

KINGSWOOD BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

Appendix O
Engagement Report

June 2024
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KINGSWOOD BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

IBERDROLA AUSTRALIA



DRAFT

Date	Revision	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
19 Feb 2024	REVA -Structure & TOC	WSP - Anna Glasby	WSP – Anna Mitchell	Iberdrola Australia
19 March 2024	REVB – Draft report	WSP – Anna Glasby	WSP – Anna Mitchell	
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1 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

Iberdrola Australia is proposing to develop, construct, operate and maintain a large-scale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at 744 Burgmanns Lane, Kingswood New South Wales (NSW) 2340 (Lot 43 DP1064582). The Kingswood BESS (the Project) will have a capacity of up to 270 Megawatts (MW) and provide up to 1080 Megawatt-hours (MWh) of battery storage capacity.

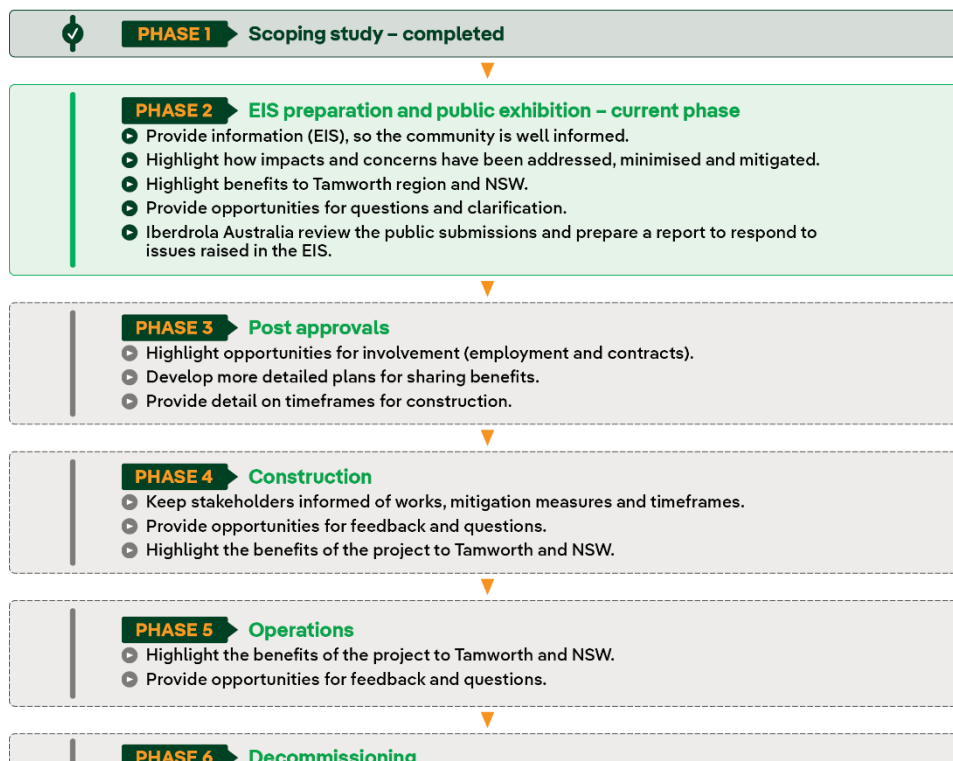
The Project is within the Tamworth Regional Local Government Area (LGA), approximately six kilometres southeast of Tamworth and two kilometres west-south-west of Calala town centre, bordering the suburb of Calala.

The Project is committed to contributing to a renewable energy transition for Australia, through regional economic enhancement, social procurement in supply chain growth, jobs and skills, and environment and biodiversity initiatives. If the approved, the Project will provide:

- significant economic investment in the Tamworth region
- employment opportunities with the creation of 100+ jobs
- opportunities for auxiliary industry growth
- business opportunities for local contractors and companies
- more reliable energy for the region
- local consumers benefits from low-cost energy
- storage of enough energy to power 65,000 homes
- sponsorship of local community projects and initiatives

The Project's lifecycle from concept to operational asset to decommissioning can be mapped across six distinct phases. The initial phases include development and pre-approval processes and actions, with phases three to six defining post-approval preconstruction, construction, and operational activities. These phases are outlined below in **Error! Reference source not found..** Stakeholder and community engagement is a common theme across all phases of the Project's lifecycle.

This report outlines the stakeholder and community engagement activities undertaken to support the detailed planning and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) preparation stages of phase two, and provides a summary of the key outcomes of these activities and how stakeholder and community input has informed the Project planning. Ongoing engagement is planned for phase two to support the public exhibition of the EIS and submission process. Engagement to support phases 3 – 6 will take place should the Project be approved.



1.1 Kingswood Battery project phases

2 ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

The Project's engagement approach adheres to all regulatory and government requirements. It is also underwritten by Iberdrola Australia's six core engagement principles, shown in Figure 2.1.

2.1 GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS

Engagement with key stakeholders, immediate neighbours and the wider community to date has been planned and delivered in accordance with the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) and the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* (EP&A Regulation), the primary pieces of legislation that regulate land use planning and development assessment in NSW.

As this Project is classed as a State Significant Development (SSD), the '*Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects*' (DPHI 2024) has guided the scale and scope of engagement required in addition to the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issued for the Project. The Project SEAR issued by Department of Planning and Environment on [30 October 2023](#) stipulated the following consultation requirements.

During the preparation of the EIS, you should consult with 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 and Tamworth Regional Council. The EIS must:

- detail how engagement undertaken was consistent with the *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects* (DPIE, 2021); 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.

2.2 INDUSTRY STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICE

In addition to Iberdrola Australia's core principles for engagement, and government legislation and guidelines, the Project's engagement approach is consistent with engagement and energy industry best practice including:

- NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure [Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Development](#) (2024)
- [Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner – Best Practice](#) (2024)
- [Clean Energy Council - Best Practice Charter](#)
- [IAP2- Quality Assurance Standard 2015](#)
- [IAP2 – Code of Ethics](#)



Figure 2.1: Core principles for community engagement

2.2.1 IAP2 GUIDELINES

The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) has developed a Public Participation Spectrum to demonstrate the possible types of engagement with stakeholders and communities. The IAP2 spectrum also shows the increasing level of public impact as engagement progresses from 'inform' through to 'empower'.

With a commitment to effective community engagement as part of the Project, the engagement strategies and supporting materials outlined in this document will uphold the IAP2 model.

The level of engagement for Phase 2 of this project is 'inform' – 'involve' depending on the stakeholder.

2.2.2 AUSTRALIAN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSIONER

The Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner (AEIC) has provided guidance on best practice community engagement for energy infrastructure across Australia. Our approach is consistent with the best practice advice for community engagement and any complaints received during the Project's development, construction or operation would be managed in accordance with the AEIC recommended best practice process and relevant Australian Standards.

2.3 PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS AND COMMUNITY

This Project has a diverse range of stakeholders, ranging from the immediate neighbouring property landholders through to the ultimate energy users in the towns and cities of NSW. The Project, when completed, would provide benefits to the NSW economy as it would support a stable and reliable electricity supply.

The proposed Kingswood BESS would be located in the Tamworth Regional Council area of NSW. The proposed site is approximately six kilometres from the regional town centre of Tamworth. The closest residential areas are in the suburbs of Calala and Kingswood, which have a rural residential character surrounded by agricultural lands. The proposed site is near to an existing electricity substation and traversed by powerlines.

The proposed site has four immediately adjacent landholders. Within a 1km radius of the proposed site there are another 30 residential dwellings, as shown in Figure 2.2. Additional properties and residences exist along the access roads of Burgmanns Lane, Burgess Lane and Ascot-Calala Road.

There are a range of businesses, government organisations and industries within the Tamworth region that may be impacted and/or benefit from the Project.

A range of government organisations including Tamworth Regional Council, state government agencies, energy regulators and energy infrastructure providers have been consulted throughout the development of this project. Details of regulatory stakeholder engagement carried out is included in within the EIS.

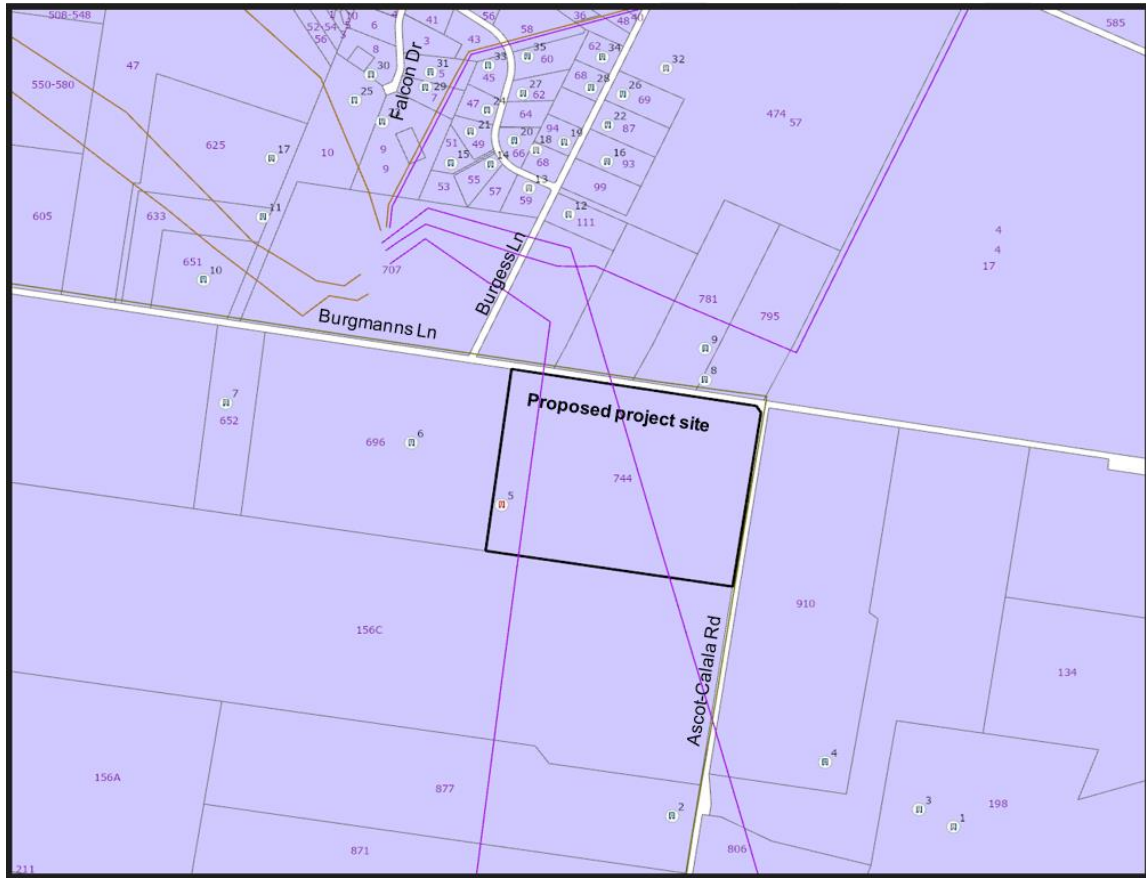


Figure 2.2 Residences within 1km of the proposal Kingswood BESS

2.4 ENGAGEMENT UNDERTAKEN FOR SCOPING REPORT

Community and stakeholder engagement activities commenced mid-2023. This targeted engagement primarily focused on notifying neighbouring landowners, and government agencies, of Iberdrola Australia's intention to lodge the Project's Scoping Report (October 2023) for the Project and enable stakeholders to:

- Take up any early engagement opportunities to understand the Project
- Provide feedback about aspects of the Project which they support, do not support, or wish to be adjusted
- Provide clear reasons for any concerns and possible alternative approaches
- Identify any matters they feel have not been considered.

Further details regarding Phase 1 consultation are outlined in Table 2.4.1 below and can be found in the [Scoping Report](#).

Table 2.4.1: Scoping Report engagement

Stakeholder	Consultation method	Feedback	Action taken
Community and business			
Nearby landholders (within 1km of the proposed site)	- Newsletter and phone calls to provide high level overview of the Project, advise of Iberdrola's intention to lodge the Scoping Report and to enable initial feedback - Face to face meetings held with interested adjoining landowners	- One landowner raised concerns regarding visual amenity and proximity of the Project to their property - One landowner raised concerns regarding potential traffic impacts along Burgmanns Lane, requesting construction vehicles come from Ascot-Calala instead - One landowner raised concerns regarding the risk associated to the Project, given its proximity to their property - One landowner presented concerns about noise impacts during operations and traffic during construction. Also presented their interest to provide fencing services for the Project - A few landowners seemed confused on which proposal we were talking about, as there are similar propositions nearby from other developers - Requests for more information about how they would be directly impacted by the Project - The neighbours consulted with were appreciative of early consultation and taking the time to meet face to face	- Preliminary siting of the BESS in the southern portion of the Project - Site aims to maximise distance from receptors - It was communicated that more information would be provided as the Project develops, including community drop-in sessions as part of the EIS phase - It was communicated that the traffic assessment was being undertaken and that this assessment would consider the stakeholder's feedback regarding preferred access routes - Highlighted contact information for further feedback opportunities

2.5 ENGAGEMENT UNDERTAKEN FOR PROJECT AND EIS DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) (now Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure) issued the Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for this project on [30 October 2023](#).

The SEARs outlined a range of requirements including stakeholder consultation.

As part of DPE's assessment, input was also provided from relevant agencies which outlined recommendations to be considered in the EIS including fire and emergency management, heritage; land use requirements and assessments, traffic impact and route assessments.

Iberdrola Australia have undertaken a range of community engagement activities in first quarter of 2024 to support project development and the preparation of the EIS. These activities aimed to:

- Provide information so the community is well informed.
- Provide opportunities for questions and clarification.
- Enable the community to share relevant knowledge, views, ideas and concerns.
- Highlight how impacts and concerns can be addressed, minimised and mitigated.
- Highlight benefits to Tamworth region and NSW.

Table 2.5.1 below provides an overview of the communication and engagement tools and activities that took place during the EIS development phase.

Table 2.5.1 EIS development engagement activities

Activity	Description	Stakeholders	When
Project email and phone number.	Establish project email and 1800 phone line to enable community and stakeholders to contact the Project team with any questions or ideas	All	Ongoing
Online survey	Survey to understand community issues, opportunities and best way to communicate information going forward	All	Open for four weeks from 9 February to 9 March
Advertising	Front page advertisement in the Northern Daily Leader for four weeks, advertising upcoming community drop-in sessions and providing a QR to community survey. Digital advertisements placed on Northern Daily Leader website	All	Advertising commenced on Saturday 10 February and finished on Wednesday 21 February
Targeted letters	Sent a letter to all residents within a 1km radius of the Project to provide information and invite them to a community drop-in session	Landholders and residents within a 1km radius	Targeted letters were posted via Express Post on 8 February

Activity	Description	Stakeholders	When
Communication materials	Updated website content, factsheet and maps to support the community information sessions	All	Prior to community information sessions
Community information sessions	Two community drop-in sessions to provide information about the Project, and to understand community issues and opportunities to inform the EIS	General community	Friday 23 February Saturday 24 February
Email correspondence Phone call	Property team provided consent to access TransGrid's buffer land of Tamworth Substation for relevant surveys as part of project assessments. Feedback identified that project final transmission alignment will need to be discussed with Lumea once project enters into relevant connection agreements.	Transgrid	13 October 2023 8 April 2024

3 ENGAGEMENT FOR EIS DEVELOPMENT - FINDINGS

This section provides a summary of the key findings from the engagement activities that provided opportunities for community and stakeholders to provide input, undertaken to inform project development and EIS preparation. These include the survey, drop-in information sessions and emails and conversations with the Project team.

3.1 SURVEY RESULTS

A survey was prepared to understand the issues of greatest importance to the wider community. The opportunity to do the online survey was widely publicised via hardcopy and digital advertisements in the Northern Daily Leader and via letters to neighbouring properties. The survey was open for four weeks and was also provided as a hard copy at the two community information sessions. A **total of 12 people** responded to either the online or hard copy survey.

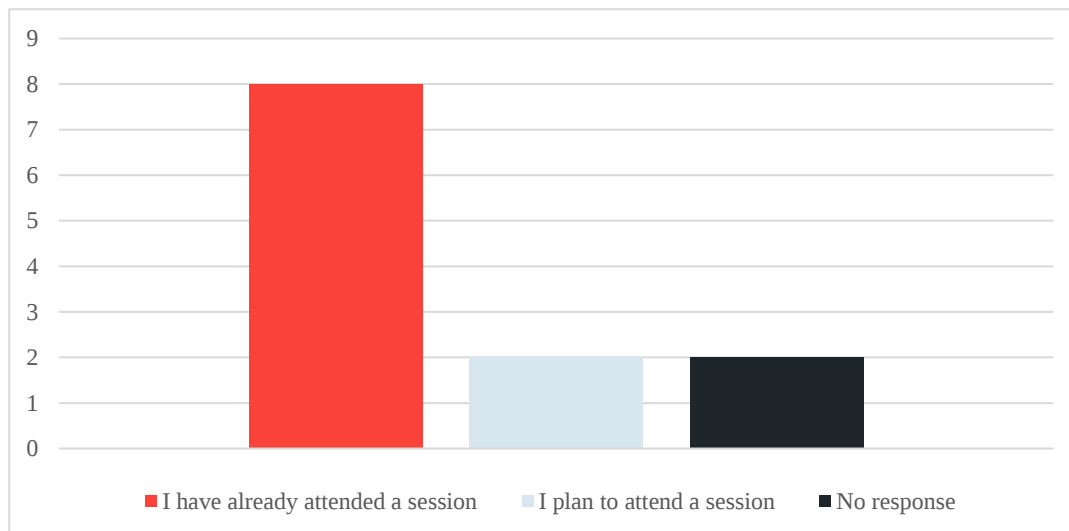
The information gathered is summarised below. A copy of the complete survey is available in [Appendix A](#). Examples of the promotional advertising is available in [Appendix B](#).

The survey was designed to include a range of qualitative and quantitative questions. There were 21 questions in total. Questions were grouped into sections. Note sections one and seven of the survey provided information and did not ask any questions, so have not been included in this report. The following overview of results provides a summary of responses by survey section. Responses that contained personal or identifying information have been redacted.

3.1.1 SECTION TWO – INFORMATION SESSIONS

Section two asked respondents to share whether they would likely attend one of the planned community information sessions. This question was not mandatory. Many people who responded to the survey were already in attendance at a session.

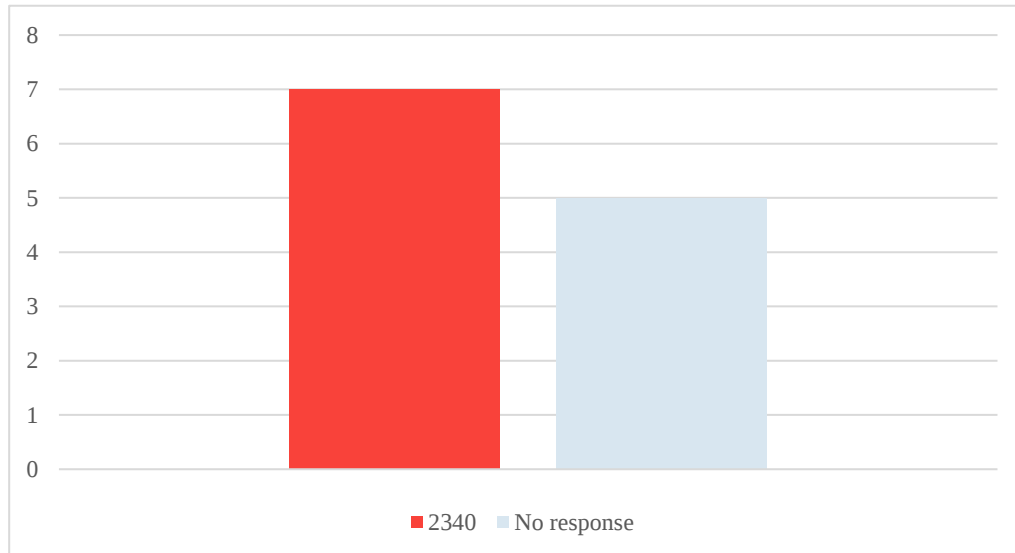
Q1. Do you plan to attend or have you attended an information session?



3.1.2 SECTION THREE – ABOUT YOU

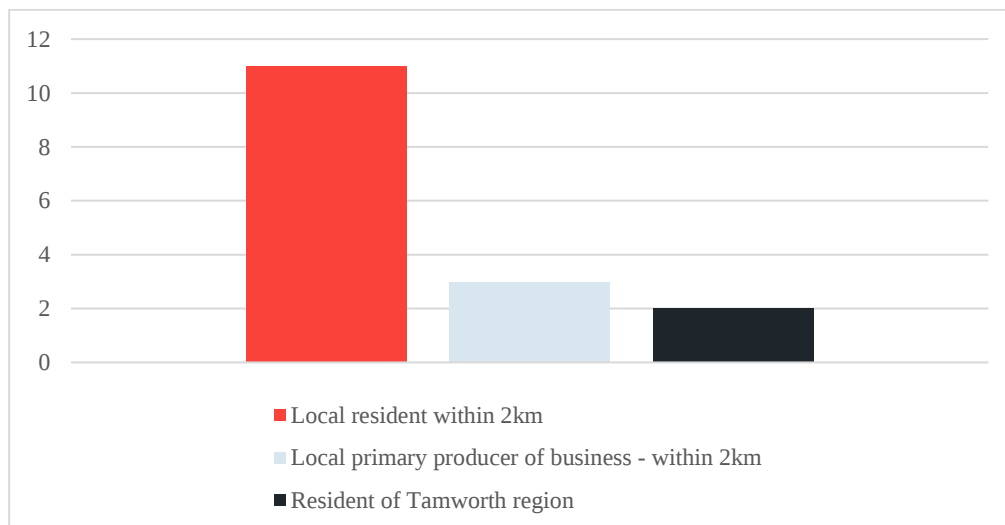
Section three asked respondents about their locality and how they would describe themselves. Of the eight who responded, seven were from the 2340 postcode, which incorporates Tamworth and surrounding suburbs, and accordingly, **all 12 respondents** described themselves as a **local resident within 2km of the proposed battery**. Three respondents also described themselves as being a **local primary producer of business**.

Q2. What is your post code?



Q3. Which of the following describes you?

Respondents were able to choose more than one response to this question.



3.1.3 SECTION FOUR - WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU

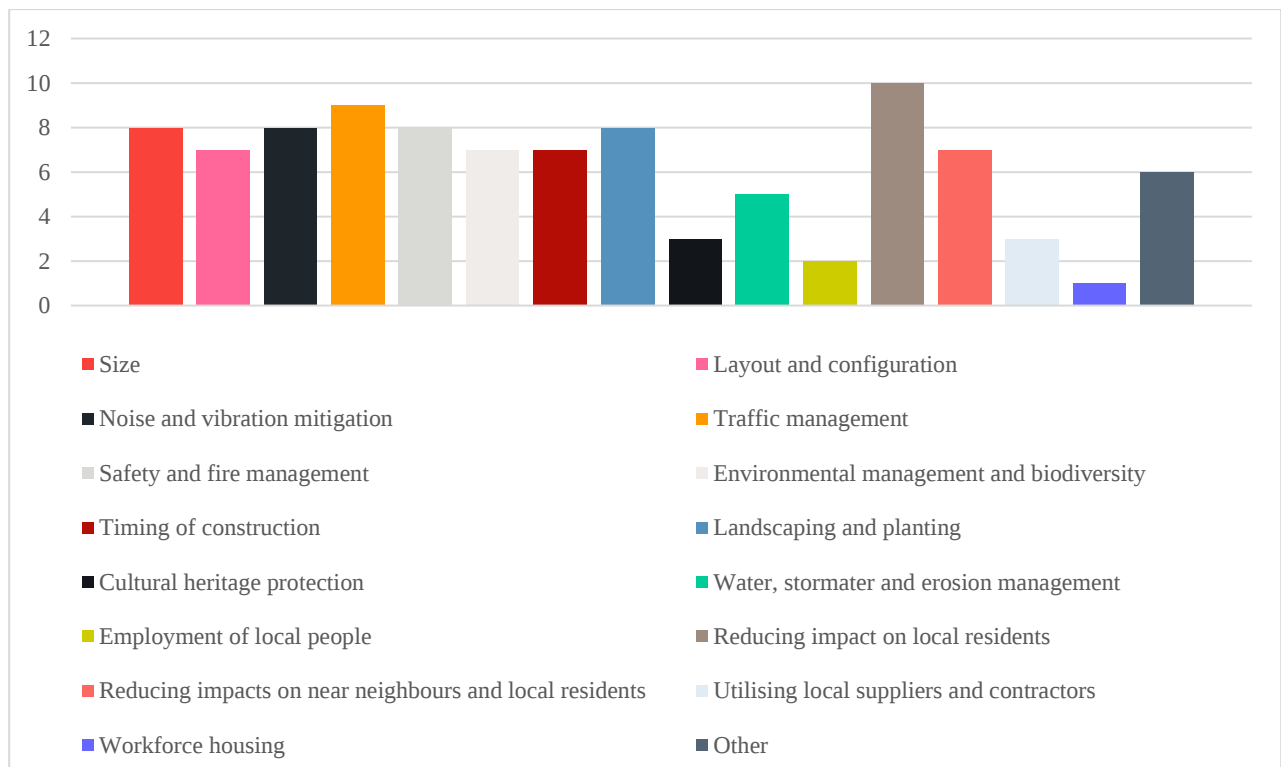
Section four asked respondents to share the issues they believed to be most important during the design, construction and ongoing operation and management of the battery. As respondents were able to choose more than one answer, most chose more than half of the possible responses, and also left comments about other issues of most importance to them.

- During the design and construction of the battery, the majority of respondents listed **reducing impacts on local residents** as a key issue (**10 respondents**). Other issues with most responses included **traffic management** (**9 respondents**), concern about the **size** of the battery (**8 respondents**), **noise and vibration mitigation** (**8 respondents**) and **landscaping and planting** (**8 respondents**).
- During operation of the battery, the majority of respondents listed **noise mitigation** as the most important issue to them (**9 respondents**), with other issues of most importance including **tree, plants and landscaping** (**8**

respondents), maintaining rural character (7 respondents), traffic, transport and accessibility (7 respondents) and safety, emergency management (floods and bushfires) (7 respondents).

Q4. When thinking about the design and construction of the Kingswood Battery, which of the following are most important to you?

Respondents were able to choose more than one response to this question.



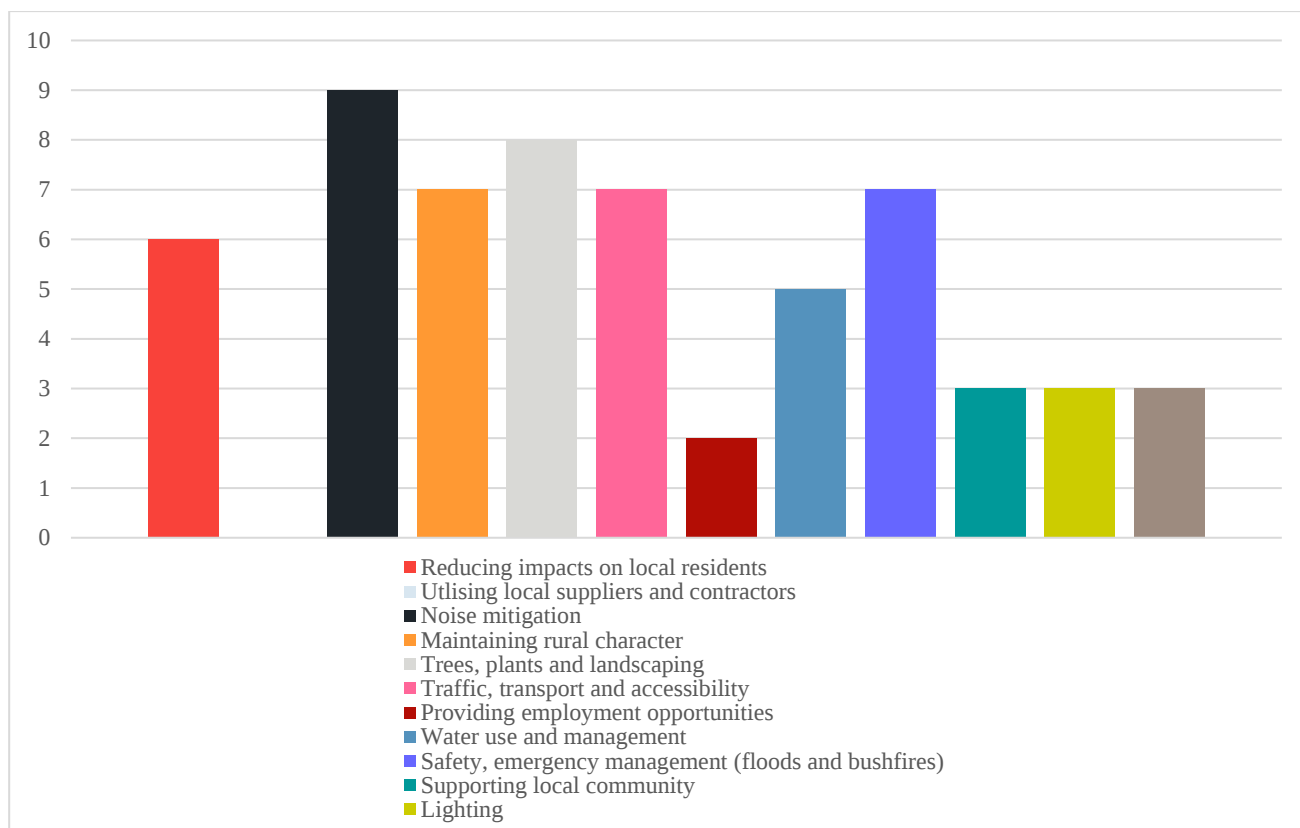
Q5. If you answered other in Question 5, please specify

Six out of twelve respondents provided a response of 'other' for issues of most importance when considering the design and construction of the Kingswood Battery. Key issues listed included:

- Multiple respondents shared concern about **property value** (negative financial impacts) and concern about loss of future land use opportunities.
- One respondent shared concern about **access routes and dust**.
- One respondent shared concern about **noise and light** generated from the battery and surrounds.
- One respondent shared concern about **fire** caused by lithium battery.
- One respondent was interested to understand more about the **life of the asset**, and where the power will go.
- One respondent **opposed the Project** and suggested alternatives should be considered.

Q6. When thinking about the ongoing operation and management of the kingswood battery, after it is built, which of the following are the most important to you?

Respondents were able to choose more than one response to this question.



Q7. If you answered other in Question 7, please specify

Four out of twelve respondents provided a response of 'other' for issues of most importance when considering the ongoing operation and management of the Kingswood Battery. Key issues listed included:

- Multiple respondents shared concern about the possibility of **fire**, and suggested that a 20ML tank would be too small for fire management.
- One respondent shared that **property value** (negative financial impacts) and concern about loss of future land use opportunities remained an issue during operation.
- One respondent shared concern about **cumulative impacts** due to three battery projects within the area.

Q8. Is there anything else you would like to see considered in the design, planning, construction or operation of the Kingswood Battery which would make it a success?

Nine out of twelve respondents provided an answer to this question. Key considerations listed included:

- Concern about **noise, visual and traffic/road impacts**, and the potential of the Project to negatively affecting **property values** of direct neighbours.
- Three respondents shared that they are **against the Project**, with one clarifying that they are opposed to renewable energy projects in general but understand the industry is changing.
- One respondent, said they had a **general interest** in the Project and would like further information about what it would look like and how it would work
- One respondent shared their preference for the Kingswood Battery to not be located on the corner of Burgmanns Lane and Ascot-Calala Rd because it would be **aesthetically unpleasing, increase noise and negatively impact on property value**. The respondent would like to know more about the **green buffer zone**.

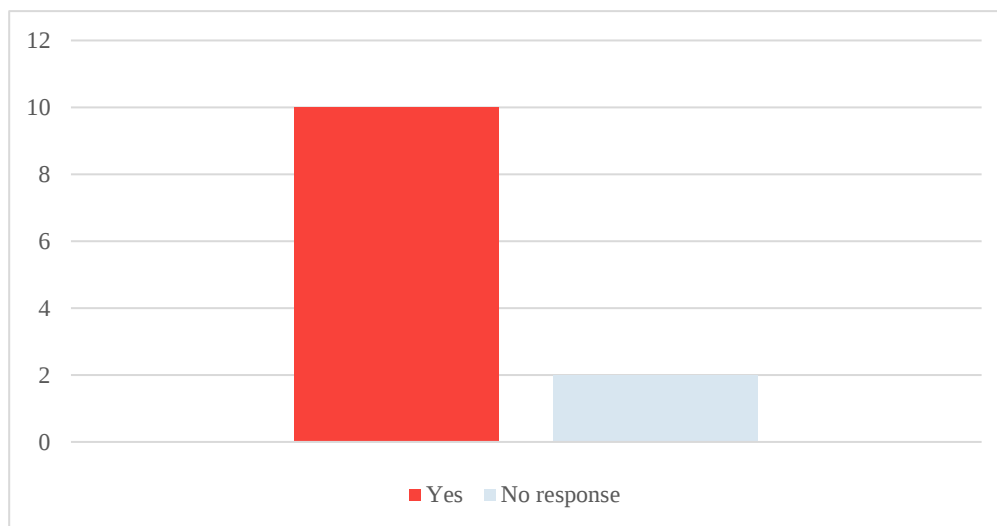
- One respondent is in favour of the Project if it means the Calala Battery would not go ahead.
- One respondent is concerned about the **feasibility of all three local battery projects going ahead**, particularly in relation to grid connection.

3.1.4 SECTION FIVE – LOCAL KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Section five asked respondents to share whether they have any information that might be useful in the planning of the proposed project. Ten out of twelve respondents had knowledge they would be willing to share, including information about **water and hydrology, contamination and pollutants, land use, and lessons from other nearby projects.**

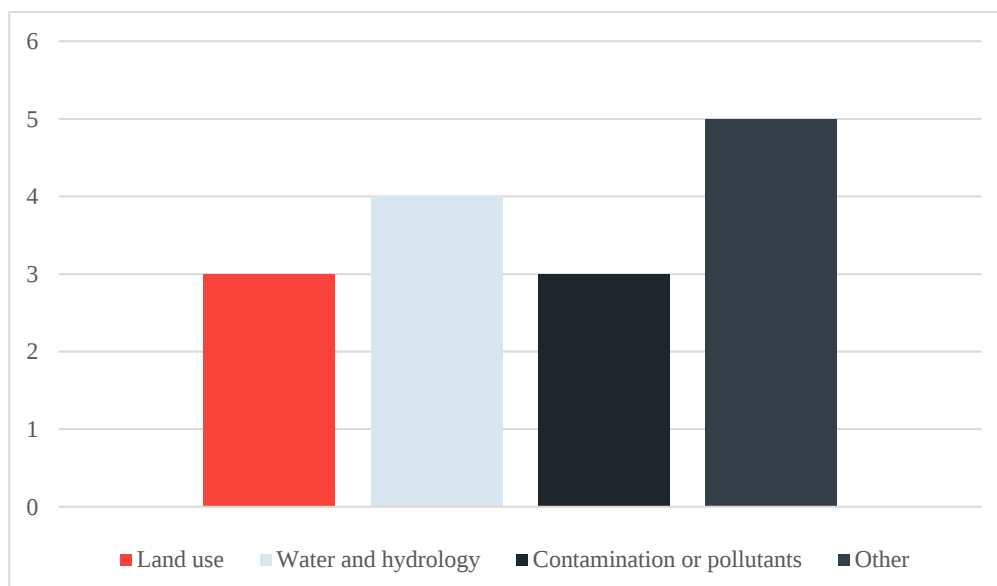
Question 14 to 16 required respondents to leave contact details for the Project to get in touch about any local knowledge they shared (not mandatory) – the contact details are not shared in this report.

Q9. Do you have knowledge or information about the area that you think we should be made aware of?



Q10. Please let us know what knowledge or information you have.

Respondents were able to choose more than one option for this question.

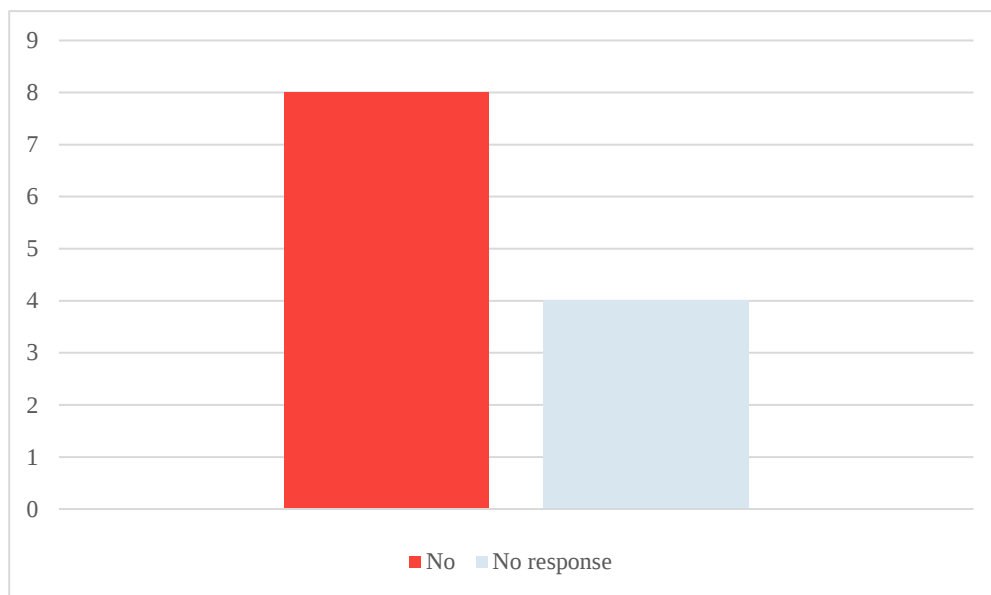


Q11. If you answered ‘other’ in the question above, please specify.

Respondents who answered ‘other’ to the type of knowledge they can share with the Project included topics such as:

- **Flooding** of the area, particularly Burgmanns lane
- **Light pollution** from the Project onto nearby properties
- **Nearby solar farms** in the region
- **Lessons from Transgrid substation upgrade**, particularly dust from vehicles, damage to the dip/water course crossing, and heavy vehicle movement along Ascot-Calala Road.

Q12. Is this knowledge related to your work?



Q13. Which organisation do you represent or work for (if applicable).

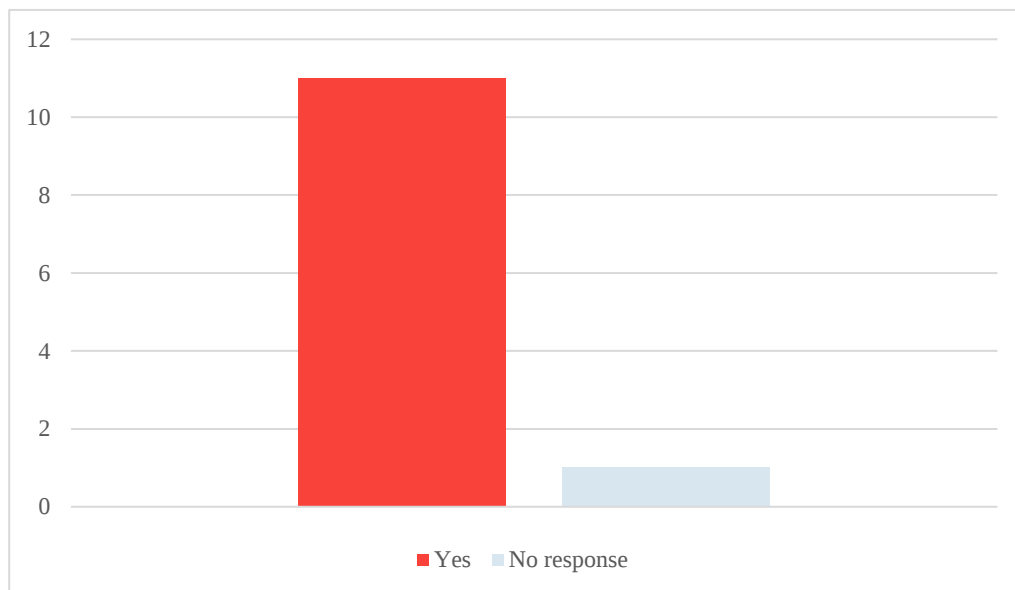
Only one respondent answered this question, sharing that they are ‘self-employed farmers’.

3.1.5 SECTION SIX – KEEPING INFORMED

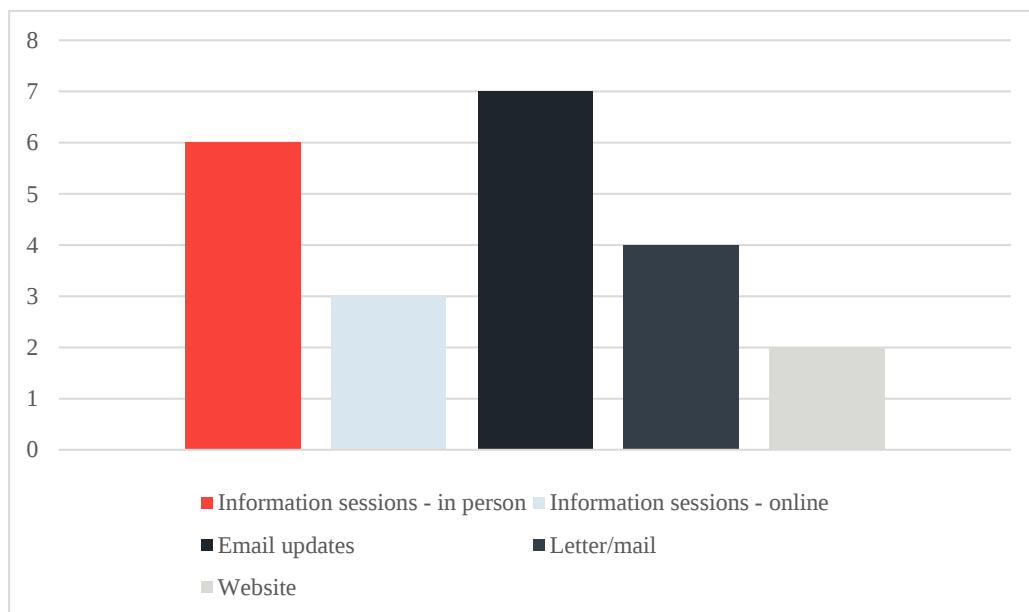
Section six asked respondents to share whether they would like to be kept informed about the proposed project as it progresses through approvals, and their preferred way to receive information. Question 19 to 21 asked respondents to leave their contact details, which are not included in this report.

The majority of respondents would like to be kept informed about the Project as it progresses. Most respondents would like to be kept informed via **email updates (7 respondents)**, followed by **information sessions – in person (6 respondents)**, and **letter/mail (4 respondents)**.

Q17. Would you like to be kept informed of the Project as it progresses?



Q18. If yes, please select your preferred way to receive information and updates about the Project in the future? You may select more than one.



3.2 INFORMATION SESSIONS

Two drop-in information sessions were held on the 23 and 24 February 2024 to provide an opportunity for the community to meet the Project team face-to-face, understand more about the Project and provide feedback. Both sessions were held at the Acacia Function Centre, 559-597 Burgmanns Lane, Hillvue NSW 2340. Table 3.2.1 below outlines the attendance at each session and issues raised.

Table 3.2.1: Information session feedback

Session date and time	Attendees	Issues raised
Friday 23 February 2024 4:00 – 6:30pm	11	- Some general interest in the Project, including what the battery would look like, layout and configuration of the site, traffic management, project timing, life of the asset, how it will work, bushfire and flooding risk management, and water use and management - Importance of reducing the impacts on the local community and near neighbours, particularly transport and dust impacts - Concern around cumulative impacts of projects in the area - Concern about dust along Burgmanns Lane, and damage to the dip/water course crossing during construction - Query as to whether all battery projects in the area could go ahead (particularly in relation to grid connection) - Preference for the battery not to be located on the corner of Burgmanns Lane and Ascot-Calala Road - Preference for Kingswood battery to go ahead rather than Calala battery - Query about green buffer zone
Saturday 24 February 2024 8:00 – 10:30am	5	- Opposed to the battery, concerns around land value and future land use opportunities (financial impacts), light pollution, noise levels, dust - Importance of reducing the impact on local residents and maintaining the rural character of the area - Concern around 20ML tank being too small for fire safety risk - Concern around flooding and dust during construction, particularly regarding access routes - Query about when the EIS will be submitted - Alternative solutions suggested

3.3 CONVERSATIONS

The Project team made contact with adjoining property holders and invited them to raise issues or concerns. A number of conversations were held either onsite or via the phone with landholders. The issues raised by landholders are included in the summary table of issues in Section 3.4. There are a number of conversations that were held and meetings in the weeks following the community information drop-in sessions.

3.4 PROJECT RESPONSES TO ISSUES RAISED DURING CONSULTATION

As outlined above, stakeholders and community members raised a range of issues with the Project team via the consultation activities. Some of these were highly relevant to the Project development and the EIS process. Where possible the Project team has endeavoured to address the issues raised and provide a response.

Table 3.4.1 below outlines the key issues raised by nearby residents and the wider community during EIS preparation consultation, and provides the Project's recommended response to these issues, including modification of the Project, mitigation and minimalisation measures.

Table 3.4.1: Key resident and community issues and project responses

Issue	Raised by	Interest / concern	Response
Property value	Community members at information sessions and in the survey	Multiple respondents shared concern about property value (negative financial impacts) and concern about loss of future land use opportunities, such as the ability to subdivide on their land.	As grid-scale battery projects are still quite new in Australia, there is limited evidence to suggest any changes to property values or impacts on future land use opportunities. The Project is committed to ongoing discussions with neighbouring residents regarding any demonstrated future changes to property values as a direct result of being adjacent to the Project. Noting, it would be the responsibility of the landowner to demonstrate that the changes are directly related to the Project.
Noise	Community members at information sessions and in the survey	Local residents expressed concern about noise levels impacting nearby residents during construction and operation of the Project.	The Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment has undertaken construction and operational noise modelling to estimate potential noise impacts associated with the Project. Noise impacts are predicted to occur during construction. These impacts would be temporary and minimised through the implementation of the construction noise and vibration management plan (refer Appendix E). To minimise the potential for operational noise impacts, the Project has sited the BESS in the southeast of the Project Site to maximise distance from receivers. Operational noise is predicted to comply with all relevant noise criteria. A range of proposed design mitigation measures would be verified on selection of the preferred supplier. Measures would consider including the use of silencers, refinement of the layout and noise acoustic barriers.
Traffic, transport and associated dust	Community members at information sessions and in the survey	Local residents expressed concern about increased dust in the area due to heavy vehicle movements on local roads.	Potential impacts associated with dust generation due to vehicle movements on roads would be primarily limited to the construction phase of the Project. During operation, the Project would be remotely monitored, with periodic maintenance required. Minimal traffic movements would be associated with these activities and as such the potential for associated dust is considered low.

			During construction, an EMS will be prepared for the Project. Dust management measures would include the use of water carts during peak traffic period, regular road dust inspections, adherence to speed limits and covering of vehicles transporting materials.
Visual amenity	Community members at information sessions and in the survey	Local residents expressed concern about visual impacts of the battery on their outlook and light pollution.	The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment identifies that the Project can avoid night sky impact, reduce the visibility and contrast of the Project in the landscape, minimise the impact to the existing landscape character, retain the existing screening vegetation, and enhance the screening of the Project. The establishment of landscaping buffers comprised of native plants will help the Project integrate with its surroundings and minimise any visual impact to the nearest dwellings. The design of the Project will consider the use of materials that integrate with the surrounding landscape. Where possible, suitable colours and finishes will be chosen for Project infrastructure to minimise visual impacts (including glare/reflectivity), including ancillary infrastructure such as the O&M buildings/facilities and the noise acoustic wall surrounding the BESS. These buildings and materials will be designed to blend in with the local rural/farming landscape. If practicable, the wall may be painted in a neutral colour (e.g. khaki, beige, green or similar) rather than white, so as to better blend in with the local rural landscape.
Reducing impact on local residents	Community members in the survey	The majority of respondents to the community survey expressed the importance of the Project reducing any potential impacts on local residents.	The Project understands the uncertainty and concern in the community regarding the potential impacts of the Project. The Project team has been engaging with the immediate neighbours of the property since August 2023 to understand the local context and their views toward the proposal. The Project has embedded measures to reduce impacts on residents based on community feedback, including: - The location of the battery within the Project Site, to minimise the distance between the nearest residents - Reduction in the size of the battery to minimise noise impacts - Selection of a potential heavy vehicle route that avoids the urban area of Calala - Inclusion of vegetation screening to minimise visual impacts - Inclusion of recommended asset protection zones and separation distances from neighbouring properties/assets to minimise potential for off-site risks such as fire or other hazards.

			Should the Project be approved following the EIS process, the Project team will continue to engage with the local community throughout the construction and operation stages of the Project.
Cumulative impacts of projects	Community members at information sessions and in the survey	Impacts of multiple battery projects in a small area both on residents and on the effectiveness of the technology was raised by multiple community members.	NSW has an ambitious target of net zero emissions by 2050 - to meet this target will require a transformation. This means that large amounts of new energy are required to power regions and cities. By investing in multiple renewable energy production and storage solutions in the Tamworth region, the community will enjoy more secure, reliable, clean, and affordable energy during the transition and into the future. The EP&A Act plays a central role in the NSW Government's statutory framework for managing cumulative impacts across NSW. The NSW Government has a comprehensive framework in place for assessing and managing cumulative impacts to communities. State significant projects are subject to a comprehensive assessment under the Act in proportion to the scale and impacts of the Project combined with other relevant projects. A cumulative impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the EIS.
Safety and emergency management	Community members at information sessions and in the survey	Many respondents to the survey and at information sessions were interested to understand more about how the Project would manage flooding and bushfire threats. Some community members have knowledge about previous flooding in the area, particularly along Burgmanns Lane, that they could share with the Project.	As part of the EIS process, safety and emergency management will be thoroughly considered and mitigations provided – this will be available for community feedback during the public exhibition process. Early investigations show that there is a low risk of fire occurring at the site. Iberdrola Australia will however plan for every situation and have a fire suppression system in place and a comprehensive emergency management plan. The Project will be designed with the relevant Australian Standards, with appropriate fire suppression incorporated into the design and will be equipped with management systems that monitor the operational status of the system to ensure its safe operation and minimise risk to adjacent properties. If the Project is approved, the Project team will use local knowledge and engage with emergency services and key stakeholders on our Emergency and Fire Management Plans to ensure they meet requirements.

Hazards and risks	Community members at information sessions and in the survey	Respondents to the survey and at information sessions were interested to understand what precautions or alternatives the company will use or take to prevent the Lithium-ion batteries from causing a fire.	The preliminary hazard analysis considers fire risk at the BESS and substation. Controls would be implemented (including protection and suppression systems) including an emergency shutdown. The Project will be largely separated from nearby residential dwellings and fire effects are not expected to have an off-site impact. Monitoring equipment would be installed to detect fire risk and initiate an emergency response. An asset protection zone would be established around project infrastructure in accordance with guideline requirements. Other measures to minimise fire risks, include: - Complying with guidelines, standards, and conditions to operate in accordance with the applicable legislations as set out by government and regulating bodies - Adopting an Emergency Response Management Plan to outline the protocols and requirements for fires and other risks - Implementing a Fire Safety Study (developed with Fire and Rescue NSW) to identify, assess, and outline controls to manage on-site and off-site risks at a BESS facility In its procurement process, Iberdrola will ensure that Project equipment complies with all relevant Australian and international standards, and will be subject to quality assurance testing (such as Factory Acceptance Testing) where relevant prior to commissioning.
More information about the Project, including timeline	Community members at information sessions and in the survey	Some community members were interested to understand more detail about the Project, especially information about the specifications, visual elements, and exactly how and to whom the battery would provide power.	As the Project progresses through the EIS process, technical analysis including visual impact assessment and detailed designs will be developed, which will then be available for community review and comment during the public exhibition period of the EIS. Regarding how the battery would look, the detailed design will be worked out through the EIS process, however typically, battery units contain a group of lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries, housed within weather-proof enclosures, arranged in rows. Regarding how the battery would provide power, the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) manages electricity systems and markets across Australia. They monitor supply and demand, voltage and frequency, manage planned and unplanned outages and emergencies and would determine when electricity stored in the battery is required to be dispatched by staff on site.

4 ONGOING ENGAGEMENT AND NEXT STEPS

Communication and engagement will be ongoing throughout each phase of the Project, in line with the core engagement principles and government requirements and guidelines. A project communication and engagement plan has been developed to guide timely and meaningful engagement throughout the remaining phases of the Project (if approved) including:

- EIS public exhibition, and response to public submissions
- Post approval
- Construction
- Operations
- Decommissioning

Figure 4.1 below shows the Project timeline and remaining phases. Table 4.1 below outlines the planned engagement activities by each project stage.



Figure 4.1: Project timeline and phases

Table 4.1: Planned Engagement activities by project stage

Activity	Description	Stakeholders / audience	Engagement Level	Timeframe
PHASE 2 - PRE-PUBLIC EXHIBITION				
Establish communication channels	Project specific email and phone number, providing timely responses.	All	Inform	Ongoing
Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan	Draft a high-level plan to guide the engagement process through all phases of the Project.	All	Inform	Complete during planning phase
Key messages	Draft key messages including general project messages and pre-EIS information.	All	Inform	Complete prior to drafting comms materials
Comms materials	Draft resident letters, FAQs, factsheets, banners, graphics and maps.	All	Inform	Complete prior to community drop-in sessions
Letter to residents within 1km	Send letter to all residents within a 1km radius of the Project to provide information and invite them to a community drop-in session.	Neighbouring residents	Inform	Send 2-3 weeks prior to community drop-in sessions
Community survey	Draft survey to understand community issues, opportunities and best way to communicate information going forward.	All	Consult	Survey open for four weeks (two weeks before, two weeks after community drop-in sessions)
Newspaper advertisements	Front page advertisement in the Northern Daily Leader for four weeks, advertising upcoming community drop-in sessions and providing a QR to community survey. Digital advertisements placed on Northern Daily Leader website.	All	Inform	Print and digital advertisements four weeks prior to community drop-in sessions
Key stakeholder engagement	Meetings with Tamworth Regional Council to provide information about the Project and understand issues and opportunities to inform the EIS.	Tamworth Regional Council	Consult	Undertake key stakeholder meetings as early as possible, during preparation of the EIS.
Community drop-in sessions	Two community drop-in sessions to provide information about the Project, and to understand community issues and opportunities to inform the EIS.	Local community	Consult	Undertake community drop-in session as early as possible, during preparation of the EIS.
Pre-EIS Engagement Report	Short report to record pre-EIS engagement outcomes.	All	Inform	Two weeks post community sessions and survey closure

PHASE 2 - EIS PUBLIC EXHIBITION				
Maintain communication channels	Project specific email and phone number, providing timely responses.	All	Inform	Ongoing
Update key messages	Update existing key messages to include EIS exhibition specific messaging.	All	Inform	Updates completed 3 weeks before exhibition period
Update comms materials	Update exiting FAQs, factsheets, banners, graphics and maps.	All	Inform	Updates completed before first day of exhibition period (start one month before)
Update website	Update website to include: - link to NSW Planning Portal - information on how to access the EIS and make submissions - information sessions details	All	Inform	Updates live on first day of exhibition period
Print and distribute hard copy of EIS	Print copies of EIS and provide to key display locations, including Tamworth Council offices and public libraries.	All	Inform	EIS to arrive at location at least three business days before exhibition period starts Print and post at least a week before
Write to key stakeholders and landholders	Write (email or hard copy letter) to landholders and key stakeholders advising them that the EIS is on public exhibition; how to access the EIS, and invite them to attend information session or a briefing.	- Government agencies and key staff - Elected Councillors, Mayor and MPs - Proximal landholders - Energy regulators, suppliers and users - Local Aboriginal Land Council - Climate and environment NGOS	Inform	Letter to be sent so that it is received within a few days of the EIS being put on public exhibition.

		- Other high influence stakeholders identified in the stakeholder analysis		
Key stakeholder briefings	Provide small group or one on one briefings tailored to specific highly impacted or key stakeholder on the detail of the proposal. - Send invitations to online or in person briefings - Prepare presentation	- Key government staff - Direct neighbours and highly concerned near neighbours. - Key energy industry people	Consult	Invitation sent on first day. Briefing held within the Exhibition Period.
Project update e-news	Provide an email update to all people on the Project contact register (that are not identified as key stakeholder or government employees) to advising that the EIS is on public exhibition	People that have previously made inquiries or been asked to be kept informed.	Inform	Sent within first week of exhibition period
Community Information drop-in session	- Book venue - Promote/advertise information sessions via local paper - Prepare session, staffing and resources plan - Collate communications updated collateral	All	Consult	Organisation and advertisement
Maintain consultation register	Record all interactions with stakeholders and community members (incoming and outgoing) in the consultation register	All	Inform	Ongoing
PHASE 3 - POST APPROVAL				
Maintain communication channels	Maintain project email and 1800 phone contact, providing timely responses.	All	Consult	Ongoing
Update key messages, FAQs, website	• Update FAQ and Key Messages • Website updated with key dates and contact details	All	Inform	Ongoing
Letter to local landholders and key stakeholders	Advise all potentially impacted landholders and key stakeholders of the start of works, lead	- Key government staff	Inform	Following formal approval of the Project and prior to

	construction contractor and timeframes.	- Direct neighbours and highly concerned near neighbours. - Key energy industry people		construction dates being set.
Project update e-news	Provide an email update to all people on the Project contact register.	People that have previously made inquiries or been asked to be kept informed.	Inform	Updates issued: - When approval granted - When construction contract issued - At key milestones as needed
Community Benefit Sharing Strategy (TBC)	A strategy to guide the requirements and available opportunities for neighbouring property and community benefit sharing.	- Neighbouring properties - Local residents - Local organisations and community groups	Involve	Following formal approval of the Project and prior to construction dates being set.
Theme/topic specific activities - TBC	Specific communication and engagement sub-plans/activities may be required to support key project objectives such as employment recruitment, housing, local contract opportunities, transport and benefit sharing.	Targeted	Various	As required prior to finalisation of construction plans.
PHASE 4- CONSTRUCTION				
Maintain communication channels	Maintain project email and 1800 phone contact, providing timely responses	All	Consult	Ongoing
Update FAQs and website	• Update FAQ and Key Messages • Website updated with key dates and contact details	All	Inform	Ongoing
Key stakeholder & landholder briefings	Provide small group or one on one briefings tailored to specific highly impacted or key	Potentially impacted landholders and key stakeholders	Consult	Before construction starts

	stakeholder on the detail of the construction process and timing.			
Project update e-news	Provide an email update to all people on the Project contact register, advising of construction key dates and construction company contact details.	People that have previously made inquiries or been asked to be kept informed. People on project contact register	Inform	At start & key milestones as needed
Construction communication plan	Comprehensive construction communication plan developed with construction contractor – include notifications, complaints management and signage.	All, with a focus on neighbouring properties and users and landholders on main transport routes.	Inform	Before construction starts
Community education program	Involve local schools and higher education institutions through targeted programs to: - Keep them informed about the Project - Educate locals about renewable energy - Provide career advice	Local schools and higher education institutions	Inform/involve	Before and during construction
Community support/benefits program	Neighbour and community benefits as outlined in the Community Benefit Sharing Strategy	Available to neighbouring and local residents and local community members/groups	Involve	Ongoing
PHASE 5- OPERATION				
Maintain communication channels	Maintain project email and 1800 phone contact, providing timely responses	All	Consult	Ongoing
Update FAQ, Key Messages and website	- Update FAQ and Key Messages - Website updated	All	Consult	Ongoing
Media release	Inform media/community of success and benefits of the Project.	All	Inform	At commencement of the operation of the facility and

				when first used to provide energy to the grid
Community education program	Involve local schools and higher education institutions through targeted programs to: - Educate locals about renewable energy	Local schools and higher education institutions	Inform/Involve	Ongoing
Community support/benefits program	Ongoing benefits as outlined in the Community Benefit Sharing Strategy	- Neighbouring properties - Local residents - Local organisations and community groups	Involve	Ongoing
PHASE 6 - DECOMMISSIONING - TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

APPENDIX A SURVEY QUESTIONS



Kingswood Battery Community Survey

Introduction

Iberdrola Australia is in the early stages of developing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) proposed for 744 Burgmanns Lane, Kingswood, approximately 6km outside of Tamworth.

We are currently preparing our Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which will be used by the government to make decisions about this project, as well as define the mitigation activities required to reduce any impacts on the environment and community.

We would like to know what issues are most important to you and gather information you think will be relevant to the EIS and project planning.

We encourage you to look at the project's publicly available Scoping Study (planning portal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/kingswood-battery-energy-storage-system) and information available on our website (iberdrola.com.au/our-assets/owned-renewable-energy-assets/kingswood-battery) before doing this survey.

This short survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Privacy Statement

Iberdrola Australia is committed to protecting your privacy and to complying with all applicable personal data protection laws and regulations. Collected personal information (including name, address, phone number, email address, company/organisation) may be used for the purposes of supporting ongoing engagement and communication and informing planning processes. We may also disclose your personal information to our related bodies corporates located in Australia or overseas (including European Union countries) or as otherwise permitted or authorised by law.

By voluntarily providing information to us you expressly consent to us collecting and handling your personal information in accordance with our obligations under the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) and the commitments in our Privacy Policy (iberdrola.com.au/assets/Iberdrola-Australia-Privacy-Policy-11Nov21-002.pdf). Our Privacy Policy also sets out how you may access or correct your personal information or make a complaint about a privacy matter. For any enquires or requests please email our privacy officer at privacy@iberdrola.com.au.

Survey Questions

What is your post code?

Not required

Which of the following describes you?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Business Owner/Operator in the Tamworth Region
- ☐ Potential Employee
- ☐ Representative of an organisation with a professional interest in the project
- ☐ Potential Supplier or Contractor
- ☐ Local Resident – within 2km
- ☐ Local Primary Producer or Business – within 2km
- ☐ Resident of Tamworth Region
- ☐ Other:

When thinking about the design and construction of the Kingswood Battery, which of the following are most important to you?

Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Size
- ☐ Layout and configuration
- ☐ Noise and vibration
- ☐ Traffic management
- ☐ Safety and fire management
- ☐ Environmental management and biodiversity
- ☐ Timing of construction
- ☐ Landscape and plantings
- ☐ Cultural heritage protection
- ☐ Water, stormwater and erosion management
- ☐ Employment of local people
- ☐ Reducing impacts on local communities
- ☐ Reducing impacts on near neighbours and local residents
- ☐ Utilising local suppliers
- ☐ Workforce housing
- ☐ Other:

When thinking about the ongoing operation of the Kingswood Battery, after it is built, which of the following are most important to you?

Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Reducing impacts on local residents
- ☐ Layout and configuration
- ☐ Noise and vibration mitigation
- ☐ Traffic, transport and accessibility
- ☐ Safety and emergency management (floods and bushfires)
- ☐ Trees, plantings and landscaping
- ☐ Maintaining rural character
- ☐ Providing employment opportunities
- ☐ Water use and management
- ☐ Supporting local community
- ☐ Lighting
- ☐ Other:

Is there anything you would like to see considered in the design, planning, construction or operation of the Kingswood Battery which would make it a success?

Please write your answer below

Do you have knowledge or information about the area that you think we should be made aware of?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Local Knowledge Sharing

Local and community knowledge matters when developing a project. If you would like to share your knowledge or any information you think is valuable to the design, construction or operation of this project, please fill out the section below.

Please let us know what knowledge or information you have.

Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Soils, Landform and Geology
- ☐ Biodiversity
- ☐ Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
- ☐ History
- ☐ Land Use
- ☐ Water and Hydrology
- ☐ Contamination or Pollutants
- ☐ Other:

Is this knowledge related to your work?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Which organisation do you represent or work for (if applicable)?

Please leave your name below.

Please leave your best contact email address below.

Please leave your best contact phone number below.

In the Loop

Would you like to be kept informed of the project as it moves through the planning, approvals and construction process?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please select your preferred way to receive project updates in the future.

Please select all the apply.

☐ Information Sessions – in person

☐ Information Sessions – online

☐ Email Updates

☐ Letter/Mail

☐ Website

☐ Other:

Please leave your name below.

Please leave your relevant contact details below (email/address/other).

Future Consultation Opportunities

If you would like to be informed about future consultation activities, please provide your best contact information below.

Please leave your name below.

Please leave your best email/postal address below.

Thank you!

Thank you for taking the time to participate in our Kingswood Battery survey. The information you have provided will be used to inform the preparation of our EIS and project planning.

For up-to-date information about the Kingswood Battery's development application process or to check out the Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) please see Kingswood Battery Energy Storage System on the State Significant Development portal (planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/kingswood-battery-energy-storage-system).

For more information on the project, see our Kingswood Battery project profile on the Iberdrola Australia website (iberdrola.com.au/our-assets/owned-renewable-energy-assets/kingswood-battery).

For more information on Iberdrola Australia's community engagement check out Our Communities (iberdrola.com.au/for-communities/our-approach-to-our-communities) on the Iberdrola Australia website.

The Northern Daily

\$2.30 incl GST

LEADER



'AMAZING YOUNG PEOPLE'

General Culture Academy celebrates its seventh year of youth leadership

The General Culture Academy officially welcomed its newest 15 students to the successful cultural leadership program. Picture by Gareth Gardner

Inside today

SUGAR AND SPICE: ALL THINGS NICE

food&wine

RECIPES AND MORE

'REALLY BADLY BURNED' How a business move is making a key moment for a wind project

Chance for a fresh start

ENVIRONMENT

Jonathan Haines

that's been causing a stir among locals.

Major electricity generator Origin Energy acquired Kingswood Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at 744 Burgmanns Lane, Kingswood, approximately 6km south of Tamworth.

Currently the proposal is in the early stages of planning. As part of the development process, we are seeking your input to inform the preparation of our Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and project design to ensure potential community and environmental impacts and benefits are recognised and managed effectively.

in Valchra and the Salisbury projects is expected to be able to power more than 125 million homes, but residents say the large scale of the projects is exactly why they're worried.

"With a series of 2000 people, a workforce of that size

has enormous impacts on housing costs. We have a number of people already renting on their front and if they're pushed out they simply won't return," president of community group Voice for Valchra Cameron

Craig said.

Voice for Valchra has been fighting to reduce the size of the Bully Hill wind project and the Wintchewine Windfarm by Dutch companies.

Continued Page 7

Have your say on the Kingswood Battery Energy Storage System

Iberdrola Australia is proposing to construct, own and operate a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at 744 Burgmanns Lane, Kingswood, approximately 6km south of Tamworth.

Currently the proposal is in the early stages of planning. As part of the development process, we are seeking your input to inform the preparation of our Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and project design to ensure potential community and environmental impacts and benefits are recognised and managed effectively.

We will be hosting two in-person community drop-in information sessions so you can find out more about the project and share your feedback. Please see the details below.

Community drop-in information sessions

- Friday 23 February 2024 4 - 6:30pm
- Saturday 24 February 2024 8 - 10:30am

Both days at the Asotia Function Centre, 559 - 567 Burgmanns Lane, Wilton, NSW 2304

Short survey

Take our 10-minute survey to help us understand the issues that are important to you and how you would like to be kept informed.

Contact us

✉ kingswoodbattery@iberdrola.com.au

☎ **Free call within Australia:** 1800 917 572

📍 Level 12, Governor Philip Tower, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney, NSW 2000

🌐 **Find out more:** www.iberdrola.com.au/ or www.iberdrola.com.au/news/kingswood-battery

Iberdrola Australia

GARRY LINNELL COMMENT

Public apologies cheapen the word 'sorry'

IT WAS 19th June when I said sorry to my wife. It was a powerful word. Now it's simply the cheapest.

Carried so much weight, didn't it? A genuine heartfelt apology was an act of humility and contrition that truly meant something.

For many of us a personal apology remains so. We're creatures of passion, too often impulsive, unthinking and self-centred. We have hard words at those we love, leaving wounds only we can see. A sincere expression of regret can heal.

But in our modern culture, bedecked in its perpetual cycle of outrage and apology, publicly saying sorry carries all the conviction of a political promise. It's uttered so frequently by politicians, celebrities and companies that it has lost its power. Supermarket checkout operators who mumble "have a nice day" display more sincerity.

Several recent corporate offerings of regret prove why the public apology now matches the diminishing value of the Argentinean peso.

Mark Zuckerberg, the founder of Facebook and one of the most powerful people on the planet, told a US Senate hearing he was sorry for the pain suffered by families whose children suffered after being bullied on social media.

Not that anyone truly believes his apology, much less imagines grand old Zack, lying in his bed at night, pining for his lost love.

Most of us would call such basic mistakes in this era of sophisticated payroll systems as at best, gross negligence. It wasn't Unilever's ill-fated hard-earned success for years until it had a profound impact on the lives of many of those consuming victims.

For the modern corporate elite, a pile of corporate cash is only taken with excuses you can always see the steam rising from it just before the scorching hot - almost the offender to Mithras wash their hands and absolve themselves of responsibility.

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SORRY?



a get-out-of-jail-free card. When he launched Facebook, he didn't even apologise for the pain suffered by families whose children suffered after being bullied on social media.

Not that anyone truly believes his apology, much less imagines grand old Zack, lying in his bed at night, pining for his lost love.

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Several recent corporate offerings of regret prove why the public apology now matches the diminishing value of the Argentinean peso.

It's worked for Toyota exceedingly well. The Japanese car giant apologised (again) two weeks ago for scandals at three of its sub-brand companies, including the falsification of engine emissions data that had been going on for two decades. The company recently edged past Volkswagen AG in the world's leading automaker.

Of course, the meaningless public apology isn't nearly a new phenomenon. Three decades ago the Vatican got down on bended knee to express regret for its condemnation of Galileo, one of history's greatest minds. A papal inquisition in 1633 placed Galileo under house arrest for two years for heretical claims the Earth did not lie at the centre of the universe.

It took until 1992 - 359 years later - for the Pope to say sorry.

There is still a place in this world for authentic public apologies. Many nations, including our own, have said sorry to indigenous people for their past treatment. Other groups like the stolen generation and victims of institutional abuse have also received justified expressions of regret.

But as the public expression of manufactured corporate apologies continues, that once sacred word has become not just the cheapest, but also the easiest.

Garry Linnell, author of *The Queen's Work*, *Monks and Bachelors* and *The Church*, is a regular contributor to the popular weekly newsletter, *The Echidna*.

THE ECHIDNA
GET THE DAILY NEWSLETTER
www.theechidna.com.au

Have your say on the Kingswood Battery Energy Storage System

Iberdrola Australia is proposing to construct, own and operate a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at 744 Burgmanns Lane, Kingswood, approximately 6km south of Tamworth.

Currently the proposal is in the early stages of planning. As part of the development process, we are seeking your input to inform the preparation of our Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and project design to ensure potential community and environmental impacts and benefits are recognised and managed effectively.

We will be hosting two in-person community drop-in information sessions so you can find out more about the project and share your feedback. Please see the details below.

Community drop-in information sessions

- Friday 23 February 2024 4 - 6:30pm
- Saturday 24 February 2024 8 - 10:30am

Both days at the Asotia Function Centre, 559 - 567 Burgmanns Lane, Wilton, NSW 2304

Short survey

Take our 10-minute survey to help us understand the issues that are important to you and how you would like to be kept informed.

Contact us

✉ kingswoodbattery@iberdrola.com.au

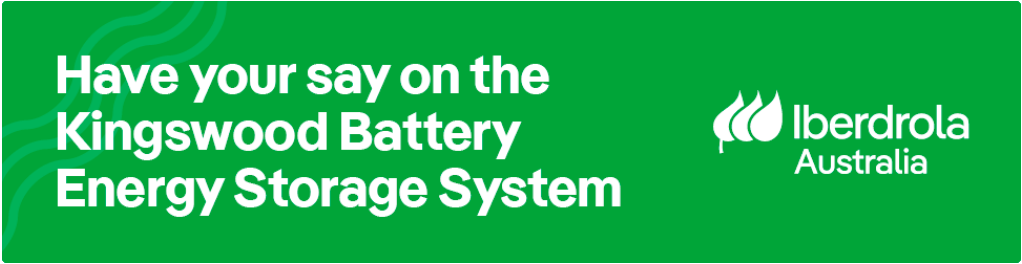
☎ **Free call within Australia:** 1800 917 572

📍 Level 12, Governor Philip Tower, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney, NSW 2000

🌐 **Find out more:** www.iberdrola.com.au/ or www.iberdrola.com.au/news/kingswood-battery

Iberdrola Australia

2. Online advertising

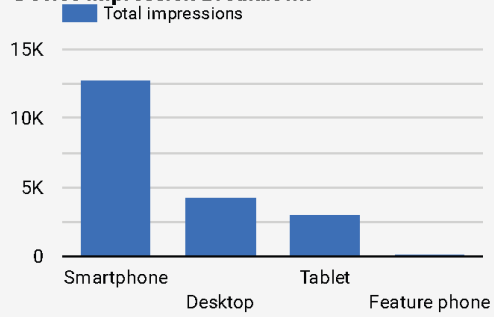
Digital asset	
MREC (250 x 300)	
BILLBOARD (250 x 970)	
MOBILE_BANNER (50 x 320)	
LEADERBOARD (90 x 728)	

Campaign Breakdown

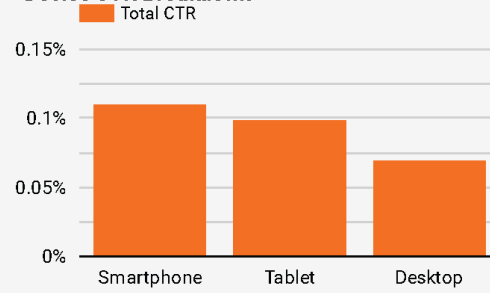
Item	Results
Online Impressions	20,101
Clicks	20
Click Through Rate (CTR)	0.099%

Device Statistics

Device Impression Breakdown



Device CTR Breakdown



APPENDIX C LETTERS DISTRIBUTED TO 1KM RADIUS



05 February 2024

Dear community member,

Re: Iberdrola Australia Kingswood Battery - Upcoming Community Drop-In Information Sessions

Iberdrola Australia is proposing to develop, construct, own and operate a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at **744 Burgmann Lane, Kingswood**, approximately 6km south of Tamworth. The battery, including its supporting infrastructure, would be located on approximately eight hectares of land, and would connect into the nearby Tamworth substation.

The project is needed to support the *NSW Electricity Strategy (2019)* for a reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity future that supports a growing economy. As a State Significant Development (SSD), the proposed battery project will undergo a rigorous approval process by the NSW Government. As part of this process, we are currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to ensure community and environmental impacts and benefits are recognised and managed effectively.

The proposed timeline for the project is outlined below:

0 – 1 years Complete	1 - 2 years Current stage	1 - 2 years	30+ years	1 - 2 years
Feasibility and early investigations	Development Application & EIS	Construction – if approved	Operation	Decommissioning or repowering

We are writing to invite you to attend our upcoming **community drop-in information sessions** to discuss the proposed project further and to share the process going forward. Registration is not required to attend these sessions.

The details of the upcoming community information drop-in sessions are:

Friday 23 February 2024 | 4 – 6:30pm

Acacia Function Centre | 559 – 597 Burgmanns Lane, Hillvue, NSW 2304

Saturday 24 February 2024 | 8 – 10:30am

Acacia Function Centre | 559 – 597 Burgmanns Lane, Hillvue, NSW 2304

We would also like to invite you to complete a short **survey** to help us better understand the issues that are most important to you, and to gather information to inform the EIS and project planning. The survey will take approximately **10 minutes** to complete. You can express interest in attending the drop in information session and/or do the survey via <https://forms.gle/PGqyKBBkRBKwuomS8> or by using the QR code on this page. The survey will be open until midnight **Sunday 3 March 2024**.

If you require a paper copy of the survey sent to your address, or have any other queries, please don't hesitate to get in contact with us via the following methods:

Email	kingswoodbattery@iberdrola.com.au
Phone	Jose Opazo (Project Manager) weekdays 9am – 5pm: +61 484 292 427 24-hour free call in Australia: 1800 917 372
Post	Level 22, Governor Philip Tower, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney, NSW 2000

Please be assured that this is the first of many opportunities you will have to provide input to the project. We will keep you updated on the project and provide further opportunities for you to contribute. Once the EIS has been submitted, there will be a public exhibition period providing the opportunity for the community to read the document, seek clarification and provide feedback directly to the NSW Government in a formal submission.

More information about this project can be found on the project website

<https://www.iberdrola.com.au/our-assets/owned-renewable-energy-assets/kingswood-battery/> and on the NSW Planning Portal <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/kingswood-battery-energy-storage-system>

If you would like to be kept informed about the project as it progresses, register your interest by sending an email to kingswoodbattery@iberdrola.com.au

We look forward to working with you throughout this process.

Yours Sincerely,



Jose Opazo
Project Manager for Kingswood Battery

Kingswood Battery



FACT SHEET | FEBRUARY 2024

Iberdrola Australia is proposing to develop, construct, own and operate a Battery Energy Storage System at 744 Burgmanns Lane, Kingswood, approximately 6km south of Tamworth. The Kingswood Battery would enable renewable energy to be reliably provided to consumers across NSW when they need it most.

Project overview

The proposed battery would have a capacity of up to **270 megawatts (MW)**, supplying two hours of electricity, powering up to **65,000 homes** and contributing to the **security** and **reliability** of the NSW electricity system. The battery, including its supporting infrastructure, would be located on approximately eight hectares of land (20 per cent of the total site), and would connect into the nearby Tamworth substation via a high voltage transmission line.

What is a Battery Energy Storage System?

Batteries are an energy storage technology designed to absorb and release electrical energy on demand. Batteries store excess electricity generated by renewable energy such as solar and wind when production is high and demand is low, for use during periods when demand is high. This avoids a shortfall in electricity supply. Batteries can respond faster than other energy storage or generation technologies.

Why do we need a Battery Energy Storage System?

NSW is retiring its ageing coal-fired power stations which are reaching their end of life. In November 2020, the NSW Government released the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap, the State's 20-year plan to transform our electricity system into one that is secure, reliable, clean and affordable for consumers. To do this, the energy sector is undergoing a transformation, with renewable energy set to play a critical role.

Large-scale batteries such as the one being proposed, will provide for future capacity and resilience of the NSW energy network.

Project benefits

We are committed to contributing to a renewable energy transition for Australia, through regional economic enhancement, social procurement in supply chain growth, jobs and skills, and environment and biodiversity actions through Iberdrola's global commitment to being 'nature positive' by 2030.



- ✓ **Economic investment** in the Tamworth region
- ✓ **Employment opportunities** – creation of **100+ jobs**
- ✓ **Boost to industries** that service the new workforce
- ✓ **Business for local** contractors and companies
- ✓ **More reliable energy** for the region
- ✓ **Local consumer benefits** from **low-cost energy**
- ✓ **Enough energy** to power 65,000 homes
- ✓ **Sponsorship of local community** projects and initiatives

Project location

The Kingswood site was selected because of its proximity to the Tamworth substation and the existing TransGrid transmission infrastructure. This would ensure that the project would be consistent with existing electricity infrastructure setting and limits impacts on the rural land character.

A number of site selection criteria were applied, including:

- Land use zoning and development permissibility
- Existing grid infrastructure
- Availability of access to the site via a major road
- An area that would not result in or be subject to flooding impacts
- An area that is not located within bushfire prone land
- Minimising impact on surrounding privately or publicly owned land
- Minimal environmental impacts

What is planned for the site?

A Battery Energy Storage System including battery enclosures, inverters, transformers and a control building

A high voltage transmission line connection between the battery system and the nearby Tamworth substation

Utilities including telecommunications, water and wastewater for amenity buildings

Tamworth substation upgrade works to facilitate connection with the battery system

Site access to the battery system from Ascot-Calala Road

Realignment of the existing 330 kilovolt (kV) transmission line

A permanent office and staff amenities

Internal site access road and parking

Stormwater management infrastructure, lighting, fencing and security

Landscaping and screening vegetation



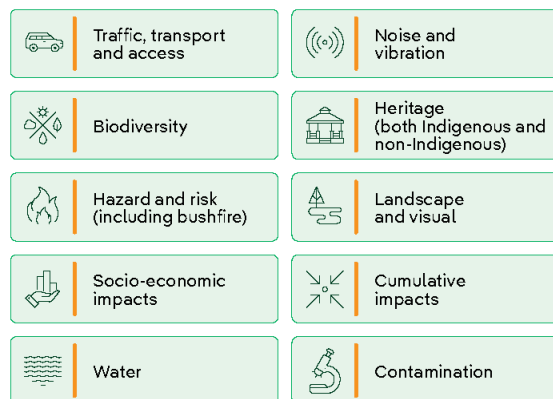
How would the battery operate?

The battery would operate (charge and/or discharge) based on network and market conditions.

- Operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Largely undertaken remotely requiring minimal staff presence at site.
- The proposed project is anticipated to be operational in 2026 with a design life of around 25 years.

Battery planning and approval process

When developing the project, consideration is given to a range of technical, community and environmental factors.



The proposed Kingswood Battery is currently in the early stages of planning and will undergo rigorous assessment by the NSW Government before being approved by the Minister for Planning or the Independent Planning Commission, in accordance with the relevant planning policies and legislation.

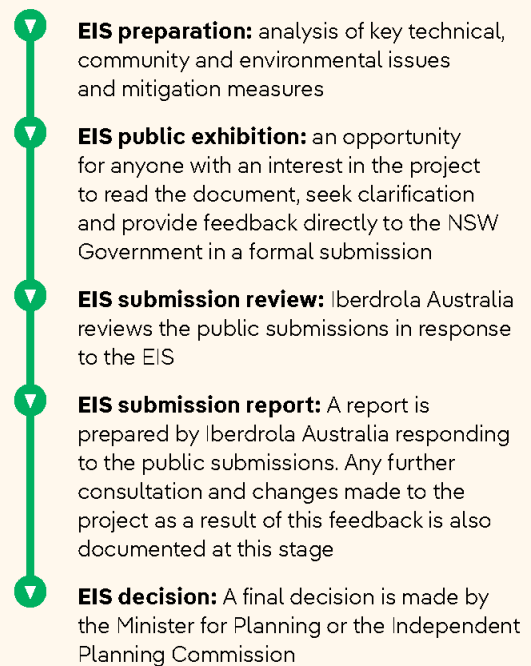
The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 are the primary pieces

of legislation that regulate land use planning and development assessment in NSW.

A Scoping Report was prepared in 2023 to support Iberdrola Australia's application to the Minister for Planning. We have since received the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) in October 2023, which outline the process by which the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared, including all environmental, economic and social impact assessments as well as community and stakeholder consultation requirements.

The extent and configuration of the final project will be refined through the EIS and design process.

EIS Process



Community consultation

We will work in partnership with our neighbours and local communities to ensure we draw on local knowledge and feedback and generate a positive and meaningful legacy.

Iberdrola Australia's Engagement Principles

-  Responsible and fair
-  Open and honest
-  Active listening
-  Inclusive engagement
-  Embrace the uniqueness of our communities

In line with our guiding principles, the project team have been talking with the immediate neighbours of the property since 2023 to understand the local context and their views and feedback regarding the proposal. We are also seeking feedback from the wider community through drop-in sessions and an online survey to understand the issues that are most important.

In addition, we have consulted with key government agencies including the NSW Government and Tamworth Regional Council.

Engagement for the project will be ongoing, and we will continue to keep the community and key stakeholders informed of the proposed project's progress as we move through the planning and approvals process.

Iberdrola Australia

Iberdrola Australia is a leader in renewable energy. We are the world's largest producer of wind power, and a major provider of renewable energy across Australia. We are recognised leaders in sustainability and are deeply committed to the green energy transition.

We provide a range of renewable energy solutions including wind, solar, battery storage and demand management. We also support business to increase their energy efficiency and transition transport fleets to electric.

We are striving for a brighter future for Australian communities and for our environment. We are committed to working with local communities, providing local jobs, contributing to local economies and creating long term benefits for the regions where we operate.

We operate 1.5 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy projects in Australia, which is supported by 75 MW of battery capacity. You can see our projects on our website at www.iberdrola.com.au/our-assets/asset-map.

Contact us

We want to hear from you – please get in touch with any questions or feedback.

 **1800 917 372** (24/7, free within Australia)

 **kingswoodbattery@iberdrola.com.au**

 To find out more, visit our website:
www.iberdrola.com.au/



APPENDIX E WEBSITE

<https://www.iberdrola.com.au/our-assets/owned-renewable-energy-assets/kingswood-battery>

