

Appendix C Project engagement

Hume North BESS

A proposed sustainable energy storage system near Albury, New South Wales

Location: Lake Hume Village, NSW
Development Progress: Planning and approval
Power Network: Transgrid

About the project

Foresight Group is proposing to develop a new battery energy storage system (BESS) near Lake Hume Village, 13 kilometres from Albury and close to the border between New South Wales and Victoria.

The proposed Hume North BESS would deliver a significant renewable generation capability for the region, boost the local economy, reduce energy prices and contribute towards securing Australia's future energy supply.

The Hume North BESS would have a capacity of up to 74 megawatts (MW) with two hours of storage (74MW / 148MWh). A direct 132kV connection via underground or overhead cabling would connect the proposed BESS to Transgrid's transmission line on the Albury to Hume Power Station line.

Planning approval for a smaller BESS nearby was granted in 2020. If the application for the proposed 74MW / 148MWh BESS is approved, the existing approval for the smaller BESS would be surrendered. Only one BESS will be built in the area.

The Hume North BESS would support the Australian and New South Wales Governments commitment to increasing the use of clean, reliable energy to secure future energy supply across the country. It would also support Foresight's goal to bring clean, reliable energy to the Australian energy market through investing in innovative battery technology.

We are committed to consulting the local community, visitors to the area, other stakeholders, and Government agencies, inviting feedback at each stage of the planning process and prior to submitting a planning application to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

The indicative planning timeline and community consultation periods include:

- Mid 2023 – Write to neighbouring landowners
- Late 2023 – Scoping report published
- Late 2023 / Early 2024 – Meet with the community and key stakeholders, to share information and gather feedback that will inform the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Mid 2024 – EIS published
- Mid 2024 – Receipt of formal submissions by stakeholders and the community
- Mid 2024 – Response to Submissions Report published, sharing responses to submissions from the community and stakeholders
- Late 2024 – Anticipated project approval
- Early 2025 – Construction underway
- Late 2025 – Hume North BESS operational

The timings provided are indicative only, and subject to change during the planning application.

The Scoping Report, EIS and Response to Submissions Report will be published on NSW Government's Major Projects website.

Community Information Sessions about development of Hume North BESS were held on May 15th at Lake Hume Resort and on May 22nd online, where the following materials were presented:

[Hume North BESS Foresight Factsheets - 15 May 2024](#)

[Hume North BESS Foresight Virtual Community Information Session – 22 May 2024](#)

[Location Map](#)

[Planning Application](#)

[FAQs](#)

Foresight wishes to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which the proposed Hume North BESS is located, the Wiradjuri Nation, and pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging.

Contact us for more information or if you have any questions.

First Name *	Last Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Phone *	Email *
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Message	
<input type="text"/>	
<input type="submit" value="Submit"/>	

Subject: Hume North Battery Energy Storage System update

Dear

We are writing to update you on planning work for the proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) near Lake Hume Village.

You will likely be aware that in 2020 the New South Wales Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) granted Meridian Energy approval to develop a 20 megawatts (MW) / 40 megawatt hours (MWh) BESS to be co-located alongside the Hume Hydro Power Station at 62 Murray Street, Lake Hume Village.

In 2022, Foresight (formerly Infrastructure Capital Group) acquired Meridian Energy Australia and the unbuilt, previously approved Hume BESS development.

Based on a review of the existing approval and constraints, Foresight is seeking to develop a BESS with larger storage capacity (74 MW / 148 MWh) on the land it owns at 32 Trout Farm Road, Lake Hume Village. This new location is 90 metres north of the existing approved location. Opportunities associated with this new location include:

- Based on the known year-round energy ratings on the Albury to Hume transmission line, a larger battery is possible which means a bigger impact on transition to renewable energy
- Direct access to the transmission network via an existing easement on site
- Improved simplicity in design, constructability and engineering at the new site
- New location is predominately non-native vegetation and able to avoid areas of threatened ecological communities in comparison to the previous location
- Able to avoid an area of potential archaeological deposits
- Further away from the Murray River.

Foresight are only intending to develop one BESS in the area. If the planning application for the new, larger storage Hume North BESS is approved, the existing approval for the smaller battery would be surrendered. The proposed project would have no impact on the operation of the existing Hume Dam, or the Hume Hydro Power Station.

A map demonstrating the two locations is attached.

We are committed to consulting with the local community and other key stakeholders at each stage of the planning process, and prior to submitting a planning application to DPE.

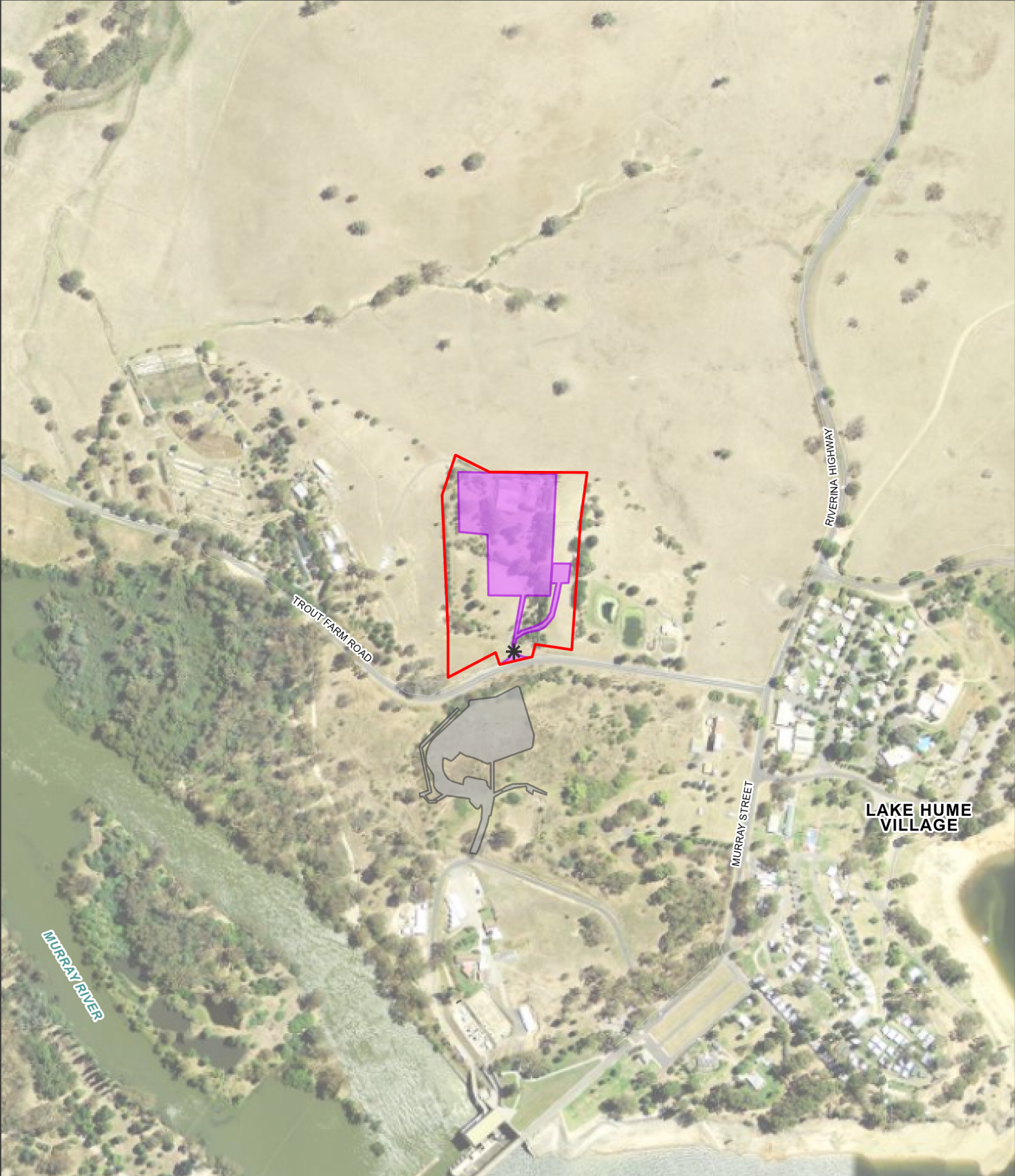
To find out more about the proposed larger storage Hume North BESS, visit our webpage at gspenergy.com.au/hume-battery which includes a set of Frequently Asked Questions.

If you would like an initial phone conversation about the proposed planning application, or to provide any early feedback, we would be pleased to arrange a phone conversation with a member of our team.

To arrange a phone conversation please call 1800 061 321 or email humbessenquiries@foresightgroupau.com sharing your name, address, and preferred date and time for a phone call to take place. We will then get in touch to confirm your appointment.

Yours sincerely

Hume North BESS Project Team
Foresight Group



LEGEND

Project area

Development area

Approved Hume BESS project

Site access

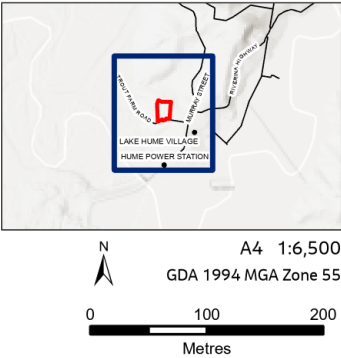


Figure 1: Project location

Data Sources: NSW Department of Planning and Environment (2023); Imagery Sources: ESRI Online Imagery Services; JACOBS (2023), Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021), TransGrid (2023)

Hume North Battery Energy Storage System

Project FAQs

August 2023

1. What is a battery energy storage system?

Battery energy storage systems (BESS) operate by charging from an energy source then storing that energy until it is required for use. They are an innovative technology in that they respond almost instantly to the needs of the energy market at any given time. This makes BESS a valuable asset as they can offer a stable source of energy supply when renewable energy, such as solar or wind energy, has variable output.

2. Why does the region need more energy storage?

The Australian and New South Wales (NSW) Governments are committed to increasing the use of clean, reliable energy to secure future energy supply across the country. With Liddell Power Station recently closing and other carbon-emitting, coal-fired power stations also now expected to be closed years ahead of schedule, NSW needs to rapidly grow its capacity to produce and store clean, renewable energy and achieve net-zero emissions targets by 2050.

3. Who is Foresight?

Foresight is a leading infrastructure and private equity investment manager, managing over 1.1 gigawatts of renewal energy generation capacity as well as investment funds and other assets. Foresight (formerly Infrastructure Capital Group) acquired Meridian Energy Australia and the unbuilt, previously approved Hume BESS development in Lake Hume Village in 2022. Foresight's Australia headquarters is in Sydney, NSW.

4. Why is a BESS being considered for this location?

Foresight is proposing to build a new 74MW / 148 MWh BESS at 32 Trout Farm Road, Lake Hume Village, on the land it acquired in 2022. The BESS would deliver a significant new energy-generating capability for the region, boost the local economy, reduce energy prices and contribute towards securing Australia's future energy supply. The proximity of the project site to the local road network, and Transgrid's existing transmission line, avoid the need for a longer transmissions line or additional road infrastructure. The proposed Hume North BESS would have no impact on operation of the Hume Dam, or the Hume Hydro Power Station.

5. Will the existing BESS approval in Lake Hume Village be surrendered?

In 2020 the Department of Planning and Environment granted approval for a 20 MW / 40 MWh BESS at 62 Murray Street, Lake Hume Village. The proposed Hume North BESS at 32 Trout Farm Road would have a larger storage than the approved Hume BESS development, based on the known year-round energy ratings on the existing 132 kV transmission line. If the application for the BESS at 32 Trout Farm Road is approved, the existing approval for a smaller BESS at 62 Murray Street would be surrendered. Only one BESS will be built in the area.

6. What approvals are required for the project?

The project is seeking approval under Division 4.7 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). The consent authority for Project would be the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces or the NSW Independent Planning Commission.

7. How will Foresight gather feedback from the community and stakeholders?

We are committed to consulting the community and stakeholders at each key stage of the planning process and prior to submitting a planning application to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. We will ensure that we consult with a wide range of community members in Lake Hume Village and its surrounds, including tourists and other visitors to the area.

8. How would the construction process be managed to minimise disruption?

The construction phase would be anticipated to last around 12 months, with all construction activities undertaken during standard daytime construction hours. It is expected that approximately 50 full time workers will be required during the peak construction period. The workforce would be sourced from the local area as far as possible. Accommodation for non-local construction staff is expected to be sourced through available short-term accommodation in the surrounding area.

There would likely be additional vehicles in the area throughout the construction period, including some heavy vehicle transportation. Trout Farm Road would be upgraded as the access point to the project area, to provide safe access for construction vehicles and equipment.

We will consult the local community, businesses and Transport for NSW early, to ensure that any transportation impacts are managed in a way that minimises disruption to residents and visitors to the area, and that any potential dust, noise, traffic or visual impacts are minimised as much as possible.

9. What safety features are included in the design of the BESS?

An inbuilt advanced Battery Management System regulates the battery to avoid it being overcharged, losing charge, or overheating. An assessment of any potential hazards, including bush fire, will be undertaken before the planning application is submitted, with the outcomes informing the subsequent design, construction, testing, operation, and maintenance of the proposed BESS. Construction and operation will meet all NSW Government safety regulations, with all plans developed in consultation with NSW Rural Fire Service, Fire and Rescue NSW, and Albury Council.

10. How will the community benefit?

The Hume North BESS would create local jobs during both construction and operation, and likely bring increased revenue for local businesses and services including in trades, accommodation, hospitality, and logistics.

11. Would the BESS produce any noise, once operational?

During operation, cooling fans used to maintain the temperature of the battery are likely to produce some noise comparable to that of a standard air conditioning unit. Once operational, noise levels would be monitored in line with NSW Government guidelines so that any noise is not considered intrusive to the average person. An assessment of likely construction and operation noise impacts, and recommended technology to avoid or minimise noise, will be undertaken before the planning application is submitted.

12. What would the Hume North BESS look like?

BESS facilities are typically containerised, modular systems. The Hume North BESS would be located at the maximum set back distance from nearby roads to minimise potential visual amenity impacts. The existing terrain would provide some screening between the BESS and surrounding areas. It would not likely be visible from Lake Hume and the associated recreation areas. During the planning process we will consult neighbouring landowners, the local community, businesses and key stakeholders on the proposed changes to the visual amenity and consider this feedback during the design process. If required, the Hume North BESS would include further vegetation screening.

13. How would environmental concerns be managed?

The proposed location at 32 Trout Farm Road, Lake Hume Village is considered to have a reduced environmental impact in comparison to the previously approved Hume BESS development. We will consult with local and regional environmental groups, as well as neighbouring landowners, businesses owners and the wider community, to ensure we are aware of all environmental concerns and that these are considered as part of the planning and approvals process. This will include ensuring the endangered squirrel glider population in the area is not negatively impacted.

14. How do I find out more?

Call our free community information line on 1800 061 321, or email humbessenquiries@ForesightGroupau.com. Our phone line is monitored Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Hume North BESS

Foresight is proposing to develop a new battery energy storage system (BESS) at 32 Trout Farm Road, Lake Hume Village, NSW.

Proposed BESS site
at 32 Trout Farm Road

To learn more about the proposed development visit an upcoming Community Information Session, in-person or online. At each event our team will share information about the proposed development and answer your questions.

Drop-in Community Information Session

When:

**Wednesday 15 May 2024,
11am–2pm**

Venue:

Lake Hume Tourist Park,
Reception Meeting Room

No need to register; just come along for a chat.
Light refreshments will be provided.

Virtual Community Information Session

When:

**Wednesday 22 May 2024,
6pm–7pm**

Venue:

Virtual – Register ahead at



humbattery.eventbrite.com.au

Contact us



1800 061 321 (Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm)



humbessenquiries@foresightgroupau.com

You can also find more information at:



gspenergy.com.au/hume-battery

Factsheet 1: Proposed Development

Foresight is proposing to develop a new battery energy storage system (BESS) at Lake Hume Village, NSW.

Proposed BESS site at 32 Trout Farm Road

The proposed Hume North BESS would have a capacity of approximately 75 megawatts with up to two hours of storage (75MW/150 MWh), with a grid connection into Transgrid's Albury to Hume 132kV transmission line.


If the proposed development is approved, it would replace the approved 2020 Hume BESS development, which was of a smaller size (20 MW / 40 MWh) and subject to a number of environmental and grid constraints.

The proposed BESS would store renewable energy from the existing network in periods of high supply but low demand. The stored energy would then be released in periods of high demand.

If the proposed development is approved, construction is expected to begin in early 2025. The BESS would then be operational from late 2025.

We are consulting the community prior to submitting the State Significant Development Application to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

Contact us

 1800 061 321 (Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm)

 humbessenquiries@foresightgroupau.com

You can also find more information at:

 gspenergy.com.au/hume-battery

About Foresight

Foresight is a global business with established local connections. It manages GSP Energy Pty Ltd, which owns and operates three hydro-electric power stations in NSW including the Hume Power Station.

Foresight's investment strategies are aligned to the key themes shaping societies and the planet for future generations - helping to create a resilient, decarbonised world and to deliver high quality jobs that will power tomorrow's economy.

Factsheet 2: Key Features

Generation Capacity:

Up to 75 megawatts (MW) with two hours of storage (75 MW / 150 MWh).

Connection:

Direct 132kV connection to Transgrid's transmission line on the Albury to Hume Power Station line, located along the eastern boundary of the proposed site.

What is a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)?

BESS are large batteries housed in containers. They store renewable energy from the National Electricity Market in periods where supply exceeds demand, so that it can be dispatched at times of greater need. This functionality makes batteries pivotal in the transition to a more sustainable and resilient energy.

What is the advantage of a BESS?

The ability to time-shift the release of electricity offers a distinct advantage compared to other forms of renewable energy like solar or wind. It enhances overall energy efficiency, reducing reliance on fossil fuel powered plants that generally only run when there is a high demand for energy and are typically less efficient and more polluting.



Example of a BESS. Final design will be confirmed through the development approval process.

What would it look like?

The BESS compound would be made up of rows of battery enclosures, alongside a substation comprising a switchroom and control room. To reduce visual impact the BESS would be set back from nearby roads, with vegetation screening added if required. The enclosures would be light in colour to reduce heat absorption, with a painted steel finish.

Why in this location?

The proposed location provides direct access to the existing Transgrid transmission line, and would build on the history and technical capability of Lake Hume, which has supported the Hume Power Station since 1957. It contributes to the Riverina Murray region's objective to plan for integrated and resilient utility infrastructure, and its transition to net zero emissions by 2050¹. And also supports Albury City Council's objectives to promote Albury as a place for industry and business, and to support clean and renewable energy initiatives².

What is its lifespan?

The proposed development has a target life of 20 years, which may be extended if feasible. If decommissioned, the site would be returned to its original state with all above-ground BESS infrastructure removed.

Contact us



1800 061 321 (Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm)



humbessenquiries@foresightgroupau.com

You can also find more information at:

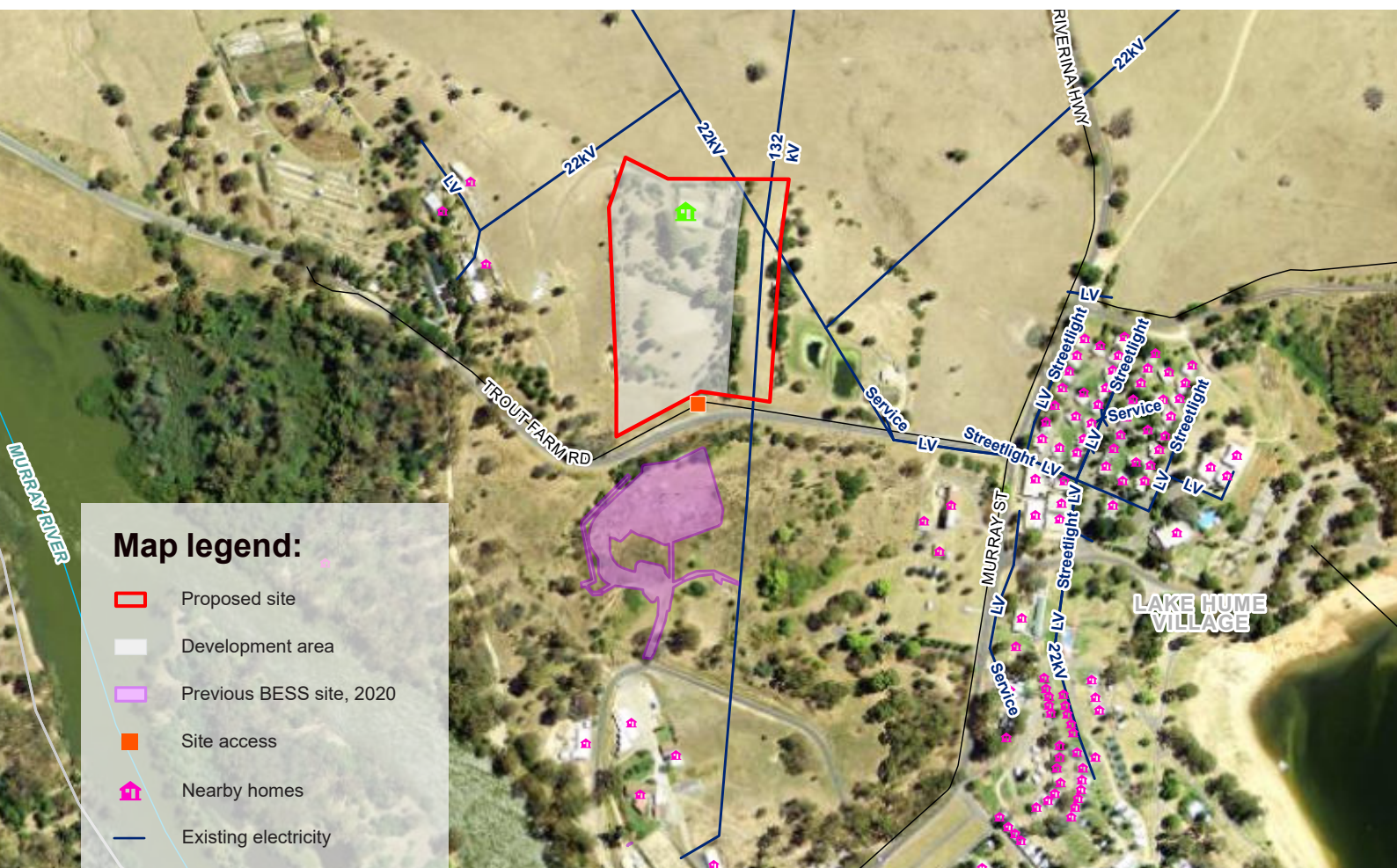


gspenergy.com.au/hume-battery

¹ Riverina Murray Regional Plan 2041; Objectives 11 and 13

² Albury Community Strategic Plan 2017–2030; Outcomes 1.5 and 2.1.4

Factsheet 3: Proposed Site Location



Where:

32 Trout Farm Road, on the outskirts of Lake Hume Village, on land owned by Foresight. The proposed site sits between the Albury City Council wastewater treatment facility and the trout farm.

Size:

The site is approximately four hectares.

Current land use:

The current land use of the site is predominantly landscaping and planted vegetation. There is a single property located near the northern end of the proposed site.

Access to the site:

Site access would be via Riverina Highway, Murray Street and then Trout Farm Road. An internal access track is proposed to be created to transport equipment and materials to the proposed site during construction.

Contact us

1800 061 321 (Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm)





humbessenquiries@foresightgroupau.com

You can also find more information at:

gspenergy.com.au/hume-battery

Factsheet 4: Benefits

Key benefits of the proposed development:

-  Helping secure Australia's energy future.
-  Creating local jobs during construction and operation.
-  Supporting the Albury and Riverina Murray economies.
-  Providing energy network stability, and the potential for real-time monitoring and control of supply and demand across the region.



Existing access track within the proposed site




Existing Transgrid transmission line in the proposed site

Key benefits of the proposed development location:

-  Located on land owned by Foresight to minimise impacts to other public and private lands.
-  Situated away from nearby homes and businesses, and close to existing industrial land uses.
-  Existing access to the proposed site via the established road network.
-  Direct access to the existing Transgrid transmission line.
-  Minimal potential impacts to biodiversity and visual amenity.
-  No impact on operation of the Hume Dam or Hume Hydro Power Station.

Contact us

 1800 061 321 (Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm)

 humbessenquiries@foresightgroupau.com

You can also find more information at:

 gspenergy.com.au/hume-battery

Factsheet 5: Impacts

Environment Impact Statement

We are currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which will provide information on the economic, environmental, and social impacts of the proposed development.

The EIS is a key part of proposal's environmental assessment requirements. It helps the community, government agencies, and NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure to make informed submissions or decisions about the proposed development.

Detailed studies are currently underway to assess the potential impacts during construction, operation, and decommissioning upon:

 Aboriginal heritage	 Historical heritage
 Biodiversity	 Noise and vibration
 Community and the local economy	 Traffic and transport
 Existing land usage	 Water and utilities
 Hazards and risks	 Visual amenity











An assessment of the proposed site's biodiversity values was undertaken by qualified ecologists in spring 2023.

Once complete, the EIS will be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure as part of the State Significant Development Application.


Construction

Key facts about the construction process for the proposed development:

-  Expected to last up to 12 months.
-  All activities undertaken in accordance with NSW Government Guidelines.
-  Works will be undertaken during standard day time construction hours (Monday to Friday, 7am – 6pm, Saturday 8am – 1pm, Sunday and Public Holidays – no work). Some activities, such as delivery of materials for safety reasons, may be undertaken outside of these times.
-  Around 50 full-time workers during the busiest construction stage.
-  Workforce to be sourced locally, wherever possible.
-  Accommodation for non-local construction staff to be sourced through existing local short-term accommodation.
-  Around 15 light and five heavy vehicles moving in the vicinity of the site per day (temporarily increasing to 50 light and 10 heavy vehicles per day during the busiest construction stage).
-  Temporary impacts such as dust and noise will be minimised as much as possible.

We will develop a communications plan as part of the application, which will outline how we will keep the community informed about the proposed development's progress and construction works.

Contact us

 1800 061 321 (Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm)

 humbessenquiries@foresightgroupau.com

You can also find more information at:

 gspenergy.com.au/hume-battery

Factsheet 6: Biodiversity

Foresight has commissioned qualified ecologists to undertake an assessment of the biodiversity values and potential impacts of the proposed development, in accordance with NSW legalisation and guidelines.

The assessment included evaluation of the landscape features, native vegetation, threatened species and threatened ecological communities, and will be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure as part of the State Significant Development Application in mid-2024.



Squirrel Glider impacts

A local population of Squirrel Glider is known to occupy habitats along the Murray River, including within vegetation around the proposed site.

A field survey undertaken in Spring 2023 recorded one Squirrel Glider using a nest box in the south-west of the proposed site, and two further Squirrel Gliders in a nest box located outside of the proposed site. These locations are identified on the map opposite.

Where possible, the design has sought to avoid impacts to native vegetation, remnant areas, large trees and potential habitat for Squirrel Glider including occupied nest boxes.

Design of the proposed development will further seek to avoid impacts to Squirrel Glider habitat and mitigate impacts through:

- Minimising the removal of targeted food plant species
- Retention of nest box in south-western portion of the proposed site
- Avoiding light spill into Squirrel Glider habitat
- Replacing vegetation to the east and south of the proposed site.

Contact us

1800 061 321 (Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm)

humbessenquiries@foresightgroupau.com

You can also find more information at:




gspenergy.com.au/hume-battery

Factsheet 7: Next Steps

Community feedback

Foresight is committed to listening to the views of the local community and other recreational users of Lake Hume Village and its surrounding areas. Engagement with the community began in May 2023 as part of the Scoping phase of the Project.


You can share your views by:

-  **Completing a Feedback Form available at gspenergy.com.au/hume-battery**
-  **Attending one of our upcoming Community Information Events, either in person or online**
-  **Via phone or email.**

During the application process we will also consult with key stakeholders including Albury City Council, Wodonga Council, relevant NSW government departments, Transgrid, emergency services and environmental groups.

Project timeline

Timings stated are indicative as of May 2024, and may be required to change during the planning application.


 We plan to consult with the community and stakeholders both now, in May 2024, and when the EIS is published later in 2024.

Mid 2023

Engagement with neighbouring landowners

We are here

Early to mid 2024

 Meet with the community and key stakeholders, to share information and gather feedback that will inform the proposed development's EIS

Mid 2024

Receipt of formal submissions by stakeholders and the community. The public exhibition will be managed by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Late 2024

Proposal decision provided by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Late 2025

Proposed development operational, subject to approvals

Late 2023

Scoping Report published on NSW Planning Portal¹

Mid 2024

EIS submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure as part of the State Significant Development Application

Mid 2024


Response to Submissions Report published, sharing responses to submissions from the community and stakeholders

Early 2025

Construction, subject to approvals

¹ <https://pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/hume-north-battery-enegy-storage-system>

Contact us

 1800 061 321 (Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm)

 humbessenquiries@foresightgroupau.com

You can also find more information at:

 gspenergy.com.au/hume-battery

Foresight would like to hear from the Lake Hume Village community on what you value the most about the area, and your views on the proposed Hume North Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

Feedback from the community will influence the design of the proposed development and will be summarised in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment in mid-2024. All data and information provided will be treated as confidential.

1.	Name					
2.	Address					
3.	Phone					
4.	Email					
5.	Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-binary/ gender diverse	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say	
6.	Age Group	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 18	<input type="checkbox"/> 18 - 29	<input type="checkbox"/> 30 - 44	<input type="checkbox"/> 45 - 59	<input type="checkbox"/> 60 + <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say

7.	How did you hear about the proposed development?	<input type="checkbox"/> Family / Friend	<input type="checkbox"/> Flyer / Poster	<input type="checkbox"/> Email / Letter	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):
8.	Did you attend a Community Information Session?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes - In person (15 May)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes - Virtual (22 May)	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
9.	Which statement best describes you?	<input type="checkbox"/> I live in Lake Hume Village	<input type="checkbox"/> I work in Lake Hume Village	<input type="checkbox"/> I visit Lake Hume Village at least once per month	<input type="checkbox"/> I visit Lake Hume Village occasionally
What do you value about Lake Hume Village? Tick all that apply					
10.	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Community / family association	<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> Ecological heritage / biodiversity	<input type="checkbox"/> Employment opportunities
	<input type="checkbox"/> Investment and business growth	<input type="checkbox"/> Local history	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> Rural landscape / scenic beauty	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):				
What do you believe are the key issues facing residents and visitors to Lake Hume Village? Tick all that apply					
11.	<input type="checkbox"/> Access to employment opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> Access to services	<input type="checkbox"/> Cost of living	<input type="checkbox"/> Crime	<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of investment and business growth
	<input type="checkbox"/> Natural hazards	<input type="checkbox"/> Threats to ecological heritage and biodiversity	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):		

12.	Which of the following benefits from the proposed development do you consider important? Tick all that apply			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Better sustainable energy capability for the region	<input type="checkbox"/> Creating local jobs during construction and operation	<input type="checkbox"/> Helping secure Australia's energy future	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Opportunity to support community initiatives	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting the Albury and Riverina Murray economies	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):	
13.	Based on your current understanding of the proposed development, what are your main concerns? Tick all that apply			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction workforce accommodation and/or its use of local services	<input type="checkbox"/> Dust during construction	<input type="checkbox"/> Noise during construction	<input type="checkbox"/> Impact to flora / fauna
	<input type="checkbox"/> Noise during operation	<input type="checkbox"/> Disruption caused by heavy vehicle movements during construction	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual impact to the area	<input type="checkbox"/> I have no concerns
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):			
14.	Are there any existing community initiatives that may be relevant to the proposed development, or other opportunities to support the community? If so, please provide details:			
15.	Are there any social groups that you feel might be particularly impacted by the proposed development? If so, please provide details:			
16.	Are there any specific people, groups, or organisations that you think we should consult about the proposed development? If so, please provide details:			
17.	Is there any other feedback you would like to share with us about the proposed development? If so, please provide details:			
18.	How would you like to be kept up to date with the proposed development? Please tick all that apply			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Email	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone	<input type="checkbox"/> Post	<input type="checkbox"/> I would prefer not to be contacted

Thank you for providing your feedback. Please return this completed form by hand to a member of our team, or email to humbessenquiries@ForesightGroupau.com

Hume North BESS

Community Information Session (Virtual)
Wednesday 22 May 2024, 6-7pm

Foresight

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the country throughout Australia where we work and live, recognising their continuous connection to the land, water, skies and culture.

We respect the spirits, ancestors and elders of the Wiradjuri Nation, the Traditional Owners of the land around Lake Hume Village.

What are the purposes of today's session?

- Be informed about Foresight's proposed Hume North BESS development, including the specification, location, benefits, impacts and timings.
- Understand how and when the community will be engaged, and how to participate, during Foresight's planning application to NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.
- Get answers to any questions you have.
- Share your initial feedback with Foresight.

How will the session work?

1. Presentation from Foresight (30 minutes).
 2. Question and Answer (Q&A) session (30 minutes).
- If you have a question during the presentation, please use the raise a hand feature in MS Teams, or submit your question(s) in chat function.
 - We will address questions, where we can, during the presentation. All remaining questions will be responded to during the Q&A.
 - A feedback form will be shared at the end of the session.
 - We understand that individuals may have strong opinions about the proposed development. We ask that all contributions are respectful towards the presenters, who will also be respectful to all participants in turn.
 - This presentation will be made available online, alongside the materials shared in the in-person session held on Wednesday 15 May.

Who are today's presenters?

Foresight



Arash Zafari

Foresight

Portfolio Manager



Alex Park

Foresight

Senior Development
Manager



Melissa Laginha

Jacobs

Associate
Environmental
Scientist



David Gladwin

Jacobs

Associate
Stakeholder
Engagement &
Communications
Consultant

Hume North BESS

Proposed development, location, key features and benefits

What is the proposed development?

- Foresight is proposing to develop a new battery energy storage system (BESS) at 32 Trout Farm Road, Lake Hume Village, NSW.
- If approved, it would replace the previously approved 2020 Hume BESS development (located immediately south) – which has both environmental and grid constraints.
- The proposed BESS would store renewable energy from the existing network in periods of high supply but low demand. The storage energy would then be released in periods of high demand.
- We are informing and consulting with the local community and other key stakeholders to inform the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed BESS.



Proposed BESS site at 32 Trout Farm Road.

Who are Foresight?

- Foresight is a global business with established local connections.
- We manage GSP Energy Pty Ltd, which owns and operates three hydro-electric power stations in NSW including the Hume Power Station.
- Our strategy is aligned to creating a resilient, decarbonised world and delivering the high-quality jobs that will power tomorrow's economy.

What is the proposed development's specification?



Generation capacity up to 75 megawatts with two hours of storage (75 MW / 150 MWh).



Direct 132kV connection to Transgrid's transmission line.



Comprised of large batteries housed in containers, alongside a substation containing a switch room and control room.



Enclosures light in colour, to reduce heat absorption.



Target lifespan of 20 years. If decommissioning, proposed site returned to original state.



Example of a BESS. Design is not yet confirmed.

Where is the proposed site location?

- 32 Trout Farm Road, Lake Hume Village, NSW.
- Located on land already owned by Foresight.
- Approx four hectares.
- Direct access to the existing Transgrid transmission line.
- Site access via Trout Farm Road.



Key benefits of the proposed site location



Located on land owned by Foresight to minimise impacts elsewhere.



Situated away from nearby homes and business, and close to existing industrial land use.



Access via the established road network.



Direct access to the existing Transgrid transmission line.



Minimal potential impacts to biodiversity and visual amenity.



No impact on operation of the Hume Dam or Hume Hydro Power Station.

Key benefits of the proposed development



Helping secure Australia's energy future.



Creating local jobs during construction and operation.



Supporting the Albury and Riverina Murray economies.



Providing energy network stability, with real-time monitoring and control of supply and demand.

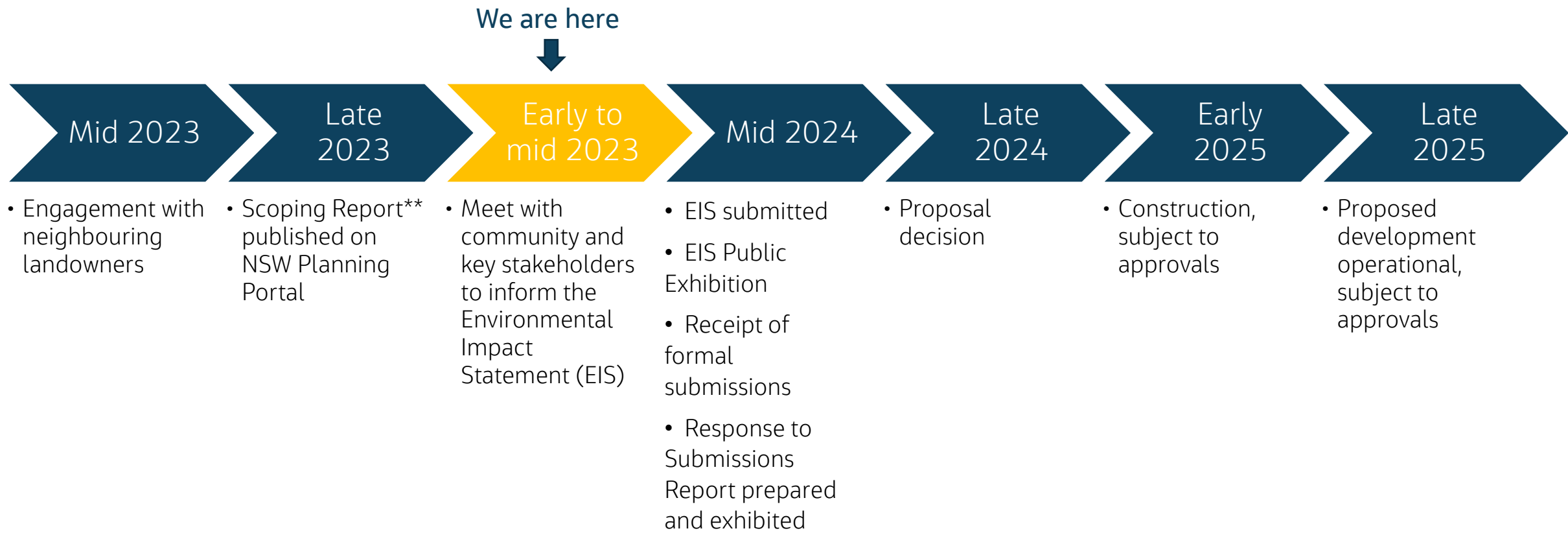


Minimising impacts to other public and private lands.

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Timings and potential impacts

What are the key timings*?



*Timings are indicative and may be required to change during the planning application.

**A Scoping Report (high-level overview document) was prepared in August 2023 as part of the application process for the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements for the proposed development, aligned to State Significant Development guidelines.

- We are currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), to provide information on the economic, environmental and social impacts of the proposed development.
- Detailed studies are underway to assess potential impacts during construction, operation and decommissioning upon:
 - Aboriginal and historic heritage
 - Biodiversity
 - Community and the local economy
 - Existing land usage
 - Bushfire
 - Noise and vibration
 - Traffic and transport
 - Water and utilities
 - Visual amenity
 - Preliminary hazards including thermal runaway.
- Once prepared, the EIS will be submitted to NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure and placed on public exhibition for 28 days.

Biodiversity

- Foresight commissioned qualified ecologists to undertake an assessment of the biodiversity values and potential impacts of the proposed development, in accordance with NSW legislation and guidelines.
- The assessment, undertaken in Spring 2023, included evaluation of:
 - Landscape features
 - Native vegetation
 - Threatened species
 - Threatened ecological communities.
- The assessment will be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure as part of the State Significant Development Application in mid-2024.



An assessment of the proposed site's biodiversity values was undertaken by qualified ecologists in spring 2023.

Squirrel Glider impacts

- A local population of Squirrel Glider is known to occupy habitats along the Murray River, including within vegetation around the proposed site.
- Squirrel Glider were recorded using nest boxes inside and outside of the proposed site, during a field survey undertaken in Spring 2023.
- Where possible, the design of the proposed development will seek to avoid impacts to potential habitat for Squirrel Glider including occupied nest boxes through:
 - Minimising the removal of targeted food plant species.
 - Retention of the nest box in the south-western portion of the proposed site.
 - Avoiding light spill into Squirrel Glider habitat.
 - Replacing vegetation to the east and south of the proposed site.





Expected to last up to 12 months.



All activities undertaken in line with NSW Government Guidelines.



Majority of works undertaken during standard daytime construction hours.*



Around 50 full-time workers at the busiest stage.



Community to be kept informed about all construction works.



Workforce to be sourced locally, wherever possible.



Accommodation for non-local construction staff to be sourced through existing local short-term accommodation.



Around 15 light and five heavy vehicles moving in the vicinity of the site per day.**



Dust and noise will be minimised as much as possible.

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Community and stakeholder engagement

Community and stakeholder engagement

- Foresight is committed to informing and consulting the local community and other recreational users of Lake Hume Village and its surrounding areas.
- Engagement with community and stakeholders began in May 2023 during the scoping phase of the proposed development.
- We will inform and consult with the community and recreational users of Lake Hume Village both now (May 2024), and when the EIS is published later in 2024.
- All feedback shared in the two community information sessions is being recorded and will inform the EIS.
- During the application we will also consult with Albury City Council, Wodonga Council, relevant NSW Government departments, Transgrid, emergency services and environmental groups.



Community Information Session in Lake Hume Village held on Wednesday 15 May 2024.

When, and how, can I provide feedback?

When can I provide feedback?

- Now (May 2024) to inform the EIS.
- Later in 2024 during the Public Exhibition of the EIS.

How do I share my initial feedback?

- Complete a Community Feedback Form: <https://forms.office.com/r/9fQXNut2YE>
- Call **1800 061 321** (Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm).
- Email humbessenquiries@foresightgroupau.com

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Questions and Answers

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Thank you

 1800 061 321 (Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm)

 humbessenquiries@foresightgroupau.com

 gspenergy.com.au/hume-battery