



DENILQUIN EAST BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM SSDA

Engagement Report

Prepared for
GRANSOLAR GROUP
April 2025



URBIS STAFF RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS REPORT WERE:

Director	Anna Mitchell
Senior Consultant	Hayley Kardash
Project Code	P0050308
Report Number	Final

Urbis acknowledges the important contribution that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make in creating a strong and vibrant Australian society.

We acknowledge, in each of our offices, the Traditional Owners on whose land we stand.

All information supplied to Urbis in order to conduct this research has been treated in the strictest confidence. It shall only be used in this context and shall not be made available to third parties without client authorisation. Confidential information has been stored securely and data provided by respondents, as well as their identity, has been treated in the strictest confidence and all assurance given to respondents have been and shall be fulfilled.

© Urbis Ltd
50 105 256 228

All Rights Reserved. No material may be reproduced without prior permission.

You must read the important disclaimer appearing within the body of this report.

urbis.com.au

CONTENTS

1.	Executive summary.....	4
1.1.	Engagement carried out	4
2.	Introduction	5
2.1.	Legislative and regulatory context	5
2.2.	Response to SEARs	5
3.	Project and community context.....	7
3.1.	The site	7
4.	Community and stakeholder engagement strategy	9
4.1.	Engagement objective and approach	9
4.2.	Stakeholders	10
4.2.1.	Government stakeholders	11
4.2.2.	Council.....	11
4.2.3.	State and Federal MPs.....	11
4.2.4.	Relevant agencies	11
4.2.5.	Aboriginal stakeholders	12
4.2.6.	Community	12
4.2.7.	Immediate neighbours	12
5.	Alignment with best practice	14
5.1.	DPHI Community Participation Plan	14
5.2.	Clean Energy Council Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Projects	14
5.3.	Alignment	14
6.	Engagement activities and reach	16
7.	Community feedback summary.....	19
	Safety considerations and mitigation measures	19
	Support for the proposal	19
	Interest in solar and wind infrastructure	19
	Safety considerations and mitigation measures	19
	Support for the proposal	19
8.	Neighbouring dwellings feedback summary.....	21
	Support for the proposal	21
	Concerns around impacts on private property and business operations	21
	Interest in community benefits	21
9.	Detailed feedback and project response across all stakeholders	22
10.	Future community and stakeholder engagement.....	41
11.	Disclaimer	42
Appendix A	Community newsletter	
Appendix B	Pop-up display boards	
Appendix C	Website content	
Appendix D	Newspaper advertisement	

FIGURES

Figure 1 The site	7
Figure 2 Regional context.....	8
Figure 3 Engagement Principles in DPHI's <i>Community Participation Plan</i>	14

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Engagement Outcomes Report (report) has been prepared by Urbis Ltd (Urbis) to accompany a detailed State Significant Development Application (SSDA) prepared by Gransolar Development Australia (GDA) for a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at 21356 Riverina Highway, Deniliquin.

This report has been prepared to address the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issued for the project (SSD-61612229).

1.1. ENGAGEMENT CARRIED OUT

To ensure engagement was consistent with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure's (DPHI) *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects* and complied with the engagement requirements outlined in the SEARs, engagement was undertaken with:

- Government stakeholders, including DPHI and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Edward River Council (Council), including the Development Services Branch, the Major Projects Branch, the Economic Development Branch, and any elected officials
- Members of Parliament, including Helen Dalton – Member for Murray, and Sussan Ley – Member for Farrer
- Relevant agencies, including Transport for NSW, WaterNSW, Transgrid, Murray Irrigation Limited, NSW Rural Fire Service and Fire and Rescue NSW, Exploration license and/or mineral title holders
- Aboriginal stakeholders, including the Deniliquin Local Aboriginal Land Council and Registered Aboriginal Parties
- Community stakeholders, including the current site landowner, neighbouring dwellings within 1.5km of the site, the wider Deniliquin community, and community and representative groups.

The following engagement activities were undertaken to inform and consult the community about the proposal:

- A community newsletter, including information about the proposal and how to provide feedback
- Dedicated project website, including detailed information about the proposal and how to provide feedback
- Newspaper ad, including details about the proposal, how to provide feedback, as well as an invitation to the community to attend information pop-up sessions
- Community information pop-up sessions – one weekday evening and one weekend day – including four information display boards and attended by members of the project team
- Individual project briefings to capture feedback from government agencies
- Feedback survey as part of the Social Impact Assessment, with a QR code to the survey included on the community newsletter and pop-up session display boards
- Enquiry channels via an 1800 phone number and email.

2. INTRODUCTION

Gransolar Development Australia (GDA) has prepared a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) to construct and operate a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) near the existing Deniliquin substation.

The proposal aims to contribute to supporting Australia's transition to a renewable energy future, supporting an increased reliability to the network.

If approved, the proposal will include:

- Installation of up to 80 lithium-ion batteries, housed within containers approximately 6m long, 2.5m wide and 2.8m high, powering up to 28,000 homes
- Cabling and collector units, storage area, internal access tracks and two new access bridges connecting Riverina Highway and the site
- Overhead transmission pylons to connect the BESS to the Deniliquin substation
- Safety features including security fencing, lightning masts, and a firefighting water tank
- Landscaping plantings to offset visual impact.

If the proposal is approved, construction will take approximately 10 to 12 months with the following staging:

- Stage 1 (approximately 4 months): Site establishment and civil works, including drainage works, roadworks, construction of access tracks, and construction of hard-stands and footings.
- Stage 2 (approximately 4 months): Delivery and installation of battery modules and other infrastructure.
- Stage 3 (approximately 3 months): Commissioning.

The anticipated operational life of the BESS is 20-30 years. Operation of the BESS will mainly occur remotely; however, workers will visit the site intermittently to conduct inspections and maintenance.

2.1. LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY CONTEXT

A proposal is considered state significant if it:

- Is over a certain size
- Is in a sensitive environmental or culturally important area, or
- Will exceed a specific capital investment value.

In NSW, the preparation and evaluation of environmental assessments for state significant developments is legislated through the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act). The EP&A Act outlines a series of statutory requirements for proponents seeking development approval. The EP&A Act includes specific requirements to provide community members and stakeholders with opportunities to participate in the planning process.

As such, this Outcomes Report has been prepared in line with the following guidelines and requirements:

- The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issued for this project.
- The NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) *Undertaking Engagement for State Significant Projects guidelines*
- DPHI's *Benefit Sharing Guideline* (November 2024)
- DPHI's *Community Participation Plan* (April 2024)

The International Association of Public Participation's (IAP2) Public Participation Spectrum

2.2. RESPONSE TO SEARS

This Engagement Outcomes Report has been prepared to address the SEARs, as issued by the DPHI. The SEARs require demonstration of how the engagement to be undertaken for this project is consistent with DPHI's *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects*.

Table provides the SEARs that are relevant to the delivery of community and stakeholder engagement for this project.

Table 1 Response to SEARs – SSD-61612229

SEARs item	Project response
Consultation	
During the preparation of the EIS, you should consult with the relevant local, State or Commonwealth Government authorities, infrastructure and service providers, community groups, affected landowners and any exploration licence and/or mineral title holders. In particular, you must undertake detailed consultation with affected landowners surrounding the development, relevant government agencies, including the relevant local Council. The EIS must: ▪ Detail how engagement undertaken was consistent with the Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects (DPIE, 2024); and ▪ Describe the consultation process and the issues raised and identify where the design of the development has been amended in response to these issues. Where amendments have not been made to address an issue, an explanation should be provided.	In accordance with NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) expectations around early and effective engagement for state significant projects, a Communications and Engagement Strategy was prepared and implemented to ensure GDA delivered an engagement program consistent with DPHI's Undertaking Engagement Guide: Guidance for State Significant Projects. GDA's approach aimed to connect with the relevant local and state government authorities, relevant agencies and community stakeholders.

3. PROJECT AND COMMUNITY CONTEXT

This section includes a summary of the proposal and the site and community context.

3.1. THE SITE

The proposed site is approximately 6km south-east of Deniliquin, NSW, adjacent to the Riverina Highway, on a privately owned title (Lot 11 DP 856212) known as 21356 Riverina Highway, Deniliquin. The site has an area of approximately 46 hectares (ha) and the proposal has a development area of approximately 3.5 ha.

The site is in Edward River Council Local Government Area (LGA), a productive agricultural area with highly valued rural and biodiverse lands. The LGA is beginning to contribute to Australia's energy transition, with its first two solar farms (Currawarra Solar Farm and Tarleigh Park Solar Farm) having received planning consent in 2018 and first wind farm (Yanco Delta Wind Farm) receiving approval in 2023. The BESS will connect to the Deniliquin substation via an overhead electrical cable. The cable will be installed according to Australian Standards, crossing irrigation channels and the Riverina Highway. The cable avoids native vegetation between the BESS and the Deniliquin substation. The length of the cable is approximately 400m.

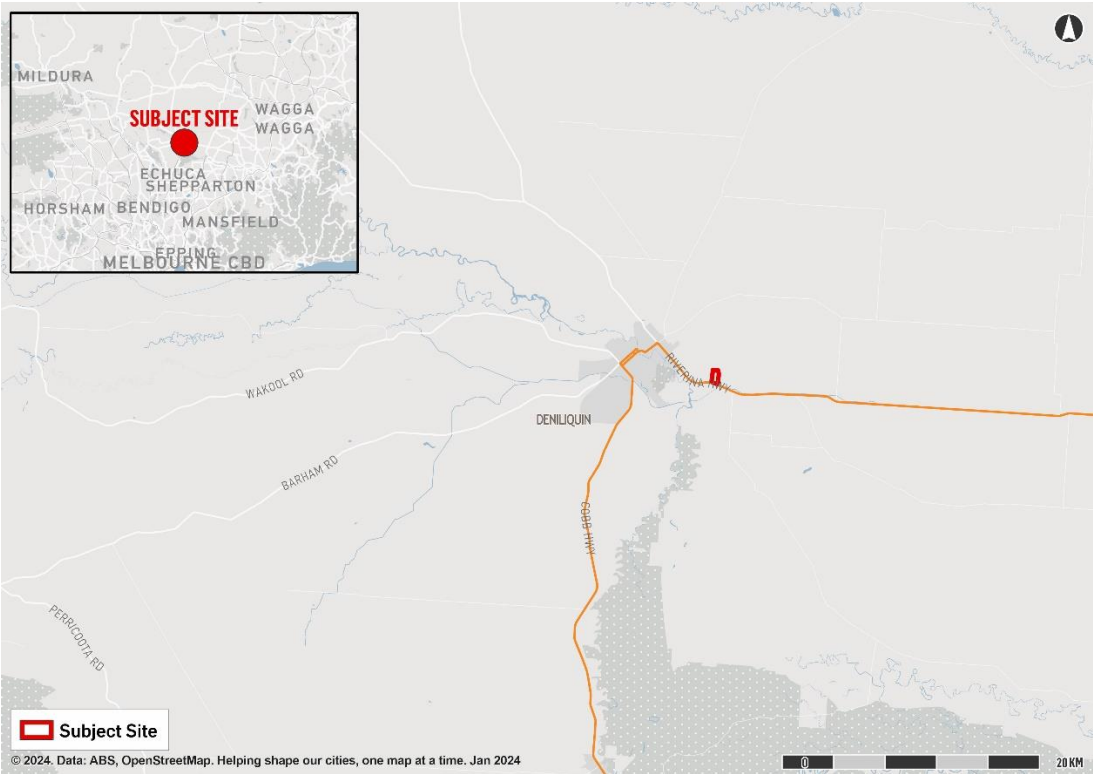
The site is currently underutilised with no existing permit approvals applicable. The site is encumbered by an easement (drainage) along the western boundary and another easement (drainage) running east west through the southern portion of the site (172m to the north of the proposed development area). Aside from easements, there are no other restrictions noted on the title.

Figure 1 The site



Source: Urbis GIS 2024

Figure 2 Regional context



Source: Urbis GIS 2024

4. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

This section outlines the engagement activities delivered throughout April and May 2024 to raise community and stakeholder awareness of and invite feedback on, the proposal.

4.1. ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVE AND APPROACH

The engagement approach was informed by the International Association of Public Participation's (IAP2's) Public Participation spectrum, the Clean Energy Council *Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Projects* and the NSW Government's *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects*.

IAP2's spectrum describes goals for public participation, and the corresponding promise to the public (see Figure 3).

The engagement approach was determined based on the anticipated level of impact of the project on the surrounding community and stakeholders. As the level of impact was likely to be low-moderate, the objective of engagement to support the Deniliquin BESS is to inform and consult stakeholders and the community.

Figure 3 Public Participation spectrum

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision. We will seek your feedback on drafts and proposals.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work together with you to formulate solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

Source: IAP2

For this project, the engagement approach involved:

- Providing consistent, relevant, jargon-free and up-to-date information on the proposed BESS, impacts, benefits, and the planning process through accessible, tailored open lines of communication.
- Identify potential impacts on stakeholders and the community, as well as measures to enhance potential positive impacts and minimise potential negative impacts, through genuine and consistent consultation.
- Providing methods for monitoring and opportunities for the community to give feedback to help inform the planning process.

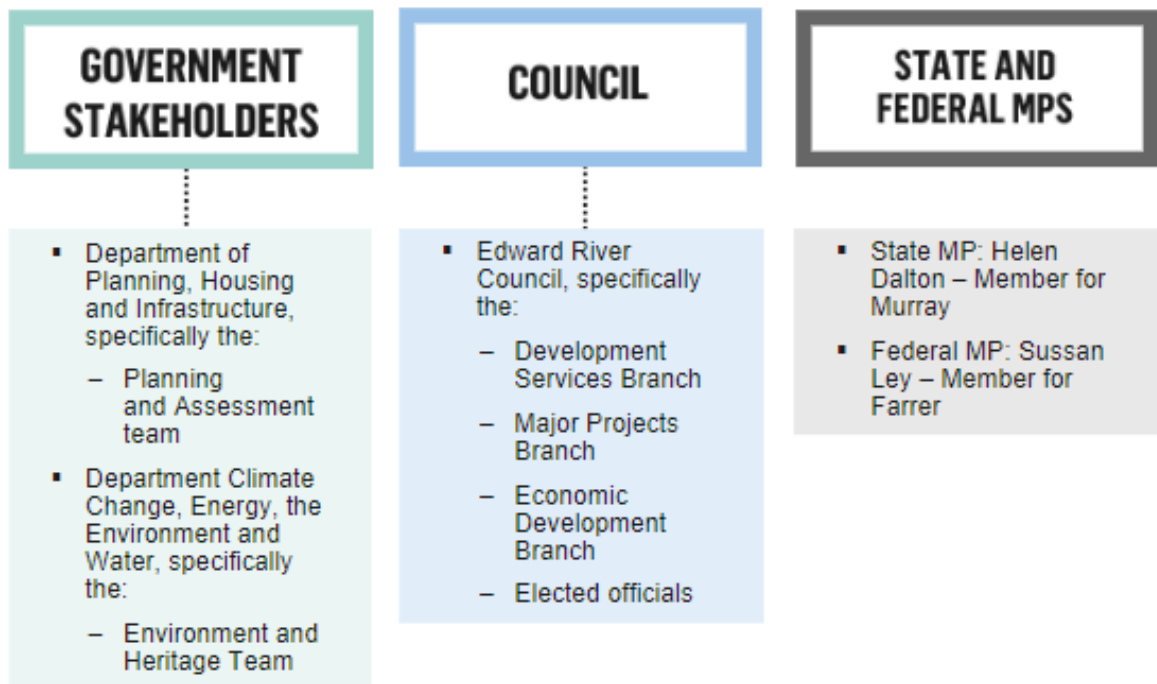
- Responding appropriately and in a timely manner to concerns or questions raised by the community and stakeholders throughout the lifecycle of the project.
- Facilitating information flow to the project team by establishing working relationships to ensure stakeholder and community views and local knowledge are appropriately incorporated into the design of the project.
- Managing expectations by closing the feedback loop and sharing how stakeholder and community views influenced the proposal.

4.2. STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholders identified for the engagement program were informed by the SEARs, as well as an analysis of levels of impact and/or interest. Urbis separated stakeholders into six categories as listed below and outlined in Figure 4.

- Government stakeholders
- Edward River Council (Council)
- State and Federal MPs
- Relevant agencies including infrastructure providers, service providers and exploration license and/or mineral title holders
- Aboriginal stakeholders
- The community, including the current site landowner, affected landowners surrounding the development, and the wider Deniliquin community.

Figure 4 Stakeholder categorisation





4.2.1. Government stakeholders

Gransolar Development Australia (GDA) and Urbis Planning were responsible for engagement with Government stakeholders.

As identified in the SEARs, engagement was required with the relevant Department assessment teams. This included the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure's (DPHI) Planning and Assessment team, and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's (DCCEE) Environment and Heritage team.

4.2.2. Council

GDA and Urbis Planning were responsible for engagement with Council.

Engagement was required with Edward River Council as the site sits within the Edward River Council LGA. Council stakeholders included the Development Services Branch, the Major Projects Branch, the Economic Development Branch and elected officials.

4.2.3. State and Federal MPs

Urbis Engagement was responsible for engagement with State and Federal MPs, including Helen Dalton – State Member for Murray, and Sussan Ley – Federal Member for Farrer.

Given the strategic relevance of BESS technology in regional NSW, Urbis identified State and Federal MPs as essential stakeholders in the engagement program.

4.2.4. Relevant agencies

GDA, Urbis Planning, and technical consultant teams were responsible for engagement with relevant agencies.

Relevant agencies included Transport for NSW (TfNSW), Transgrid, Murray Irrigation Limited, Fire and Rescue NSW – Deniliquin Fire Station, and any exploration license and/or mineral title holders.

The Scoping Report for the proposal found that there are no exploration licenses and/or mineral title holders on the land. This has been verified by Urbis Planning via the Department of Regional NSW online tool 'MinView'.

4.2.5. Aboriginal stakeholders

Urbis Heritage was responsible for engagement with Aboriginal stakeholders.

Urbis Heritage engaged with the Deniliquin Local Aboriginal Land Council (DLALC) and Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) to investigate the cultural significance of objects and/or places on and surrounding the site.

4.2.6. Community

Urbis Engagement was responsible for engagement with the community.

As described in DPHI's *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects*, the community is anyone (individuals, groups of individuals or organisations) interested in or likely to be affected by the project. Therefore, the nine near neighbours outlined in Figure 4 had been identified due to their proximity to the site and/or likely impact or interest during construction and operation. Urbis Engagement notes the landowners of these 12 neighbouring dwellings were also engaged during project scoping.

Engagement activities built upon previous engagement undertaken to provide transparency and continuity in the approach.

Engagement activities included:

- A community newsletter
- A community survey to inform the Social Impact Assessment (SIA)
- An ad in the local newspaper in two editions
- Two pop-up community information sessions
- A project website
- A dedicated phone line and mailbox for enquiries.

For all community stakeholders, potential areas of interest were identified as:

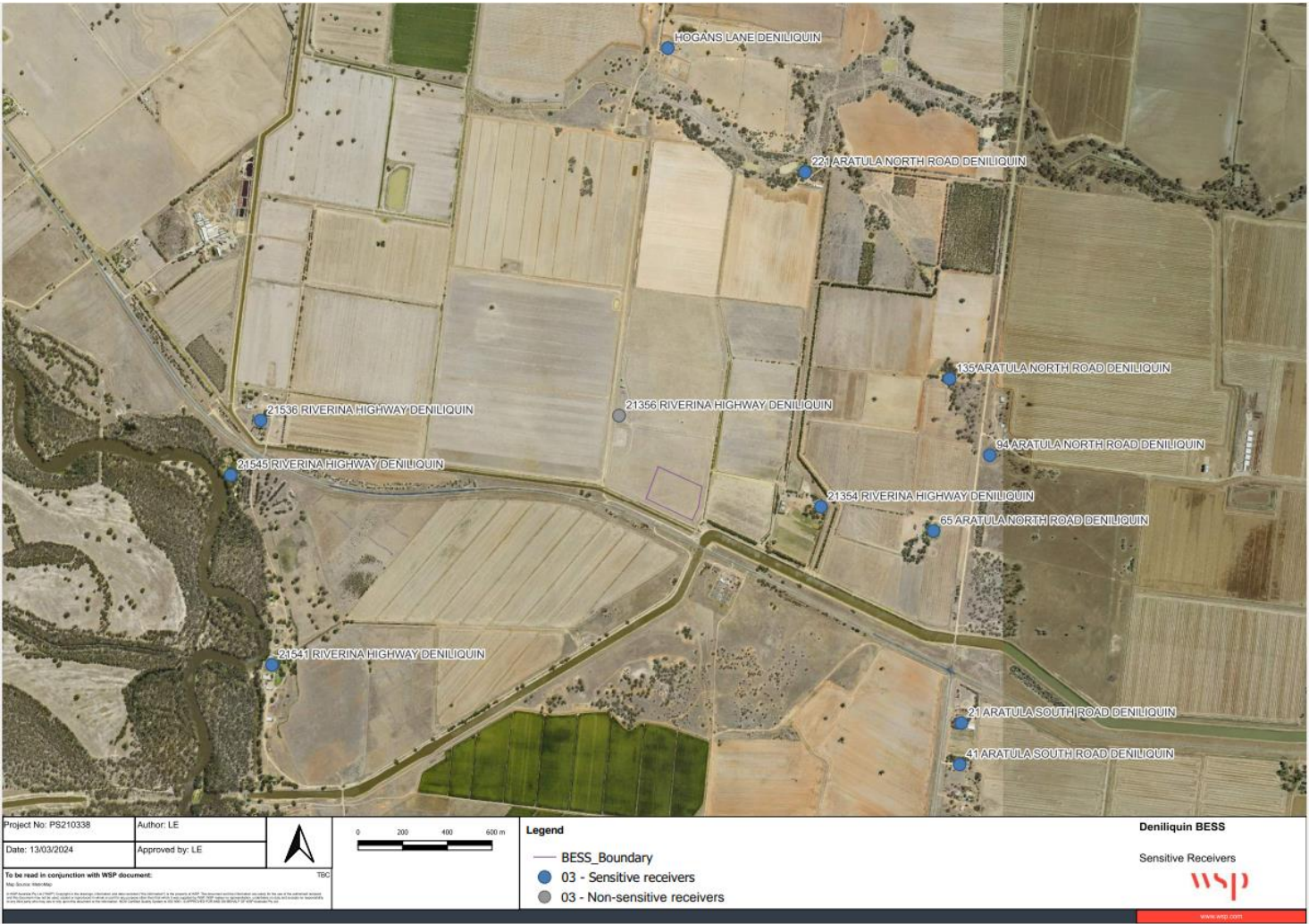
- Visual impacts
- Hazardous materials and associated safety measures
- Opportunities to provide feedback
- Construction impacts and timing
- Access and safety around the site during construction and operation.

4.2.7. Immediate neighbours

For immediate neighbours, the additional anticipated impacts and areas of interest were identified as:

- Potential impacts during construction and operation, including noise and traffic.

Figure 5 The site and sensitive receivers



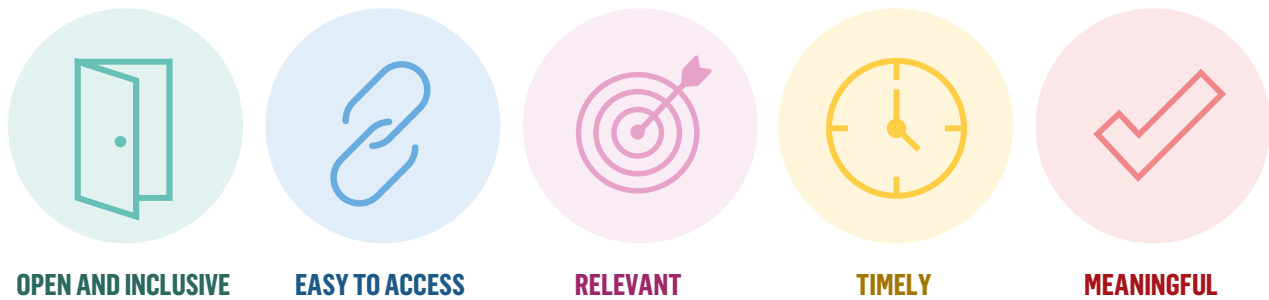
Source: WSP 2024

5. ALIGNMENT WITH BEST PRACTICE

5.1. DPHI COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PLAN

This engagement approach is in line with the principles in DPHI's *Community Participation Plan*, which is the Department's Plan for engaging with the community and key stakeholders when executing their planning functions. The principles of this plan are shown in 6 below:

Figure 3 Engagement Principles in DPHI's *Community Participation Plan*



5.2. CLEAN ENERGY COUNCIL BEST PRACTICE CHARTER FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

The engagement approach also responds to the Clean Energy Council's (CEC) Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy projects, which is a set of commitments that govern the best practice delivery of clean energy projects.

The commitments in the Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Projects, related to engagement, are:

1. We will engage respectfully with the local community, including Traditional Owners of the land, to seek their views and input before submitting a development application and finalising the design of the project.
2. We will provide timely information and be accessible and responsive in addressing the local community's feedback and concerns throughout the life of the project.
3. We will consult the community on the potential visual, noise, traffic and other impacts of the project, and on the mitigation options.
4. We will offer communities the opportunity to share in the benefits of the project, and consult them on the options available, including the relevant governance arrangements.

5.3. ALIGNMENT

Table below highlights how the engagement approach is aligned with DPHI's *Community Participation Plan* and the CEC Charter, mentioned above.

Table 2 How the engagement approach is aligned with best practice

Approach	Alignment with Community Participation Plan	Alignment with CEC Charter
Providing consistent, relevant, jargon-free and up-to-date information on the proposal, impacts, benefits, and the planning report process through accessible, tailored open lines of communication.		1, 3

Identify potential impacts on stakeholders and the community, as well as measures to enhance potential positive impacts and minimise potential negative impacts, through genuine and consistent consultation.	  	3, 4
Providing methods for monitoring and opportunities for the community to give feedback to help inform the planning process.	 	1, 2, 3, 4
Responding appropriately and in a timely manner to concerns or questions raised by the community and stakeholders throughout the lifecycle of the project.	   	1, 2
Facilitating information flow to the project team by establishing working relationships to ensure stakeholder and community views and local knowledge are appropriately incorporated into the design of the project.	 	1, 2, 3
Managing expectations by closing the feedback loop and sharing how stakeholder and community views influenced the proposal.	   	2, 4

6. ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND REACH

This section outlines the engagement activities that were implemented during the consultation process, including the number of stakeholders that were reached through these activities.

The activity selection was determined based on the community profile, the stakeholder mix and their communication needs, and the requirements of the SEARs.

Wherever possible, Urbis integrated the SIA survey with project communications, to ensure people could provide feedback through this mechanism.

The table below maps the purpose of each engagement activity to stakeholder groups.

Table 3 Summary of engagement activities

Engagement activity	Target stakeholder	Description
E-newsletter and invitation to individual briefings	- Current site landowner - Neighbouring dwellings - Council's elected officials - State and Federal MPs - Community groups	An e-newsletter was distributed via email on 7 and 8 May 2024. The e-newsletter provided information about the proposal, provided a link to WEBSITE and invited feedback via the SIA survey, 1800 phone line or project email. The e-newsletter also invited stakeholders to the community information pop-up sessions, or an individual briefing to find out more, ask questions and share feedback. A copy of the newsletter is included in Appendix A of this report.
Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment (LUCRA) emails	Current site landowner and neighbouring dwellings	A LUCRA email was sent on 15 May 2024. The email outlined the purpose of the LUCRA and asked a series of questions regarding past, present and planned future land use for properties neighbouring the proposal site.
Project website	All stakeholders	From 7 May 2024, detailed project information has been available on the project website (https://deniliquinbess.com.au/) The website was advertised via the e-newsletter, the newspaper advertisement, and on information boards displayed at the community information pop-up sessions.

Engagement activity	Target stakeholder	Description
		A copy of the website content is included in Appendix C of this report.
Newspaper advertisement	All community stakeholders	A newspaper advertisement was published in the Deniliquin Pastoral Times on: ▪ Friday 10 May ▪ Tuesday 14 May. The advertisement included details about the proposal and how to provide feedback, as well as an invitation to attend the information sessions A copy of the newspaper advertisement is included in Appendix D of this report.
Community information pop-up sessions	All community stakeholders	Two community information pop-up sessions were held outside Coles Deniliquin, located at Deniliquin Plaza – 106 Hardinge St, Deniliquin, on: ▪ Friday 17 May, 4:00-6:00pm ▪ Saturday 18 May, 10:00am-12:00pm. There was a total of approximately 15 attendees across the two sessions. A copy of the display materials used at these sessions is included in Appendix B of this report.
Enquiry channels	All community stakeholders	To date, no phone calls have been received via the 1800 phone line. One email was received via the project email, as a response to the LUCRA email.

Figure 7 Community information pop-up session photos



7. COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SUMMARY

Across all community stakeholders, Urbis identified three themes that emerged throughout the engagement program.

The themes that arose from engagement with key stakeholders are shown in Figure 8 below.

Figure 8 Top themes of community feedback



**Safety considerations
and mitigation
measures**



Support for the proposal



**Interest in solar and wind
infrastructure**

Safety considerations and mitigation measures

Community members enquired about the proposal's safety considerations and planned mitigation measures. In particular, feedback was provided, and interest was expressed in relation to:

- Considerations around radiation due to the use of batteries
- Potential fire risk
- Potential impacts of the proposal on local ecosystems and agriculture.

"Do your research on solar flares, they are becoming increasingly dangerous for batteries"

Support for the proposal

Community members expressed support for the proposal, particularly regarding:

- The proposal's contribution to a more sustainable energy supply
- The low risk of potential impacts
- BESS technology providing stored energy during high demand periods.

"It is great that it stores energy in off-peak and releases it during peak demand periods".

Interest in solar and wind infrastructure

Community members expressed concern about solar and wind infrastructure due to:

- General negative sentiment towards solar and wind energy
- Concern that solar and wind infrastructure may take up productive agricultural land.

All community members who expressed concern about solar and wind infrastructure were advised that the proposal does not involve solar or wind infrastructure.

Details of the project responses to this feedback received can be found in Table 2, located in the following chapter.

8. NEIGHBOURING DWELLINGS FEEDBACK SUMMARY

From engagement undertaken with neighbouring dwellings at the community information pop-up sessions, Urbis identified three themes that emerged throughout the engagement program. They are:

- Support for the proposal
- Concerns around impacts on private property and business operations
- Interest in community benefits.

Support for the proposal

Residents from neighbouring dwellings expressed support for the proposal, particularly regarding:

- The proposal's contribution to a more sustainable energy supply
- Location of the proposal
- The thorough planning process and approval pathway

"If we want renewable energy, we've got to have batteries"

Concerns around impacts on private property and business operations

Residents from neighbouring dwellings expressed some concerns around impacts to private property and business operations, including:

- Concerns about potential view loss
- Concerns around impacts on property value and private power connection near the proposal site
- Potential impacts of the proposal on local ecosystems and agriculture.

Interest in community benefits

Community members were interested in potential benefits to the community should the proposal be approved. Suggestions were provided, including:

- Sponsorship of the Picola League and/or Murray League sporting clubs
- Upgrade of the Deniliquin Rams football club grandstand
- Upgrade of the Deniliquin Rovers netball club facilities
- Sponsorship of awards for Deniliquin Business Chambers' local business awards
- Sponsorship of the annual Deni Utes festival in October.

"There are plenty of local clubs that could use your support"

Details of the project responses to this feedback received can be found in Table 2, located in the following chapter.

9. DETAILED FEEDBACK AND PROJECT RESPONSE ACROSS ALL STAKEHOLDERS

The following table outlines the issues raised by the community and stakeholders and the project response. Key themes that arose during the consultation period included:

Table 4 Issues raised and project response

Stakeholder	How this group was consulted	Feedback	Project response
Government stakeholders			
DPHI Energy Resources & Industry Assessment team	Urbis Planning and the Applicant held a meeting with DPHI on 4 March 2024. The meeting was held to provide an update to DPHI on the status of the preparation of the EIS, an update on the design of the project, and discuss the approach for biodiversity assessment.	DPHI provided the following feedback: - Acknowledged the targeted timing for submission of the EIS and that further updates are welcome. - Acknowledged the approach of the design for the project and that the Applicant is continuing consultation with Transgrid to identify the preferred alignment for connection to the existing substation. - Confirmed that a BDAR is required.	- The Applicant has continued consultation with Transgrid and finalised the alignment of the proposed connection to the existing substation. This is detailed in the Development Plans submitted as part of the EIS. - A detailed BDAR has been prepared in accordance with the SEARs, submitted as part of the EIS.
DCCEEW Environment and Heritage Team	Urbis and WaterTech met with DCCEEW to discuss whether a BDAR waiver could be granted based on minimal ecological impacts.	DCCEEW requested the BDAR to be undertaken, in agreeance with DPHI.	A BDAR has been prepared in accordance with the SEARs and following the appropriate module for the extent of the impacts. DCCEEW will have the opportunity to provide further feedback during the exhibition period.

Stakeholder	How this group was consulted	Feedback	Project response
Edward River Council			
Development Services and Major Projects Branch	Urbis Planning held a meeting with Council's Development Services and Major Projects Branches, as well as members of the GDA project team, on 21 February 2024. This meeting was held to provide information about the proposal and collect feedback, as well as provide an opportunity for Council to ask questions from the project team.	Council provided the following feedback: ▪ Necessity to investigate any potential flooding impacts. ▪ Council advised community views, including that: – Solar farm was refused last year on visual impact grounds – The community does not have consultation fatigue but has expressed views against solar infrastructure. ▪ Council asked if there is consideration of any planning agreement. ▪ Council asked about waste generation, advising that Council does not want to accept waste in landfill. ▪ Council asked whether TfNSW has been consulted.	▪ A detailed assessment of the likely impacts of the proposal, including flooding, on surrounding watercourses and groundwater resources, has been included as part of the EIS. Further details can be found in the Flood Risk and Impact Assessment. ▪ The proposal does not involve solar infrastructure. The design of the proposal has incorporated landscaping to build upon existing screening and mitigate any potential visual impacts. Further details can be found in the Visual Impact Assessment and Landscape Plan, both submitted as part of the EIS. ▪ The proposal is not expected to generate any long-term community needs. Further details in relation to community needs are included in the Social Impact Assessment, submitted as part of the EIS.

Stakeholder	How this group was consulted	Feedback	Project response
			- Should the proposal be approved, GDA will manage disposal of waste and decommissioning at the end of the project lifecycle. - TfNSW provided comment for SEARs and have been consulted to inform the Transport Impact Assessment. Further details of consultation with TfNSW can be found below in this report, as well as the Transport Impact Assessment.
Economic Development Branch	Urbis Community Planning held a meeting with Council's Economic Development Branch on 29 May 2024. This meeting was held to gather insights about potential positive or negative impacts of the proposal to inform the SIA.	Council provided the following feedback in relation to the potential positive or negative impacts of the proposal. Social and site context Council advised that solar proposals and projects located close to the town have received some negative community sentiment due to concerns about repurposing productive agricultural land for renewable development. Council also suggested the Deniliquin Local Aboriginal Land Council as an	Social and site context The proposal does not involve solar infrastructure. The proposal site has not been used as productive agricultural land for the past 25 years and has no future planned agricultural use. The Deniliquin Local Aboriginal Land Council was engaged during the preparation of the SSDA. Further details can be found below in this report, as well as the Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage Report, submitted as part of the EIS.

Stakeholder	How this group was consulted	Feedback	Project response
		important contact for engagement in relation to the proposal.	
		Workforce and housing ▪ Council recognised opportunities to advertise local construction jobs should the proposal be approved, however, noted a limited supply of workers in the area. ▪ Council suggested construction be shared across contractors within Deniliquin as well as surrounding nearby towns, to ensure the proposal does not take all the local construction capacity. ▪ Council suggested coordinating construction times with peak tourism travel times to ensure that peak construction overlaps with low tourist season to provide an influx of money for local hotel and motel operators. For example, don't have peak construction times during Easter or the Deni Ute Festival in October. ▪ Council did not oppose temporary workforce accommodation but	Workforce and housing ▪ An assessment of workforce and housing considerations has been considered as part of the Social Impact Assessment (SIA). ▪ Should the proposal be approved, local construction jobs will be advertised in Deniliquin as well as surrounding nearby towns. ▪ Construction will be coordinated with peak tourism periods per Council suggestions.

Stakeholder	How this group was consulted	Feedback	Project response
		requested details of repurposing after the construction period. ▪ Council also suggested nearby towns should also be considered in the workforce housing strategy.	
		Potential positive social and economic impacts and community benefits Council noted opportunities for positive social and economic impacts, including: ▪ Employment and education opportunities for local construction workers and young people seeking apprenticeships and upskilling opportunities ▪ Opportunities to give back to the community, such as rebate on energy to support local households ▪ Opportunities to provide financial support/funding to support local infrastructure, services and events. Council also provided suggestions to enhance potential positive social and economic impacts, and prevent or	Potential positive social and economic impacts and community benefits GDA has used Council's suggestions to inform the proposal. Should the proposal be approved, GDA will work with Council under a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) to deliver community benefits.

Stakeholder	How this group was consulted	Feedback	Project response
		minimise potential negative impacts, including: ▪ Education around renewable developments in the community ▪ A suggestion that trees should be provided to screen views from the street. In relation to the Voluntary Planning Agreement which GDA will work with Council to delivery, Council suggested that: ▪ Beneficiaries could include local Aboriginal groups, neighbours and/or infrastructure located close to the site, and Council's Community Benefits Fund ▪ Infrastructure support could include supporting Council to upgrade the train line to be support intermodal transport, including containers to support transport of construction materials ▪ Supporting local arts, cultural and sporting bodies.	

Stakeholder	How this group was consulted	Feedback	Project response
Elected officials	Urbis Engagement emailed Council's elected officials on 7 May 2024. This email provided information about the proposal along with the community newsletter, details for how to provide feedback, and an invitation to an individual online briefing. Deputy Mayor Marc Petersen and Councillor Shirlee Burge both attended the community pop-up session on Friday 17 May.	At the community pop-up session on Friday 17 May, Deputy Mayor Marc Petersen and Councillor Shirlee Burge provided the following feedback about the proposal: Flooding Deputy Mayor Marc Petersen noted that existing flood models are out of date and that flooding is a risk across the whole area. During the last flood, the substation was protected through sufficient levees.	Flooding Hydrologists Water Technology Pty Ltd (WaterTech) have used flood mapping from Edward River LGA, dated 2014, to inform their assessment of flood risk associated with the proposal. Flood risk associated with the proposal has been assessed as having little to no potential impacts on Deniliquin. Further details can be found in the Hydrology Report Assessment.
		Reliable power supply Major power outage recently in town – interested in whether the proposal will contribute to more reliable power.	Reliable power supply BESS technology contributes to network stability by providing fast and reliable response times to prevent blackouts and other disruptions, ensuring a more reliable and secure power supply.
		Fire safety Recommended putting up a shed on site with a fire truck for public perception of fire safety.	Fire safety The proposal includes an on-site 20,000L firefighting water tank as part of the fire safety measures of the proposal.

Stakeholder	How this group was consulted	Feedback	Project response
			Whilst the proposal does not include a new shed on-site with a fire truck, the Deniliquin Fire Station has been informed of the proposal through the engagement period, and GDA will continue to inform the Deniliquin Fire Station as plans progress.
		Local employment opportunities Enquired if local construction companies will be engaged, noting this would be a benefit. There are two local companies who they recommend.	Local employment opportunities Should the proposal be approved, local construction jobs will be advertised in Deniliquin as well as surrounding nearby towns.
		Further engagement with Council’s elected officials Recommended briefing Council on the first Tuesday in June – work through CEO’s office to confirm attendance.	Further engagement with Council’s elected officials Council’s elected officials were individually emailed on 7 May 2024. This email provided information about the proposal along with the community newsletter, details for how to provide feedback, and an invitation to an individual online briefing. To date, no responses have been received from Council's elected officials.
State and Federal MPs			

Stakeholder	How this group was consulted	Feedback	Project response
State MP: Helen Dalton – Member for Murray	Urbis Engagement emailed Helen Dalton – State Member for Murray on 7 May 2024. This email provided information about the proposal along with the community newsletter, details for how to provide feedback, and an invitation to an individual online briefing.	To date, no response has been received from Helen Dalton – State Member for Murray.	GDA will continue to inform the State Member for Murray as plans progress.
Federal MP: Sussan Ley – Member for Farrer	Urbis Engagement emailed Sussan Ley – Federal Member for Farrer on 7 May 2024. This email provided information about the proposal along with the community newsletter, details for how to provide feedback, and an invitation to an individual online briefing.	To date, no response has been received from Sussan Ley – Federal Member for Farrer.	GDA will continue to inform the Federal Member for Farrer as plans progress.
Relevant agencies			
TfNSW	Urbis Transport Advisory emailed TfNSW on 7 June 2024. This email provided information about the proposal including an indicative base plan, and requested a meeting with TfNSW to understand any assessment requirements beyond that listed in the SEARs.	To date, no response has been received from TfNSW.	Urbis Transport Advisory and GDA will continue to inform TfNSW as plans progress.

Stakeholder	How this group was consulted	Feedback	Project response
Murray Irrigation Limited (Murray Irrigation)	Urbis Planning held an online meeting with Murray Irrigation and members of the GDA project team on 15 March 2024. This meeting was held to provide information about the proposal and collect feedback in relation to the irrigation channel, as well as provide an opportunity for Murray Irrigation to ask questions from the project team.	▪ Murray Irrigation expressed a preference for base plan option one as this would provide better maintenance access and requested that access be provided in accordance with their design policy. ▪ Murray Irrigation has no standards or specified criteria in relation to bridges over irrigation channels, however noted a preference for an over-spanning (arching) bridge on both banks. ▪ Murray Irrigation enquired about ownership of the bridges. ▪ Murray Irrigation requested that the bridge design allows for a small excavator for maintenance of the middle bank, or for GDA to concrete the top of the central bank between the two bridges so that Murray Irrigation does not require maintenance access.	▪ The proposal design provides access in accordance with Murray Irrigation's design policy. ▪ Following GDA's advice, Gransolar will only include one bridge to reduce the number of assets over the channels and that several water quality mitigation and monitoring measures will be in place to prevent any impacts on the Canal. Once the project reaches the end of its lifecycle and it's decommissioned the bridge could be dedicated to Murray Irrigation.'
Fire and Rescue NSW – Deniliquin Fire Station	Urbis Engagement emailed Deniliquin Fire Station on 7 May 2024. This email provided information about the proposal along with the community newsletter, details for how	To date, no response has been received from Deniliquin Fire Station.	GDA will continue to inform Deniliquin Fire Station as plans progress.

Stakeholder	How this group was consulted	Feedback	Project response
	to provide feedback, and an invitation to an individual online briefing.		
Aboriginal stakeholders			
Deniliquin Local Aboriginal Land Council (DLALC)	As part of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) for the project, Urbis Heritage consulted the DLALC as required to determine the cultural significance of objects and/or places on and surrounding the site. A range of contact methods were used including email and phone. The Stage 1.2 Agency Notice was sent to DLALC on 8 March 2024. The Stage 1.3 Registered Aboriginal Party Invitation was sent to DLALC on 13 March 2024. The Stage 1.6 Notification was sent to DLALC on 8 April 2024. The Stage 2 and 3 Information Package was sent to DLALC on 9 April 2024. DLALC was contacted by phone on 16 April 2024 to discuss the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and Field Survey Methodology.	No response was received from DLALC with regards to the Stage 1.2 Agency Notice, Stage 1.3 RAP Invitation or Stage 1.6 Notification. DLALC expressed agreement with the preliminary findings of the ACHA.	Further details about engagement with the DLALC is provided in the ACHAR, submitted as part of the EIS. GDA used the ACHAR to inform the proposal's approach to, and understanding of, the potential impacts affecting this community. GDA and Urbis Heritage will continue to engage and provide project updates to the DLALC, in addition to providing the opportunity for DLALC to provide comment or feedback.

Stakeholder	How this group was consulted	Feedback	Project response
	The Stage 3 Field Survey was then undertaken with DLALC on 22 May 2024.		
Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs)	As part of the ACHAR, Urbis Heritage consulted the RAPs as required to determine the cultural significance of objects and/or places on and surrounding the site. A total of 6 Aboriginal parties registered interest in the project. A range of contact types were used including email, postal letters & phone. A search of the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) registers and databases was undertaken on 28 February 2024 and no pending Native Title claims or Native Title registrations were identified. The NNTT was also contacted by email on 28 February 2024 to request a formal search of the NNTT Register. The Stage 1.3 RAP Invitation was sent to all RAPs on 18 March 2024. The Stage 2 and 3 Information Pack was sent to all RAPs on 9 April 2024.	A reply was received on 28 February 2024 indicating that although there is one Native Title claim (VC2021/001) which intersects with the subject area, this claim was not accepted for registration. The consultation process identified that the subject area has social and cultural value for the Aboriginal community due to its connection to the broader landscape around the subject area, particularly around waterways. However, due to the site's highly disturbed condition, the social and cultural value of the site has diminished and has been assessed as low.	Further details about the engagement process and feedback from the RAPs is provided in the ACHAR, submitted as part of the EIS. GDA used the ACHAR to inform the proposal's approach to, and understanding of, the potential impacts affecting this community. GDA and Urbis Heritage will continue to engage and provide project updates to the RAPs, in addition to providing the opportunity for the RAPs to provide comment or feedback.

Stakeholder	How this group was consulted	Feedback	Project response
	The Stage 2 3 Site Inspection was undertaken with Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre on 22 May 2024.		
Community			
Current site landowner	Urbis Engagement held a phone meeting with the current site landowner on 19 March 2024. The meeting was held to develop an understanding of local context and consult the current site landowner in relation to the upcoming engagement program and gather feedback on the approach to engagement in the Deniliquin community. Urbis Engagement emailed a community newsletter to the current site landowner on 7 May 2024. The newsletter provided information about the proposal, and invited feedback via the SIA survey, 1800 number or enquiry email. A copy of the newsletter is included in Appendix A of this report. Urbis Engagement also sent a LUCRA email the current site landowner on 15 May 2024. This email outlined the purpose of the LUCRA and asked a series of	The current site landowner generally endorsed the engagement program. The current site landowner suggested that the Deniliquin Pastoral Times newspaper would be the best method of informing the community of the proposal and providing details of upcoming opportunities to provide feedback. The current site landowner responded to the LUCRA email on 19 May 2024. In this email, they advised that their land has been largely unused for the past 25 years, other than being used for grazing during years of high rainfall. It was also advised that there are no current changes to planned use of the land in the future.	Urbis Engagement published a newspaper advertisement in the Deniliquin Pastoral Times on: - Friday 10 May - Tuesday 14 May. The advertisement included details about the proposal and how to provide feedback, as well as an invitation to the community to attend upcoming information sessions. A copy of the newspaper advertisement is included in Appendix D of this report. The current site landowner's response to the LUCRA email has been included in the LUCRA, submitted as part of the EIS.

Stakeholder	How this group was consulted	Feedback	Project response
	questions regarding past, present and planned future land use for properties neighbouring the proposal site.		
Neighbouring dwellings (within 1.5km of the site) on: - Aratula South Road - Aratula North Road - Riverina Highway - Hogans Lane.	Urbis Engagement emailed a community newsletter to neighbouring dwellings on 7 May 2024. The newsletter provided information about the proposal, and invited feedback via the SIA survey, 1800 number or enquiry email. A copy of the newsletter is included in Appendix A of this report. Urbis Engagement also sent a LUCRA email to neighbouring dwellings on 15 May 2024. This email outlined the purpose of the LUCRA and asked a series of questions regarding past, present and planned future land use for properties neighbouring the proposal site. Urbis Engagement hosted two community information pop-up sessions on 17 and 18 May 2024. Members of the GDA project team and Urbis' Engagement and Community Planning teams attended the pop-up sessions. A copy of the display materials used at these	Residents from neighbouring dwellings provided feedback at the community information pop-up sessions. Below are details of feedback provided. Support for the proposal Some residents expressed support for the proposal, due to: - Its location near the Deniliquin substation - It's contribution to the renewable energy transition, "If we want to have renewable energy, we've got to have batteries".	Support for the proposal Noted.
		Hazards and safety Some residents expressed interest in the mitigation of risks of contamination of the irrigation channel, and concerns around potential health impacts of the proposal.	Hazards and safety The EIS includes a Preliminary Hazard Assessment (PHA) which has assessed risks of hazardous materials associated with the proposal. The proposal does not pose any risk of contamination to the irrigation

Stakeholder	How this group was consulted	Feedback	Project response
	sessions is included in Appendix B of this report.		channel, nor any human health impacts.
		Concerns around impacts to private property and business operations One resident expressed concerns about potential impacts including: ▪ Property devaluation ▪ Impacts on beekeeping business and farming practices ▪ Proximity of commercial power poles increasing costs for private power connection and preventing future building plans for a new dwelling in desired location ▪ View loss across the paddock.	Concerns around impacts to private property and business operations ▪ A Social and Economic Impact Assessment has been prepared as part of the EIS. The assessment did not find evidence to suggest any negative impacts to property value in proximity of the proposal. ▪ The proposal will not impact business practices located on adjoining properties. ▪ Should the proposal be approved, GDA is committed to working with neighbouring dwellings to mitigate any potential impacts associated with private access to power connection. ▪ The proposal design has incorporated extra vegetative

Stakeholder	How this group was consulted	Feedback	Project response
			buffer to mitigate visual impacts for neighbouring dwellings.
		Interest in community benefits Suggestions provided by a resident for potential community benefits through the VPA included: ▪ Sponsorship of the Picola League and/or Murray League sporting clubs ▪ Upgrade of the Deniliquin Rams football club grandstand ▪ Upgrade of the Deniliquin Rovers netball club facilities ▪ Sponsorship of awards for Deniliquin Business Chambers local business awards ▪ Sponsorship of annual Deni Utes festival in October.	Interest in community benefits Should the proposal be approved, GDA will work with Council under a VPA to deliver community benefits. The VPA will be informed by suggestions from the community and from Council.
		Enquiries One resident enquired about the approval process.	Enquiries GDA is seeking approval from the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure through the State Significant Development Application process.

Stakeholder	How this group was consulted	Feedback	Project response
Wider Deniliquin community	From 7 May 2024, detailed project information has been available on the project website (https://deniliquinbess.com.au/) The website was advertised via the newsletter, the newspaper advertisement, and on information boards displayed at the community information pop-up sessions. A copy of the website content is included in Appendix C of this report. Urbis Engagement published a newspaper advertisement in the Deniliquin Pastoral Times on: ▪ Friday 10 May ▪ Tuesday 14 May. The advertisement included details about the proposal and how to provide feedback, as well as an invitation to the community to attend upcoming information sessions. A copy of the newspaper advertisement is included in Appendix D of this report. Urbis Engagement hosted two community information pop-up sessions on 17 and 18 May 2024. Members of the GDA project team	Support for the proposal Community members expressed support for the proposal due to its contribution to a more sustainable energy supply, including positive sentiment with regards to BESS technology: “It is great that it stores energy in off-peak and releases it during peak demand periods”. Community members also expressed support for the proposal given its low risk of potential impacts.	Support for the proposal Noted.
		Hazards and safety Community members were interested in the hazards and safety assessments included in the proposal, in particular: ▪ Fire safety measures ▪ Radiation risks. One community member expressed concerns around battery safety risks due to an increase in solar flares, advising solar flares create a risk of batteries exploding. The community member suggested inspections of the BESS after any solar flare events.	Hazards and safety The EIS includes a Bushfire Assessment Report which provides details of the proposal’s fire safety measures. The EIS also includes a Preliminary Hazard Assessment (PHA) which has assessed risks of hazardous materials in relation to radiation risks. The proposal does not pose any radiation risks. Should the proposal be approved, the BESS will be remotely monitored during operation, with maintenance

Stakeholder	How this group was consulted	Feedback	Project response
	and Urbis' Engagement and Community Planning teams attended the pop-up sessions. A copy of the display materials used at these sessions is included in Appendix B of this report.		personnel on call to visit the site in the event of any alarms or alerts.
		Concerns regarding solar and/or wind infrastructure Some community members expressed negative sentiment towards renewable developments such as solar and wind.	Concerns regarding solar and/or wind infrastructure The proposal does not involve solar or wind infrastructure.
		Concerns around loss of agricultural land One community member expressed concerns in relation to renewable developments taking up agricultural land.	Concerns around loss of agricultural land The proposal site has not been used as productive agricultural land for the past 25 years and has no future planned agricultural use.
		Enquiries Some questions were raised by community members, requesting information in relation to: - Whether the proposal will power local homes. - The source of the energy stored in the BESS.	Enquiries - Should the proposal be approved, the BESS will contribute to general grid stability, reliability and affordability, powering up to 28,000 homes. - The existing Deniliquin substation is the source of the energy which will be stored in the BESS, should the proposal be approved.

Stakeholder	How this group was consulted	Feedback	Project response
Deniliquin Community Group	Urbis Engagement emailed Deniliquin Community Group on 7 May 2024. This email provided information about the proposal along with the community newsletter, details for how to provide feedback, and an invitation to an individual online briefing.	To date, no response has been received from Deniliquin Community Group.	GDA will continue to inform Deniliquin Community Group as plans progress.

10. FUTURE COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

GDA welcomes feedback on the proposal. GDA will continue to keep stakeholders and the community informed of the project approval process through the exhibition and determination phases by:

- Continuing to engage with the community about the project, its potential impacts, and the approval process
- Enabling the community to seek clarification about the project through the two-way communication channels.

11. DISCLAIMER

This report is dated February 2025 and incorporates information and events up to that date only and excludes any information arising, or event occurring, after that date which may affect the validity of Urbis Ltd (**Urbis**) opinion in this report. Urbis prepared this report on the instructions, and for the benefit only, of Gransolar Group (**Instructing Party**) for the purpose of Engagement Outcomes Report (**Purpose**) and not for any other purpose or use. To the extent permitted by applicable law, Urbis expressly disclaims all liability, whether direct or indirect, to the Instructing Party which relies or purports to rely on this report for any purpose other than the Purpose, and to any other person which relies or purports to rely on this report for any purpose whatsoever (including the Purpose).

In preparing this report, Urbis was required to make judgements which may be affected by unforeseen future events, the likelihood, and effects of which are not capable of precise assessment.

All surveys, forecasts, projections, and recommendations contained in or associated with this report are made in good faith and on the basis of information supplied to Urbis at the date of this report, and upon which Urbis relied. Achievement of the projections and budgets set out in this report will depend, among other things, on the actions of others over which Urbis has no control.

In preparing this report, Urbis may rely on or refer to documents in a language other than English, which Urbis may arrange to be translated. Urbis is not responsible for the accuracy or completeness of such translations and disclaims any liability for any statement or opinion made in this report being inaccurate or incomplete arising from such translations.

Whilst Urbis has made all reasonable inquiries it believes necessary in preparing this report, it is not responsible for determining the completeness or accuracy of information provided to it. Urbis (including its officers and personnel) is not liable for any errors or omissions, including in information provided by the Instructing Party or another person or upon which Urbis relies, provided that such errors or omissions are not made by Urbis recklessly or in bad faith.

This report has been prepared with due care and diligence by Urbis and the statements and opinions given by Urbis in this report are given in good faith and in the reasonable belief that they are correct and not misleading, subject to the limitations above.

APPENDIX A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



www.gransolar.com

DENILIQUIN EAST BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

MAY 2024



Indicative only, subject to detailed design

Gransolar Development Australia (GDA) is currently preparing a Development Application to construct and operate a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) near the existing Deniliquin substation.

The proposal aims to contribute to supporting Australia's transition to a renewable energy future and increased reliability to the network.

This newsletter provides an overview of the proposal, information on where you can find out more information and details about how you can provide feedback.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The proposed site is located approximately 12km south-east of Deniliquin, NSW, at 21356 Riverina Highway. The proposed development area is approximately 3.5 hectares.

If approved, the proposal will include:

- Installation of up to 80 lithium-ion batteries, housed within 20-foot shipping containers approximately 2.5m wide and 2.8m high, powering up to 28,000 homes
- Cabling and collector units, a storage area, internal access tracks and two new irrigation channel crossings connecting Riverina Highway to the site
- Overhead transmission pylons to connect the BESS to the existing Deniliquin substation
- Safety features such as security fencing, lightning masts, and firefighting water tanks
- Landscaping and tree planting to offset visual impact.

WHAT IS A BESS AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

A BESS is a battery energy storage system that stores excess energy from the grid. This excess energy may come from renewable energy sources such as solar power.

The stored excess energy is redistributed to the grid during low supply and high demand periods.

BESS technology self-sufficiently manages the storage and discharge of power.

Batteries most commonly use lithium to store the electricity.

Delivering a new BESS at the proposed Deniliquin site means:



Up to 50 locally sourced jobs during construction and two jobs anticipated when the BESS is operational.



A reliable supply and more affordable source of energy for the region.



Contributing positively to Australia's clean energy transition.

DENILIQUIN EAST BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

MAY 2024



MANAGING POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Gransolar is committed to understanding and managing potential impacts during installation and operation of the proposed BESS.

The Development Application will be submitted to the NSW State Government and is referred to as a State Significant Development Application (SSDA). It includes an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which will assess any potential impacts from installation and operation of the BESS and suggest mitigation measures if they are required. This will include a bushfire assessment and preliminary hazard analysis as well as assessments of potential traffic, noise, dust, overshadowing and visual impacts.

If the proposal is approved, GDA will develop and implement an Operational Management Plan. This will outline how the site will be managed, including ensuring potential impacts on neighbours are minimised.

Indicative only, subject to detailed design



ABOUT GDA

GDA has an extensive global presence spanning over 17 countries and a strong track record of 7 years of operation in Australia.

GDA specialises in renewable energy and battery systems, and is committed to supporting the transition to a sustainable energy system.

GDA will be working with Council under a Voluntary Planning Agreement to deliver community benefits as identified during the engagement period. Examples of this may include:

- Funding for essential community services
- Education programs for local schools
- Sponsorships for local sporting teams.

NEXT STEPS

GDA is seeking approval for the proposal from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) through the SSDA process.

SEPTEMBER 2023

The first step in the SSDA process is lodging a request with DPHI for the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). The SEARs ensure government agencies and relevant service providers are informed and given the opportunity for specific details to be addressed within the SSDA.

WE ARE HERE

The next step is to prepare the EIS which will assess any potential impacts from the installation and operation of the proposal and suggest mitigation measures. As part of developing the EIS, GDA is engaging with site neighbours and the wider community.

JUNE 2024

Community feedback will be collated in an Engagement Outcomes Report and included in the submission to DPHI to inform future planning.

JULY 2024

Formal SSDA lodgement. Following this, DPHI will publicly exhibit the proposal. At this point, the community can make formal submissions to DPHI.

FOLLOWING 12 MONTHS

GDA is expecting a determination within 12 months of lodging the SSDA.

PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK

Pop-up information session

To find out more about the proposal and provide your feedback, you are invited to speak to the project team at an upcoming pop-up information session.

The project team will be outside Deniliquin Coles on:

- Friday 17 May, 4:00-6:00pm
- Saturday 18 May, 10:00am-12:00pm

Other ways to provide feedback

Urbis is supporting GDA to engage with the local community.

Find out more information and provide feedback via:

- 🌐 <https://deniliquinbess.com.au/>
- ✉ engagement@urbis.com.au
- ☎ 1800 244 863

Urbis Community Planning, a team of specialist social planners and social scientist practitioners, is also preparing a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) as part of the SSDA. The SIA process is being guided by the DPHI's [Social Impact Assessment Guideline](#) (2023). The SIA will be submitted to DPHI and available to view on the DPHI website when the proposal is placed on public exhibition in late 2024.

To inform the SIA, we are seeking feedback to better understand the needs of the local community, potential positive and negative social impacts of the proposal (including enhancement measures for positive impacts and mitigation measures for negative impacts), and community benefit opportunities to inform the Voluntary Planning Agreement. You can provide your feedback by filling in a short online survey. The survey is open until 5pm on Monday 3 June 2024.

Please scan the QR code with your phone or access the survey here: <https://urbis.questionpro.com.au/deniliquinbess>

GDA will consider all feedback received as the design of the proposal is finalised.



APPENDIX B POP-UP DISPLAY BOARDS

PROPOSED BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FOR DENILQUIN

Gransolar Development Australia (GDA) is currently preparing a Development Application to construct and operate a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) near the existing Denilquin substation.

The proposal aims to contribute to Australia's transition to clean energy and will support a sustainable, reliable energy source for Denilquin as the energy infrastructure for the region is changing.





Indicative only, subject to detailed design

WHAT IS A BESS AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

A BESS is a battery energy storage system that stores excess energy from the grid. This excess energy may come from renewable energy sources such as rooftop solar.

Batteries most commonly use lithium to store the electricity.

The stored excess energy is redistributed to the grid during low supply and high demand periods.

BESS is a self-sufficient technology that manages the storage and discharge of energy.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSAL

The proposal site is located approximately 6km south-east of Denilquin, NSW, at 21356 Riverina Highway. The proposed development area is approximately 3.5 hectares.

If approved, the proposal will include:

- Installation of up to 80 lithium-ion batteries, housed within 20-foot shipping containers approximately 2.5m wide and 2.8m high, powering up to 28,000 homes.

- Cabling and collector units, a storage area, internal access tracks and a new irrigation channel crossing connecting Riverina Highway to the site.
- Overhead transmission pylons to connect the BESS to the existing Denilquin substation.
- Safety features including security fencing, lightning masts, and firefighting water tanks.
- Landscaping and tree planting to offset visual impact.

Developing a new BESS in Denilquin will contribute to a sustainable network system into the future. The site location is close to the South West Renewable Energy Zone and was selected based on detailed planning to determine the optimal site suitability.



SUBJECT SITE

BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSAL



COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The proposal will provide:



Reliable energy supply for up to 28,000 homes



Approximately 50 local jobs during construction and two ongoing jobs when the BESS is operational

GDA will also be working with Council under a Voluntary Planning Agreement to deliver community benefits.

Examples of this may include:



Funding for essential community services



Education programs for local schools



Sponsorships for local sporting teams

A RELIABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY SOURCE INTO THE FUTURE

BESS technology is an important component for Australia's clean energy transition. It is an increasingly popular solution for the integration of renewable energy and grid stability. BESS technology has these advantages:

ENERGY EFFICIENCY



Increasing energy efficiency by storing excess energy during low-demand periods and releasing it during peak-periods

ENVIRONMENTAL



Reducing carbon and greenhouse gas emissions by assisting to integrate renewable energy sources into the grid

FINANCIAL

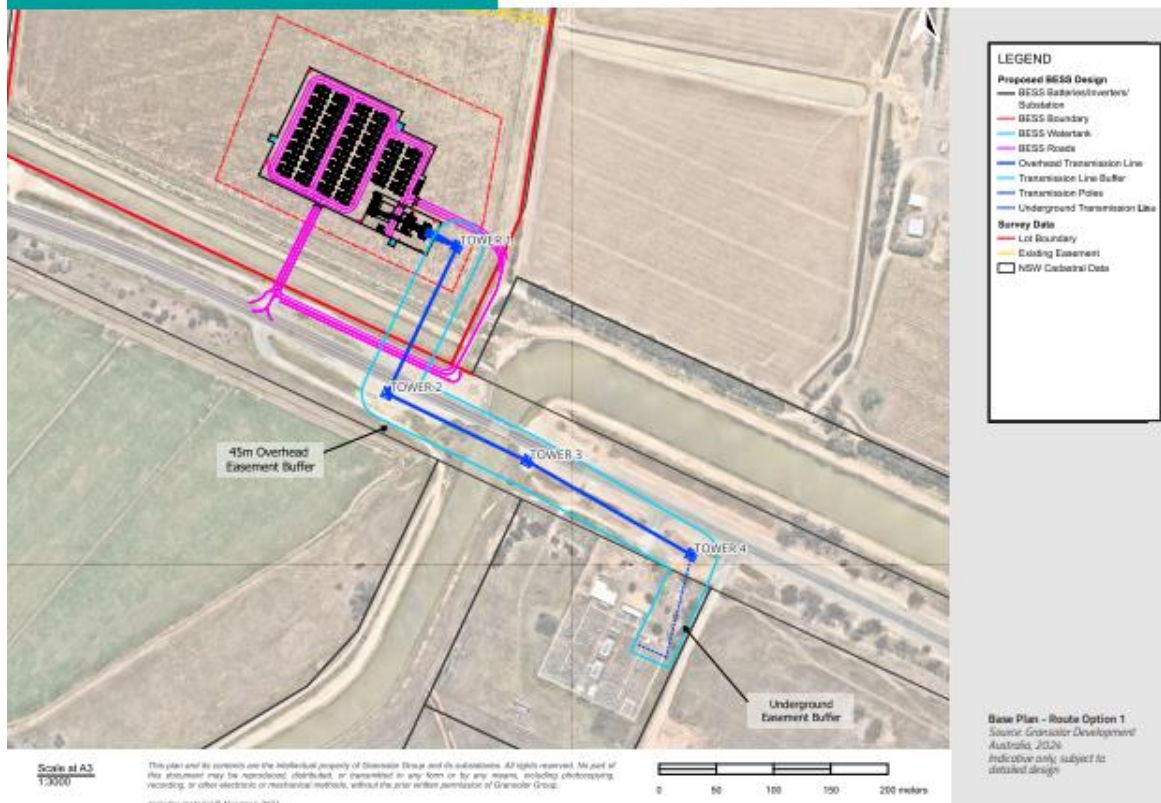


Maximising the value of the electricity produced and reducing the cost of energy for households and businesses

NETWORK STABILITY



Providing fast and reliable response times to prevent blackouts and other disruptions



NEXT STEPS

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE?

GDA is seeking approval for the proposal from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) through the State Significant Development Application (SSDA) process.

The first step in the SSDA process is lodging a request with DPHI for the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). SEARs were issued for this project in September 2023. The SEARs ensure government agencies and relevant service providers are informed and provided with the opportunity to request certain information be addressed within the SSDA.

WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW?

GDA is preparing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This will assess any potential impacts from the installation and operation of the proposal and suggest mitigation measures. As part of developing the EIS, GDA is engaging with site neighbours and the wider community.

WHAT IS HAPPENING NEXT?

In June 2024, feedback will be collated in an Engagement Outcomes Report and included in the submission to DPHI to inform future planning.

In July 2024, GDA will formally lodge the proposal. Following this, DPHI will publicly exhibit the proposal. At this point, the community can make formal submissions to DPHI.

GDA is expecting a determination within 12 months of lodging the SSDA.

If the proposal is approved, construction will take approximately 10 to 12 months with the following staging:

- Stage 1**
(approximately 4 months)
Site establishment and civil works, including drainage works, roadworks, construction of access tracks, and construction of hard-stands and footings.
- Stage 2**
(approximately 4 months)
Delivery and installation of battery modules and other infrastructure.
- Stage 3**
(approximately 3 months)
Commissioning.



PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK

Social Impact Assessment Survey

Urbis Community Planning, a team of specialist social planners and social scientist practitioners, is also preparing a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) as part of the SSDA. The SIA process is being guided by the DPHI's Social Impact Assessment Guideline (2023). The SIA will be submitted to DPHI and available to view on the DPHI website when the proposal is placed on public exhibition in late 2024.

To inform the SIA, we are seeking feedback to better understand the needs of the local community, potential positive and negative social impacts of the proposal (including enhancement measures for positive impacts and mitigation measures for negative impacts), and community benefit opportunities to inform the Voluntary Planning Agreement. You can provide your feedback by filling in a short online survey. The survey is open until 5pm on Monday 3 June 2024.



Please scan the QR code with your phone or access the survey here:
<https://urbis.questionpro.com.au/deniliquinbess>

GDA will consider all feedback received as the design of the proposal is finalised.

OTHER WAYS TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK

Urbis is supporting GDA to engage with the local community. Find out more information and provide feedback via:

<https://deniliquinbess.com.au/>

engagement@urbis.com.au

1800 244 863

ABOUT GRANSOLAR DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA



GRANSOLAR DEVELOPMENT
AUSTRALIA (GDA) HAS
AN EXTENSIVE GLOBAL
PRESENCE SPANNING OVER
17 COUNTRIES AND A STRONG
TRACK RECORD OF 7 YEARS OF
OPERATION IN AUSTRALIA.

GDA specialises in renewable energy and battery systems, and is committed to supporting the transition to a sustainable energy system.

GDA has a variety of businesses within the renewable energy industry, including design and engineering, consulting, plant commissioning and other major groups. This broad span of capabilities offers an exciting business mix that is purposeful, profitable and effective.



A COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY, SOCIAL PROGRESS, AND THE GENERATION OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN EVERY PROJECT

At Gransolar Development Australia, when faced with a new challenge we turn to our core values. Whatever the climate, location, technology, or timeline, we are experts in delivering integrated solutions under the most demanding circumstances. Through repeatedly succeeding where others have failed Gransolar Development Australia is recognised as a trust-worthy partner and a reference in renewable energy markets.

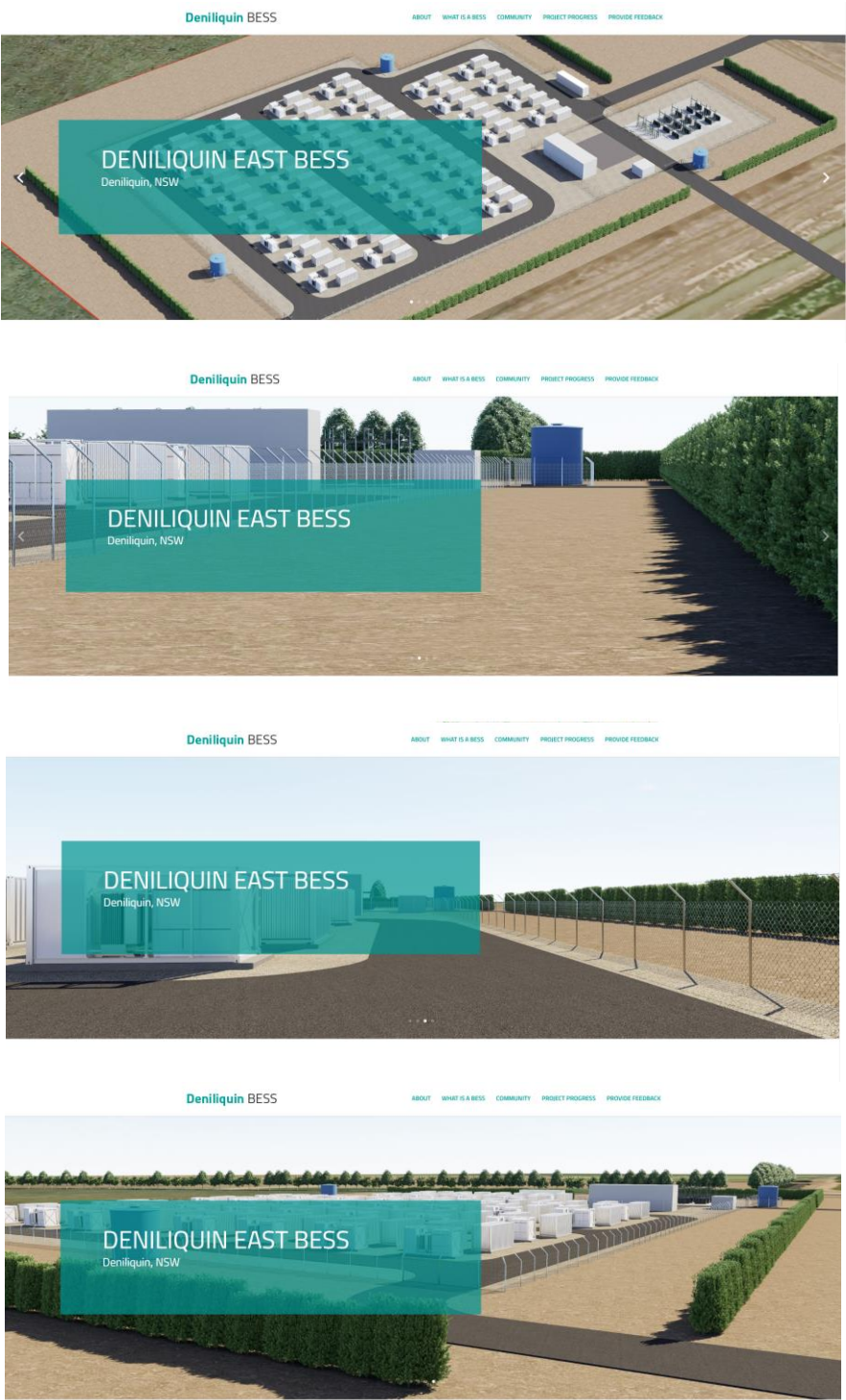


3,697,234

Tons of CO₂ avoided
worldwide

* Data by year, corresponding to 2022

APPENDIX C WEBSITE CONTENT



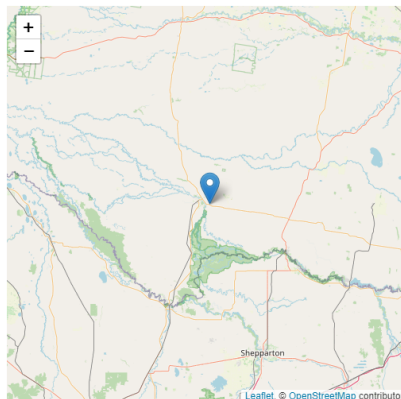
ABOUT

DENILIQUIN EAST BESS PROPOSAL

Gransolar Development Australia (GDA) is currently preparing a Development Application to construct and operate a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) near the existing Deniliquin substation.

Our proposal aims to contribute to supporting Australia's transition to a renewable energy future and supporting increased reliability to the network.

This website provides an overview of our proposal, information on where you can find out more information and how you can provide feedback.



AN OVERVIEW OF OUR PROPOSAL

The proposal site is located approximately 6km south-east of Deniliquin, NSW, at 21356 Riverina Highway. The site has an area of approximately 46 hectares and the proposed development area is approximately 3.5 hectares. If approved, the proposal will include:



Installation of lithium-ion batteries, housed within containers approximately 6m long, 2.5m wide and 2.8m high, powering up to 28,000 homes



Cabling and collector units, storage area, internal access tracks and two new access bridges connecting Riverina Highway and the site



Overhead transmission pylons to connect the BESS to the Deniliquin substation

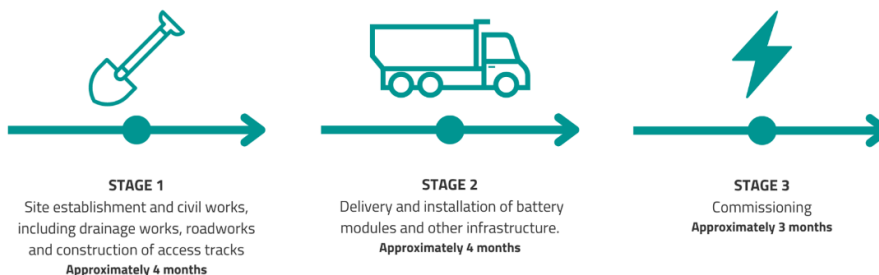


Safety features including security fencing, lightning masts, and a firefighting water tank



Landscaping plantings to offset visual impact

If the proposal is approved, construction will take approximately 10 to 12 months with the following staging:

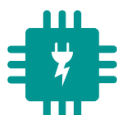


The anticipated operational life of the BESS is 20-30 years. Operation of the BESS will mainly occur remotely; however workers will visit the site intermittently to conduct inspections and maintenance.



28,000

Dwellings powered



100MW

Battery power



200MWh

Battery storage



10-12 months

Construction period



WHAT IS A BESS AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

A BESS is a battery energy storage system that stores excess energy from the grid. This excess energy may come from renewable energy sources such as solar power.

The stored excess energy is redistributed to the grid during low supply and high demand periods.

BESS technology self-sufficiently manages the storage and discharge of power.

Batteries most commonly use lithium to store the electricity.



CONTRIBUTION TO THE RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION

The proposal will contribute to the sustainable growth of the historical agricultural and irrigation industries in Deniliquin by supporting a transition to a renewable energy future.

BESS technology is consistent with and supported by:

- The Commonwealth Government's commitment to net zero by 2050
- The NSW Government's Net Zero Plan Stage 1, 2020-2030
- The NSW Government's State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) Amendment (Energy Storage Technology) 2020.

BESS technology is an important component for Australia's clean energy transition. It is an increasingly popular solution for the integration of renewable energy and power grid stability.

RELIABLE ENERGY SOURCE INTO THE FUTURE

BESS technology has various advantages:

- **Efficiency:** increasing energy efficiency by storing excess energy during low-demand periods and releasing it during peak-periods, assisting with energy management, reducing energy waste and conserving natural resources.
- **Environmental:** reducing carbon and greenhouse gas emissions by assisting to integrate renewable energy sources into the grid, reducing reliance on fossil fuel.
- **Financial:** maximising the value of the electricity produced and reducing the cost of energy for households and businesses.
- **Network stability:** providing fast and reliable response times to prevent blackouts and other disruptions, ensuring a more reliable and secure power supply.

Developing a new BESS site in Deniliquin will contribute to sustainable electricity generation capacity into the future. The site location is close to the South West Renewable Energy Zone and was selected based on detailed planning to determine the optimal site suitability.

The site has:

- Strategic merit, located on unconstrained and underutilised land
- Close proximity to the grid transmission network through the existing Deniliquin substation, which reduces the need to deliver new transmission infrastructure, thereby minimising environmental impacts
- Easy access with no impact to local roads and excellent links to major roads
- Minimal neighbouring dwellings, all of which will experience minimal to no impacts
- Very low environmental impacts – the site has minimal tree and shrub coverage





COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Along with powering up to 28,000 homes, our proposal will provide:

- Reliable energy supply
- Increased long-term energy affordability
- Approximately 50 jobs created during construction and two jobs anticipated during operation, with jobs sourced locally where possible.

We will also be working with Council under a Voluntary Planning Agreement to deliver community benefits as identified during the engagement period.

Examples of this may include:

- Funding for essential community services
- Education programs for local schools
- Sponsorships for local sporting teams.

MANAGING POTENTIAL IMPACTS

We are committed to managing potential impacts during installation and operation of the proposed BESS. Our proposal includes an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which will assess any potential impacts from installation and operation of the BESS and suggest mitigation measures.

Plans are still at a very early stage, and the construction program and timing would only be finalised should the proposal be approved. We will notify neighbours well in advance before construction starts.

If the proposal is approved, we will develop plans that outline how it will minimise the impacts of construction on the community.



PROJECT PROGRESS

What we have done

We are seeking approval for the proposal from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) through the SSDA process.

The first step in the SSDA process is lodging a request with DPHI for the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). The SEARs ensure government agencies and relevant service providers are informed and given the opportunity for specific details to be addressed within the SSDA.

Where we are now

The next step is to prepare the EIS which will assess any potential impacts from the installation and operation of the proposal and suggest mitigation measures. As part of developing the EIS, GDA is engaging with site neighbours and the wider community.

What is next

In June 2024, feedback will be collated in an Engagement Outcomes Report and included in the submission to DPHI to inform future planning.

In July 2024, we will formally lodge our proposal. Following this, DPHI will publicly exhibit the proposal. At this point, the community can make formal submissions to DPHI.

We are expecting a determination within 12 months of lodging the SSDA.



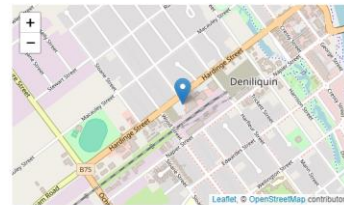
PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK

Pop-up information session

To find out more about the proposal and provide your feedback, you are invited to speak to the project team at an upcoming pop-up information session.

The project team will be outside Deniliquin Coles on:

- Friday 17 May, 4:00-6:00pm
- Saturday 18 May, 10:00am-12:00pm



Social Impact Assessment

Urbis Ltd is preparing a social impact assessment (SIA) to support the SSDA. The proposed BESS is expected to store up to 200 megawatt hours of electricity. This is enough electricity to power around 28,000 homes, which is more than six times the number of homes in the Edward River Local Government Area (LGA).

What is a Social Impact Assessment (SIA)?



SIA Survey

As part of the SIA process, Urbis has developed a survey which aims to gather insights on how the proposal may impact you. Your response will inform the preparation of the SIA for the SSDA. When completing the SIA survey, please consider how each of these elements may be impacted for you or your community relative to the development proposed.

The survey is structured in three parts:

- Part One: Seeks your feedback on what you value about Deniliquin and the surrounding area.
- Part Two: Seeks your feedback on how the development may impact you, both positively and negatively. It will also ask your ideas on how positive social impacts can be enhanced and negative impacts can be reduced.
- Part Three: Seeks your feedback how the proposed Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) could benefit the community.

We invite people living, working and visiting Deniliquin and surrounding areas to complete this survey. The SIA survey can be accessed via the following link: <https://urbis.questionpro.com.au/deniliquinbess>

Other ways to provide feedback

Urbis is also supporting GDA to engage with the local community.

Find out more information and provide feedback via:

engagement@urbis.com.au | 1800 244 863

A PROJECT OF:



MENU

About
What is a BESS
Community
Project progress
Provide Feedback

ADDRESS

Deniliquin BESS
c/o Gransolar Development Australia
Level 4, 307 Queen St
Brisbane QLD, 4000
Australia

POLICY

Privacy policy

© 2024 DENILIQUIN BESS | BY GRANSOLAR GROUP

APPENDIX D NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT

Consultation for a battery storage proposal south-east of Deni



You are invited to share your thoughts about the next renewable energy proposal near Deni.

Gransolar Development Australia (GDA) is current preparing a Development Application to construct and operate a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) around 6km south-east of town, near the existing Deniliquin substation.

The proposal aims to contribute to supporting Australia's transition to a renewable energy future and increase the reliability to the network.

To find out more about the proposal and provide your feedback, you are invited to speak to the project team at an upcoming pop-up information session. The project team will be outside Coles Deniliquin (106 Hardinge St, Deniliquin) on:

- Friday 17 May, 4:00-6:00pm
- Saturday 18 May, 10:00am-12:00pm

You can also find out more about the proposal by scanning the QR code:



