

Holloway BESS



Project overview

The Holloway BESS Project is a proposal to construct, operate and decommission the Holloway Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). BESS stores energy during the day when renewable energy generation like wind and solar is high but demand is low, and release the energy when demand is high, usually at night.

The BESS will have a capacity of 250 megawatts (1,000 MWh) with 4 hours of storage duration. It includes the installation of lithium-ion batteries, inverters, transformers and a switching station. The project will connect to the Armidale substation via a transmission line, either underground or overhead.



250 megawatts



storage duration



80 FTE jobs



operational life of 30 years



3 FTE operational jobs



12-18 months construction period

Where will it be located?

The Holloway BESS will be located at 112 Eathorpe Road, approximately 6 km southeast of Armidale. The site was selected due to its proximity to transmission infrastructure and low land-use conflict.

How big will it be?

The site will be approximately 3.38ha and include:

- · battery units on concrete pads
- · electrical reticulation network
- internal access roads
- · perimeter safety fencing
- ancillary infrastructure, including site office and maintenance building and amenities
- temporary laydown and storage areas to facilitate construction

Will it be noisy?

Battery energy storage systems are generally quiet. At most, there will be a low humming sound during peak operation but noise modelling will be conducted to ensure compliance with regulatory limits. A noise assessment will be completed as part of the environmental approvals process. If needed noise-reducing features will be implemented, like sound barriers.

Are there any health risks?

The Holloway BESS will use similar technology to the batteries that are being increasingly installed in homes, just on a larger scale. There are no known health risks associated with properly maintained large-scale battery installations.

How will traffic access the site?

Site access will be via Waterfall Way and Eathorpe Road. There may be some increased traffic in the area during construction.

How will the BESS connect to the electricity grid?

The BESS will connect to the Armidale substation through a transmission line, either above ground or underground. The alignment and area impacted by the connection to the Armidale substation will be determined in consultation with Transgrid.

How will it impact my views?

The battery units are relatively low in height (approximately 2.5m) and are usually white or light in colour. Visual impacts will be reduced through appropriate fencing, landscaping and possible vegetation screening. A landscape and visual impact assessment will form part of the environmental approval process.

Will the BESS increase the risk of bushfire?

Safety is our top priority. The BESS will be designed and managed to meet or exceed Australian and international safety standards. It will include robust fire prevention and detection measures, including thermal monitoring, fire suppression systems, and strict operational controls. A preliminary hazard analysis and bushfire assessment will form part of the environmental approvals process. We are also working closely with fire services to ensure the design supports emergency access and aligns with best-practice response protocols.

What happens when operations end?

At the end of its life, the site will be safely decommissioned, and components will be removed or recycled where possible. We are committed to minimising waste and ensuring the land can be returned to a usable state, in line with environmental and planning requirements at the time.



Community benefits

The project will establish a community benefit sharing program in consultation with Armidale Regional Council and the local community. This program intends to provide funding for local projects and initiatives that deliver social, economic and environmental benefits.



Helping solidify
Armidale's role in the
New England
Renewable Energy
Zone



Local employment opportunities during construction and operation



Helping decrease the cost of electricity in the long-term



Developing an Industry and Aboriginal Participation Plan



Diversifying land use and creating additional income streams

Community and stakeholder engagement

We're committed to genuine and ongoing community engagement. Engagement to date has included:



SynCo commenced informal discussions with the host landowner in 2024



Project website, phone number and email inbox set up



Door knocking and letterboxing to nearby neighbours, and face-to-face meetings



Meetings held with Armidale Regional Council, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Engagement activities will continue during the preparation of the EIS and all feedback will be considered as part of the project's design and assessment. Additional engagement activities will include:



Communication collateral outlines the state significant development process



Communication collateral including fact sheets, frequently asked questions and newsletters



Host community drop-in sessions



Engagement with potential accommodation providers and council for construction worker housing

For more inquiries or more information about the Holloway BESS project, feel free to reach out to our team.

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