



Proposed Apsley Battery Energy Storage System

State Significant Development Application

Community Information Session

Tuesday 12 April

12:30pm-1:30pm

Apsley Battery Energy Storage System

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that today we meet on Aboriginal lands.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands, and we show our respect for elders past, present and emerging.



Apsley Battery Energy Storage System

1. Introductions and welcome
2. The project
3. Timing, approvals and technical studies
4. Community benefits
5. Consultation information and next steps

Agenda

- The purpose of today is to provide you with more information about the proposal, hear your feedback and answer any questions you might have.*
- Feel free to drop any questions into the chat function as we go through each section. We will pause for discussion at the end of each presentation topic.*
- Participants can use the 'raise hand' function to signal they would like to ask a question*



The project

Danny Wilkinson

Project Development Manager

About ACENERGY

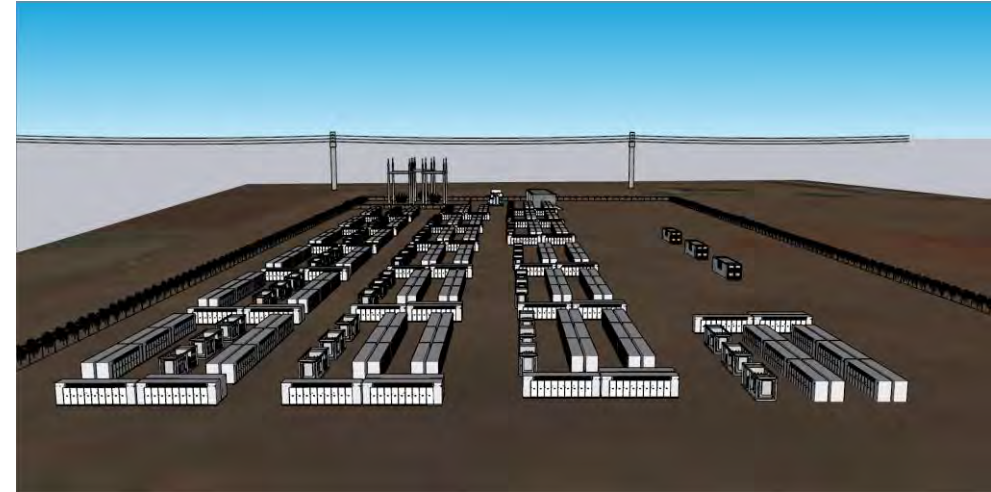
ACENERGY are an Australian owned and operated company. We have successfully delivered projects across regional Australia and are committed to working with the community as we plan, build and deliver our solar and battery projects.

Our renewable projects are located in regional locations across NSW and Victoria, with the early ones in Stanhope, Girgarre, and Numurkah, etc. and the latest ones in Dubbo, Gillenbah, and Coleambally, etc.



What is proposed?

- ❖ Located at 9010 Mitchell Highway, Apsley
- ❖ Around 6 hectares of land developed by the project
- ❖ Submit an Environmental Impact Statement in May 2022
- ❖ Intention to commence construction in Quarter 1 2024, and complete in Quarter 2 2024
- ❖ Access via Mitchell Highway. A new access would be built
- ❖ Overhead transmission line connection to Transgrid 132kV powerlines to the east of the project
- ❖ The battery will assist with grid stability by enabling power to be stored in off peak times and reintroduced to the grid at peak times.



Concept view of proposed battery and substation

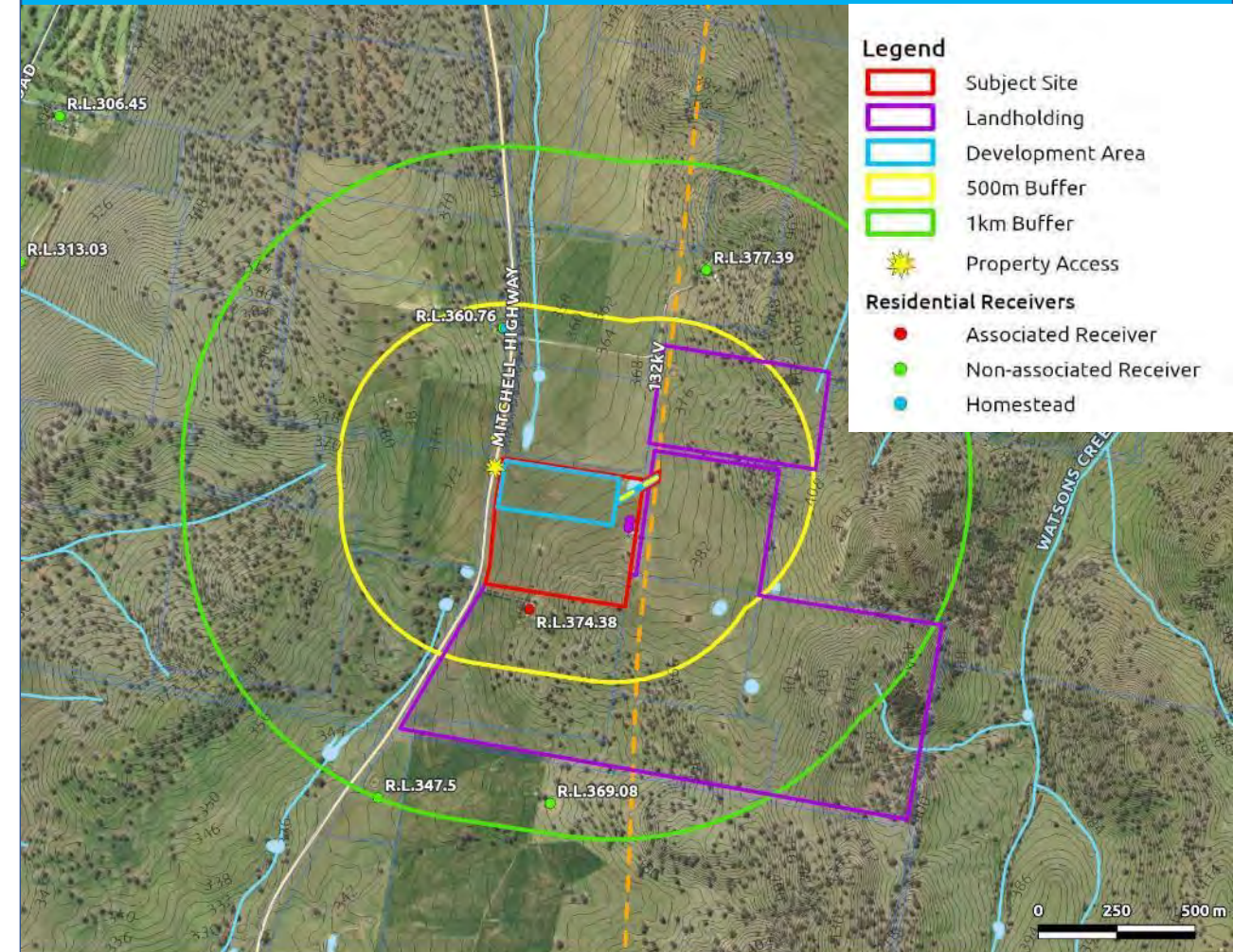
Example: batteries look much like traditional containers



The site

The site is small in scale (approximately 6 hectares), and the battery and substation locations are well set back from the highway to limit visual impacts. The landowner lives on the property, approximately 300 metres to the south of the project footprint. The next nearest receiver is approximately 400 metres to the north.

Detailed visual and social impact assessments are being completed to inform the EIS.



EIS project timeline

Late
2021



- Land secured <date>

Dec 2021-
March 2022



- Scoping report lodged (January 2022)
- SEARs issued (March 2022)
- Technical studies commenced
- ACHA consultation

WE ARE
HERE

April 2022



- Environmental studies continue
- Engagement underway

April-May
2022



- Environmental studies complete
- Targeted consultation
- EIS lodgement (May 2022)





EIS

Technical Studies

David Walker

Town Planner

Danny Wilkinson

Project Development Manager

Context

Delivery of the EIS involves a range of assessments:

- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment
- Traffic Impact Assessment
- Biodiversity Assessment
- Soil Assessment
- Noise Impact Assessment

Important contributions from community engagement includes:

- Social Impact Assessment
- Visual Impact Assessment

Your feedback will help inform these assessments.

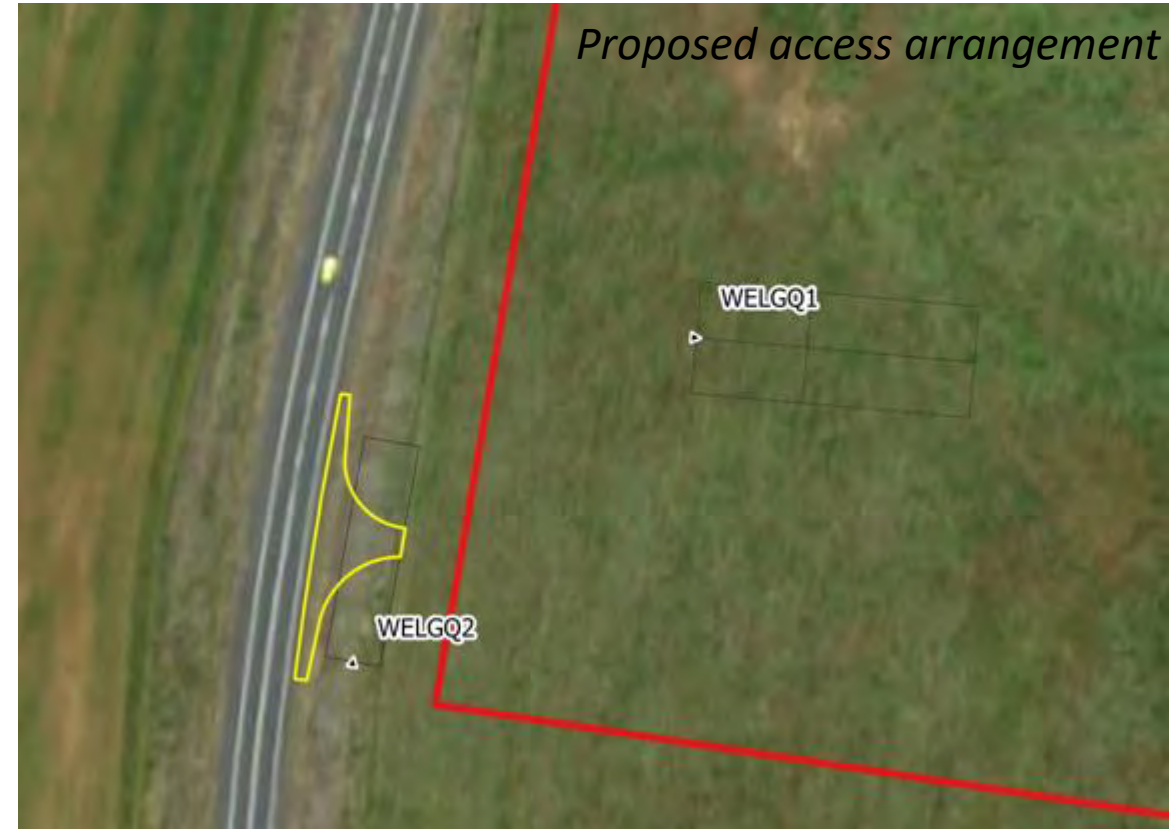
Traffic

A draft traffic impact assessment has been prepared, including gathering key project data.

Project impacts are largely limited to the construction phase. Once operational, the BESS will generate very low levels of light vehicle movements.



Access location



Proposed access arrangement

Noise and vibration

- A draft noise and vibration impact assessment has been prepared, including modelling of predicted operational impacts.
- Mitigation measures are being considered to ensure impacts to nearby houses, and the surrounding environment, is minimised.
- Operational impacts will include day to day operations of the batteries, and minor maintenance works as needed.

Visual impacts

We understand that the potential for visual impacts is a key area of concern for neighbours and local landowners.

Visual impacts will be minimised through landscaping along sensitive edges. It will also be painted in muted colours to blend in with the surroundings.

Opportunities to set the batteries back from the highway are also being investigated.



ACEnergy's Girgarre Solar Farm



Discussion

Biodiversity

The land identified for the battery is currently farming land used for cropping. As such, clearing of native vegetation is not required for the battery installation.

Some minor impacts are likely in the road reserve due to the installation of the new property access.

A construction environmental management plan will contain measures to protect residual vegetation and groundcover.



Agricultural Land Impacts

The land identified for the battery has an area of up to 6 hectares and is currently farming land used for cropping.

The remainder of the land holding (approximately 130 hectares) will continue to be used for grazing and cropping purposes.

Soil, erosion and rehabilitation

Potential impacts to soils and surface water may occur during construction, such as erosion and sedimentation. Impacts are expected to be minimal and manageable.

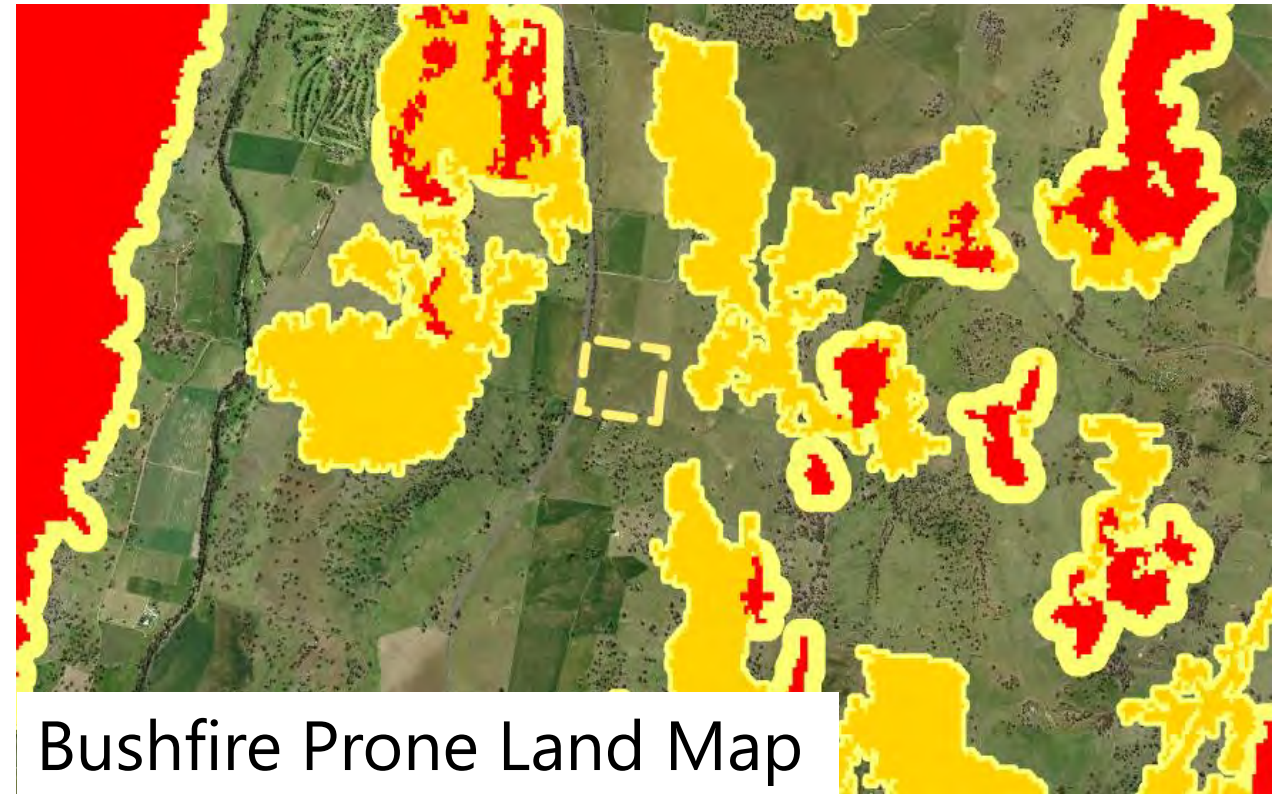
These impacts will be identified and assessed as part of the EIS.

Management of soil and water impacts would be addressed in a CEMP.

Bushfire assessment

The site is not mapped as bushfire prone. Nevertheless, the potential for impacts in relation to bushfire will be assessed in the EIS and mitigation measures included.

We will also discuss the project with NSW Rural Fire Service and Fire & Rescue NSW.



Aboriginal heritage

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) is also being prepared in coordination with local Aboriginal groups. This has included field survey to date. Initial analysis suggests that the landscape features minimal likelihood of significant heritage values. The conclusions of the ACHA will be

discussed with local Aboriginal groups prior to being finalised.





Investment and future employment

Danny Wilkinson

Project Development Manager

Social Impact and Engagement

Following these Online Information Sessions, we will compile feedback received to consider.

We encourage community members to fill out the online survey, to help inform any potential social impacts that need to be considered.

Contact the team

1800 577 442

info@apsleybess.com.au

Investment in the community

- ❖ Our goal is to have a workforce that resides in the local communities.
- ❖ The project will need the right people with the right skills to safely deliver the battery project.
- ❖ It will be necessary during the construction stage to bring workers with the required skills and experience to the region, if we cannot find these locally.
- ❖ Travel would predominantly be by road transport and measures would be put in place as per the CEMP to consider all issues.

Future employment

- ❖ At the peak of construction, the project will provide employment and specialist training for up to 50 jobs, with opportunities for local contractors and subcontractors.
- ❖ Construction for a project of this size is anticipated to take up to 5-6 months.
- ❖ Professional positions would include labourers, civil works, traffic management officers, and skilled technicians and engineers.
- ❖ Ongoing maintenance and repair work would also be available for the life of the project. Skilled Plant Workers would continue to visit and help operate the BESS project as needed.

We will continue to engage with the community about these opportunities as plans commence. Recruitment would be through formal contractual arrangements, details will be available publicly.



Discussion



Next steps

<https://apsleybess.online/>
info@apsleybess.com.au
1800 577 442

It is anticipated that the EIS will be lodged with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment in early 2022. Over the next month, before we lodge the EIS, we will be engaging with the local community to provide you with more information, answer any questions you may have and listen to your feedback.

There will be a formal exhibition process for a minimum of 28 days.
During this time the community will have an opportunity to write formal submissions to the Department of Planning and Environment and provide further feedback.