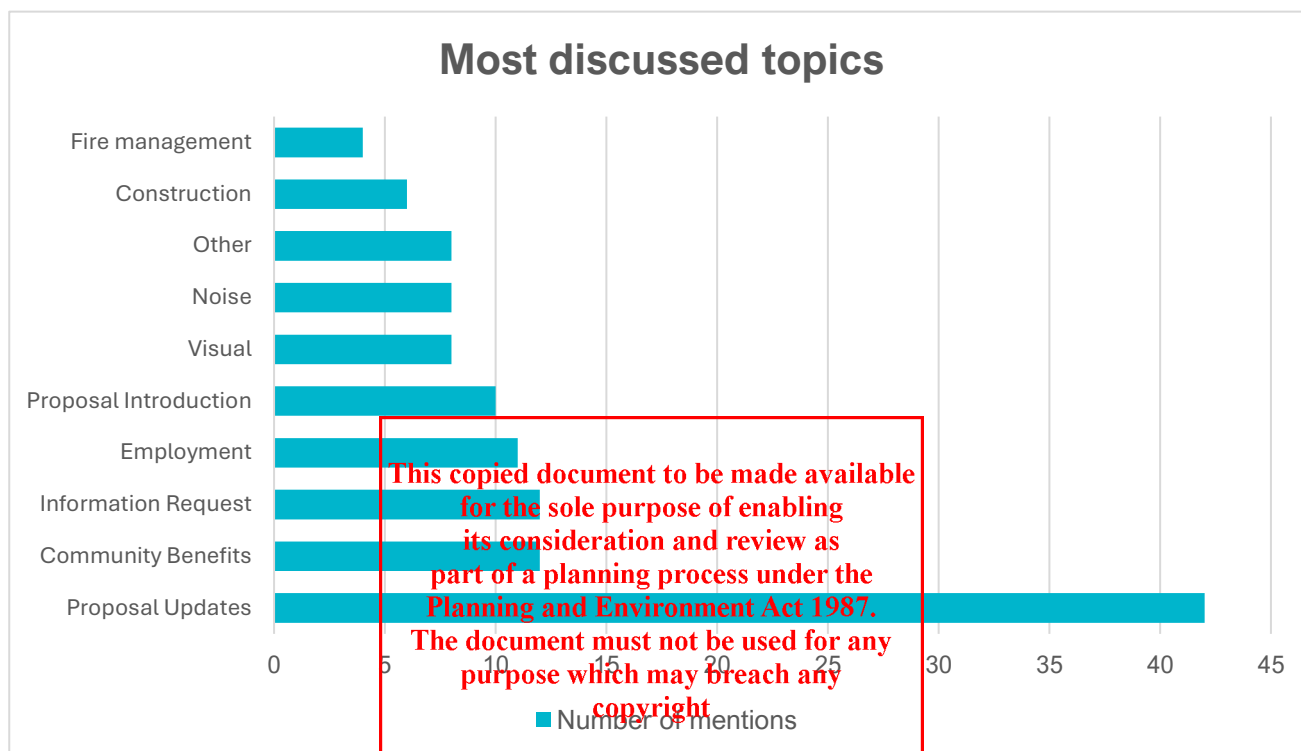


Figure 4-1 Top 10 topics discussed during engagement (not including survey data)

The following conclusions can be drawn:

- The biggest opportunities were identified as:
 - Community benefit sharing (mentioned 12 times)
 - Local employment opportunities (as an area to explore further – mentioned 11 times)
 - Potential road access by local school bus (suggested by R1)
 - Local partnerships in the form of potential land use (residual land) for environmental purposes.
- The biggest concerns and/or challenges that were identified were:
 - Visual impacts (mentioned eight [8] times)
 - Noise impacts (mentioned eight [8] times)
 - Concerns regarding construction impacts (mentioned six [6] times)
 - Environmental considerations through fire risk (mentioned four [4] times)
 - Cumulative impacts to neighbouring properties due to surrounding developments
 - Personal property impacts (devaluation and increases to insurance premiums) mentioned by R1.

- When considering community benefits, stakeholders emphasised the importance of keeping benefits local to Winton and Benalla. Suggestions included:
 - Cheaper electricity for locals
 - Funding for local schools and hospitals
 - New bus stops
 - Environmental management initiatives: Exploring potential agricultural and environmental uses for residual land.
 - Potential partnerships: Discussed vegetation and land use, including a 7-ha planting initiative, landscape linkages (corridors).

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4.2. Mitigations

While the Project has generally been well-received by the community, ongoing engagement has highlighted a number of concerns and challenges that are important to acknowledge and address. Maintaining community support will depend on the Project’s ability to proactively mitigate potential impacts—particularly those raised by neighbouring landholders. By responding to these concerns through thoughtful planning, risk management, and clear communication, the Project can continue to build trust and ensure positive outcomes for both the local community and the broader region.

The following table outlines the key issues raised and the measures implemented, where feasible, to address them.

Table 4-1 Mitigation approaches

Area of concern	Mitigation approaches proposed	Action
<p>Visual impacts</p>	<p>Some residents raised questions regarding screening and landscaping to reduce visibility and soften the increasingly industrial character of the area. In response, a Visual Impact Assessment was prepared by GbLA, which includes provisions for landscape and vegetation screening.</p> <p>The assessment concludes that the proposed BESS will not be highly visible from key public and private viewpoints. The inclusion of landscape screening on the north, west, and southern boundaries will further support the Project’s integration into the surrounding undulating landscape.</p> <p>The siting and design of the Project have considered the natural landform, current established screening, and key features of the area. Based on the assessment, no unreasonable visual impacts are anticipated as a result of the proposed development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Visual Impact Assessment has been prepared by GbLA. • Proposed landscaping and vegetation screening. • Ongoing engagement with R1.
<p>Noise impacts</p>	<p>R1, Council, and a community member raised concerns about noise impacts of the Project. Noise surveys were conducted at nearby residences (R1, R2, and R3) under calm, dry conditions with ambient temperatures between 4–12°C. Noise limits and design targets were developed based on this survey, conducted in May 2025.</p> <p>The site is located adjacent to the Hume Freeway and near several existing and proposed energy-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Environmental Noise Assessment was undertaken by Marshall Acoustics. • The assessment confirms

	<p>related developments, including solar farms and substations. At R1 and R2, noise from nearby solar farms and the Glenrowan Terminal Station (GTS) was not audible. The sound environment was instead dominated by consistent road traffic noise from the Hume Freeway, both during the day and at night. For R3, measurements were taken along Glenwest Lane to assess potential contributions from GTS. GTS noise was also inaudible at this location.</p> <p>Predicted noise from the proposed Project itself remains within the required limits for day, evening, and night periods. These predictions are based on conservative assumptions, including continuous cooling system operation and sound spreading evenly in all directions. Therefore, it is concluded that the Project will meet all relevant noise guidelines and is not expected to cause adverse noise impacts for nearby residents.</p>	<p>that cumulative noise impacts are expected to remain within acceptable limits and comply with relevant guidelines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An updated noise assessment is required once final equipment selections have been made. • Ongoing engagement with R1.
<p>Construction impacts (road access)</p>	<p>A Traffic Impact Assessment was undertaken by Impact Traffic Engineers to assess access and vehicle movements associated with the construction and operation of the Project. The assessment confirms that the proposed site access is suitable for 26-metre B-double vehicles, with the existing road pavement and shoulders able to accommodate turning movements. As such, a Basic Right Turn (BAR) treatment is not required, given the temporary and low-frequency nature of construction traffic.</p> <p>While there may be a short-term increase in vehicle movements (particularly if nearby developments have overlapping construction period) the assessment concludes that overall impacts to local traffic will be minimal and manageable within the capacity of the existing road network.</p> <p>It is noted that increased heavy vehicle use may result in the need for more frequent maintenance of local roads during peak construction periods. This will be monitored and managed in consultation with the relevant road authorities as required.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report recommends that a detailed Traffic Management Plan (TMP) be prepared once the Project design is complete and prior to commencement of the Project construction. • Ongoing engagement with R1.
<p>Fire risk</p>	<p>The Project layout and design will be compliant with latest CFA design guidelines and model</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avenis will continue to

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	<p>requirements for renewable energy facilities in terms of clearance, accessibility, firefighting water supply, fire break buffer zones, and so on. Avenis Energy will work closely with the relevant fire service agencies to confirm access requirements for the BESS if there is a bushfire that moves into the area, or if a fire starts in the BESS.</p> <p>Comprehensive, site-specific management plans will be developed prior to the commencement of construction. These will include Fire Management, Risk Management, and Emergency Response Plans, covering all Project stages (construction, operations, and decommissioning) to ensure that potential fire risks are effectively managed and mitigated.</p>	<p>seek and take guidance from the CFA to ensure the final design meets all requirements and standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Fire Risk Management Plan (including a fire safety study) has been prepared by Fire Risk Consultants. • Information relating to fire risk addressed in FAQs.
<p>Cumulative impacts of solar developments</p>	<p>Several renewable energy facilities have recently been constructed or approved in the area surrounding the Project site. These developments have been taken into account during the design of this Project, with consideration given to potential cumulative impacts in all relevant assessments.</p> <p>The Traffic Impact Assessment anticipates that any overlap in construction periods between Projects will be minimal, based on current construction timelines, and is therefore unlikely to result in significant additional pressure on the local road network.</p> <p>In addition, the Noise Impact Assessment has considered the combined noise levels from this Project and nearby renewable energy facilities. The assessment confirms that cumulative noise impacts are expected to remain within acceptable limits and comply with relevant guidelines.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing wider community engagement to address further concerns. • Provide informational materials based on assessment outcomes. • Ongoing engagement with R1.
<p>Personal property impacts - insurance</p>	<p>Based on available information, there is no indication that the development of energy infrastructure will have a direct impact on neighbouring insurance premiums. As confirmed by the Insurance Council (May 2024), there have been no reported cases where their members have denied coverage or increased premiums solely due to the presence of energy infrastructure on a property or nearby.</p> <p>The Clean Energy Council similarly highlights that any adjustments to insurance premiums are</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGH provided informational materials to R1.

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	<p>unlikely to be directly tied to clean energy developments. Instead, rising insurance costs are largely driven by broader factors, including the escalating frequency and costs of natural disasters, inflation affecting building and vehicle repair expenses, the increasing value of homes and vehicles, and higher operational costs for insurers.</p>	
<p>Personal property impacts – property values</p>	<p>As noted by the Clean Energy Council, studies show that impacts of large-scale renewable energy Projects are small and temporary, generally limited to the construction phase. Any negative effects typically recover within 3-5 years after Project operation begins, and some areas even see increased property values due to improved local infrastructure and economic growth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGH provided informational materials to R1.

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4.3. Key takeaways

Feedback and engagement activities to date suggest that early consultation has been well received. However, there is ongoing community confusion about how to distinguish between different renewable energy projects in a region with a high concentration of solar developments. Overall, there is strong interest from the local community and the broader local government area in realising the benefits of the Project and the establishment of a CBS program.

To support this, it will be important to implement a clear and locally informed CBS, proactively address potential risks, and maintain consistent, transparent engagement. These steps will help ensure that stakeholders in the Winton and Benalla region remain well-informed throughout the planning process for the Winton BESS.

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5. Future engagement recommendations

5.1. Post-submission engagement

As the Project moves into the assessment phase, it will be essential for Avenis to deliver a strong and strategic engagement program that maintains transparency, addresses community concerns, and reinforces the Project's potential benefits. Engagement should be proactive, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of both directly affected residents and the broader Benalla and Winton communities.

Key areas of focus should include continued collaboration with BRCC, local Members of Parliament, and sensitive receivers, particularly those within 4 km of the site. Clear and consistent communication throughout the planning permit application process will help ensure community expectations are met, and concerns are acknowledged.

To strengthen community trust and reduce misinformation, particularly around topics such as safety risks and the broader energy transition, Avenis should consider developing a targeted suite of communication materials grounded in clear facts, supported by authoritative sources. These materials should be accessible, timely, and tailored to community needs.

It is also recommended that Avenis engage directly with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) to ensure alignment with expectations for impact analysis, mitigation measures, and community engagement during the assessment and approvals process.

Establishing a tailored CBS program in partnership with BRCC and local stakeholders presents a key opportunity to deliver locally relevant outcomes and strengthen long-term relationships. Continued exploration of opportunities for community groups to participate in the planning process will further reinforce transparency and inclusivity.

NGH recommends that Avenis:

- Review this report to assess stakeholder concerns and identify appropriate mitigation and management responses.
- Share decisions on proposed mitigation measures and Project updates with sensitive residents, BRCC, relevant MPs, Registered Aboriginal Parties, and the broader Winton and Benalla communities.
- Maintain close engagement with sensitive receivers throughout the planning process, including opportunities for input into specialist assessments (e.g. visual, noise, traffic), and ensure findings are communicated clearly and in a timely manner.
- Continue meaningful engagement on Project elements that remain open to influence, such as visual mitigation, site access, and community benefit-sharing initiatives.
- Uphold transparency and consistency in all communications, and ensure all information is timely, accessible, and accurate.
- Build and maintain respectful, long-term relationships with neighbours and community members, recognising the importance of social licence in renewable energy development.

- Actively pursue mitigation of identified impacts and co-design a CBS program tailored to the needs of the local community; one that will be long-lasting.
- Deliver a coordinated and best-practice engagement program that reflects the scale and significance of the Project and aligns with expectations for large-scale renewable energy developments in Victoria.

5.2. Monitoring and evaluation

The effectiveness of community engagement will be regularly monitored, evaluated, and refined to support meaningful participation and foster trust throughout the Project lifecycle. This will align with the principles outlined in the Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing Guidelines issued by the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) 2021.

Avenis and NGH will continue to record and track community feedback using a Stakeholder Relationship Management (SRM) system. This will support transparent documentation of interactions, concerns, and suggestions raised by stakeholders throughout the planning application and post-approval phases.

Engagement strategies will be reviewed and adjusted in response to community input and Project milestones. Evaluations will consider whether engagement activities are inclusive, accessible, and responsive to stakeholder needs. Feedback gathered will inform adjustments such as changes to meeting formats, the introduction of new communication channels, or targeted engagement on specific local concerns.

The engagement approach will remain flexible and be reviewed at key transition points during the Project—such as before planning application submission, following public exhibition, and prior to construction. This iterative process will ensure that the engagement remains fit for purpose and aligned with community expectations as the Project progresses.

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6. Conclusion

Community sentiment toward the Project is generally positive, with appreciation for the early engagement efforts and strong interest in potential local partnerships.

Based on the feedback and engagement activities to date, the main opportunities and challenges have been identified:

Table 6-1 Opportunities and challenges

Opportunities	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for community benefit sharing tailored to the Benalla and Winton communities, with a focus on accessible and lasting legacy outcomes. • Exploration of potential agricultural and environmental uses for residual land. • Opportunities for local partnerships, including a 7-hectare vegetation planting initiative and potential landscape linkages or ecological corridors. • Interest in a potential new or modified bus route servicing Bowers Road. • Potential for worker accommodation to be delivered in partnership with Winton Raceway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumulative impacts during the construction period, particularly when considering nearby developments. • Concerns in relation to visual impact • Concerns regarding noise during both construction and operation phases. • Access and traffic management during construction. • Personal property impacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Land devaluation ○ Increases in property insurance • Differentiating the Project from surrounding solar farms • Fire management or reputation of BESS's and their perceived risk of fires.

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During this stage of analysis, sensitive sensitive receivers, BRCC, Members of Parliament, and specific community groups have been identified as key stakeholders as the Project progresses through Victoria's planning framework. Strengthening these relationships will be important to building transparent and collaborative community partnerships.

Engagement activities to date suggest that early communication has been appreciated. One sensitive receiver has acknowledged potential visual impacts and expressed willingness to continue discussions with the Project team regarding appropriate mitigation measures.

Avenis is encouraged to maintain an open and proactive relationship with BRCC, addressing the matters they have raised in a timely and collaborative manner. Delivering a clear CBS program, supported by consistent, inclusive community engagement, will be essential to ensuring stakeholders in Winton and the BRCC LGA remain informed throughout the planning process.

Engagement with sensitive receivers and the broader community should continue, with a focus on sharing Project updates, discussing potential impacts, and outlining local benefits. In particular, ongoing dialogue with R1 regarding visual mitigation is important.

As assessment findings become available, Avenis should share outcomes with stakeholders through clear, accessible updates. Where possible, this should include written communication and face-to-face meetings at mutually convenient locations to address concerns and questions.

Looking ahead, a well-executed engagement and communications strategy will be critical. This should emphasise shared benefits, strengthen community relationships, and support informed participation in the planning process. It also presents an opportunity to develop targeted materials that help explain renewable energy Projects and highlight the potential benefits the BESS could bring to Winton, Benalla, Victoria, and Australia.

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Appendix A Posted letters – Project introduction

The resident
Street address
Suburb State Postcode

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Avenis Energy Pty Ltd
Suite 2, Level 10
52 Alfred Street
Milsons Point NSW 2061

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Dear Resident,

RE: Proposed Winton Battery Energy Storage System

Avenis Energy Pty Ltd (Avenis) on behalf AE BESS 10 Pty Ltd ATF AE BESS 10 Unit Trust, is pursuing development approval for a BESS near Glenrowan Victoria (VIC), approximately 14 km northeast of the Benalla township and opposite the Glenrowan Solar Farm.

The proposed BESS would be situated on a 10-ha parcel of land (the Project Site); however, the final BESS facility would occupy a smaller area within this site. It would connect directly to the 66 kV Glenrowan Terminal Station, located on an adjacent site to the east. The Project falls within the Benalla Rural City Local Government Area (LGA).

The planned BESS capacity is 120 MW with a storage duration of 4 hours, totalling 480 MWh. The Winton BESS is currently in the early investigation stages, with studies underway to assess potential limitations and restrictions. Findings from these studies will inform the final planning permit application. Upon submission, the Minister of Planning will determine if development approval is granted.

A map of the proposed site location is enclosed with this letter for your review.

How to learn more and provide feedback

Avenis is strongly committed to providing access to clear information and seeking community input throughout the development process. Our approach is focused on fostering respectful, transparent, and lasting relationships with stakeholders, particularly near neighbours, Council and the local community

The Development Application and the associated community engagement activities are being managed by NGH – a leading Australian environmental, social, and planning firm. Avenis is currently working with NGH to gather information from locals to help inform the design and community benefit sharing opportunities.

A detailed community engagement program in line with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and industry expectations will be carried out over the coming months.

Our planned engagements over the coming months include:

- Ongoing discussions with nearby landowners
- Email/letter updates to the stakeholder database focused on assessment activities
- In-person drop-in information sessions in early 2025
- Presentations to a range of groups, including the Benalla Rural City Council
- Running an online survey focused on capturing thoughts on key issues and landscape values

Your ongoing feedback is important to us, and we encourage you to complete the community feedback survey through the QR code below, or by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WintonBESS>.



Further correspondence will be circulated in early 2025 on how key stakeholders and the wider community can provide feedback and meet with members of the Project team.

Project Benefits

BESS developments provide reliable and efficient energy by stabilising the grid and shifting the supply of electricity from times of high supply and low demand to times of low supply and high demand.

The development would support around 80-90 jobs during its construction period. It will also diversify income and increase revenue for local service providers such as food, lodging, and tourism operators in the local area. Should the Project be approved, we will be reaching out to local businesses and service providers about opportunities to participate in the Project.

Once operational, it is anticipated that there would be up to 42 ongoing full time equivalent roles as the site would be largely remotely operated. The Project will also significantly contribute to Victoria's target of reducing emissions by 90% by 2035, and the transition for at least 6.3 GW of energy storage capacity — enough energy to power around half of Victoria's current homes at their peak energy use.

Should the Project be approved, Avenis will be reaching out to local businesses and service providers about opportunities to participate in the Project.

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About Avenis

Avenis are dedicated to developing large-scale renewable energy projects that deliver clean, green energy into the transmission network, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and helping minimise the impacts of climate change. Avenis prides itself on working closely with landowners, near neighbours, key stakeholders and the wider communities where our projects are proposed.

The Avenis team has significant experience in the renewable energy sector across all elements of the development cycle, from site selection, planning and permitting to engineering, construction and operation. In the past five years, the team at Avenis has successfully developed over 500MW of renewable energy projects across Australia.

To find out more about Avenis please visit <https://www.avenisenergy.com.au>

Local Benefit Sharing

We would love to hear your ideas on local priorities and how to share Project benefits in the area, as we look for ways to invest in the local community.

Your ongoing input is important to us. Should you have any questions about the Project or what Avenis can do to provide support locally, please send an email to ruaridh.cameron@avenisenergy.com.au.

Kind regards,



Ruaridh Cameron

Development Manager

Avenis Energy

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Appendix B – Posted letters – Second round

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Dear Resident,

Re: Proposed Winton Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Following our previous communication in November 2024 about the proposed Winton Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), we are reaching out again to provide an update and gather your valuable feedback. This project, being investigated by Avenis Energy, is located near Glenrowan, VIC, approximately 14 km northeast of the Benalla township, opposite the Glenrowan Terminal Station.

Your feedback is essential to shaping this project and informing the procedures related to the proposed BESS. We want to ensure that the local community has the opportunity to contribute meaningfully during this exploration phase.

The Project team will be in Benalla on 21–22 February 2025, and we would be happy to meet with you to discuss the project further. We can arrange an in-person meeting at your property at a time that suits you on Friday, 21 February, or you can visit us at the community market on Saturday.

Market details

Date: Saturday, 22 February 2025

Event: Benalla Lakeside Craft and Farmers Market

Location: Fawckner Drive, Benalla VIC 3672

Time: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

If you would like to arrange a meeting, please let us know a suitable time by emailing us at winton@avenisenergy.com.au. We are also happy to arrange an online meeting if that is more convenient.

Additionally, we encourage you to share your thoughts by completing our community feedback survey. You can access it via the QR code provided or by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WintonBESS>.



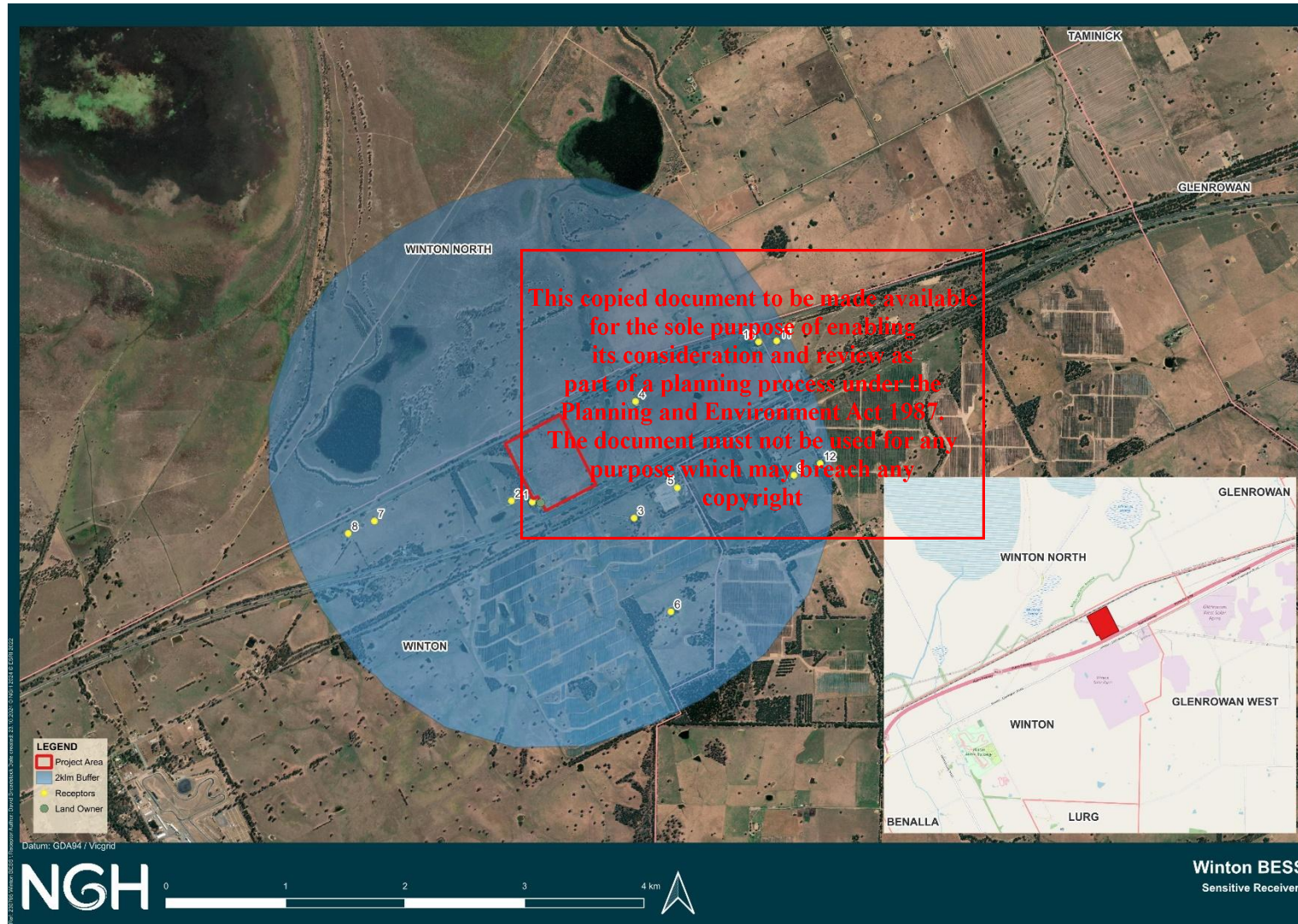
Your input is highly valued, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Ruaridh Cameron
Development Manager
Avenis Energy



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Appendix C – Sensitive receiver map




Appendix E Project poster

Winton BESS

WHAT IS PROPOSED?

Avenis Energy is seeking development approval for a 120 MW/480 MWh (4-hour) battery energy storage system (BESS) in Winton, VIC, about 14 km northeast of Benalla.



KEY FACTS

- Located opposite the Glenrowan Terminal Station
- The BESS will occupy a maximum of 4 hectares
- Will support around 80-90 construction jobs


MEET THE TEAM

Saturday, 22 February 2025
Benalla Lakeside Market
 Fawckner Drive, Benalla VIC 3672
9:00 am – 1:00 pm
 We are committed to providing meaningful opportunities for community input as the project progresses.

CONTACT US

e: winton@avenisenergy.com.au
w: <https://www.avenisenergy.com.au/projects/winton>

Complete the community survey



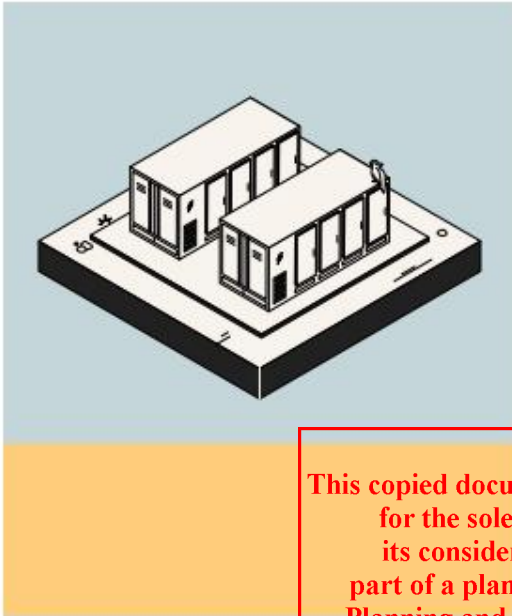
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Appendix F – Fact sheet



Fact Sheet



Winton Battery Energy Storage System [BESS]

Overview

Avenis Energy is proposing to construct and operate a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) near Glenrowan Victoria (VIC), located approximately 14 km northeast of the Benalla township and opposite the Glenrowan Terminal Station.

The proposed development is to assist the national electrical grid at times of peak demand and in times of emergency. The proposed project will have a footprint of 4 hectares and is expected to have a capacity of 120MW.

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The Project

The Winton BESS will utilise the latest technology in the sector, complying with all safety and hazard parameters that are highly regulated by the Australian Government. Design and layout of the project will be compliant with local planning laws and will specifically aim to minimise any potential environmental, cultural heritage and neighbour impacts.

Construction and operation of the project would involve the following key components:

- 120MW BESS including:
 - Battery containers using lithium-ion technology
 - Inverters
 - Transformers
 - Cooling systems if required
 - Fire suppressions systems
 - Switch rooms
 - Switch yard
 - On-site water storage
 - Security fencing
 - Parking site, site office and amenities for operational use.

Temporary infrastructure, including construction facilities, site offices and amenities, tool and material storage sheds, construction staff car parking, component laydown areas and truck parking and unloading would also be required.

Benefits



Increase clean energy storage

Significantly contributes towards the VIC Government's next-zero emissions by 2050 target.



Create jobs

Approximately 80-90 full time equivalent (FTE) construction jobs and 1-2 FTE operational jobs.



Income for local area

Diversify income and increase revenue to ancillary services such as food and accommodation to the local area.



Winton BESS site map

The project site (outlined in red) would have a development footprint of about 40 hectares. Its location makes for an easy connection to the existing transmission line to the north of the site (drawn in pink).

About Avenis Energy

Avenis Energy is dedicated to developing large-scale renewable energy projects that deliver clean, green energy into the transmission network, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and helping minimise the impacts of climate change. Avenis prides itself on working with landowners, near neighbours, key stakeholders and the wider communities where our projects are proposed.

The planning and approval process

The proposed Winton BESS is in early investigation stages for a development application and is currently assessing the limitations and restrictions of the project. These findings will inform the final planning permit application. Once submitted, the Minister of Planning will decide whether to issue a development approval.

Our team has significant experience in the renewable energy sector across all elements of the development cycle, from site selection, planning and permitting to engineering, construction and operation. The team has been working together since 2018 and is solely dedicated to the Australian market, with a proven track record of developing high quality community sensitive projects.

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Questions and feedback

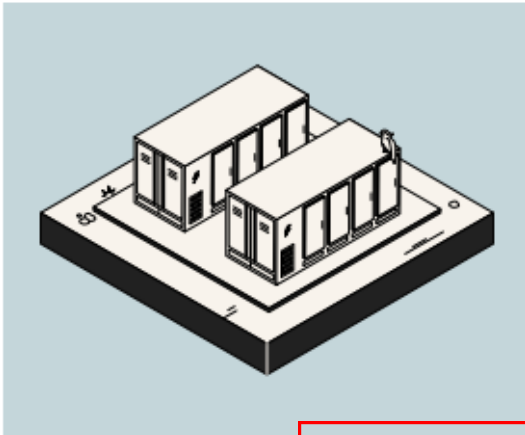
For more information and to register to receive project updates, visit the project website www.avenisenergy.com.au, email the team at wintonBESS@avenisenergy.com.au, or complete the feedback survey via the QR code.



Appendix G – FAQ document



FAQs



Winton Battery Energy Storage System [BESS]

General

What is proposed?

Avenis Energy is proposing to construct and operate a 120MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at the Glenrowan Victoria (VIC), located 14 km northeast of the Benalla township and opposite the Glenrowan Solar Farm. The purpose of the development is to assist the national electrical grid at times of peak demand and in times of emergency.

The Avenis team has significant experience in the renewable energy sector across all elements of the development lifecycle, from site selection, planning and permitting to engineering, construction and operation. The team has been working together since 2010 and is solely dedicated to the Australian market, with a proven track record of developing high quality community sensitive projects.

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What is a BESS?

A BESS is an energy storage system that uses a group of batteries to store electrical energy from a variety of sources, including solar. The system compensates for the intermittency of sources, providing backup power to address certain constraints such as weather conditions and lack of grid space. They are crucial to the increased adoption of dispersed energy sources and infrastructure, reducing the risk of widespread power outages.

Who is Avenis?

Avenis Energy is dedicated to developing large-scale renewable energy projects that deliver clean, green energy into the transmission network, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and helping minimise the impacts of climate change. Avenis prides itself on working closely with landowners, near neighbours, key stakeholders and the wider communities where our projects are proposed.

What stage is the project at?

Avenis Energy is in the early investigation stages of a development application and is currently assessing the limitations and restrictions of the project through environmental assessments and stakeholder engagement. The information gathered at this stage will be compiled to ensure the development plans align with local landscape values and identity, and therefore inform the final planning permit application.

Once submitted, the Minister for Planning will decide whether to issue a development approval.

When will construction commence and how long will construction take?

The construction start date is dependent on a variety of factors, including approval, selecting a construction company and receiving grid connection approvals, negotiation of a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) and completion of the Financial Close process. Once construction contractors are appointed, works on site are to take approximately 12 months.

How long will this project operate for?

The operational life of the project is expected to be up to 35 years. After this time, the site will either be decommissioned and returned to its original purpose as freehold land or, depending on future energy requirements, the project may be reutilised and upgraded, subject to landowner agreements and existing approvals.

What will happen to the residual land?

The residual land will remain unused.

Why is this project needed?

VIC has pledged to increase the state's renewable energy penetration to over 65% by 2030 and 95% by 2035. This statewide initiative will bring forward around \$9.5 billion in economic activity and create 59,000 jobs over the period to 2035 (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change, 2024a). It will also cut annual energy bills on average by \$110 (for households) and \$3,700 (for businesses) and reduce VIC's carbon emissions by approx. 55 million tons (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change, 2024b). Currently, the renewable energy penetration in VIC is 37.8%.

This project will contribute to the state's goal to create new jobs, and will contribute to electricity price reduction and carbon emissions reduction.

Design Considerations

What does a BESS look like?

BESSs are container-like modular systems that are configured based on site and capacity obligations and can be compared to shipping container-like objects. As technology improves, the systems are becoming increasingly efficient and more compact.

Why has this specific site been chosen?

Careful consideration is needed to select the most appropriate site for a BESS. There are many factors to consider including:

- Access to the electricity grid
- Current land use
- Environmental impacts
- Proximity to residents

In this instance, the development site was selected for its proximity to the Glenrowan Terminal Station, and is generally flat, low-quality agricultural land. The land is zoned as Rural Primary Production (RUI) and suitable for renewable energy development.

Will I be able to hear the BESS?

Like all large-scale developments, BESS facilities may generate noise, however, due to the Victorian EPA's Noise Protocol and the BESS's location, it is not expected to be heard by nearby residents or the community.

The main source of the sound includes:

- Inverter station and unit transformer
- HV transformer in voltage step-up substation
- Cooling fans required to regulate the operating temperature of the individual battery cells

The inverter stations are built in a containerised cabinet to reduce noise level naturally. The sound of the battery cooling load is similar to an air conditioning unit or a dull whirring noise.

The noise level will decrease with distance and can be further reduced by the installation of acoustic enclosures or barriers. Studies are ongoing to assess noise levels, the impact this may have on the area, and clear mitigation recommendations.

Will there be any visual impact?

Inevitably, the installation of a BESS will have some effect on the current look of the landscape, though the BESS modules are unlikely to emit glare or reflection.

The development application process consists of independent technical assessments, and visual impact will be assessed as part of this. If required, screens will be screened (by either vegetative or artificial means) to minimise any potential visual impacts.

At this time, the developer is committed to working closely with the local community to address any concerns and encourages the community to approach them with any issues that may arise.

Technical

What type of BESS units will be used?

The design is still to be finalised; however, the latest technology will be used at the time of construction. BESS units also can be adapted to utilise updates in technology, and with the battery manufacturer being a global leader in battery research and development, they are well placed to make these adaptations.

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How high will the units be?

BESS units will be installed on low-lying structures and are expected to not exceed 5.5m above the natural ground level. It is expected that the project area will be at the same height or lower than other existing features in the landscape.

How will construction traffic and road impacts be managed?

Access to the development site is anticipated to be from the Hume Freeway. During the anticipated 12-month construction period, construction vehicles would range from light vehicles to 26 m B-Doubles. Light vehicles would arrive during AM/PM peaks with heavy vehicle deliveries to be spaced out during the day.

Will there be outages during construction?

There will be no outages expected during the construction phase. Once the BESS is built and operational, it will help to increase the grid stability.

Is there health risks associated with EMF's and living near a BESS?

EMFs (electro-magnetic fields) are naturally present in the environment. They are present in the earth's atmosphere as electric fields, while static magnetic fields are created by the earth's core. EMF are also produced wherever electricity or electrical equipment is in use (e.g. household appliances like fridges, and powerlines).

The use of electricity in daily life exposes us to low frequency EMF and are not considered a risk to human health (NSW Government 2022). Your kitchen stove has an EMF range of 2-30 milligauss (mG) and your hairdryer 1-70mG. Standing at the edge of a transmission powerline easement would be in the range of 10-50mG, and under a transmission powerline 20-200mG.

The current international standard for human exposure to limit EMF set up the International Commission of Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) is 2000mG (NSW Government 2022).

EMFs from a BESS are typically less than household appliances and are not distinguishable from background levels at the site boundary.

Technical and engineering experts, including the Australian Radiation Protection and the Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) have found no known or documented electromagnetic radiation impacts associated with big batteries.

Environmental

Will the surrounding land be impacted by any 'heat island' effects?

BESS units do not directly contribute to the urban heat island effect, as they do not generate any heat on their own, however; they can indirectly affect the urban heat island effect depending on their location and only temporarily through their construction management. As the Winton BESS will be in a rural area and on, the surrounding environment is not known to be a direct contributor to the heat island effect given its low density of human-made urban structures. Therefore, the combination of the BESS location with the surrounding environment will not pose a risk of contributing to the 'heat island' effect.

Is the site affected by flooding?

Assessments completed to date indicate that the site is not flood prone. In the unlikely event of stormwater flooding, where water may pool from heavy rainfall events, BESS infrastructure is expected to remain stable.

Are batteries recyclable?

Battery manufacturing has greatly improved in efficiency and scale in the past decade, driven by the critical growth phase of battery recycling. Nearly all materials in a lithium-ion battery, including nickel, cobalt, graphite, copper, aluminium, iron, and lithium, can be recycled, with up to 99% recovery rate.

CSIRO is actively involved in supporting lithium-ion battery recycling through research on metal and material recovery processes, new battery materials development, and fostering a circular economy for battery reuse and recycling.

Australia's lithium battery recycling industry, though in its early stages, is already demonstrating progress towards a cleaner and more sustainable future, with operational recycling facilities like Envirostream in Victoria.

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Do batteries increase fire risk?

The Project will not increase the risk of bushfires in the area. The project layout and design will be compliant with latest CFA design guidelines and model requirements for renewable energy facilities in terms of clearance, accessibility, firefighting water supply, fire break buffer zones, and so on.

Avenis Energy will work closely with the relevant fire service agencies to confirm access requirements for the BESS if there is a bushfire that moves into the area, or if a fire starts in the BESS. Management Plans will be produced prior to construction commencing that will include site-specific Fire, Risk and Emergency Management Plans to address the management of potential fires during construction, operations, and decommissioning.

Avenis will continue to seek and take guidance from the CFA to ensure the final design meets all requirements and standards.

What happens in the rare case of a chemical spill?

BESS facilities are designed to manage chemicals and avoid chemical spills on site. Batteries have an IP (Ingress Protection) rating, which is a set of numbers. The first indicates the protection against solid objects, and the second indicates protection against liquids. The Kiewa Valley BESS has a rating of IP67; '6' meaning complete protection against dust ingress (dust-tight), and '7' meaning protection against immersion in water up to 1 meter depth for 30 minutes.

The liquid-cooled bottom plate of a battery pack can prevent spills and the container is sealed from bottom side to avoid any leak. In the unlikely event of a leak, containment measures such as bunding (a form of secondary containment consisting of a raised, impermeable barrier used to retain liquids), spill trays at the BESS foundation, and chemical absorbents are in place to capture materials on site.

Social and economical

How many jobs will be created by the construction of the project?

Employment opportunities will range from skilled to manual labour, with jobs potentially reaching 80-90 during the peak of construction. Using qualified local contractors is always a key element for Avenis when developing a project, and we intend to work with local service and product suppliers to boost the local economy.

How many jobs will be available for the operations of the project?

1-2 permanent roles are likely to be required for the operation of the project. Maintenance contracts for fence repair, road grading, etc. would also be required and would likely be met by local contractors.

What other benefits will the community receive?

As the project will be operating for 35 years, Avenis is committed to delivering long-term investment in the regions and the communities in which we operate. Engaging with your community is essential to us and ensures that our project offers mutually beneficial economic and social outcomes.

Avenis will be continuing to engage and update all stakeholders that have an interest in – or may be impacted by – the project and will use information gathered to develop the most appropriate community benefit programs that foster positive outcomes and provides value to the local community.

Benefits will also include potential road or intersection upgrades, diversified income within the community, and clean, zero-emissions electricity to meet the regional energy needs.

Will there be always a contact onsite in case of emergency?

There will be a 24/7 contact, an Operations Manager, and other members based near the project. The project will also be monitored continuously by remote CCTV.

What is a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)?

A PPA is simply a contract to buy power at a specific price. The 'Seller' in this type of agreement is usually a utility-scale generator e.g. Solar, BESS and Wind Farms. The 'Purchaser' in this type of agreement will have significant electricity requirements which allow them to purchase all or some of the output of a project. Examples of buyers include utilities, governments, and major corporates. Examples of companies that have entered into PPAs across Australia include Telstra, Mars, Blue Scope Steel, Snowy Hydro, UNSW, and Coles, with many others considering this option.

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Appendix H – Business cards

The business card features the Avenis Energy logo on the left, which includes a stylized sun icon and the text "avenis energy". Below the logo is an isometric illustration of a battery energy storage system (BESS) with several units. On the right side, the text reads "Share your thoughts on the proposed Winton Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)". Below this text is a QR code with a dashed arrow pointing to it. At the bottom right, it states "Survey closes 4:00 PM, Friday 7 March 2025".

The business card is split into two sections. The left section, titled "Visit the website:", contains a QR code. The right section, titled "Email us:", provides the email address "winton@avenisenergy.com.au". A large, stylized sun icon is visible in the bottom right corner of the card.

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Appendix I – Community survey

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Appendix J – CSES

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Winton BESS Survey

Share your thoughts on the Winton Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) proposal

Community Survey

This survey has a particular focus on social impacts and benefit sharing opportunities in the Benalla, Winton, and Glenrowan areas. Your response will help us gain a clear picture of key community values, perceptions about the project, likely social impacts and opportunities, and thoughts about community benefits.

Please note that information provided through this survey will be stored securely and will be used only to inform the project's development application and the associated engagement activities. Where you provide your contact details, these will only be used to engage with you regarding this project. Your responses will not be linked to your name and your name will not be recorded anywhere within the development application.

The survey has 19 questions and will take between 5-10 minutes to complete. If you have any queries on this survey or on the project in general, contact the team at engage@nghengage.com.au.

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Winton BESS Survey

About you

* Where best describes where you live?

- Less than 1km from the proposed project site
- Between 1-2km from the proposed project
- Between 2-5km from the proposed project
- More than 5km from the proposed project
- I don't live here but I own land/property
- I don't live here but visit the area for recreation
- I don't live here but visit the area for work
- Other (please specify)

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* In what way are you involved in the community? Choose all that apply.

- I live here
- I attend school or work locally
- I am a member of a local club or community organisation
- I am involved in tourism
- I am a near neighbour to the proposed development
- I own a business
- I work for an agency/organisation that is focused on this area
- I am not involved in the community
- Other (please specify)

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Winton BESS Survey

Your local area

What do you value most about the local area? Choose all that apply

- Community/family ties
- Historic values
- Landscape and views
- Natural values
- Recreation opportunities including sporting, fishing, nature based, etc.
- Work opportunities
- Other (please specify)

What views or landscape characteristics in the region and local area are important to you?

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Winton BESS Survey

Attitudes towards Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)

* What do you like about large-scale renewable energy developments, generally? For example, solar or wind farms. Choose all that apply.

- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions & help to combat climate change
- Renewable energy generation
- Local economic opportunities – jobs, tourism, economic stimulus
- Diversification of land use/income streams
- Community benefits, including funds for community projects
- None of the above
- Other (please specify)

What concerns do you have about potential impacts of large-scale renewable energy developments, generally? For example, solar or wind farms. Choose all that apply.

- Community impacts
- Visual impacts
- Noise, during construction or operation
- Traffic, during construction or operation
- Effects on land use
- Effects on land values
- Effects on natural areas or habitats
- No concerns
- Other (please specify)

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Winton BESS Survey

Knowledge of and attitude towards BESS

* How would you rate your knowledge of utility-scale battery energy storage systems (BESS)?

- No knowledge
- A little knowledge
- Some knowledge
- Moderate knowledge
- Expert knowledge

How would you rate your attitude towards the Winton BESS?

- Strongly oppose
- Oppose
- Somewhat oppose
- Neutral
- Somewhat support
- Support
- Strongly support
- Undecided

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Can you please give us a reason for your attitude towards the Winton BESS?

What are the main reasons you're interested in the Winton BESS? Choose all that apply.

- I would like to seek potential work with the project
- The proximity to my residence and the impacts this may cause
- The potential negative impacts on the local area
- I want to build my understanding of the project
- Other (please specify)

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Winton BESS Survey

Important factors

In terms of this proposal, what are the most important environmental factors to you? Choose all that apply.

- Native vegetation impacts
- Potential for impacts to waterways
- Fire management practices
- Waste management procedures
- Helping to reduce carbon emissions/action on climate change
- Other (please specify)

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In terms of this proposal, what are the most important social and economic factors to you? Choose all that apply.

- Securing employment
- Potential business from the project
- Potential impacts to property values
- Cultural heritage
- Engagement with near neighbours
- Disruption to community cohesion
- Community benefit opportunities from the project
- Providing proactive action against climate change
- Supporting grid stability and energy supply
- Other (please specify)

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In terms of this proposal, what are the most important amenity factors to you?
Choose all that apply.

- Potential for visual impacts for near neighbours
- Potential for noise impacts for near neighbours
- Transportation planning and the use of local roads
- Temporary construction impacts (i.e., noise, traffic, dust)
- Other (please specify)

In terms of the potential for the Proponent to invest in community initiatives, what do you think they could invest in on an annual basis and how could this be managed locally?

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Winton BESS Survey

Future contact and final thoughts

How would you like the Project Team to engage with you going forward?

- Follow up phone call
- I would like a meeting at my residence
- I would like to subscribe to email updates
- I would like a regular newsletter in the post
- I will visit the website if I need extra information
- No further contact necessary
- Other (please specify)

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Contact details

Name

Organisation name
(if applicable)

Address

Postcode

Email Address

Phone Number

Is there anything else that you would like to tell us or feel that is important to say?

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Prepared for Avenis Energy on behalf of AE BESS 10 Pty Ltd ATFI AE B

Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

Winton BESS Planning

October 2024

Project Number: 230795

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Document verification

Project Title:	Winton BESS Planning
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Revision	Date	Prepared by	Approved by
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Final V1.1	09/12/2024	Amy Mahon (minor edits)	Ruaridh Cameron (Avenis)

NGH Pty Ltd is committed to environmentally sustainable practices, including fostering a digital culture and minimising printing. Where printing is unavoidable, NGH prints on 100% recycled paper.

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land and pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise that the First Nations peoples of Australia have traditionally managed the resources of this land in a sustainable way, and that they are the original custodians of the Australian environment.

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Table of contents

1.	Introduction	1
1.1.	Purpose	1
2.	Engagement approach	2
2.1.	NGH Principles and priorities	2
2.1.1.	Principles.....	2
2.1.2.	Priorities	2
2.2.	IAP2 Core Values.....	2
2.3.	Relevant Victorian guidelines and their requirements	3
2.3.1.	Other industry guidelines	3
2.4.	Engagement Objectives for the Project.....	5
3.	Project outline	1
3.1.	Project snapshot	1
3.1.1.	The Project.....	1
3.1.2.	The proponent.....	2
3.1.3.	Site description.....	2
3.1.4.	Non-associated receivers	2
3.2.	Strategic Context	4
3.2.1.	Benalla Rural City Council Plan and Action Plan 2021 - 2025.....	4
3.2.2.	Benalla Rural City Council Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2013 – 2025	4
3.2.3.	Hume Regional Climate Change Adaption Strategy 2021	5
3.2.4.	Hume Regional Growth Plan	5
4.	Community and stakeholder analysis	6
4.1.	Community analysis.....	6
4.1.1.	Rural City of Benalla Local Government Area (LGA)	6
4.1.2.	Benalla and Winton	7
4.2.	Stakeholder analysis.....	9
4.2.1.	Stakeholder groups	9
4.2.2.	First Nations analysis	18
4.2.3.	Traditional Owners.....	18
4.2.4.	Country.....	18

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- 4.2.5. History.....18
- 4.2.6. Winton Wetlands18
- 4.2.7. Engaging with First Nations people19
- 4.2.8. First Nations stakeholder groups21
- 5. Engagement overview..... 22**
- 5.1. Applying a mix of engagement tools22
- 5.2. Engagement Approach23
 - 5.2.1. Engagement activities23
 - 5.2.2. Content development steps.....24
 - 5.2.3. Project advocates and influencers.....24
- 6. Engagement action plan 25**
- 7. Community benefit sharing options..... 30**
- 7.1. Typical Community Benefit Scheme Program (CBSP) scope.....31
- 8. Messages and tools 32**
- 8.1. Project key messages32
 - 8.1.1. The Project.....32
 - 8.1.2. Project benefits.....32
 - 8.1.3. Messaging around issues.....33
 - 8.1.4. Complaints handling process35
- 8.2. Media Liaison.....36
- 9. Evaluation..... 37**
- 9.1. Next steps37
- 10. References 38**

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Figures

- Figure 2-1: NGH Communications and Engagement Principles.....2
- Figure 3-1 Winton BESS locality map 1
- Figure 3-2 Non-associated receivers within 2 km and 4 km 3
- Figure 5-1: Information and feedback tools available for this Proposal via Avenis’ website22
- Figure 5-2 Proposed mix of engagement activities.....23
- Figure 6-1 Engagement milestones.....29
- Figure 7-1 CEC community benefit sharing principles30

Figure 7-2 Typical mix of benefit sharing mechanisms31

Tables

Table 2-1 Relevant Victorian guidelines..... 3

Table 2-2 Industry and advocacy group guidelines for renewable energy infrastructure4

Table 4-1: Stakeholder analysis: Adjacent and near neighbours9

Table 4-3 Stakeholder analysis: Broader community and region.....10

Table 4-4 Stakeholder analysis: Government agencies/utility owners 11

Table 4-5 Stakeholder analysis: Council..... 12

Table 4-6 Stakeholder analysis: State and Federal MPs 13

Table 4-7 Stakeholder analysis: Education..... 14

Table 4-8 Stakeholder analysis: Construction companies 15

Table 4-9 Stakeholder analysis: Advocates and objectors.....16

Table 4-10 Stakeholder analysis: Community organisations/special interest groups 17

Table 4-2 Stakeholder analysis: Traditional Owners21

Table 5-1 Content development steps24

Table 6-1 Community and Stakeholder Engagement Action Plan25

Table 8-1 Anticipated questions and proposed answers.....33

Table 8-2 Media types and outlets.....36

Appendices

Appendix A Non-associated receivers A-I

Appendix B Engagement examples.....B-V

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Acronyms and abbreviations

ACHA	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
CBS	Community Benefit Scheme
CSES	Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy
CSP	Community Strategic Plan
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
DTP	Department of Transport and Planning
ha	hectares
km	kilometres
kV	kilovolt
LEP	Local Environment Plan
LGA	Local government area
m	metres
MW	Megawatt
NEM	National Energy Market
REDS	Regional Economic Development Strategy
REZ	Renewable Energy Zone
VIA	Visual Impact Assessment
VIC	Victoria

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1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose

This Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (CSES) has been developed to support a future development application of a Winton BESS (the Project). This strategy encompasses proposed community and stakeholder engagement, communications, liaison, and consultation activities. In the interest of simplicity, and to avoid using unnecessary acronyms, all activities recommended are rolled under the broad banner of engagement.

The CSES identifies the engagement approach and targeted objectives for the development of the Project through the technical assessment phases. It aligns with relevant Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) requirements in accordance with Victorian Planning Provision, clause 72.01-1, and it utilises best practice tools and techniques in line with industry and community expectations.

The strategy is a 'live' document and will be updated progressively throughout the course of the Project, specifically at the beginning and end of each phase of the Project. It will also continually be informed by community feedback and will ensure that the communication and engagement activities remain:

- True to the core underlying principles of the Project
- Relevant to the outcomes required by the Project
- Creative and adaptive to respond to the community's needs
- Responsive to the needs of the Benalla and Winton community
- Tailored to best reach, consult, and communicate with the Benalla and Winton community.

Clear communication and consultation with the local community as well as key stakeholders is vital to the success of this Project.

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2. Engagement approach

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2.1. NGH Principles and priorities

NGH prides itself on delivering well considered, objective and meaningful communications and engagement to support major projects and the communities and regions they occur in. Engagement activities for the Winton BESS will be led by NGH in conjunction with Avenis Energy.

2.1.1. Principles

Our work in this field is built on the following NGH Communications and Engagement Principles.

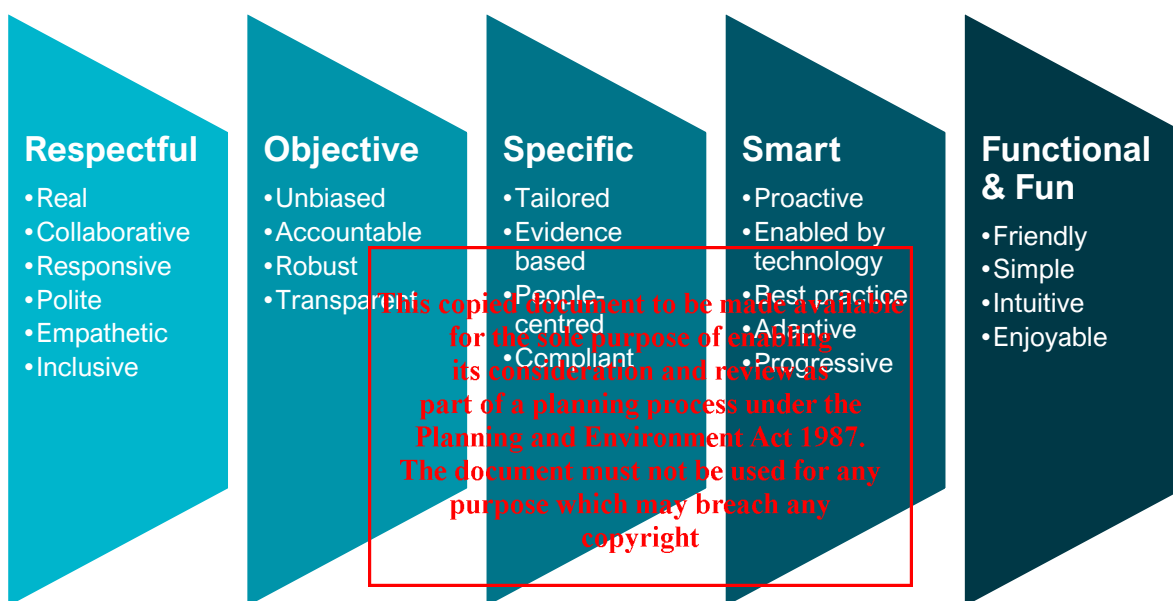


Figure 2-1: NGH Communications and Engagement Principles

2.1.2. Priorities

With this in mind, we help our clients to achieve these priorities:

- Provide clear and concise information about the Project and its impacts
- Deliver activities that encourage participation
- Work in partnership with stakeholders to understand and address issues
- Facilitate informed decision making
- Deliver projects that improve the resilience of the regions they are delivered in.

2.2. IAP2 Core Values

We subscribe to the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Core Values, which state that public participation:

- Is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process
- Includes the promise that the public’s contribution will influence the decision

- Promotes sustainable decisions by recognising and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers
- Seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision
- Seeks input from participants in designing how they participate
- Provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way
- Communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.

2.3. Relevant Victorian guidelines and their requirements

NGH has a deep understanding of the relevant Victorian guidelines for large projects and the broader industry expectations around renewable energy projects. Our engagement activities align directly with the requirements outlined in the table below.

Table 2-1 Relevant Victorian guidelines

Guidelines	Requirements
Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing in Renewable Energy Development in Victoria (DELWP 2021)	<p>In Australia and internationally, active community engagement and participation are key to realising local benefits from, and support for, renewable energy developments. This guide sets the Victorian Government’s expectations for leading practice community engagement and benefit sharing across all renewable energy technologies. Early engagement is crucial, even before submitting planning applications.</p> <p>While there is no single best way to engage with relevant communities, a consistent, committed, and transparent approach to engagement about, and implementation of, community-endorsed initiatives is critical.</p> <p>The factors below consistently contribute to positive social outcomes and community support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate development plans with local landscape values and identity • Conduct a social feasibility analysis to guide benefit-sharing programs • Ensure community (especially local) participation in decision-making and design processes • Share development benefits equitably • Build trust and relationships with stakeholders • Offer diverse and ongoing engagement opportunities • Conduct regular engagement, preferably face-to-face, but also through web, social media, and traditional channels • Prioritise accessible complaints management and respond promptly and clearly to feedback • Tailor engagement strategies to local history, context, priorities, and needs. <p>The approach to community engagement is not mandated, but innovation is strongly encouraged.</p>

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2.3.1. Other industry guidelines

The following guidelines were developed by industry and advocacy bodies to help guide the planning and delivery of community benefits and establishment of trust for large scale renewable energy projects, including transmission corridors. A snapshot of their recommendations is included below.

Table 2-2 Industry and advocacy group guidelines for renewable energy infrastructure

Publication	Relevant inclusions
<p><i>A Guide to Benefit Sharing Options for Renewable Energy Projects</i> – Clean Energy Council (2019)</p>	<p>Includes methods for developing a benefit sharing strategy and working in partnership with local communities. It outlines ways to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculate a benefit sharing budget • Develop a theory of change to deliver the desired impact • Undertake social feasibility to refine and test the strategy in the community • Implement, monitor, and evaluate the Project in the community.
<p>Re-Alliance <i>Community Benefits Handbook</i>, September 2021</p>	<p>The purpose of this handbook is to equip local community leaders with information and ideas to get started thinking big about how to leverage the renewables boom into local opportunities that address local needs and desires. It covers what kinds of benefits regional communities are already seeing in different parts of the country from large-scale renewables and begins to picture what these might look like on a bigger scale with industry investment concentrated across a region.</p>
<p>Clean Energy Council Power Playbook 2023</p>	<p>The CEC is a peak body for the clean energy industry in Australia and is a not-for-profit, membership-based organisation. They are responsible for providing several succinct, clear guidelines in the community engagement space, which are positively viewed by DTP.</p> <p>The CEC released its Power Playbook, a strategic package of 45 recommendations to the Federal Government on 9 October 2023. Of these, it has been recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing, high-quality community engagement where Project developers invest in building relations, operate with transparency and listen (and respond) to community input • Involving First Nations People and communities • Coordination of Project construction to reduce disruption on communities. <p>Aligning communications and engagement activities with the CEC Power Playbook will ensure the Project is achieving appropriate engagement levels through the lens of both the community and DTP.</p>
<p>State Relations VIC - Guidance on Engaging Traditional Owners 2022</p>	<p>All Victorians should understand that Traditional Owners hold legal rights and interests across their Country. Consideration of these rights and interests is crucial at the earliest stages of all new projects and engagement activities.</p> <p>The State Relations guide to engaging Traditional Owners takes a three-pronged approach:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare early and understand your obligations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Determine the decisions resulting from engagement ○ Identify steps for enhancing cultural capacity ○ Assess potential impacts on Traditional Owner rights and interests ○ Fulfill legal obligations regarding Traditional Owner notification

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Explore non-mandatory opportunities for engagement and partnership building ○ Align the project with Traditional Owner aspirations. <p>2. Initiate contact and invite engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reach out to relevant Traditional Owner groups, explaining the purpose of engagement ○ Seek input on preferred engagement methods and locations ○ Remain flexible with timelines. <p>3. Collaborate towards implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establish clear communication channels ○ Operate transparently and in good faith ○ Ensure mutual understanding of key matters ○ Acknowledge and integrate Traditional Owner input ○ Address challenges collaboratively and seek support as necessary.
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2.4. Engagement Objectives for the Project

The ES aims to achieve the following objectives to support the Project and the communities surrounding it:

Objectives	Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce clear information on the Project, potential impacts (positive and negative) and benefits for the environment, community, and the wider Benalla Shire and region. 	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of high-quality communications across all targeted channels that clearly communicates the Project. Ensure materials address common misconceptions regarding renewables as the area is largely dependent on agricultural operations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the Project has a positive impact on the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear demonstration of shared local and broader regional social, economic, and environmental benefits. Shared benefits to be explored throughout application period.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a sense of local ownership in the Project and a broad sense of social licence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify several advocates where possible and communicate the benefits that the Project will bring to the community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work together with the Benalla and Winton community in a collaborative way. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of issues and likely mitigations throughout Project phases.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support an uplift in the regional economy and level of local prosperity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project of strategies to incorporate VIC industry through all tiers of the supply chain and in all phases of the Project • Number of local suppliers including Aboriginal owned suppliers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate a clear intention of implementing a Community Benefit Scheme (CBS) or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing ideas for a successful community led Community Benefit Scheme (CBS) in consultation with the Benalla Rural City Council, anchored in

<p>Voluntary Payment Agreement (VPA) in consultation with Benalla Rural City Council.</p>	<p>opportunities discovered through the Community Information Session and discussions with local community members.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and engage local capabilities in the Benalla and Winton region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify several suppliers including Aboriginal-owned suppliers, who have capacity to support the Project Localised workforces, suppliers etc. to be preferred where possible, to ensure those benefits are being delivered directly to the Benalla area and the clean energy transition workforce pipeline realised.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a positive corporate image for Avenis and the broader renewable energy industry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of social licence to operate in the Benalla and Winton region Position Avenis as a leader in renewables in the area, and lead education of a clean transition Management of social and reputational risks that are relevant to the local area.

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3. Project outline

3.1. Project snapshot

3.1.1. The Project

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Avenis Energy Pty Ltd (Avenis) on behalf AE BESS 10 Pty Ltd ATF AE BESS 10 Unit Trust, is pursuing development approval for a BESS in Winton, Victoria (VIC), approximately 14 km northeast of the Benalla township and opposite the Glenrowan Solar Farm.

The proposed BESS is located within the Benalla Rural City Council Local Government Area (LGA) in the Hume region of VIC and is zoned Rural Primary Production (RU1) under the Benalla Regional Local Environmental Plan 2013 and is within the Central Northern Victoria REZ.

The expected capacity and storage duration for the BESS would be approximately 120 MW/480 MWh (4-hour storage) and will connect directly into the 66 kV Glenrowan Terminal Station located to the east on an adjacent site. The BESS will be located on a maximum development footprint of 10 hectares (ha) however, the final BESS would be significantly smaller than this area.

Construction and operation of the project would involve the following key components:

- 120 MW BESS including:
 - Battery containers
 - Inverters
 - Transformers
 - Cooling systems if required
 - Fire suppressions systems
 - Switch rooms
- Switchyard
- New access road to the site
- Parking, site office and amenities for operational use.

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Temporary infrastructure, including construction facilities, site offices and amenities, tool and material storage sheds, construction staff car parking, component laydown areas and truck parking and unloading would also be required.

The development would support around 80-90 jobs during its construction period. It will also diversify income and increase revenue to local service providers such as food, lodging, and tourism operators in the local area. Should the Project be approved, we will be reaching out to local businesses and service providers about opportunities to participate in the Project.

Once operational, it is anticipated that there would up to 1-2 ongoing full time equivalent roles as the site would be largely remotely operated. The Project will also significantly contribute toward the VIC Government's aim of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050, by supplying clean renewable energy to the grid.

The Project location is illustrated below.

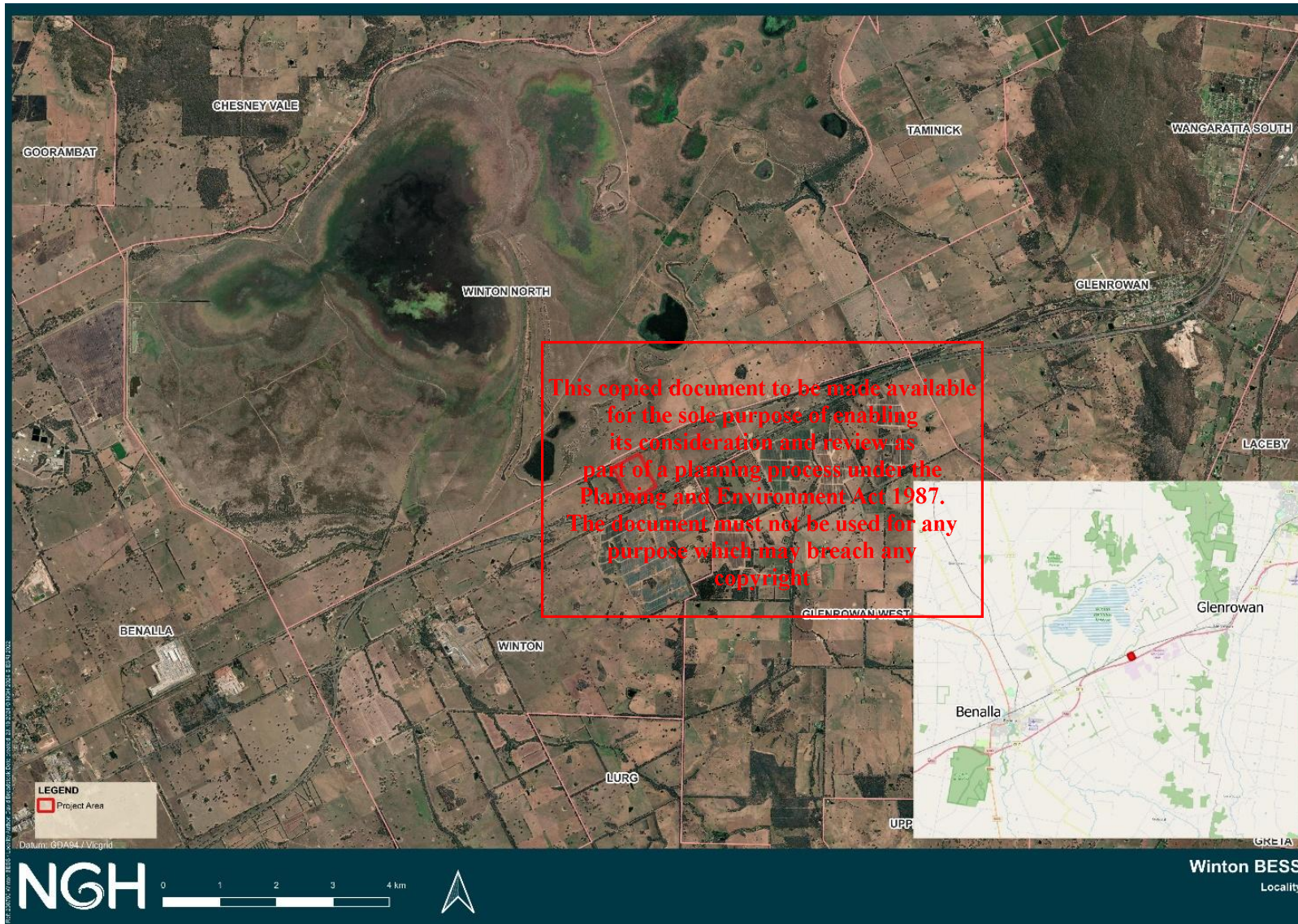


Figure 3-1 Winton BESS locality map

3.1.2. The proponent

Avenis Energy is dedicated to developing large-scale renewable energy projects that deliver clean, green energy into the transmission network, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and helping minimise the impacts of climate change. Avenis prides itself on working closely with landowners, near neighbours, key stakeholders and the wider communities where our projects are proposed.

The Avenis team has significant experience in the renewable energy sector across all elements of the development cycle, from site selection, planning and permitting to engineering, construction and operation. The team has been working together in Australia since 2018 and is solely dedicated to the Australian market, with a proven track record of developing high quality community sensitive projects.

3.1.3. Site description

The proposed BESS would be a stand-alone development on a site located approximately 14 km northeast of the Benalla township and opposite the Glenrowan Solar Farm. The entire site falls within the area of the Benalla Rural City Council.

The BESS would connect into the 66kV Glenrowan Terminal Station located to the east on an adjacent site. The development area of the proposed BESS is sited within Lot 1/TP98336 and is estimated to be 10 hectares in area. The site is accessible via the Hume Freeway.

3.1.4. Non-associated receivers

There are approximately 49 non-associated receivers within 4 kilometres (km) of the proposed site – this includes both industrial and residential addresses.

Within 2 km of the proposed site location of the BESS there are 11 non-associated receivers. The proximity of receivers can be seen below in Figure 3-2.

A full list of addresses can be found in [Appendix A](#).

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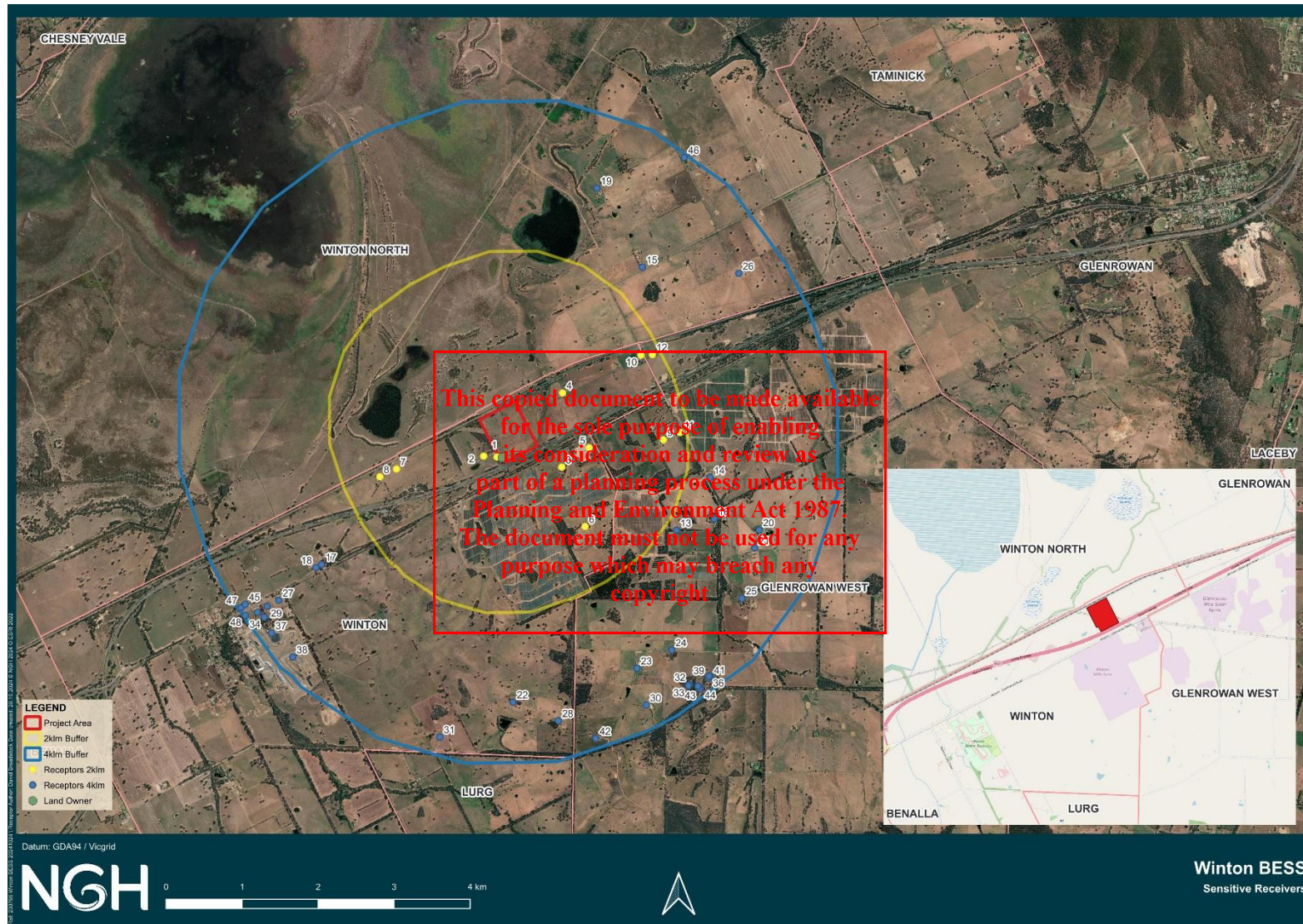


Figure 3-2 Non-associated receivers within 2 km and 4 km

3.2. Strategic Context

Developing an understanding of the region’s economic, developmental, planning and community values are vital to developing infrastructure.

3.2.1. Benalla Rural City Council Plan and Action Plan 2021 - 2025

The Benalla Rural City Council Plan 2021-2025 is Council’s medium-term strategic planning document that guides decision making and sets key directions to work towards the community’s vision for the future. During the planning process, various factors such as potential challenges and available resources were considered to ensure practicality and feasibility in realising the community’s aspirations.

The Winton BESS Project will support *Theme 4 - Environment*:

Sustainable practices

- Partner with business, industry and community to plan and implement local approaches and initiatives that respond to climate change.
- Advocate, promote, support and encourage the use of renewable and clean energy and technology.
- Improve Council’s sustainability performance through greater use of renewable energy and demonstrating sustainability leadership to the community.
- Partner with business, industry and community to plan and implement local approaches and initiatives that respond to climate change.
- Advocate, promote, support and encourage the use of renewable and clean energy and technology.

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3.2.2. Benalla Rural City Council Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2013 – 2025

The Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2013-2025 focuses on how anticipated climate changes will affect council operations and the broader community. A key principle of the plan is the incorporation of climate risk assessments in all council strategic planning and reporting. This means the council will consider climate-related risks—such as extreme weather, bushfires, floods, and droughts—in future decision-making processes.

The overarching goal of the plan is to reduce vulnerability, enhance community resilience, and incorporate climate change considerations into policies and services to mitigate potential threats or seize opportunities created by climate shifts.

Main components of the plan relevant to the Winton BESS include:

- Outlining continuous evaluation of climate-related risks, such as bushfires and extreme weather, to guide the council in implementing effective adaptive measures.
- Building resilience within the community is central to the plan. This includes initiatives such as public education and partnerships with local organisations to promote sustainable practices and climate preparedness.
- Committing to integrating climate adaptation into development planning to ensure sustainable growth. This includes minimising carbon emissions and resource use while adapting infrastructure and services to future climate conditions.

By addressing these areas, the plan seeks to support both environmental and economic sustainability for the rural community of Benalla through to 2025.

3.2.3. Hume Regional Climate Change Adaption Strategy 2021

This strategy encompasses the insights gained from the real-life experiences, community wisdom, and innovative climate change adaptation Projects put forth by local residents. The strategy's objectives have been formulated through a rigorous 18-month process of consultations, workshops, and various engagement initiatives, predominantly led by Climate Ready Hume—a three-year program dedicated to climate change engagement and capacity building

Renewable energy priority actions (2021 - 2026) relevant to the Project:

- Provide opportunities for communities to participate in major renewable energy projects such as those provided by renewable energy zones and transmission upgrades
- Strengthen renewable energy literacy programs to promote understanding and foster the region's transition to a renewable energy future
- Integrate renewable energy into agricultural systems
- Develop renewable energy partnerships with industry to support a growing circular economy
- Foster Traditional Owner energy investment programs
- Identify “ready to advance” renewable energy projects through feasibility studies
- Ensure the renewable energy transition has a net positive benefit for local business, the economy and biodiversity
- Disadvantaged and vulnerable people live comfortably and have access to clean, affordable, reliable energy
- Expand and increase awareness of energy efficiency programs
- Upgrade public housing energy efficiency across our region
- Advocate renewable energy investment that provide benefits to youth, multi-age and multicultural communities.

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3.2.4. Hume Regional Growth Plan

The Growth Plan highlights the region's potential to become a leader in renewable energy. This potential can be realised through the development of various resources, including solar, bio-waste, hydro, wind, and geothermal energy sources. More specifically in Part C – 11.3 Energy and earth resources it states:

“The region is home to key electricity distribution infrastructure, such as substations and networks. Sustainable electricity generation that is connected to existing infrastructure could offer a regional advantage, particularly as the technology used to generate sustainable electricity improves.”

It's worth noting that opportunities exist in the Benalla region for sustainable electricity generation in close proximity to existing electricity distribution infrastructure.

Recommendations relevant to the Project include:

- Electricity options such as renewable generation and decentralised systems should continue to be developed as part of this network
- Support changing farm sizes, methods, strategies, and land uses such as the transition towards other uses like renewable energy generation
- Promote the establishment of renewable energy hubs to co-locate industries to maximise resource use efficiency and minimise waste generation.

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4. Community and stakeholder analysis

4.1. Community analysis

Understanding the makeup and values of a community is essential to finding effective ways to engage meaningfully and effectively throughout the Planning phase. It is also important to understand ways the Project may impact the community. This may not be limited to the construction and operational stages of the Project but may also include the statutory notification phase.

4.1.1. Rural City of Benalla Local Government Area (LGA)

The Benalla Rural City Council area sits within the Hume region of northeast Victoria, approximately 180 km north-east of the Melbourne CBD. On 18 November 1994, Benalla City and Shire, Mansfield Shire and part of Violet Town Shire were united to form Delatite Shire. In 2002 Delatite Shire was divided into Benalla Rural City and Mansfield Shire (Benalla, n.d.).

The LGA is bordered by the Shire of Moira in the north, the Rural City of Wangaratta in the east, the Shire of Mansfield in the south, and the Shire of Strathbogie and the City of Greater Shepparton in the west (economy.id, n.d.).

The current population of Benalla Rural City is 14,529 (ABS, 2021), with 336 identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Approximately 9,000 residents are living in the Benalla urban area and the remainder are living in and around our smaller towns at Baddaginnie, Devenish, Goorambat, Swanpool, Tatong, Thoona, Warrenbayne and Winton. Benalla Rural City is named after the township of Benalla, which is thought to be named after a pastoral run called “Benalla” or from an Aboriginal word meaning “musk duck” (BRCC, 2021). Benalla Rural City covers 2,350 square km, with 30% of the land designated as public land. The area is predominantly rural, supporting agricultural activities such as wool and meat production, dairying, and crop farming (economy.id, n.d.). Non-irrigated agriculture plays a significant role in the local economy, accounting for 12% of economic activity, making it particularly vulnerable to climate conditions. Manufacturing, which contributes 19% of the economy, also depends on water, linking both sectors to climate variability (BRCC, 2023).

The region’s native vegetation holds high conservation value, as much of it has been historically cleared, leaving the remaining areas rare and vulnerable. This ecological significance is heightened by the limited native vegetation still present in the region (BRCC, 2023).

The largest employing industries are construction, health and manufacturing. The construction industry makes the greatest contribution to economic output in the region, which at \$559.3m accounts for 23.64% of total output. This industry sector is also the largest employer with 1,039 jobs which represents 16.64% of total employment within the region. The agricultural industry is, and will always be, a significant contributor to the municipality’s economy and is the fourth largest employer in the Rural City (REMPLAN, n.d.).

Benalla LGA has become a hub for solar energy developments, with several large-scale solar farms either in operation or in the approvals phase. Notable projects include the Glenrowan Solar Farm, Winton Solar Farm, Goorambat East/West Solar Farms, and the West Mokoan Solar Farm.

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4.1.2. Benalla and Winton

Benalla is a regional city located 180 km north-east of Melbourne on the Melbourne to Sydney Highway, between Euroa and Wangaratta. Since the completion of the Hume Freeway, motorists can bypass the town. Benalla serves as a rail and highway junction and is a commercial hub for the surrounding agricultural district, known for livestock, poultry, and grain farming. Local industries include flour milling, sawmilling, food processing, clothing manufacturing, and railroad workshops (Britannica, 2024). Benalla sits on the Broken River, which rises in the south-east near Tolmie and flows through the flood plains before joining the Goulburn River near Shepparton. This results in several watercourses and swampy depressions in the surrounding area.

Benalla experiences a temperate climate, with average temperatures ranging between 9°C and 22°C. Annual rainfall averages 668mm but can vary significantly, with some areas receiving as little as 260mm and others up to 1250mm. Temperatures also fluctuate, falling below freezing in winter and exceeding 40°C during the summer months. Socially, Benalla is a close-knit community, though it faces significant pockets of disadvantage (BRCC, 2023).

Winton, a rural village situated on the route between Melbourne and Albury, is nestled between Benalla and Glenrowan. It lies on Seven Mile Creek, which crosses the Hume Highway and flows into Lake Mokoan (formerly known as Lake Winton) to the north. The landscape around Winton is mostly flat, with sparse tree cover. The village is located in the Glenrowan wine region, within 50 km of several wineries in North East Victoria. It is also near other notable local attractions, including Glenrowan, the site of the infamous bushranger Ned Kelly's final stand (Winton and Thoona, 2015).

Winton has become well-known for recreational activities, particularly for water sports on Lake Mokoan and for motor racing at the Winton Motor Raceway, which has been in operation since 1961. Originally, the area north of the Hume Highway consisted of a series of swamps, which were converted into a water storage area in 1971 and named Mokoan after a local pastoral run. However, due to excessive evaporation, the lake was returned to wetland status in 2009.

The Winton Wetlands Project is now recognised as one of the world's most significant environmental, social, and economic renewal efforts. Spanning 8,750 hectares, the site includes 32 distinct wetland zones and supports a diverse range of native flora and fauna, including over 180 species of birds. Additionally, the area holds deep cultural significance for the Yorta Yorta people, offering a glimpse into thousands of years of Indigenous heritage and traditional values (Winton Wetlands, n.d.). At the 2021 census, Winton had a population of 103 (ABS, 2021).

A demographic snapshot from the Census 2021 data of Benalla township is included on the following page.

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	People	10,822
	Male	47.5%
	Female	52.5%
	Median age	51
	Families	2,861
	Average number of children per family	
	for families with children	1.8
	for all households (a)	0.5
	All private dwellings	5,411
	Average number of people per household	2.1
	Median weekly household income	\$1,142
	Median monthly mortgage repayments	\$1,253
	Median weekly rent (b)	\$250
	Average number of motor vehicles per dwelling	1.8
<p>(a) This label has been updated to more accurately reflect the Census concept shown in this data item. The data has not changed.</p> <p>(b) For 2021, median weekly rent calculations exclude dwellings being occupied rent-free.</p>		

Figure 4-1 Benalla town community profile (ABS, 2021)

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4.2. Stakeholder analysis

It is critical to understand the stakeholder setting surrounding the Project and its host region. This analysis can inform the engagement approach, identify risks, and enable the development of long-term relationships.

NGH have commenced research into near and adjacent neighbours in 2024 and have identified 11 near neighbouring properties, which are within a 0-2 km radius to the Project footprint area. Neighbouring properties can be found in [Appendix A](#).

4.2.1. Stakeholder groups

NGH has built on this analysis through discussions held with Avenis to identify a broad range of interests and opportunities to be considered in the communications and engagement activities (Table 4-1). The engagement approach recommended for each stakeholder refers to the IAP2 Engagement Spectrum. Once the CSES is implemented, this stakeholder analysis will expand as a result of engagement conversations with identified stakeholders.

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Adjacent and near neighbours (including sensitive receivers as shown in Figure 9-2).

Inform, consult, involve, collaborate

Consultation with this group will involve phone calls, distributing letters, invitations to the community drop-in session and a direct face-to-face meeting at their property (where requested). If they can't be reached, a letter will be left at the property asking the residents to contact us and discuss the Project.

Table 4-1: Stakeholder analysis: Adjacent and near neighbours

Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Interest (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Quality of relationship (vp, p, n, s, vs)	Engagement needs and/or expectations
Residential properties within 4 km (pending Noise Assessment) radius of the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property impacts Noise impacts Visual impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a strong partnership with the community. Keep neighbours informed 	H	H	Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent engagement To be informed first of any information

<p>proposed site. Neighbouring property owners listed in Figure 4-2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access changes • Environmental changes • Commercial agreements • Community benefits • Governance and ownership of the developing entity • Impacts on agricultural outputs 	<p>about the Project from early in the planning phase.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify impacts and mitigations through a collaborative process. • Discuss neighbour benefit sharing options directly. • Provide opportunities to raise issues and provide feedback. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open and transparent dialogue • Opportunity for discussions and feedback • Face-to-face discussions • Personalised relationships formed • Discussions regarding impacts and possible mitigations • Collaborative approach towards mitigation development • Understanding of cumulative impacts.
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Broader Community and Professional consultees

Inform, consult, involve

This group will be engaged through broader communications during the development application phase through a community drop-in session, a public notice and communications through the council. Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the Project web page/site.

Table 4-2 Stakeholder analysis: Broader community and region

Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Interest (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Relationship (vp, p, n, s, vs)	Engagement needs and/or expectations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benalla township 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an understanding of 	M	M	Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing project updates

<p>including residents, businesses, and organisations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport access impacts or changes • Environmental changes • Community benefits • Governance and ownership of the developing entity • Regional economic development. 	<p>and opportunity to participate in the Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities to raise issues and provide feedback • Discuss Community Benefit Sharing options. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information readily available • Opportunity for discussions and feedback • Identification of benefits.
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Government agencies/utility owners

Inform, consult, involve

This group should be engaged directly by NGH Planning team through phone calls, emails, distributing letters, and a direct face-to-face meeting where possible. Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the project web page/site.

Table 4-3 Stakeholder analysis: Government agencies/utility owners

Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Interest (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Relationship (vp, p, n, s, vs)	Engagement needs and/or expectations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DTP • VIC Farmers Federation • Landcare Group • Clean Energy Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on local infrastructure • Assessment process • Consideration of impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce the Project • Develop and maintain a positive relationship • Identify opportunities and 	H	H	Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing engagement regarding updates • Information readily available • Face-to-face discussions

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Parks and Wildlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration and mitigation of concerns Consultation process Application of standards and frameworks. 	<p>concerns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions regarding issues mitigation, opportunities.
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Council

Inform, consult, involve

This stakeholder should be engaged directly through phone calls, distributing letters, and a direct face-to-face meeting where possible. Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the project web page/site.

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Table 4-4 Stakeholder analysis: Council

Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Interest (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Relationship (vp, p, n, s, vs)	Engagement needs and/or expectations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benalla Rural City Council Planning and Economic Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts on local infrastructure Assessment process Consideration of impacts Consideration and mitigation of concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce the Project Develop and maintain a positive relationship Identify and leverage council communication channels Identify opportunities to support the local economy/community. 	H	H	Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing engagement regarding updates Information readily available Face-to-face discussions Discussions regarding issues mitigation, opportunities Community benefits/VPA discussions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation process • Application of standards and frameworks 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions regarding use of Council roads, etc.
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State and Federal MPs

Inform, consult, involve

This group should be engaged directly through phone calls, distributing letters, and a direct face-to-face meeting where possible. Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the project web page/site.

Table 4-5 Stakeholder analysis: State and Federal MPs

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Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Interest (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Relationship (vp, p, n, s, vs)	Engagement needs and/or expectations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Federal Member for Indi, Dr Helen Haines MP • Member for Euroa, Mrs Annabelle Cleeland MP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on local infrastructure • Assessment process • Consideration of impacts • Consideration and mitigation of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce the Project • Develop and maintain a positive relationship • Identify opportunities to support the local economy/community. 	H	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neutral 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing engagement regarding updates • Information readily available • Face-to-face discussions • Discussions regarding issues mitigation, opportunities • Community benefits/VPA discussions

	concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation process • Application of standards and frameworks. 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of cumulative impacts.
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Education

Inform, consult, collaborate

This group should be engaged through broader communications during the Approvals phase through a community open drop-in session, a public notice (print) and communications through council. Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the project web page/site.

Table 4-6 Stakeholder analysis: Education

Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Interest (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Relationship (vp, p, n, s, vs)	Engagement needs and/or expectations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAFE Benalla • Benalla Flexible Learning Centre • Benalla P-12 College • FCJ College Benalla • Benalla Primary School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on local infrastructure • Consideration of impacts • Community Benefits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure organisations are updated on education and vocational opportunities associated with the Project • Identify relevant community benefit scheme opportunities. 	L	L	Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing engagement regarding possible involvement in educational opportunities • Information readily available • Opportunity for discussions and feedback.

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Business groups/small business

Inform, consult

Outside of the non-associated receivers identified, this group should be engaged through broader communications during the Approvals phase through a community open drop-in session, a public notice (print) and communications through the council. Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the Project web page/site.

Table 4-7 Stakeholder analysis: Construction companies

Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Interest (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Relationship (vp, p, n, s, vs)	Engagement needs and/or expectations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benalla Business Network Construction companies that may contribute to the battery facility construction and installation like Konig Construction Group and Currie Electrical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment opportunities Skills training Community benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the chamber to identify any local businesses that may be impacted by the Project (positive or negative). Identify opportunities to develop or utilise local capability. 	H	M	Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing engagement regarding updates Information readily available Opportunity for discussions and feedback Identification of possible opportunities/participation.

Advocates and Objectors

Inform, consult

Outside of the non-associated receivers identified, this group should be engaged through broader communications during the Approvals phase through a community open drop-in session, a public notice (print) and communications through council. Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the project web page/site.

Table 4-8 Stakeholder analysis: Advocates and objectors

Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Interest (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Relationship (vp, p, n, s, vs)	Engagement needs and/or expectations
Advocates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewable Energy Benalla Benalla Sustainable Future Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional growth Community benefits Governance and ownership of the developing entity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider opportunities for partnerships and community events Consider advocacy opportunities Potential for partnerships. 	H	M	Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing engagement regarding updates Information readily available Opportunity for discussions and feedback Identification of possible advocacy activities.
Objectors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CWA Meadow Creek Agricultural Community Action Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property impacts Visual impacts Access changes Environmental changes Commercial agreements Community benefits Governance and ownership of the developing entity Impacts on agricultural outputs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and address concerns as required. Prepare responses to known concerns based on previous projects Manage issues constructively and efficiently Ensure equity in the engagement (allow other stakeholders time to talk in information sessions). 	H	M/L	Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing engagement regarding updates Information readily available Opportunity for discussions and feedback.

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Community organisations/special interest groups

Inform, consult

Outside of the non-associated receivers identified, this group should be engaged through broader communications during the Approvals phase through a community open drop-in session, a public notice (print) and communications through council. Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the project web page/site.

Table 4-9 Stakeholder analysis: Community organisations/special interest groups

Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Interest (H,M,L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Relationship (vp, p, n, s, vs)	Engagement needs and/or expectations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tomorrow Today - Benalla's independent community foundation Apex, Rotary, Lions, CWA, Probus Sporting clubs like the Winton Motor Raceway or Benalla Saints Football Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property impacts Visual impacts Access changes Environmental changes Commercial agreements Community benefits Governance and ownership of the developing entity Impacts on perceived land use change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify interests and opportunities to partner and contribute Look for opportunities to address concerns during the planning phase regarding impacts on productive and 	M	M	Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing engagement regarding updates Information readily available Opportunity for discussions and feedback.

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5. First Nations analysis

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5.1. Traditional Owners

Benalla has a rich First Nations history, with the Yorta Yorta, Pangerang, and Taungurong people being the original inhabitants before European settlement.

At the 2021 census, 2% of the Benalla population identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

5.1.1. Country

When referring to the term “Country” in First Nations culture, it is often misunderstood by Western thinking as it isn’t just the physical mainland. It is the physical environment’s past, present and future state, it’s First Nations people, the flora and fauna, the land and sea, and most importantly, it’s First Nations’ history, identity and culture (Woodward, E., *et al.*, 2020).

It is critical that before entering a community to engage on any project, that non-First Nations people must understand the true meaning of Country and Caring for Country.

5.1.2. History

The Yorta Yorta people of the central Murray-Godiburn region and the Taungurong people of central Victoria share histories of resilience and deep cultural connection to their ancestral lands, despite the devastating impacts of colonisation. The Yorta Yorta, river-based people sustained by fishing and seasonal floods, view their waterways as the spirit and lifeblood of their Nation. European settlement decimated their population and disrupted their traditional lifestyle, yet survivors regrouped at missions like Cummeragunja, where they rebuilt their community and laid the foundation for the Aboriginal political movement of the 1930s, led by figures such as Uncle William Cooper. Their enduring connection to their lands underscores their cultural and spiritual continuity (Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation, n.d.).

Similarly, the Taungurong people identify with their traditional clan territories, maintaining custodial responsibilities over areas without direct clan affiliation. Colonisation severely disrupted their society through conflict, disease, and dispossession, breaking down traditional ways of life. Despite this, the descendants of five Taungurong clans have formed a vibrant community that preserves their culture through education, language revival, and land stewardship. Elders play a vital role in passing on knowledge, while cultural markers such as scar trees, rock shelters, and place names reflect thousands of years of history. Today, Taungurong people continue to care for their country and contribute to their communities as cultural advisors, land managers, and educators (Taungurong Land and Waters Council, n.d.).

5.1.3. Winton Wetlands

Winton Wetlands holds deep cultural significance for Aboriginal people, particularly the Yorta Yorta Nation, who have been the traditional custodians of the area for thousands of years. The Winton BESS Project Site is just under 3 km from the edge of the wetland, as the crow flies.

The region’s shallow swamps, creeks, wetlands, and surrounding foothills provided essential resources and supported vibrant communities while being central to the creation stories, lore, and customs of the Yorta

Yorta people. The area, known as Mokoan, served as an important gathering place and transit point for cultural and social activities.

The Yorta Yorta Nation continues to uphold its responsibilities as custodians, maintaining dialogue with neighbouring traditional owners about boundary areas and fostering partnerships with Aboriginal organisations across the region. This ongoing collaboration reflects their longstanding approach to conducting social and economic affairs with a focus on community responsibility. The Yorta Yorta people are committed to fostering positive social and economic development and achieving equitable reconciliation for the benefit of all (Winton Wetlands Committee of Management, 2018).

The wetlands' history has been marked by significant disruption. The Yorta Yorta people were displaced in the 1860s when European settlers claimed the land for farming. Further transformation occurred in 1970 when a 7.5-kilometre rock wall was built to create Lake Mokoan, supporting irrigation and acting as a drought reserve for the Murray River. While initially beneficial, the flooding destroyed 150,000 river red gums, including Aboriginal scar trees of cultural importance. Environmental challenges, including drought and algal blooms, led to the decommissioning of the dam in 2004. Despite community opposition, the lake was drained in 2009.

In the aftermath, the area has undergone extensive renewal, with the Victorian Government establishing an independent, community-led committee in 2009 to manage the 8,750-hectare site. Winton Wetlands is now recognised internationally as a Wetland of Distinction by the Society of Wetland Scientists, reflecting its ecological and cultural importance (Winton Wetlands Committee of Management, 2018). The restoration project actively involves the Yorta Yorta Nation, ensuring the preservation and recognition of Indigenous cultural heritage across the wetlands (Freestone, 2018).

The site provides a unique opportunity for visitors to connect with Aboriginal culture and gain a deeper understanding of the traditional values and perspectives of the Yorta Yorta people. A Koorie Cultural Officer contributes to initiatives promoting Return to Country and incorporating Yorta Yorta perspectives into education and community activities and it is recommended that Avenis Energy project staff commit to attending a [cultural tour](#).

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5.1.4. Engaging with First Nations people

As the first custodians with the longest living relationship to Country, First Nations people remain crucial stakeholders to Australia's transition to net zero. To fulfil cultural obligations and responsibilities, First Nations people have managed, cared for and observed Country for tens of thousands of years. Centuries of knowledge building, accompanied by cultural obligations, aspirations and needs go hand in hand towards supporting Australia's transition to clean energy (CEC & KPMG, 2024).

While First Nations peoples' custodial responsibilities have changed over time with the effects of colonisation, changes in governance and the introduction of fossil fuels, a shared focus to reduce electricity costs, achieve net zero emissions and increase growth in our country exists (CEC, 2022). These factors combined present a long overdue opportunity for industry and stakeholders to achieve best practices where renewable energy projects are proposed.

With a primary focus on improving the health of First Nations people, strengths-based research approaches are heavily utilised in First Nations health research (Gibson, Crockett, et, al., 2020). Six core values (**1. Spirit and integrity, 2. Equity, 3. Respect, 4. Reciprocity, 5. Responsibility, 6. Cultural Connectivity**) guide its use, accompanied by mixed, participatory, and culturally effective data collection methods such as

storytelling, yarning and Elder learnings, has assisted to appropriately seek the perspectives, feelings, and opinions of First Nations participants (NHMRC, 2018). In addition, the incorporation of shared values of First Nations peoples assures findings remain relevant, capacity is built between all stakeholders during the research process, strong relationships are maintained, and best practices are progressed (NHMRC, 2018).

Before starting any development on Yorta Yorta country, it's important to work closely with Yorta Yorta representatives. This means involving them in decision-making from the very beginning, not just sharing information or asking for feedback. The process should focus on their goals, priorities, and ways of working, with Avenis supporting their leadership and self-determination. It's about building on the community's strengths and working together to achieve both small milestones and long-term goals (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2013). Strong relationships are built through genuine collaboration with Yorta Yorta Elders and community members, showing respect, openness, and a willingness to learn from one another.

The table below outlines the IAP2 core values, which support respectful and effective engagement that honours cultural values, traditions, and priorities. For projects affecting land, culture, or heritage, it is crucial to move beyond basic information sharing and engage at deeper levels, including “consult,” “involve,” “collaborate” and “empower.”

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5.1.5. First Nations stakeholder groups

IAP2 spectrum approach: Inform, consult, involve, collaborate, empower

This group should be engaged through in-person meetings, phone calls and project update emails. Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the Project website but mainly direct contact. The approach is to ensure we create meeting opportunities that are best suited to this stakeholder group, mitigating participation barriers where possible.

Table 5-1 Stakeholder analysis: Traditional Owners

Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Interest (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Engagement needs and/or expectations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taungurung Land and Waters Council Benalla Aboriginal Historical Society - TBC Elder Chris Thorne Dr Sheahan Bestel, Archaeologist Adviser Shannon Atkinson, Cultural Heritage Officer Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation Benalla Aboriginal Advisory Group: Jane Archbold Koorie Cultural Officer, Ms Nikki James 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culturally significant sites Visual impacts Access changes Environmental changes Commercial agreements Community benefits Governance and ownership of the developing entity Impacts on culturally significant areas Impacts to Country. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with the relevant Local Aboriginal Land Council and RAPs through the formal process Look for opportunities to contribute to the local story of Country and contribute to the local First Nations community. Involve local community organisations in community benefit sharing initiatives. 	H	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement to occur face-to-face, not technology focused Open and transparent dialogue Opportunity for discussions and feedback To be listened to Personalised relationships formed Participation in benefits development Feelings of empowerment with decision making.

6. Engagement overview

6.1. Applying a mix of engagement tools

It is always important to apply a mix of engagement tools and techniques to allow for a range of inputs and participation opportunities (see [Appendix B](#) for examples). There is a growing emphasis and uptake of digital tools, which are becoming more sophisticated in terms of providing integrated tools to capture conversations, analyse sentiment and issues, and generate reports in a very efficient way.

For this Project, it is recommended that a mix of traditional face to face methods and innovative digital tools are used to support the energy storage component planning.



NGH will use Avenis’ chosen website software to support them in mobilising information and feedback tools to support meaningful engagements, efficient stakeholder records management, event management and targeted marketing.

An example of a similar project website is shown below.

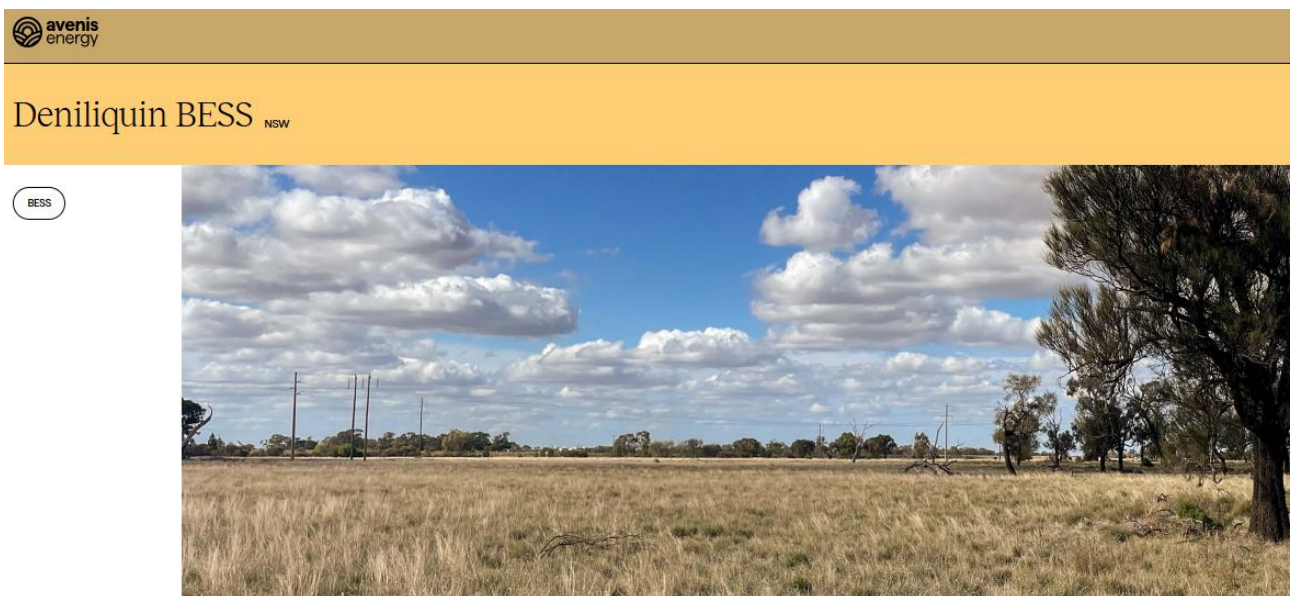


Figure 6-1: Information and feedback tools available for this Proposal via Avenis’ website

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6.2. Engagement approach

6.2.1. Engagement activities

It is crucial to adopt a best-practice approach to community engagement for the Project. Actively engaging with the community is essential for raising awareness and promoting open, two-way communication within both the local and regional areas. This will help ensure that the project aligns with the VIC engagement guidelines and fosters a stronger relationship with stakeholders.

It is proposed that the activities are broken across four types as outlined in

Figure 6-2. This is coordinated through an Action Plan in Section 6.

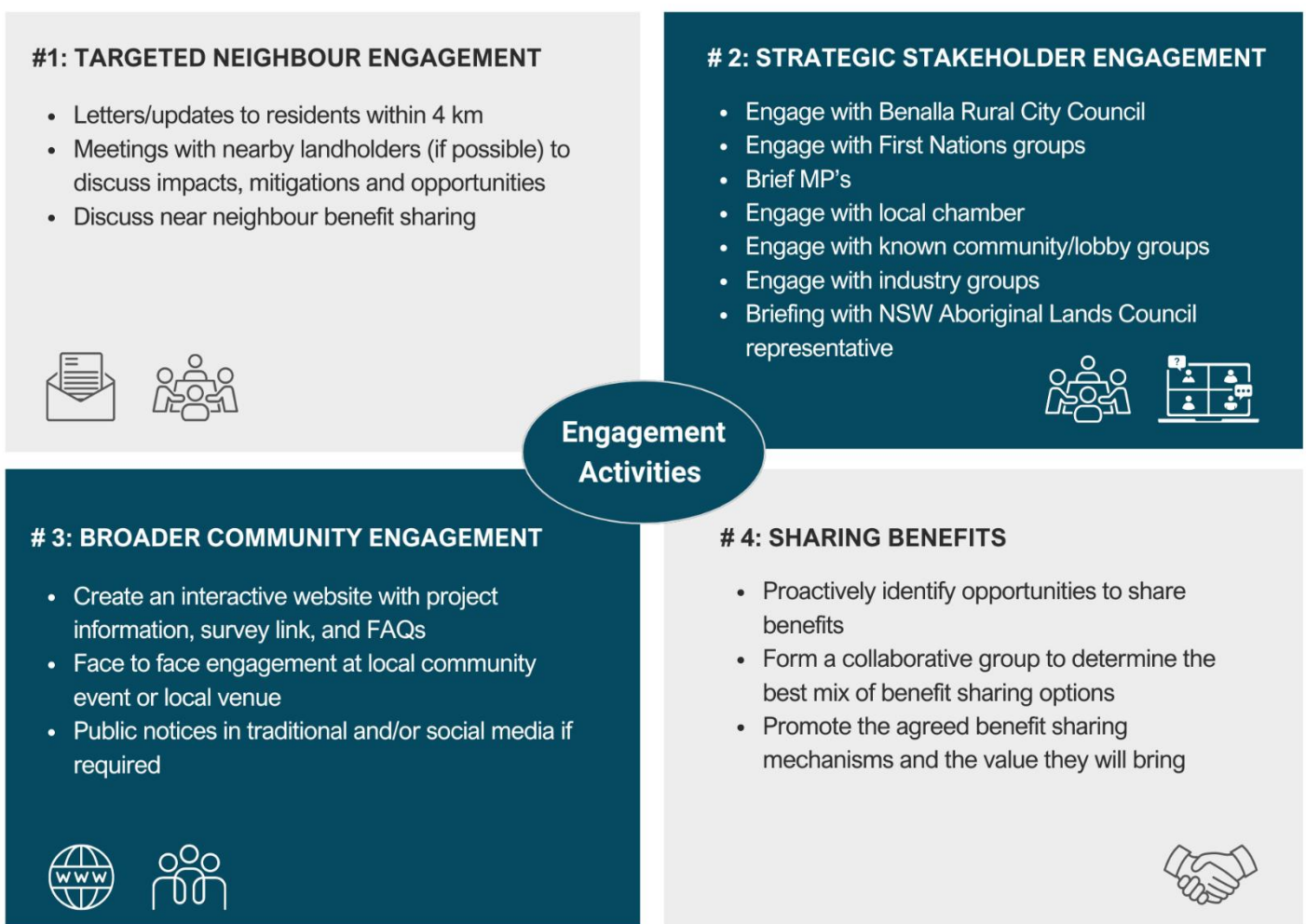


Figure 6-2 Proposed mix of engagement activities

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6.2.2. Content development steps

To deliver on this range of activities, the following content development steps would be required:

Table 6-1 Content development steps

Order of priority	What	Details
1	Develop an image library	With site designs and images of similar installations that can be used for community and stakeholder discussions.
2	Develop a suite of collateral	Including a fact sheet, posted letters, comprehensive FAQ document, and 'thank you' EDM.
3	Develop and launch survey	Hosted through SurveyMonkey and to be included on all relevant materials.
4	Launch a Project website to host several interactive tools that can capture feedback that would be useful to operate in the one place.	Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community survey Interactive maps to use a visual approach to identifying issues or areas of concern/opportunity Feedback and submission forms/tools Sign up form for updates Project timeline where possible FAQ and Fact Sheet Project contact information. <p>Note: all interactions on this site will be required for reporting purposes.</p>
5	Develop a framework for a Community Benefit Fund	For refinement through the early engagement phase.

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6.2.3. Project advocates and influencers

During this stage, it is also useful to determine who the best advocates and influencers for the Project are, and to establish a relationship with them. An ideal advocate has aligned interests, a useful network and carries influence in the community and act as a spokesperson for media interviews (if required). This could be someone from Council (Planning and Economic Development), for example, or the community groups Renewable Energy Benalla and Benalla Sustainable Future Group.

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7. Engagement action plan

A draft action plan is outlined below, and a high-level of events can be found in Figure 7-1. Note that the timing for delivery is contingent on the overall Project schedule.

Table 7-1 Community and Stakeholder Engagement Action Plan

Activity	Indicative Timing	Delivered by
Content and Campaign Preparation		
Goals for this phase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare all communications materials for the initial engagement events • Activate interactive tools • Where possible – lock in dates for meetings and info sessions • Identify key advocates and coordinate briefing times, 	October – November 2024	NGH Engagement Team & Avenis
Draft core materials for the Project, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website content • Project Overview Fact Sheet • FAQ • Key maps • Letters/online newsletter to residents within 5km and key stakeholders. 	October – November 2024	NGH Engagement Team & Avenis
Build the Project website or conduct a formal review of current website, activate email and phone contacts, and activate the stakeholder record management system (including sentiment tracking).	November 2024	Avenis
Build and activate online survey tool aimed at capturing queries, concerns and opportunities related to the Project that can be used to inform content development and social impact analysis.	November 2024	NGH Engagement Team

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<p>Confirm targets for local advocates.</p> <p>Commence conversations with stakeholder groups to get a deeper understanding on potential impacts and concerns during Approvals phase to form targeted engagement throughout EIS phase.</p>	<p>November 2024</p>	<p>NGH Engagement Team</p>
<p>Develop a list of targeted community events to attend, such as Business Association meetings and CWA meetings to introduce the Project.</p>	<p>November 2024</p>	<p>NGH Engagement Team</p>
<p>Engagement Phase</p>		
<p>Goals for this stage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce the Project and set the foundation for ongoing positive relationships • Begin with targeted engagements with near neighbours • Discuss mitigations benefit sharing proactively • Engage meaningfully across the community to identify issues and opportunities • Build a broad stakeholder database that can be used for updates, segmentation, and analysis • Identify risks and mitigations and capture a variety of inputs to inform the design of the project. 	<p>November 2024 – March 2025</p>	<p>NGH Engagement Team</p>
<p>Launch the Project website, including the agreed communications/feedback tools (Project overview, survey, interactive map).</p>	<p>November 2024</p>	<p>Avenis</p>
<p>Liaise with nearby neighbours, starting with the closest receivers (within 4 km).</p> <p>Summarise the discussions and update the strategy/stakeholder register.</p>	<p>November 2024</p>	<p>NGH Engagement Team</p>
<p>Engage with Benalla Rural City Council to discuss planning and engagement requirements and steps, as well as community issues and opportunities.</p>	<p>November 2024 - ongoing</p>	<p>NGH Engagement Team</p>
<p>CONSULTATION BLACKOUT PERIOD</p>		
<p>Brief local MPs and send information on the Project to the elected representatives and other strategic</p>	<p>January 2025</p>	<p>NGH Engagement Team</p>

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stakeholders, such as the Business Chamber and targeted community groups. Follow up with briefings where required.		
Secure face-to-face meetings with First Nations stakeholders to discuss potential community benefits. These meetings should align with the CIS tender requirements and be scheduled during the week of the community information sessions. Prioritise Chares Sturt University due to their interest in previous projects. Note: It is highly recommended to offer compensation to Elders and other First Nations stakeholders who participate in meetings outside their regular work commitments.	January – February 2025	NGH Engagement Team
Secure cultural tour with Winton Wetlands Koorie Cultural Officer to align with timings of face-to-face engagement activities.	January – February 2025	NGH Engagement Team & SREA
Develop key messaging specific to First Nations stakeholders to support discussions surrounding the Project and their role in developing the CBS.	January – February 2025	NGH Engagement Team
Distribute a letter reintroducing the Project and inviting local community members to attend the information sessions. It is proposed that the letter goes to strategic stakeholders, residents living within a 4 km radius of the Project site.	January – February 2025	NGH Engagement Team
Advertise the information session via the local newspaper and on social media (2 weeks prior).	February 2025	NGH Engagement Team & Avenis
Organise and hold pop-up information sessions in a suitable venue or as a part of a local event. These sessions will provide an overview of the Project, while focusing on the community’s view on issues and opportunities.	February 2025 Potential session dates: Friday 21 February and Saturday 22 February (Benalla Markets)	Whole Project Team

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Send out an EDM (digital newsletter) to thank people for participating in the information session and summarise the items discussed and next steps (this should be replicated across social media)	February – March 2025	NGH Engagement Team
Take calls, answer questions, and arrange any required follow up meetings that can help proactively address issues during the Planning phase.	March 2025 - ongoing	NGH Engagement Team / Avenis
Compile a comprehensive list of community benefit-sharing opportunities and ideas and organise them into a register for future reference. This register will also serve as supporting documentation when developing the CBS.	March 2025	NGH Engagement Team
Coordinate co-signed letter re: CBS plan with BRCC.	March 2025	Avenis (support from NGH SIA and Engagement Team)
Review feedback from online tools and provide a summary of interactions and feedback to date for inclusion into Approvals Report.	March 2025	NGH Engagement Team
Make any required changes to the Engagement Strategy for submission to DTP.	March 2025	NGH Engagement Team

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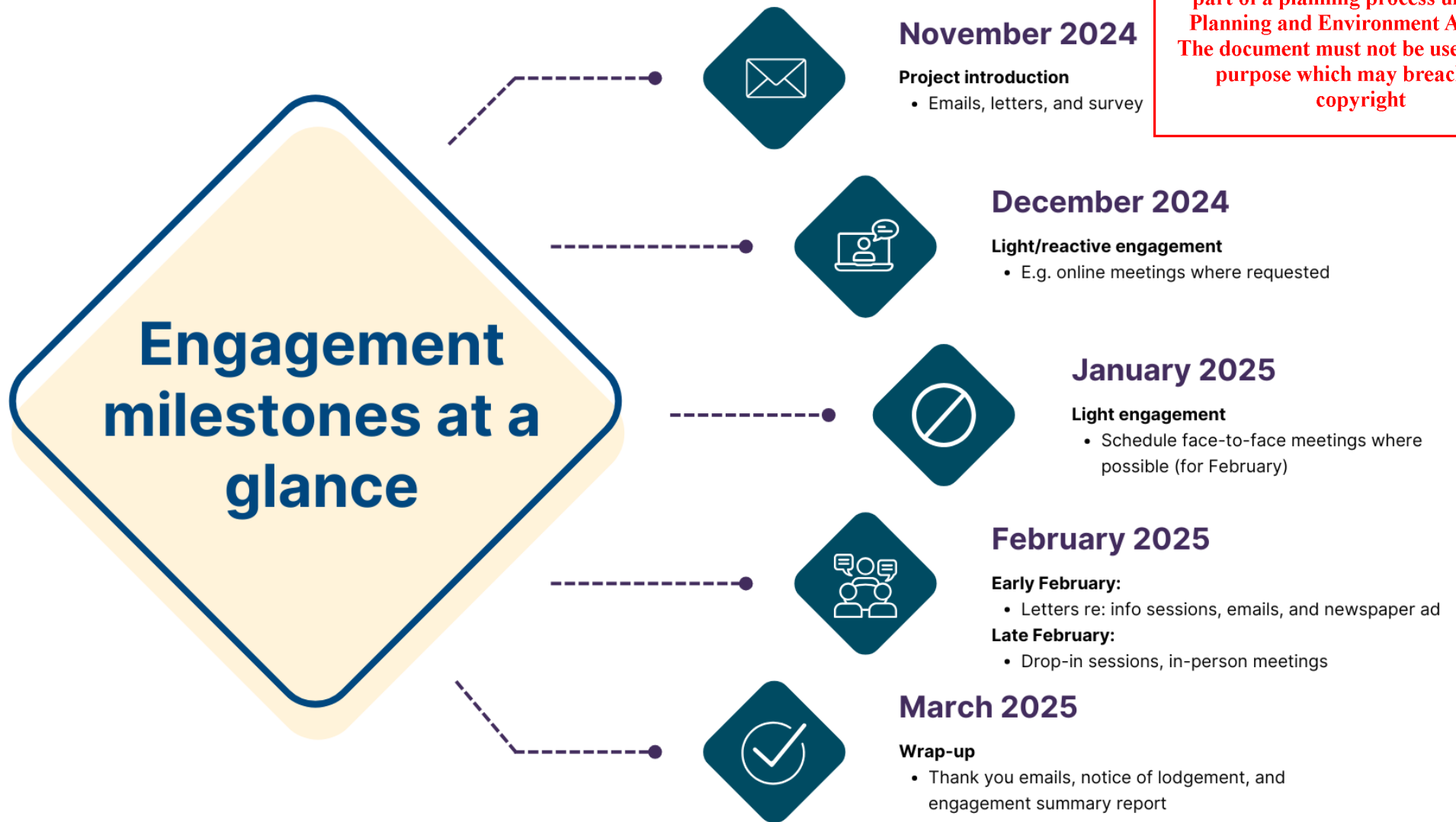
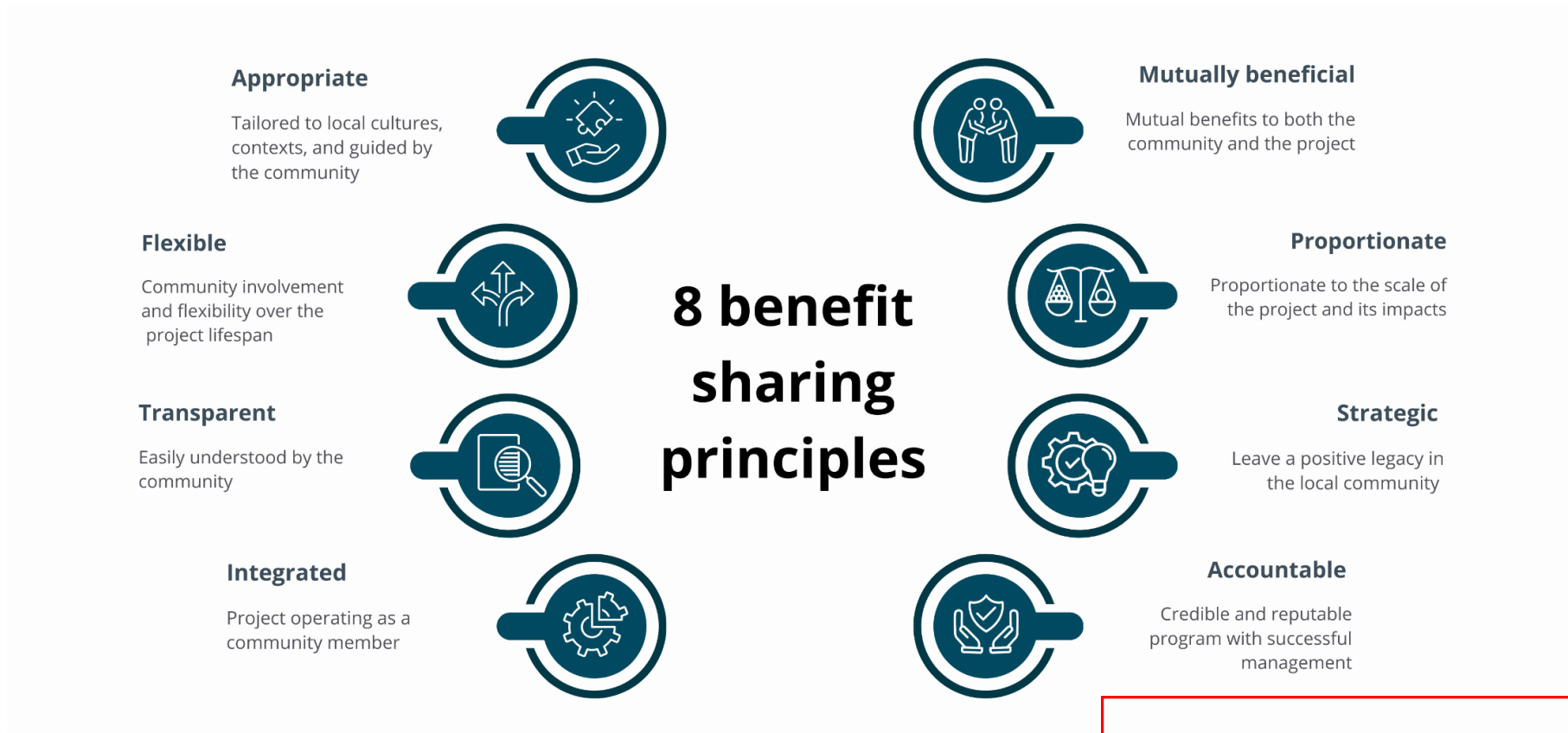


Figure 7-1 Engagement milestones

8. Community benefit sharing options

A Community Benefit Scheme (CBS) can ensure benefits are shared with the community in a way that enhances its resilience. From an industry best practice standpoint, several principles are seen as being helpful guides in developing or assessing a benefit sharing strategy, as outlined below¹:

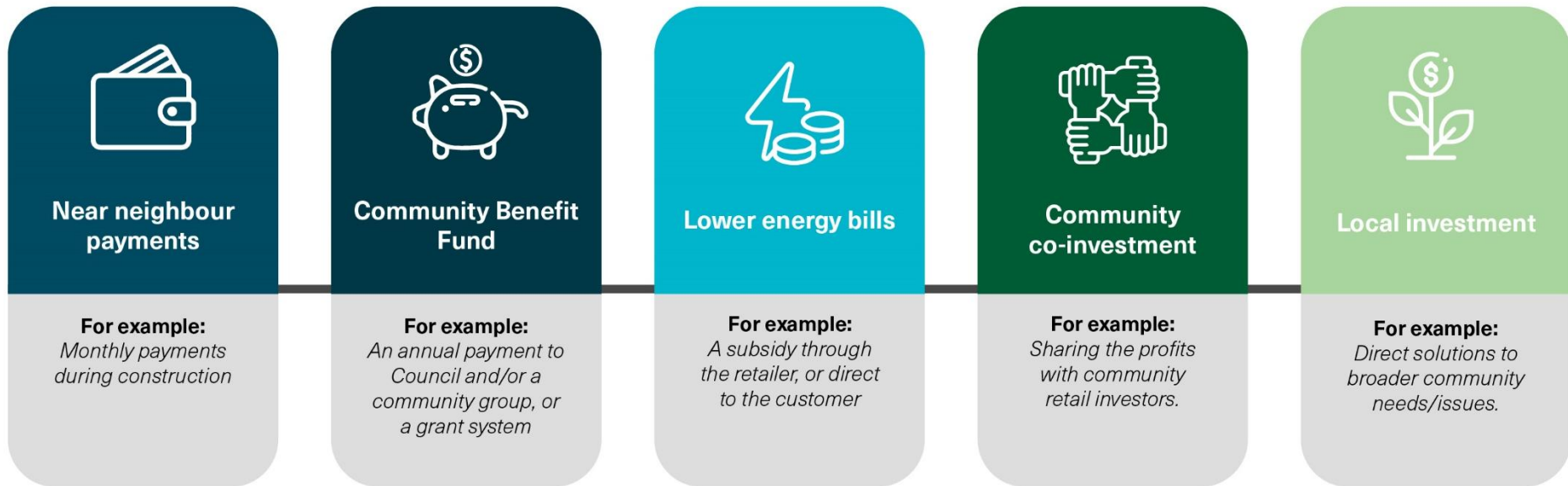


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¹ Lane, T & Hicks, J, (forthcoming) Benefit Sharing Options for Renewable Energy, 2019, Clean Energy Council

8.1. Typical Community Benefit Scheme Program (CBSP) scope

A successful CBSP is typically a mix of benefit-sharing mechanisms, including:



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In general terms, it is important to note that a CBSP does not include:

- Required activities under our permit conditions such as for visual screening
- Annual council rates payments or fire levies (where applicable)
- Host landowner payments
- The value of local jobs and investment

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9. Messages and tools

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9.1. Project key messages

The following messages are proposed to be used to discuss the Project overall:

9.1.1. The Project

- Avenis Energy Pty Ltd (Avenis) on behalf of AE BESS 10 Pty Ltd ATF AE BESS 10 Unit Trust, is pursuing development approval for a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in Glenrowan, Victoria (VIC), approximately 14 km northeast of the Benalla township and opposite the Glenrowan Solar Farm.
- The expected capacity and storage duration for the BESS would be approximately 120 MW/480 MWh (4-hour storage) and will connect directly into the 66kV Glenrowan Terminal Substation located to the east on an adjacent site.
- The development would support approximately 80-90 jobs during its 12 to 18-month construction period.
- The Development Site was chosen due to the proximity to the existing 66kV substation.
- The BESS will be located on a maximum development footprint of 10 hectares (ha).
- Construction and operation of the project would involve the following key components:
 - 120MW BESS including:
 - Battery containers
 - Inverters
 - Transformers
 - Cooling systems if required
 - Fire suppressions systems
 - Switch rooms
 - Switchyard
 - New access road to the site
 - Parking, site office and amenities for operational use.
 - Temporary infrastructure, including construction facilities, site offices and amenities, tool and material storage sheds, construction staff car parking, component laydown areas and truck parking and unloading would also be required.

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9.1.2. Project benefits

- This Project will significantly contribute towards the VIC Government's next-zero emissions by 2050 target by supplying clean renewable energy to the National Energy Market (NEM).
- The BESS aims to improve the reliability and security of the electricity network by storing energy during periods of low demand and dispatching energy during periods of peak demand and emergency events. The Project would be a key piece of infrastructure in supporting Energy Storage Development in regional Australia.
- The Project would bring direct employment opportunities, with 80-90 full-time equivalent jobs expected during its up to 12–18-month construction period, and 1-2 permanent roles when in operation.
- This project will help Australia to reduce its emissions by improving national resilience in energy supply and supporting affordable energy for Australians.

- Economic benefits to the community and surrounding region through ancillary services such as accommodation, food, and fuel providers during the development period.
- The Project is also consistent with the current goals and targets for renewable energy generation in VIC. These include:
 - Contribute renewable energy generation to work towards the VIC target of reducing emissions by 90% by 2035.
 - At least 6.3 GW of energy storage capacity by 2035 — enough energy to power around half of Victoria's current homes at their peak energy use.

9.1.3. Messaging around issues

The following content would be used as FAQs in the project information:

Table 9-1 Anticipated questions and proposed answers

Question	Response
What is the Project status?	<p>The Winton BESS is in early investigation stages for a development application and is currently assessing the limitations and restrictions of the project. These findings will inform the final planning permit application. Once submitted, the Minister of Planning will decide whether to issue a development approval.</p>
Why is this Project needed? Isn't there enough renewable energy being produced in the area?	<p>VIC has pledged to increase the state's renewable energy penetration to over 65% by 2030 and 95% by 2035. This statewide initiative will bring forward around \$9.6 billion in economic activity and create 59,000 jobs over the period to 2035 (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change, 2024a). It will also cut annual energy bills on average by \$110 (for households) and \$3,700 (for businesses) and reduce VIC's carbon emissions by approx. 55 million tons (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change, 2024b). Currently, the renewable energy penetration in VIC is 37.8%.</p> <p>This Project in VIC will contribute to filling this target, create new jobs, and will contribute to electricity price reducing and carbon emissions reduction.</p>
Who approves the Project?	<p>Under the P&E Act, the Department of Transport and Planning assesses planning permit applications on behalf of the Minister for Planning.</p>
What is a BESS?	<p>A BESS is an energy storage system that uses a group of batteries to store electrical energy from a variety of sources such as solar.</p> <p>The system compensates for the intermittency of sources, providing back up power to address certain constraints such as weather conditions and lack of grid space.</p> <p>They are crucial to the increased adoption of de-centralised power infrastructure models.</p>

<p>How do developers choose a site for a potential BESS?</p>	<p>Careful consideration is needed to select the most appropriate site for a BESS. There are many factors to consider including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to the electricity grid • Current land use • Environmental impacts • Proximity to residents.
<p>Is it safe? Does it emit any radiation? Is there any risk of leaching into the local environment?</p>	<p>The BESS is safe and will not emit radiation. The battery is designed to prevent liquid leakage and therefore will not cause any hazardous chemical leakage to the surrounding environment.</p>
<p>Do batteries increase fire risk?</p>	<p>Avenis Energy will work closely with the relevant fire services agencies to confirm access requirements for the BESS if there is a bushfire that moves into the area, or if a fire starts in the BESS.</p> <p>Management Plans will be produced prior to construction commencing that will include Fire, Risk and Emergency Management Plans to address the management of potential fires during construction, operations and decommissioning.</p> <p>The Project will not increase the risk of bushfires in the area.</p>
<p>Is the site affected by flooding?</p>	<p>Assessments completed to date indicate that the site is not flood prone. In the unlikely event of storm water flooding, where water may pool from heavy rainfall events, BESS infrastructure is expected to remain stable.</p>
<p>How will power supply be affected in the local area – will there be outages during construction?</p>	<p>There will be no outages expected during the construction phase. Once the BESS is built and operational, it will help to increase the grid stability.</p>
<p>How will construction traffic and road impacts be managed?</p>	<p>During the anticipated 12 to 18-month total construction period, construction vehicles would range from light vehicles to 26m B-Doubles. Light vehicles would arrive during AM/PM peaks with heavy vehicle deliveries to be spaced out during the day.</p>
<p>Who is Avenis?</p>	<p>Avenis Energy is the Project Developer for the Winton BESS. Avenis is dedicated to developing large-scale renewable energy projects that deliver clean, green energy into the transmission network, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and helping minimise the impacts of climate change. Avenis prides itself on working closely with landowners, near neighbours, key stakeholders, and the wider communities where our projects are proposed.</p> <p>The Avenis team has significant experience in the renewable energy sector across all elements of the development cycle, from site selection, planning</p>

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	and permitting to engineering, construction and operation. The team has been working together in Australia since 2018 and is solely dedicated to the Australian market, with a proven track record of developing high quality community sensitive projects.
Why is this land not being used for agriculture?	The Development Site was selected for its proximity to the Glenrowan Terminal Station, and is generally flat, low-quality agricultural land. The land is zoned as Rural Primary Production (RU1) and suitable for renewable energy development.
Will this battery technology still be relevant once it is constructed?	Yes. The BESS can be adapted to utilise updates in technology closer to the construction and operation period. The BESS equipment manufacturers are a global leader in battery research and development and are well placed to make these adaptations.
What is happening with the residual land?	The residual land will be unused.
What will happen with the BESS once it reaches its end of life?	The life span of a BESS is up to 35 years and once the BESS reaches its end of life, it will be decommissioned, and the land will return to its original condition. This will involve removing the BESS and relating infrastructure and restoring the site. The decommissioning requirements will be set out within contracts with the landowner and within the approvals process. This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling it to be used as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987.
What does a BESS look like?	BESS's are container like modular systems that are configured based on site and capacity obligations. As technology improves, the systems are becoming increasingly efficient and more compact. An example of a BESS can be found in the image gallery section of the website. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright
Will I be able to hear the BESS?	Like all large-scale developments, BESS facilities may generate noise. Studies are ongoing to assess noise levels, the impact this may have on the area and clear mitigation recommendations.

9.2. Complaints handling process

Avenis is committed to maintaining an open pathway of communication between their organisation and the wider community. This includes, but is not limited to, complaints handling.

To lodge a complaint, stakeholders can email at wintonbess@avenisenergy.com.au with 'Complaint' or 'Concern' clearly stated in the subject line.

Within the email, it is expected that stakeholders provide a clear and concise explanation of the complaint, including relevant details such as dates, names, and any supporting documents, along with what resolution they are seeking.

Retrieval of contact information will be crucial, such as a phone number, so the Project team can reach out should more information be required.

Upon receiving the complaint, a member of the Project team will promptly acknowledge receipt within 24 hours during standard business hours. The Project team will then work to understand and resolve the issue fairly and efficiently. Afterward, the Project team follow up with the stakeholder to ensure that they are satisfied with the outcome.

9.3. Media liaison

Given the scale and location of the Project, it will be worth applying a proactive media strategy, where local media are proactively briefed to help provide balanced coverage. Such a strategy would help to build awareness of the Project, proactively explain management of issues, and promote benefit sharing activities.

This liaison should focus on the proactive management of issues, the benefits the Project would bring to the area (including the CBS) and the everyday people stories – the people planning, building, supporting, and supplying the Project. The relevant media outlets are listed in Table 9-2.

Table 9-2 Media types and outlets

Media type	Outlets
Local media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local newspaper (Benalla Ensign) Local radio (1521 2QN, 102.5 Edge FM) Local television news (NBN, Prime 7, ABC) Social media (Facebook, Instagram).
Digital / owned media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facebook X Website LinkedIn.

Avenis would need to develop story ideas and suitable content and image opportunities to support local media in developing the story. The spokesperson may vary, starting with the Project Director.

Potential stories could be cultivated around these topics:

- Start of the Approvals Report and continued engagement
- Engagement of local suppliers
- Partnerships with local community-based organisations
- Creation and launch of the Community Benefit Scheme.

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10. Evaluation

The strategy will be evaluated once the summary is completed in the context of the primary objectives.

10.1. Next steps

- Review and revise the draft strategy
- Develop the supporting materials
- Continue adjusting the strategy as the Project develops and proceeds through approval phases.

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11. References

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Appendix A Non-associated receivers

Neighbour	Address	Distance from BESS (m)
R1	BOWERS ROAD WINTON VIC 3673	Landowner
R2	21 BOWERS ROAD WINTON VIC 3673	170
R3	576 WINTON-GLENROWAN ROAD WINTON VIC 367	424
R4	116 LEE ROAD WINTON VIC 3673	611
R5	17 GLENWEST LANE WINTON VIC 3673	680
R6	84 GLENWEST LANE WINTON VIC 3673	1233
R7	386 LEE ROAD WINTON VIC 3673	1269
R8	386 LEE ROAD WINTON VIC 3673	1511
R9	36 ELEVEN MILE CREEK ROAD GLENROWAN WEST VIC 3675	1658
R10	45 GOULD ROAD WINTON VIC 3673	1756
R11	52 GOULD ROAD GLENROWAN WEST VIC 3675	1894
R12	54 ELEVEN MILE CREEK ROAD GLENROWAN WEST VIC 3675	1885
R13	52 GOULD ROAD GLENROWAN WEST VIC 3675	1894

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R14	122 ELEVEN MILE CREEK ROAD GLENROWAN WEST VIC 3675	2138
R15	123 ELEVEN MILE CREEK ROAD GLENROWAN WEST VIC 3675	2308
R16	486 ASHMEAD ROAD WINTON NORTH VIC 3673	2440
R17	186 ELEVEN MILE CREEK ROAD GLENROWAN WEST VIC 3675	2517
R18	255 WINTON-GLENROWAN ROAD WINTON VIC 3673	2728
R19	255 WINTON-GLENROWAN ROAD WINTON VIC 3673	2813
R20	127 KEENAN ROAD WINTON NORTH VIC 3673	3008
R21	619 GLENROWAN WEST ROAD GLENROWAN WEST VIC 3675	3121
R22	619 GLENROWAN WEST ROAD GLENROWAN WEST VIC 3675	3158
R23	345 GRETA ROAD WINTON VIC 3673	3160
R24	ELEVEN MILE CREEK ROAD GLENROWAN WEST VIC 3675	3202
R25	ELEVEN MILE CREEK ROAD GLENROWAN WEST VIC 3675	3216
R26	273 ELEVEN MILE CREEK ROAD GLENROWAN WEST VIC 3675	3357
R27	45 GOULD ROAD WINTON VIC 3673	3397
R28	188 WINTON-GLENROWAN ROAD WINTON VIC 3673	3458
R29	<i>To be confirmed</i>	3474

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R30	255 WINTON-GLENROWAN ROAD WINTON VIC 3673	3627
R30	168 WINTON-GLENROWAN ROAD WINTON VIC 3673	3627
R31	541 GRETA ROAD GLENROWAN WEST VIC 3675	3690
R32	263 GRETA ROAD WINTON VIC 3673	3719
R33	597 GRETA ROAD GLENROWAN WEST VIC 3675	3724
R34	597 GRETA ROAD GLENROWAN WEST VIC 3675	3729
R35	158 WINTON-GLENROWAN ROAD WINTON VIC 3673	3741
R35	158 WINTON-GLENROWAN ROAD WINTON VIC 3673	3741
R36	158 WINTON-GLENROWAN ROAD WINTON VIC 3673	3777
R37	392 ELEVEN MILE CREEK ROAD GLENROWAN WEST VIC 3675	3779
R38	41 FOX STREET WINTON VIC 3673	3787
R39	107 FOX STREET WINTON VIC 3673	3788
R40	392 ELEVEN MILE CREEK ROAD GLENROWAN WEST VIC 3675	3792
R41	599 GRETA ROAD GLENROWAN WEST VIC 3675	3803
R42	392 ELEVEN MILE CREEK ROAD GLENROWAN WEST VIC 3675	3803
R43	471 GRETA ROAD GLENROWAN WEST VIC 3675	3825

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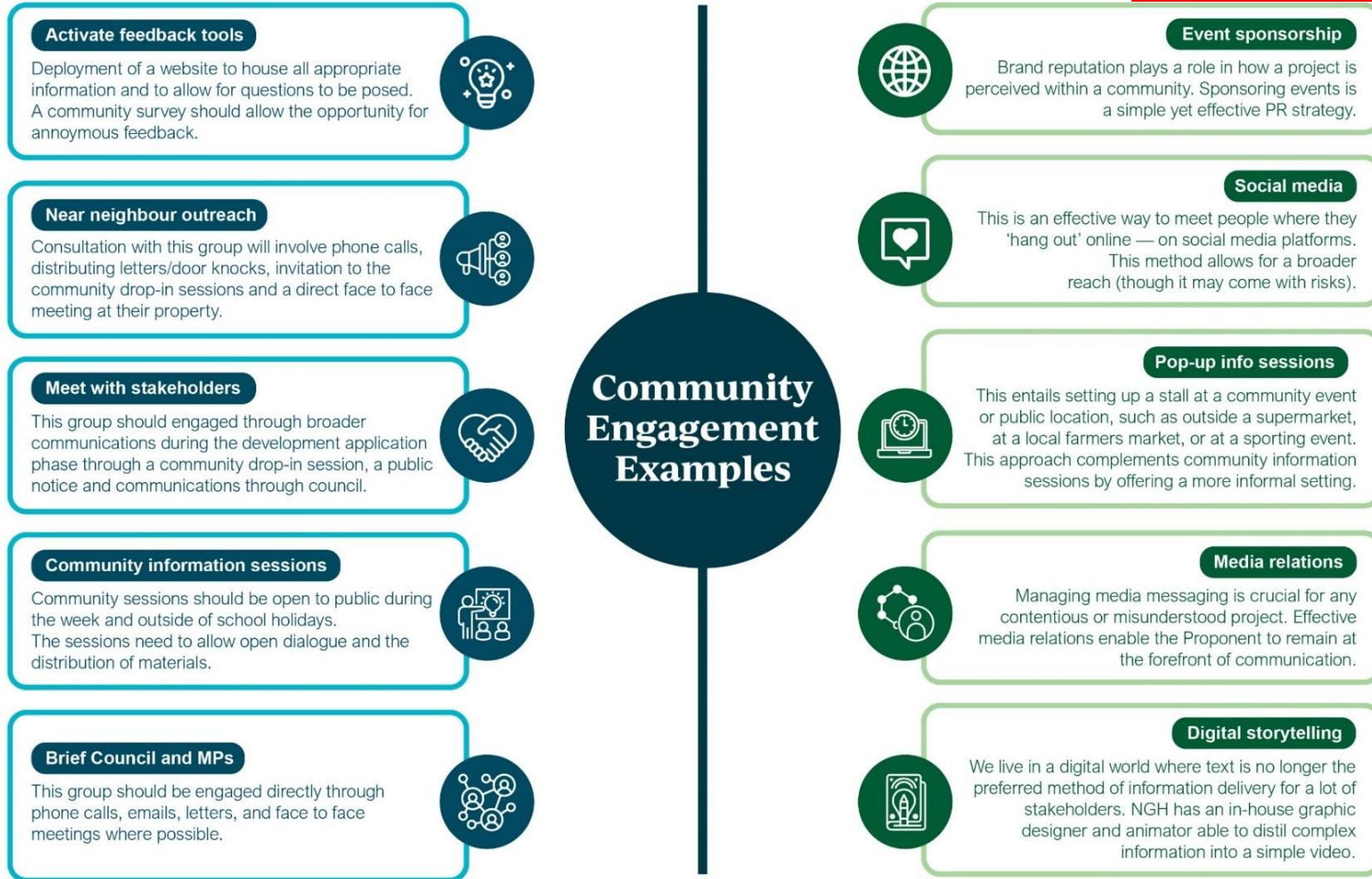
R44	599 GRETA ROAD GLENROWAN WEST VIC 3675	3842
R45	599 GRETA ROAD GLENROWAN WEST VIC 3675	3847
R46	WINTON-GLENROWAN ROAD WINTON VIC 3673	3861
R47	104 KEENAN ROAD WINTON NORTH VIC 3673	3910
R48	135 WINTON-GLENROWAN ROAD WINTON VIC 3673	3927
R49	134 WINTON-GLENROWAN ROAD WINTON VIC 3673	3935

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Appendix B Engagement examples



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