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# **Goorambat East Battery Energy Storage System**

## **Consultation Summary Report**

**June 2026**

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## 1. Executive Summary

This report summarises past and future stakeholder and community consultation for the proposed Goorambat East Battery Energy Storage System (The Project), a utility-scale battery project to be co-located with the existing Goorambat East Solar Farm (GESF) in northern Victoria.

The Planning Permit application is submitted by International Power (Australia) Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of ENGIE S.A. ENGIE is a global energy company with extensive experience in renewable energy development in Australia, including the construction and operation of the adjacent GESF.

ENGIE has had an ongoing presence in the Goorambat area through the development and construction of the adjacent GESF. Targeted engagement for the Project commenced in August 2025, building on existing relationships with neighbouring and host landholders, while wider engagement with the community commenced in February 2026.

Engagement activities focused on early awareness, gathering community feedback, and identifying key issues to inform project design and the Planning Permit application. Consultation included direct engagement with neighbouring landholders, Traditional Owners (Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation), Benalla Rural City Council, emergency services, government agencies, and the wider community. Key activities included phone and email outreach, stakeholder briefings, a community drop-in session, community meetings with local representatives, and a community site visit to the existing GESF.

Overall community sentiment to date has been mixed but constructive. Stakeholders expressed a strong interest in understanding impacts and ensuring that risks are appropriately managed. The most significant concerns raised relate to fire risk and emergency response capacity, noise impacts, environmental and water management, and the transparency of the planning process. There is also a clear expectation that the Project will deliver meaningful and equitable community benefits.

A strong theme emerging from consultation is the importance of trust, transparency, and ongoing engagement throughout the whole project lifetime including development, construction and operations. Community members have emphasised the need for clear, accessible information, early involvement in decision-making, and confidence that their feedback will influence project outcomes.

ENGIE is committed to incorporating community and stakeholder feedback as the Project design progresses. To date, this has included further technical assessments (such as additional noise and flood modelling), development of fire risk management measures in line with CFA guidelines, informed by engagement with the CFA Risk and Fire Safety Unit and the local Goorambat-Stewarton brigade, and continued engagement with key stakeholders in the lead up to the Planning Permit application being submitted. The Project will continue to adopt a responsive and transparent approach, demonstrating how feedback has informed decisions.

Consultation undertaken to date has provided valuable insights into stakeholder priorities and has informed the refinement of the Project and supporting technical studies. Engagement will continue as the Project progresses, with the aim of building long-term relationships, supporting informed participation, and delivering outcomes that balance community expectations with project objectives.

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## 2. Acronyms and Abbreviations

The below table summarises the acronyms used in this report and their meanings.

Table 1: Acronyms used in report

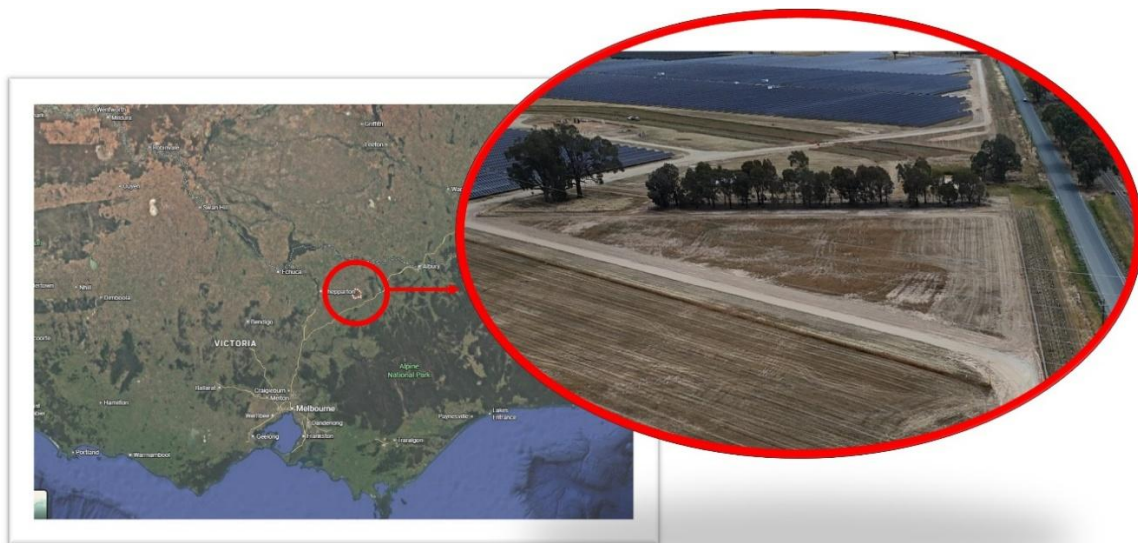
| Acronym  | Definition                                         |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------|
| AEMO     | Australian Energy Market Operator                  |
| AusNet   | AusNet Services (electricity network operator)     |
| BESS     | Battery Energy Storage System                      |
| BRCC     | Benalla Rural City Council                         |
| CFA      | Country Fire Authority                             |
| CEO      | Chief Executive Officer                            |
| CMA      | Catchment Management Authority                     |
| DTP      | Department of Transport and Planning               |
| eDM      | Electronic Direct Mail                             |
| ENGIE    | ENGIE S.A.                                         |
| EPA      | Environment Protection Authority (EPA Victoria)    |
| FIA      | Flood Impact Assessment                            |
| GBCMA    | Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority     |
| GETS     | Goorambat East Terminal Station                    |
| GESF     | Goorambat East Solar Farm                          |
| GoBESS   | Goorambat East Battery Energy Storage System       |
| IAP2     | International Association for Public Participation |
| LGA      | Local Government Area                              |
| MP       | Member of Parliament                               |
| MW       | Megawatt                                           |
| MWh      | Megawatt-hour                                      |
| RAP      | Registered Aboriginal Party                        |
| RFI      | Request for Information                            |
| SSP3 7.0 | Shared Socioeconomic Pathway 3 (climate scenario)  |
| VicGrid  | Victorian transmission planning body               |
| YYNAC    | Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation          |

## 3. Project Overview

### 3.1 Project overview

The Project proposes to deliver a battery energy storage system (BESS) for large-scale electricity storage, supporting Victoria's transition toward a more renewable and reliable energy network. The Project is anticipated to have a storage capacity of up to 200 MW and up to six hours duration (up to 1,200 MWh) and would be co-located with the constructed 250 MW GESF, with connection to the grid via the existing Goorambat East Terminal Station (GETS). The Project is wholly located within the Benalla Shire Local Government Area (LGA), approximately 1.3 km south of Goorambat and 175 km northeast of Melbourne.

**Image 1: Location of the Project**



### 3.2 Purpose and structure of the report

The purpose of this document is to summarise the community and stakeholder engagement undertaken to date, to support the Project Planning Permit application. It outlines the consultation methodology, presents a summary of feedback received through the engagement process, and identifies the proposed next steps for ongoing engagement activities.

### 3.3 Consultation and engagement snapshot

Targeted engagement for the Project commenced in August 2025, building on existing relationships with neighbouring and host landholders, while wider engagement with the community commenced in February 2026. This engagement focused on raising early awareness, seeking local feedback, and identifying issues affecting the community.

Key engagement activities included phone calls and emails with neighbours and local community, meetings and email correspondence with Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation (YYNAC), regulatory agencies, council representatives, MPs and technical stakeholders.

A drop-in community session was held on Thursday 23 April 2026 at the Goorambat Town Hall and advertised through an ENGIE e-newsletter and email reminder, as well as through the Goorambat and District Facebook page.

Following feedback from the initial community drop-in session, two further meetings were held with a group of Goorambat community representatives on 14 May 2026 and 3 June 2026.

This group was established by local community members at their own initiative to facilitate ongoing and constructive dialogue with the Project team on key topics of interest. The representatives were nominated through a localised community meeting to ensure that the interests of the wider community were represented. The group acts as a liaison between the Project team and the broader Goorambat community, ensuring feedback and project information is shared transparently. The meeting on 3 June 2026 also included a community site visit to the existing GESF for the representative group and wider community.

The Project's engagement efforts reached over 40 community stakeholders. The overall sentiment has been mixed, with community members engaging constructively and raising questions on key topics. The main concerns related to fire risk and emergency response, noise, flooding and water management, and how the community will benefit from the Project.

### 3.4 Project Timeline

**Table 2: Timeline of development milestones and engagement phases**

| Indicative Timing          | Development Milestone                                            | Engagement Phase                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Aug 2025 – Jan 2026</b> | Site selection, early feasibility studies and preliminary design | Early stakeholder identification and introductory outreach, including neighbour meetings, BRCC briefing, and Community Engagement Action Plan implementation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Feb – June 2026</b>     | Planning studies and permit preparation                          | Community engagement program: neighbour calls, emails and correspondence; eDMs, project website, Facebook update, Frequently Asked Questions and fact sheet; community drop-in session; Community Representatives Group meetings; GESF site visits (community, MP, BRCC CEO); YYNAC meeting; CFA pre-application meeting; engagement with DTP, GBCMA, VicGrid, AEMO, AusNet and MP briefing |
| <b>June 2026</b>           | Planning Permit application submission                           | Stakeholder updates                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>July – Oct 2026</b>     | DTP assessment, public notice period & decision                  | Newsletter; letterbox drop and topic factsheets; community drop-in session; Community Representatives Group meeting; BRCC briefing; YYNAC follow-up meeting; response to submissions                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Post decision</b>       | Planning Permit outcome                                          | Media release and project website update                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>May 2026 – May 2027</b> | Grid Connection                                                  | Continued community engagement, local industry and economic planning                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>H2 2027</b>             | Construction commencement                                        | Construction engagement, neighbour notifications, CFA liaison                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>2029+</b>               | Operation                                                        | Community benefits delivery, ongoing enquiry management, compliance reporting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

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## 4. Consultation and Engagement Summary

### 4.1 Engagement approach

ENGIE has designed the engagement program in accordance with the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Community Engagement Spectrum and utilised the Inform, Consult and Involve methodologies to engage with the local community and key stakeholders.

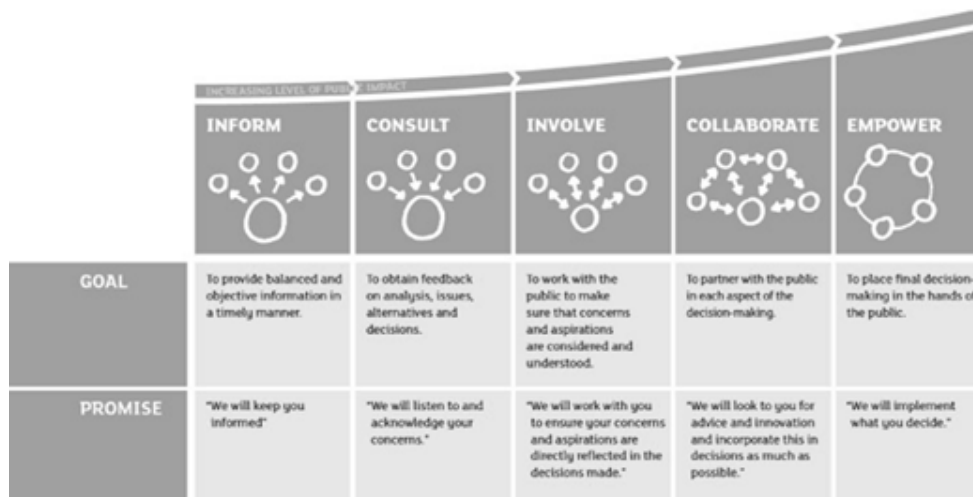


Figure 1. IAP2 spectrum

The engagement program for the Project was designed to:

- Raise early awareness of the Project among neighbouring residents and key stakeholders
- Identify community concerns, feedback, expectations and local values to inform project design
- Provide accessible and transparent information about the Project, its impacts and benefits
- Build trust and establish the foundation for ongoing engagement throughout the Project lifecycle

### 4.2 Stakeholder Mapping

Key stakeholders that have been identified and engaged with during the pre-application phase include:

- Department of Transport and Planning (DTP)
- Benalla Rural City Council
- Country Fire Authority (Risk and Fire Safety Unit, local fire brigade) (CFA)
- Traditional Owners and Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) representatives - YYNAC
- Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA)
- AusNet
- VicGrid
- AEMO
- Neighbouring landowners
- Wider community

### 4.3 Community Engagement Activities

Alongside engagement with key regulatory and government bodies related to the Project, pre-application community consultation has taken place to inform the community about the Project, and to gather feedback about concerns or interests in the Project. The table below summarises the community consultation that has taken place. Further details of regulatory engagement are summarised in Section 5.1 of the Planning Report.

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**Table 3: Community engagement communications and activities**

| Engagement Method                             | Date                      | Purpose                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Neighbouring landholder (one-on-one) meetings | August 2025 to April 2026 | Meeting with Project neighbour to introduce the Project and discuss project impacts.                                                                                                                                                         |
| Neighbouring landholder phone calls           | February to April 2026    | Phone calls to the Project neighbours to introduce the Project and offer briefings, as well as invite to the community drop-in session.                                                                                                      |
| Email campaigns                               | 2 April and 15 April 2026 | Two eDMs sent to wider community to introduce the Project and inform about the community drop-in session                                                                                                                                     |
| Social Media Post                             | April 2026                | Goorambat and District Community Group shared a Facebook update for the community drop-in session                                                                                                                                            |
| Project Website                               | April 2026 - Ongoing      | Webpage dedicated to the Project published on the ENGIE website containing key project information, as well as hosting the Project factsheet, site layout and concept imagery – <a href="http://engie.com.au/gobess">engie.com.au/gobess</a> |
| Community drop-in session 1                   | 23 April 2026             | A community drop-in session was held to introduce the Project to the wider community.                                                                                                                                                        |
| Community representatives Meeting 1           | 14 May 2026               | A meeting was held with a group of community representatives to discuss key topics that included the planning process, fire risks, noise impacts and flooding.                                                                               |
| GESF community site visit                     | 3 June 2026               | Community members visited GESF to experience the noise that is being emitted from the farm's inverters                                                                                                                                       |
| Community representatives Meeting 2           | 3 June 2026               | A second meeting was held with the community representative group to further discuss key topics that again included the planning process, location, fire risks, noise impacts and flooding.                                                  |

## 4.4 Drop-in Session Summary

On Thursday 23 April 2026, approximately 30 community members attended a drop-in session at the Goorambat Town Hall. Four ENGIE representatives were available at the session for face-to-face discussions with participants.

The material in Table 4 was provided to the community members for review during the community drop-in session. The material can also be found in the appendices.

**Table 4: Drop-in session key materials**

| Material Provided  | Description                                                                                                            |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Project fact sheet | Overview of the Project, project purpose, design and operation                                                         |
| FAQs document      | Responses to commonly asked questions about BESS technology, fire risk, noise and community benefits                   |
| Newsletter         | Project update distributed via eDM and available in hard copy at the session                                           |
| Display boards     | Project location, layout, timeline, key project information and available information from draft technical assessments |



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*Image 2: ENGIE team members at the Community drop-in session*

At the session, community members voiced concerns around a number of key topics that included:

- Fire risk and extra pressure on the local Goorambat-Stewarton CFA;
- Noise levels from the Project;
- The management of water run-off from the property and flooding risks for the Project; and
- The consideration of benefits as part of the Community Benefit Fund

### **4.5 Community Representatives Group**

Following the community drop-in session, local community members established a representative group at their own initiative to facilitate ongoing and constructive dialogue with the Project team. The Goorambat community nominated members to represent themselves, and ENGIE facilitated two meetings at the Goorambat Town Hall on 14 May 2026 and 3 June 2026, with 11 and 8 community members attending respectively.

At these meetings, ENGIE presented on key topics of community interest, including fire risk and emergency response, noise impacts, flooding and water management, and the community benefits program. Community members posed questions and raised concerns, and ENGIE provided detailed responses supported by technical assessments and specialist input. The group acts as a liaison between the Project team and the broader Goorambat community, ensuring feedback and project information is shared transparently.

The meeting on 3 June 2026 also included a site visit to the existing GESF for the representative group and wider community, providing attendees with the opportunity to observe operational conditions, including inverter noise levels, firsthand. This visit was arranged in direct response to community concerns about potential noise impacts from the Project and also included community members not part of the representative group.

A summary of community feedback received through the representative group meetings and other engagement activities, along with the Project's responses is provided in Section 4.6.

## 4.6 Community Feedback and Project Response

Table 5 summarises the feedback received from engagement with the local community, including phone calls, one-on-one meetings, the drop-in session and Community Representatives Group meetings.

**Table 5: Community feedback and project response**

| Theme     | Community Concern                                                                                                                                                        | Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fire risk | Risk of thermal runaway and toxic gas release from BESS, adequacy of emergency response given reliance on a local volunteer brigade, and potential for bushfire ignition | ENGIE acknowledges these concerns and has engaged directly with the CFA (Risk and Fire Safety Unit and local brigade) throughout the Project design phase. The Project will have an Emergency Management Plan prepared in line with CFA guidelines and refined in ongoing consultation with the CFA Risk and Fire Safety Unit and the local brigade. As the global deployment of large-scale BESS has grown, technology standards, fire testing protocols and regulatory guidance have continued to evolve, reducing the likelihood and consequence of fire events. In the unlikely event of a fire, emissions are broadly comparable to those from a plastics fire, and the Project site is approximately 1.5 km from the Goorambat township. Recommended action in case of BESS container fire is currently to let it burn and consume itself, while monitoring to ensure no propagation to adjacent containers. Modern BESS are subject to large-scale fire testing (e.g. UL9540A) to demonstrate that propagation between units is minimised under tested conditions. Following planning approval, detailed emergency management plans will be developed in ongoing consultation with the CFA for the construction and operational phases. These outcomes have been presented to the community representatives' group and will continue to be communicated as project detail is refined. |
| Noise     | Continuous operational noise from inverters and battery cooling systems, night-time disturbance, and potential impacts on livestock                                      | ENGIE acknowledges these concerns. A detailed Noise Impact Assessment has been completed demonstrating compliance with EPA Victoria noise guidelines, including assessment of cumulative impacts with the existing GESF. At the request of the community, alternative project locations were also assessed; however, these were found to be closer to neighbouring dwellings and would not comply with EPA noise requirements. In direct response to community feedback, the Project design incorporates silencer kits on inverters to reduce noise impacts on neighbours. A community site visit to the GESF was arranged on 3 June 2026 to allow residents to observe operational noise conditions firsthand. Several attendees noted at the follow-up Community Representative Group meeting that the operational noise observed at GESF was lower than they had anticipated. Further detail is provided in the Noise Impact Assessment submitted with the planning application.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Water and environment  | Increased flood risk to surrounding properties, firewater runoff contamination, and impacts on local waterways and drainage            | A Flood Impact Assessment has been completed in consultation with the GBCMA, concluding that the Project is not expected to result in a material increase in flood risk onsite or to surrounding land, including under a 1 in 100-year flood event. Additional modelling has been undertaken under a climate change scenario (SSP3 7.0) to assess potential future impacts. In response to community concerns and to meet regulatory requirements, the Project design positions all battery infrastructure above the flood level. In the event of a fire, firewater will be contained onsite and removed in line with CFA requirements for BESS facilities. These findings have been shared with the community representatives' group and further detail is provided in the Flood Impact Assessment submitted with the planning application. Recognising this is an area of concern for the community, ENGIE will continue to engage with the community on flood management through detailed design of the Project. |
| Property values        | Potential reduction in surrounding property values as a result of proximity to a BESS facility                                         | ENGIE acknowledges this concern. The available evidence on the impact of BESS facilities on surrounding property values is limited, and we recognise this is an important issue for the local community. The Project is committed to minimising visual and amenity impacts through appropriate setbacks, landscaping and design measures, as outlined in the planning application. The Community Benefit Fund is also intended to provide tangible, long-term benefits to the local community alongside the Project.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Community benefits     | How the local community and Traditional Owners will directly benefit from the Project, and transparency around benefit distribution    | A Project specific Community Benefit Fund will be established to deliver long-term benefits to the Goorambat community and YYNAC, with priorities to be shaped in consultation with the community. The Project team will continue to work closely with community to define how benefits will be appropriately implemented following the Planning Permit approval.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Trust and transparency | Desire for genuine, ongoing engagement and concerns about whether community feedback will meaningfully influence project outcomes      | ENGIE recognises these concerns and is committed to working closely with the Goorambat community to ensure that trust is built and that the Project responds to and reflects local priorities, values and concerns. We are committed to keeping the community informed, listening to feedback, and considering it as the Project design is refined, in line with the Inform, Consult and Involve levels of the IAP2 Spectrum. ENGIE will continue to engage with the local community through the planning process as the Project design is further refined.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Planning process       | Understanding of how the planning process works, how to make submissions, and timeframes for assessment and decision                   | The planning assessment process, including the role of DTP, the public notice period, and how to make submissions, was discussed with the community representatives' group and a presentation on this topic was shared with group members afterwards. ENGIE will notify the broader community via newsletter and letterbox drop when the public notice period commences, providing details on how and where to make submissions to DTP. The Project team remains available to answer questions from community members throughout the planning process and will keep the community updated as the Project progresses.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Infrastructure impacts | Impacts of construction traffic on local roads, heavy vehicle movements, road condition deterioration, and safety for local road users | ENGIE will proactively manage traffic impacts by working closely with Benalla Rural City Council and DTP to assess existing conditions before construction and agree on appropriate mitigation measures. A Traffic Impact Assessment has been provided to support the planning application which undertakes an initial assessment of traffic during construction and operations. Pending planning approval, a Traffic Management Plan will be developed to control heavy vehicle movements, minimise disruption, and ensure safety for local road users, particularly during construction when most traffic movements are expected.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

|                       |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Alternative locations | Whether the Project could be located next to the terminal station. | <p>During the feasibility stage of the Project, multiple locations were reviewed and compared against criteria including available space, flood risk, constructability, noise, fire risk and emergency accessibility, grid connection proximity, visual impact, environmental impacts, and traffic and access. The current site was selected as the location that best meets these criteria and regulatory requirements. Locating the BESS adjacent to the GETS was specifically assessed at the request of the community and presented at the 3 June 2026 Community Representatives Group meeting. This option was found to be unfeasible due to insufficient space available without removing up to 10,000 solar panels, closer proximity to dwellings to the south potentially resulting in non-compliance with EPA Victoria night-time noise requirements, limited emergency access, and increased cascading fire risk from proximity to the terminal station, overhead transmission line, and solar farm. For these reasons, the current location was confirmed as the most appropriate site.</p> |
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## 5. Future engagement

ENGIE is committed to maintaining ongoing, meaningful engagement with the community throughout all phases of the Project.

This includes continuing to provide clear, timely updates, offering accessible opportunities for feedback, and ensuring community voices are actively considered in decision-making processes, alongside continued engagement with regulatory stakeholders.

See Table 6 for the ongoing engagement the Project will undertake.

**Table 6: Upcoming project engagement**

| Activity                                | Stakeholders               | Purpose                                                              | Targeted timing                                    | Channels                          |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Traditional Owner engagement            | YYNAC                      | Continue community benefit and partnership discussions               | Ongoing                                            | In-person meetings                |
| Newsletter                              | All stakeholders           | Update on Planning Permit progress and technical assessment outcomes | Prior to public notice of the planning application | eDM, project website, hard copy   |
| Community Representatives Group meeting | Targeted community members | Update on Planning Permit progress and technical assessment outcomes | During public notice of the planning application   | In-person meeting                 |
| Community drop-in session               | Wider community            | Update on Planning Permit progress and technical assessment outcomes | During public notice of the planning application   | In-person; eDM; local advertising |
| Council briefing                        | Benalla Rural City Council | Review draft Planning Permit materials                               | During public notice of the planning application   | In-person meeting                 |
| Media release and website update        | Local and regional media   | Share outcome of Planning Permit application                         | Post Planning Permit decision (Sept 2026)          | Project website; media release    |

### 5.1 Community Benefit Fund

ENGIE will establish a Community Benefit Fund to deliver long-term, meaningful outcomes for the local community. The Fund will provide a transparent framework for investing in initiatives that align with community priorities and contribute to social, environmental and economic wellbeing.

A core principle of the Fund is co-design. ENGIE will work in partnership with the Goorambat community to collaboratively identify priorities, shape funding criteria and guide decision-making. We recognise the value of local knowledge and lived experience and want the Fund to reflect what matters most to the community.

The co-development of the Community Benefit Fund together with the local community will take place after the Planning Permit assessment period and approval.

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## 6. Conclusion

The consultation undertaken to date for the Project has provided valuable insights into community expectations, concerns and priorities. Targeted engagement for the Project commenced in August 2025, building on existing relationships with neighbouring and host landholders, while wider engagement with the community commenced in February 2026. This has raised awareness of the Project, established initial relationships with stakeholders, and created constructive opportunities for feedback.

While overall sentiment has been mixed, stakeholders have engaged in a considered and constructive manner, highlighting key topics including fire risk, emergency response capability, noise, water management, and the need for clear and equitable community benefits. A consistent theme throughout the consultation process has been the importance of transparency, trust, and ongoing dialogue, with a strong expectation that community feedback will meaningfully influence project outcomes.

ENGIE has sought to respond to community feedback through additional technical assessments, ongoing engagement with regulators and emergency services, and the incorporation of design and mitigation measures where practical. The Project team has also committed to establishing a community benefit framework that reflects local priorities and delivers tangible value to the Goorambat community.

As the Project progresses through the planning assessment phase, engagement will continue to evolve in line with stakeholder needs. Future consultation will focus on providing clear, timely information, supporting community participation in the planning process, and maintaining open, respectful communication channels.

Overall, the consultation process has laid a strong foundation for ongoing engagement and informed decision-making. ENGIE remains committed to working collaboratively with the community, stakeholders and regulators to ensure the Project is developed responsibly, transparently, and in a manner that balances local community expectations with broader energy transition objectives.

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## Appendix A: Email campaigns for the community drop-in session



### GOORAMBAT EAST BATTERY PROJECT

#### Community Information Session

The Community Information Session for the proposed Goorambat East Battery is coming up!

Drop-in to learn more about the proposed battery and have your questions answered.

**Date:** Thursday 23 April  
**Time:** 4 PM to 7 PM  
**Location:** Goorambat Hall

The session will have project team members present to answer your questions and listen to your feedback. Drop-in anytime between 4pm and 7pm to speak with them. We hope to see you there!

**Further information**

If you would like further information, please contact 1800 845 067 or email [goorambatbess.au@engie.com](mailto:goorambatbess.au@engie.com) or visit our website [engie.com.au/gobess](http://engie.com.au/gobess)



At ENGIE we recognise the value of open and transparent conversations with local community members. If you have any questions about the Goorambat East Battery Project please reach out to us.

1800 845 067 or [goorambatbess.au@engie.com](mailto:goorambatbess.au@engie.com)



#### UPDATES

##### Goorambat East Solar Farm Unveils Plans for Large-Scale Battery Storage Project

The Goorambat East Solar Farm is advancing plans for a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at the site.

The proposed system would provide up to 200 megawatts of power capacity with up to six hours of storage, enabling the facility to store surplus solar energy generated during the middle of the day and release it back into the grid during peak demand periods, typically in the mornings and evenings.

By co-locating the battery with the existing solar farm, the project will be able to make full use of its direct connection to the Victorian electricity grid, improving reliability and supporting the state's transition to cleaner energy.

The project is currently in its early development phase, with technical assessments underway. ENGIE expects to submit a planning application to the Department of Transport and Planning later during this year.

If approved, construction of the Goorambat BESS is scheduled to begin in the second half of 2027.



#### MEET WITH US!

We know you may have questions regarding the battery, so come and meet with us:

**Thursday 23 April, 4pm to 7pm**  
at the Goorambat Town Hall.

NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2026 3

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Appendix B: The Project Factsheet



## GOORAMBAT EAST BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (GOBESS)

COMMUNITY FACT SHEET

The Goorambat East Battery Energy Storage System (GoBESS) is a proposal for a utility-scale battery located alongside the existing Goorambat East Solar Farm (GESF). The site is approximately 12 km north of Benalla and just south of the Goorambat township in Victoria, on the land of the Yorta Yorta people.

By co-locating with the solar farm, GoBESS can use existing infrastructure, site access and grid connection points, helping to minimise new disturbance. The project is proposed to deliver up to 200 MW and provide up to six hours of energy storage.

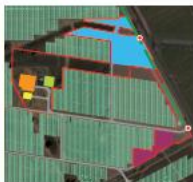
ENGIE is preparing a planning permit application for GoBESS through the Victorian Government's Development Facilitation Program (DFP), with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) as the Responsible Authority. Once lodged, the application will be publicly advertised and DTP will assess the application and supporting technical reports before making a decision. During this period, the community can provide feedback directly to DTP.

### KEY PROJECT FACTS

- What:** A utility scale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) proposed alongside the existing Goorambat East Solar Farm.
- Where:** Approximately 12 km north of Benalla and just south of Goorambat township, on the land of the Yorta Yorta people.
- Proposed capacity:** Up to 200 MW.
- Storage duration:** Up to 6 hours (up to ~1200 MWh).
- Why here:** Co-locating with the solar farm helps reduce new disturbance by using existing infrastructure, site access and grid connection points.
- Project status:** Technical assessments are being prepared to support a Planning Permit Application, which will be reviewed by the Victorian Government's Department of Transport and Planning (DTP).
- Project footprint:** Approximately 24 ha.
- Indicative equipment numbers:** Approximately ~250 battery containers and ~60 inverters.



SITE LAYOUT



- LEGEND:
- PROJECT AREA
  - BATTERY FOOTPRINT
  - CONSTRUCTION COMPOUNDS
  - TRANSFORMER STATION
  - ON-GRID VOLTAGE
  - SUBSTATION
  - SEPARATION / VENTILATION AREA
  - ON-SITE PARKING
  - ACCESS POINTS

## GOORAMBAT EAST BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (GOBESS)



### TIMELINE

| 2025       | 2026                            | 2027                               | 2028                    | 2029                   | 2030      |
|------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| TECHNOLOGY | ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES COMMENCED | EVALUATION OF PLANNING APPLICATION | DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION | CONSTRUCTION COMMENCED | OPERATION |

### COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Our commitment to benefit sharing is to create meaningful, long term value for the communities we work with. We prioritise opportunities that support local economic participation, build skills and capability, and deliver social and environmental benefits that continue beyond our project's lifecycle.

During the development, construction and operational phases of the Project, we will work collaboratively with Traditional Owners, neighbours, communities and stakeholders, to ensure that the transition to cleaner energy brings shared prosperity, transparency, and genuine partnership.

We will work closely with community to see that we meet their needs. This may include community grants/sponsorships, local supplier opportunities, and partnerships shaped directly by community feedback.

### CONTACT US / HAVE YOUR SAY

We welcome your questions and feedback – at this drop in session, or any time afterwards.

How your feedback will be used  
Community feedback helps inform the project design, assessments and our approach to managing impacts and sharing benefits.

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## Appendix C: BESS Frequently Asked Questions



### What is a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)?

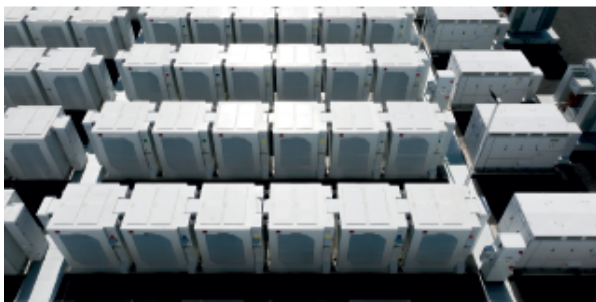
A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is a technology that uses a group of batteries to help stabilise electricity grids and store energy for when it is needed.

As defined by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), "batteries are an energy storage technology that uses chemicals to absorb and release energy on demand" (ARENA, 2022).

#### WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF A BESS?

As Australia continues its transition to renewable energy, there will be an increasing supply of solar and wind-generated power. Thanks to utility-scale BESS, electricity grids can store renewable energy during periods of excess supply for periods when there is a shortage of renewable energy, for example periods with heavy cloud limiting solar energy production or low wind.

The BESS will discharge energy during periods in which energy demand is higher than the renewable energy supply at that moment, supplying renewable energy instead of having to rely on fossil fuel power plants. In this way, more renewable energy can be integrated into the electricity system without jeopardising the delicate balance between electricity supply and demand.



#### DESIGN AND APPROVALS

##### How are battery sites selected?

Locations for BESS sites are strategically selected based on multiple factors, including proximity to power networks and connection points, environmental and cultural heritage considerations, land availability, and regulatory compliance.

##### What is involved in designing a BESS?

Developing and constructing a BESS is a complex process involving several key stages. Once a site is selected, independent technical experts assess the location for any environmental and social impacts, while the developer obtains the necessary approvals from state, local, and federal authorities.

Based on ENGIE's global experience in BESS, a comprehensive set of requirements has been created that has to be met in addition to all applicable laws and regulations. Examples of these requirements are:

- 01** ENGIE performs due diligence on the BESS technology used, verifying it meets the best available safety requirements, above and beyond regulations. A technical qualification process is in place, supported by our global BESS experts, which informs us which BESS products are acceptable for ENGIE to use. Conversely, BESS products that do NOT meet our requirements, are not considered and thus will not be used.
  - 02** The proposed BESS layout is thoroughly reviewed to ensure we can construct and operate it in the safest way possible. This is about providing adequate space and clearances to facilitate construction, maintenance, repairs, etc. Local experts are consulted to ensure all relevant local requirements are met, and their feedback is incorporated into the design process.
  - 03** A particular effort is also put into the selection of the contractors who will build the BESS to ensure that suppliers are meeting ENGIE's stringent requirements in terms of health and safety, experience with BESS, experience within the locality, respecting ENGIE's specifications, etc.
- Once approvals and planning requirements are completed, the construction phase can commence. Construction includes building access roads, preparing the site through groundworks, installing the foundations, installing the BESS equipment, wiring up all the equipment, and finally connecting to the grid.
- Once grid connected, the BESS will undergo a wide set of commissioning tests to ensure it operates as expected prior to obtaining approval to commercially operate the BESS.



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## AGRICULTURAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND HEALTH IMPACTS

### What is the environmental impact of BESS?

BESS can be considered environmentally friendly, due to their contribution to reduced emissions by allowing for more renewable energy to be integrated in the electricity grid. However, construction and operation can impact local ecosystems and wildlife, if not managed carefully. ENGIE is committed to carefully planning for any impacts, and we engage with industry experts to help minimise or mitigate any impacts as much as possible.

At the end of its operational life, the BESS will be decommissioned and dismantled. As there are a lot of valuable materials in a BESS, they will be separated and recycled as much as possible. Recycling is addressed from the earliest phases of the BESS development, when selecting the BESS technology and suppliers to assess the level of recyclability of their products.

**Does a BESS pose a threat during extreme weather events?**  
Across ENGIE's projects, industry professionals are engaged to undertake a series of specialist assessments and inform our mitigation measures with regard to potential hazards and risks, including fire, flooding, storms and extreme winds.

The results of this project-specific assessment are then included in the design requirements for the BESS, making sure it is resilient for the identified hazards and risks. This is complemented with Emergency Management Plans developed and tailored for each project which are made publicly available.

### How do BESS impact wildlife?

Protection of biodiversity and native flora and fauna will be managed by Environmental Management Plans that must be prepared and implemented by specialists and approved prior to construction commencing. Depending on the local context, protection measures can include:

- Mapping and understanding of native flora and fauna.
- Pre-clearing protocols including inspections, exclusion zones and ongoing monitoring.
- Spotting and handling program to ensure safe relocation of any animals found during construction.
- Rehabilitation of all temporarily disturbed areas etc.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**How will you consult the community?**  
ENGIE is committed to open and transparent engagement with stakeholders and welcomes the opportunity to work with local residents and community members.

Stakeholder and community consultation will occur across all stages of development. ENGIE will actively engage with landholders and communities throughout the scoping phase to identify local considerations that will assist in developing a design for new BESS.

**How can the community get involved or benefit from the BESS project?**  
ENGIE acknowledges that our renewable energy projects can change the local landscape and communities, and this is why we are dedicated to sharing the benefits of our projects and creating positive social and economic outcomes for local communities.

Where possible, ENGIE will try to create jobs for local people and will also engage with First Nation groups and local suppliers. Whether it's earthworks, infrastructure, building contractors, machinery operators, engineering, accommodation, administration, catering, freight and cleaners - several skills and suppliers are required, especially during a project's construction phase.

In addition to employment opportunities, ENGIE considers a range of benefit sharing initiatives that are specifically designed to meet the needs of local residents, First Nation groups, business owners and community groups. The benefits are aimed at supporting the whole community, whether it be through local procurement, suppliers and other businesses, opportunities for employment and development of skilled workers, funding for clubs and community groups, increased visitation and opportunities for tourism, or support for local activities and events.

## FIRE RISKS

### Are there fire risks to BESS?

ENGIE is committed to adequately maintaining sites and implementing Fire Management Plans to prevent fires.

As part of the technology qualification procedure, an in-depth fire safety assessment is conducted, which provides the necessary information to create a comprehensive Fire Management Plan, which includes among others:

- Fire detectors are installed on-site, and staff will assess the situation and escalate to emergency services if necessary.
- Fire Breaks are developed across the site and vegetation is maintained to reduce the overall potential fire fuel load.

- Any external fires are consistently monitored on-site to ensure preparedness in the event of any external fire risk.
- Regular interactions with the local fire authorities which include holding a kick off meeting with local fire authorities and several site visits by local fire personnel.
- All approved site vehicles carry 9 litre water fire extinguishers, in addition to normal vehicle requirements.
- During high-risk fire periods all hot works will only be completed under specific permits to work.
- On total fire ban days, no hot works will be conducted on-site.

**Is the fire risk on all ENGIE assets or project sites managed in the same way? Are they all covered by the same plans and are the same actions taken?**  
Some of the operational sites have requirements split into three documents:

- an overarching Emergency Management Plan,
- a Fire Management Plan, and
- a Risk Management Plan.

While some cover the same fundamentals in a single document, as each state has varied legislative requirements.

## NOISE & TRAFFIC IMPACTS

### Will I hear the BESS?

Yes, BESS do create noise, primarily from the cooling systems, inverters and transformers in the units. However, the impact on the community depends on the distance from the BESS and the implementation of noise control measures. ENGIE will comply with any regulations regarding noise management.

### How will traffic be managed during the construction phase?

A BESS will require a variety of materials and equipment to be delivered to the site. ENGIE will prepare a Traffic Management Plan in consultation with the relevant road authorities to ensure that any impacts to local traffic are minimised.

## END OF LIFE/ DECOMMISSIONING

### What is the typical lifespan of a BESS?

Depending on the type of battery used and how well it is maintained, a BESS is estimated to have a lifespan of up to 20 years.

### What will happen to the BESS and other infrastructure at the end of the project?

Decommissioning is always the responsibility of the BESS owner. ENGIE will be required to remove all batteries and other materials as part of the Government's approval conditions and landowner agreements. As part of standard approval conditions, a decommissioning plan will be required to be submitted to the relevant State Department for approval before construction of the BESS can commence.

Due to safety risks like fires or chemical leaks, end-of-life batteries require specialised handling, transportation, and disposal through approved operators as industrial-scale batteries must be processed at facilities equipped to neutralise hazardous components.

If a business case arises near the end of life to 'repower' and extend the operating life of the BESS, a new approval process would be initiated. Nearer to the end of project life, the community will be consulted about the process of decommissioning, its steps and potential impacts.





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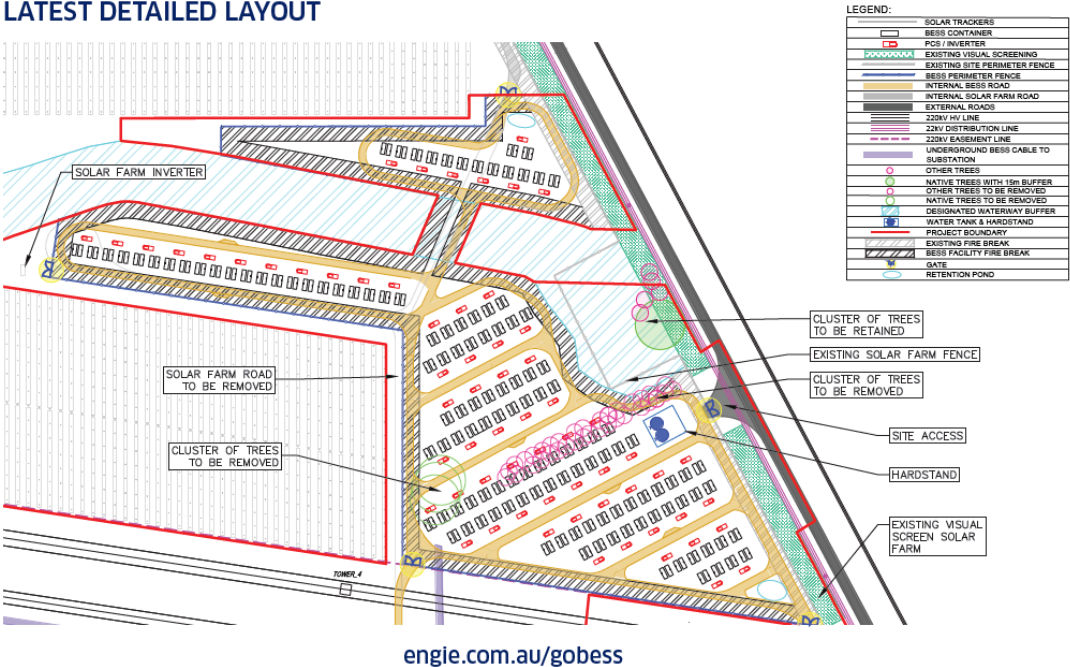
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## Appendix F: Layout of the BESS



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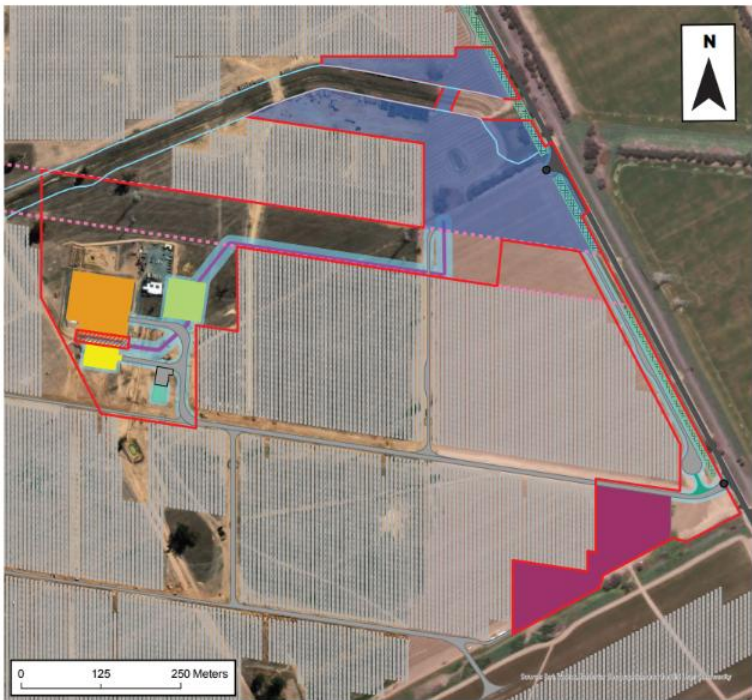
## LATEST DETAILED LAYOUT



# GOORAMBAT EAST BATTERY PROJECT

## LATEST CONCEPT LAYOUT

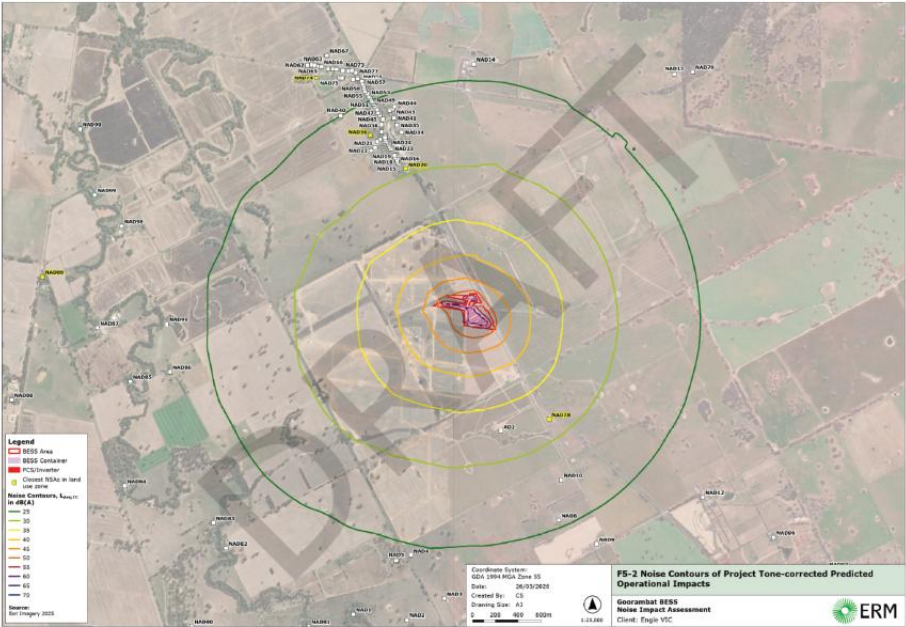
- LEGEND**
- Project Area
  - BESS Disturbance footprint
  - Footprint buffers combined
  - Visual Screening
  - Underground BESS cable to substation
  - Asset Connection
  - Area for temporary laydown & construction compounds
  - Area for Substation
  - Area for Switchyard
  - Area for O&M facility
  - SF O&M facility
  - Indicative Road Extension
  - Internal SF Roads
  - External Roads
  - Site Access
  - 220KV Easement line
  - Solar Trackers
  - Waterway Easement





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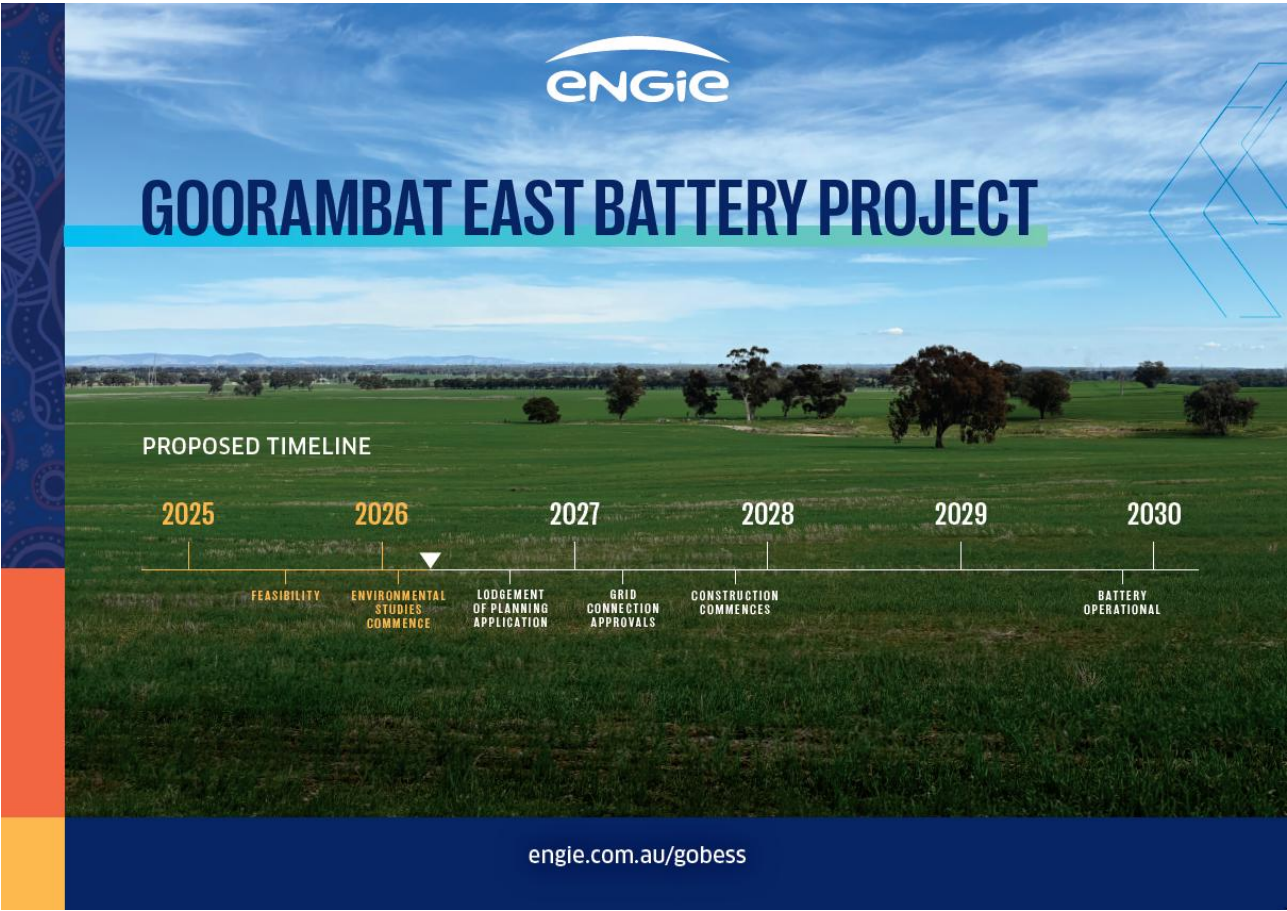
## NOISE CONTOUR MAP



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