



Fact sheet

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Managing Health and Safety FAQ

Will the BESS have any health impacts?

A BESS uses proven and safe technology to provide reliable, clean, affordable electricity. To date, independent technical experts have not identified any known direct health impacts associated with BESS facilities.

Our BESS must meet stringent Health, Safety and Environmental (HSE) standards set out by the Australian Government and Environment Protection Authorities, to ensure they are safe and reliable. Like a regular battery used to power electronic devices, our BESS will work in a similar way, but on a much larger scale, using extra components to make them safe and prevent faults.

Are there electromagnetic radiation risks?

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

We will use lithium iron phosphate or sodium-ion batteries for our BESS. Engineers have independently assessed and certified that the chemical process in these batteries do not produce electromagnetic radiation during operation.

Other components associated with energy generation (such as transmission lines) emit EMF at safe levels. We select project sites for our BESS that are near substations and close to transmission lines to maximise the use of existing infrastructure and avoid building additional infrastructure.


How will emergencies be managed?

We will adhere to prescribed processes, standards, and guidelines to deal with an emergency by adopting a comprehensive Emergency Response Management Plan (EMP). The plan will address emergencies in the area while setting out the management of all construction requirements, including safety, security, working hours, water, noise, dust and traffic management.

How will a fire hazard be managed?

Ensuring our BESS operates safely and can quickly shut down to mitigate fire hazards it will have a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and a Battery Management System (BMS). Together, these will monitor for faults in real-time, including smoke and system temperatures. Other measures we will take to mitigate fire hazards, include:

- Complying with guidelines, standards, and conditions to operate in accordance with the applicable legislations as set out by Government and regulating bodies.
- Adhering to stringent fire safety measures set out in an Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety Regulation 2021).
- Adopting an Emergency Response Management Plan to outline the protocols and requirements for fires and other risks.
- Activating a Risk Management Plan (developed with relevant fire authorities) to identify, assess, and outline controls to manage on-site and off-site risks at our BESS facility.

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The information contained in this document is accurate as of July 2023.



How will a bushfire hazard be managed?

We consider a range of protection measures during the planning and design process to ensure our BESS meets fire safety requirements.

We will manage a bushfire hazard by:

- Having a Bushfire Risk Assessment conducted to assess if the site is located within the Bushfire Prone Area and affected by the Bushfire Management Overlay.
- Building our BESS for Australian local conditions using materials that are resilient to heat, wind and bush fire impacts on generation and transmission.
- Implementing an Environmental Management Plan to provide a framework to manage and address environmental issues and respond to bush fire management measures.
- Activating a local Emergency Response Management Plan (ERMP), when dealing with emergencies such as a fire in the area.

How will a chemical hazard be managed?

We will mitigate chemical hazards which may arise from acid or corrosive components leaking from our BESS by installing containment measures (as identified by the Environmental Protection Authority and planning authorities).

Our Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and Battery Management System (BMS) will also help to identify, address, and manage dangerous goods and chemical hazards.

How can I provide feedback or raise a concern about your project?

You can email us at AUProjects@equis.com or phone (+61) 3 7020 3323 or 1800 161 249 to provide feedback or raise a concern about our project in your area so that we can understand and try to address your concern.

How can I learn more about your project?

You can learn more about our projects by:

- Visiting our [website](#)
- Registering on our [engagement hub](#)
- Attending a project information session.

We will publish project information and updates in our newsletters, emails, and fact sheets which will be available from our website and engagement hub.