Calala Battery Energy Storge System (BESS)
FAQ update

Impact assessments that identify potential impacts have been completed by technical experts. Landholder and stakeholder feedback and the completed impact assessments have informed the development of the proposed Calala BESS. We have used local feedback and technical investigations to develop the best solutions for our proposed project and the local area. This FAQ addresses feedback raised during our community consultations, impacts identified in the technical assessments and provides a status update on the lodgement of our Environmental Impact Statement.

Why are BESS needed?

Battery storage energy systems are needed to facilitate the transition to renewable energy generation by allowing electricity to be dispatched to the grid as needed.

Batteries have a fast response time and can offer greater flexibility than any other power sources. They can supply continuous power to critical loads during power outages. BESS respond to peak demand, build grid resilience, and provide backup power when you need it. They provide a solution for intermittency and deliver greater stability and security across the grid.

The Calala BESS can store up to 300MW of energy and provide about 4 hours of electricity a day to power up to 80,000 New South Wales homes.

Can energy consumers benefit from BESS?

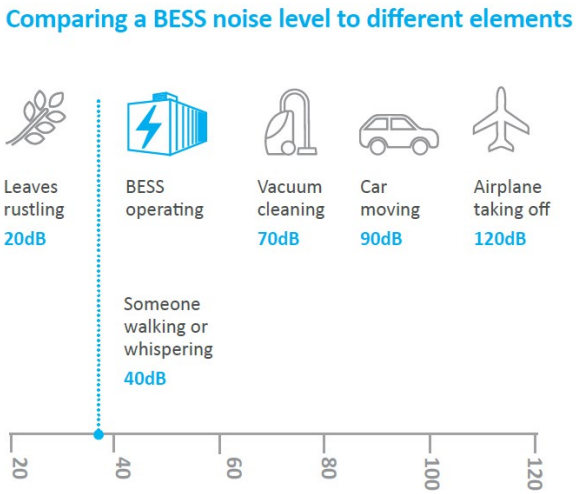
Energy consumers will benefit from BESS technology with consistency of energy supply during periods of peak demand. A BESS collects energy from the grid when there is an oversupply, stores it and discharges that energy to provide electricity when needed.

The Calala BESS can store energy generated by traditional and renewable sources and release it into the grid if there is an interruption in energy supply. BESS store low-cost power for use during times when generation costs are higher. Utilising this excess energy capacity can put downward pressure on the cost of electricity and lead to lower prices as well as support more affordable energy sources.

Noise

Our Calala BESS will make some noise when charging and discharging. This noise sounds like an air conditioning unit and comes from the battery's cooling fans which regulate its temperature.

The actual noise level experienced will be different depending on where the person is located, due to factors such as distance, land topography and other physical barriers.



Noise assessments

As we propose to operate the project over a 24-hr period, the predicted noise levels have been assessed against the more stringent evening and night period project noise trigger levels.

The operational noise level assessments conducted have found the proposed BESS to be compliant with the NSW Environmental Protection Authority's Noise Policy for Industry Assessment (NPfI). Predictions at each receiver is below the recommended amenity noise level required to protect the community.

How will noise be managed?

We will enforce the Site Noise Management Plan and ensure working hours, except where for practical reasons the construction activity is unavoidable (and thus communicated and approved by Council), are between:
7am to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday, and 8am to 1pm, Saturday. We will seek an out-of-hours works permit as required when we work outside of these times.

We will erect perimeter noise barriers (in the form of a noise wall directly adjoining the BESS) along the north and west sides of the BESS and around the HV transformers.

With the inclusion of suitable noise control measures, the NVIA concludes that the project achieves compliance with the evening and night project noise trigger level.

Landscape Character and Visual Amenity

An assessment of landscape character and visual impacts has concluded the following:

Viewpoint	Assessed visual impact
Private residence (Calala Lane)	Moderate-low
Private residence (Burgess Lane eastern side)	Moderate-low
Private residence (Burgmanns Lane northern side)	Moderate
Private residence (Burgmanns Lane southern side)	Moderate-low
General Residential Zone	Low
Large Lot Residential Zone	Low
Nemingha / East Tamworth	Low
Calala Lane	Low
Burgess Lane	Low
Burgmanns Lane	Low
Institutional Facilities	Low
Flagstaff Mountain Lookout	Low

How will visual impacts be managed?

To reduce the visual impact of the project we have adopted the mitigation measures recommended in the Landscape Character and Visual Impact Assessment (LCVIA) as follows:

- The establishment of perimeter landscaping buffers (along the northern and western boundaries) comprised of native plants to help the facility integrate with its surroundings and minimise any visual impact to the nearest dwellings.
- Colour, tone and texture recommendations; and
- The implementation of lighting design principles.

In accordance with these measures, the LCVIA predicts that the project can avoid night sky impact, reduce the visibility and contrast of the project in the landscape, minimise the impact to the existing landscape character, retain the existing screening vegetation, and enhance the screening of the project.

Will there be traffic impacts?

The Traffic Impact Assessment Report confirms that the additional traffic generated during the construction period will be minor compared to the existing daily traffic volumes. The assessment does not anticipate that the construction traffic volumes will result in significant adverse impact on the safety or function of the road network.

To manage any traffic impacts we will:

- Enforce the Traffic Management Plan.
- Provide advance notice of any planned construction works.
- Consult with the Government transport agencies and Councils.
- Maintain working hours between 7am to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday, and 8am to 1pm, Saturday, and no work on Sunday or public holiday and secure work permits for any work required outside of these times.
- Display road signage and reduced speed limits IF required.

How will environmental, and health and safety impacts be managed?

Our project site must meet stringent Australian Government standards and frameworks.

We will mitigate fire, pollution, explosion, and other hazards by:

- Adopting the recommendations for managing bushfire risk within the Bushfire Risk Assessment's (BRA) recommendations.
- Establishing an asset protection zone and maintaining an Inner Protection Area as detailed in the NSW Rural Fire Service's document 'Standards for Asset Protection Zones' and Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019.
- Implementing our Risk, Emergency, Fire and Environment Management Plans.
- Inducting and training all first responders to abide by and deliver our hazard and safety plans.
- Using safe and proven technologies that allow our BESS to operate safely and quickly shut down to mitigate fire hazards, such as 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.
- Providing two 100,000 litre concrete or steel fire water tanks in accordance with the guidelines.
- Partnering with the NSW Rural Fire Service (as per our community enhancement fund) to train landholders as fire responders and provide them with necessary resources. This could provide landholders with agency should an emergency occur.

Furthermore, we will maintain consistent communication with nearby landholders to provide them with relevant technical information about the risk of hazards, or let them know when that information may be available if it is not at the time they seek it.

If it floods can emergencies be managed?

Locals raised concerns that should hazards and flooding happen at the same time it may impact access to emergency services to respond to the hazard. In particular, residents raised specific concerns about Burgmann's Lane which is prone to flooding.

A completed traffic impact assessment confirms emergency access to the BESS does not rely on Burgmann's Lane.

The Water Management Report (WMR) notes that the Peel River floodplain, the major determinant of flooding around Tamworth, lies north of the site. The site sits outside of this floodplain, however the property that will house the Calala BESS site does overlap with the Calala Creek floodplain.

According to the WMR, the Calala Creek flood extents for the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability and Probable Maximum Flood indicate that the project site will be unaffected by flooding.

Further, the site will be raised by an earthworks pad, and hence is unlikely to be impacted by flooding, nor will this earthworks pad contribute to flood impact.

Emergency services are trained to access emergencies in challenging environments, acessing them by air, road or water.

What potential hazards have been assessed?

A hazard analysis has been completed by Sherpa Consulting in accordance with State Environmental Planning Policy.

Their assessment assessed the potential of hazards and risks including but not limited to:

- Human health
- Life
- Property
- Bushfires
- Land contamination
- Spontaneous ignition
- Hazardous materials and processes
- Electromagnetic fields, and
- Any other significant risks in relation to the locality or the biophysical environment.

The following factors were considered to identify the hazards:

- BESS component and type of equipment.
- Hazardous substances / dangerous goods present.
- Proposed operation and maintenance activities.
- BESS incident history.
- External factors (e.g. unauthorised personal access, lightning storm).

The preliminary risk screening found that the project is not considered as 'potentially hazardous' and concluded that:

- The storage and transport of hazardous materials for the project will not exceed the relevant risk screening threshold.
- There are no other risk factors identified that could result in significant off-site impacts.
- The project is not considered as 'potentially hazardous' with respect to Dangerous Goods storage and transportation and does not require a Preliminary Hazard Analysis.

Will the BESS impact my property value?

To date there is no direct evidence linking the presence of a BESS with devalued properties.

An independent Social Impact Assessment (SIA) has assessed this concern and found the likehood of this impact as low.

We heard how locals value the rural aspect of their homes and have a strong sense of respect for country.

Will the project impact the agricultural use of the land?

The residential use of rural land is called rural residential development; that is, people live on rural lots, but use the land primarily for residential rather than agricultural purposes. Although some engage in 'hobby farming', most derive the principal source of their income from pursuits not carried out on the land.

The Agricultural Land Capability Study by Edge Land Planning stated that the site is insufficient for cattle grazing and constrained for cropping.

The current owner uses the site for keeping of horses. The footprint of the proposed facility will only cover a total area of 8.9 hectares, of the 36, being only 24% of the land area.

A Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment in accordance with the Department of Industry's Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment Guide, has concluded that there is no land use conflict and that the site is considered suitable for the proposed BESS.

We are keen to contribute to the agricultural community.

We are exploring how the balance of the land can be maximsed for agricultural use through a potential partnership with Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School to enhance the school's agricultural program.

Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School could farm the agricultural lands that surround the Calala BESS (circa 29 acres), where the students can run sheep and other livestock.

"If selected, the school would be excited to utilise the land where the proposed battery storage would be situated. It is adjacent to the school farm and would make an ideal location to expand and enhance our agricultural programs" Clint Gallagher, Principal.

Will the rural aspect of the area be maintained?

To help the facility integrate with its surroundings and minimise any visual impact to the nearest dwellings, we will:

- Establish landscaping buffers comprised of native plants.
- Adopt the colour, tone and texture reccomendations from the visual impact assessment.
- Encourage agricultural educational programs and livestock grazing on the balance of the land being 76% of the total land parcel.

Will the Calala BESS contribute to social benefits?

To the extent possible, we aim to employ local people and use local businesses in the construction supply chain.

Jobs

We are committed to adopting a procurement process that includes a Local Jobs First Program, Social Procurement Framework and Social Impact Guidelines. Our project will create up to 170 jobs through construction and 7 during operation.

Create up to **177 JOBS**

Services

The workforce visiting the area during the construction phase will generate a positive economic benefit for the local service sectors.

Training

We will work with local education and training providers to deliver enhanced learning pathways. In collaboration with local training providers and local suppliers, the Calala BESS could offer a training platform to skill workers required for the transition to renewables. This will help upskill local workers to transition into renewable energy industries.

When will the EIS and development application be lodged?

We are in process of lodging the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS includes a suite of technical assessments (visual, hazards, noise, traffic, biodiverslity, cultural heritage and agricultral) that are required by the NSW State Government Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) to assess the project. Once the EIS is lodged and accepted by DPE, it will be placed on public exhibition via the DPE's Major Projects website at https://pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/calala-battery-energy-storage-system The public exhibition period is a statutory 28-day period during which the public can view all the documents and provide their feedback on the project.

We will publish a copy of our EIS on our Engagement Ehub, on our website and notify all nearby landholders. We will also email the information to all users who have registered to receive project updates on the Calala BESS.

Estimated project timeline

- ✓ **Select site and assess project feasibility**
  Determine site feasibility.
- ✓ **Assessments, Consultation & Design**
  Q2 2022 - Q1 2023
- ✓ **Request SEARS**
  Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEAR)
- ✓ **SEARS Issued**
  SEARS issued January 2023
- ✓ **Environmental Impact Statement**
- 📍 **Lodgement to NSW Department of Planning & Environment**
- — **Public Exhibition**
  Subject to NSW Government
- — **Planning Determination**
  Subject to NSW Government
- — **Pre - Construction**
  Subject to planning approvals.
- — **Construction**
  Estimated to begin in 2024
- — **Operation**
  Estimated for 2025

Need more information

Call (+61) 3 7020 3323 or 1800 161 249

Visit www.equis.com.au

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

How can I access information about the project?

We will publish project information and updates in our newsletters, emails, and fact sheets which will be available from our website and engagement hub. Technical and complex information dependent on specialised reports, may not always be available when requested. We will provide that information to you as soon as it is available to us.

Further information on the Project and the development assessment can be viewed on the NSW's Major Projects Planning portal at webpage.

How can I provide feedback?

You can email us at AUprojects@equis.com or telephone (+61) 3 7020 3323, mobile 0439 917 804 or our toll free number on 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.

You can learn more about our projects by:

- Visiting our website
- Registering on our engagement hub
- Attending a project information session.

If you do not use computers we can meet you in person and also send you information through Australia Post.

If you need language assistance we can organise an interpreter for you. Alternatively, our engagment Hub provides the information in multiple languages.

About us

We are Equis, Asia Pacific's leading renewable energy infrastructure developer and operator, founded by Australian infrastructure and energy professionals in 2010.

Our mission

We continue to be a reliable and trusted developer, leveraging our expertise, local and global knowledge, and strong partnerships to develop world-class energy projects.

We drive innovation, using responsible and sustainable practices to deliver long-term benefits and create a cleaner energy footprint for Australian communities.

Our people are our success

In Australia, we employ over 50+ staff across offices in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

Our track record

We are a trusted partner, successfully delivering over 240 renewable energy projects (solar, wind, battery, and pumped hydro) across the Asia Pacific Region, adding a capacity of 17.7GW of clean energy.

In Australia we are developing 37 renewable energy projects (including battery storage projects) which can bring in capital investment of over A$6.5 billion.

Our projects will help: