



Engagement Summary Report

Stoney Creek Battery Energy Storage System

FOR: Enervest Operations Pty Ltd

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Basis of Report

This report has been prepared by SLR Consulting Australia (SLR) with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the timescale and resources allocated to it by agreement with Enervest Pty Ltd (the Client). Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected, which has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

This report is for the exclusive use of the Client. No warranties or guarantees are expressed or should be inferred by any third parties. This report may not be relied upon by other parties without written consent from SLR.

SLR disclaims any responsibility to the Client and others in respect of any matters outside the agreed scope of the work.



Executive Summary

SLR Consulting (SLR), on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd (Enervest), prepared and delivered a community and stakeholder engagement program for Enervest's Stoney Creek Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project in Narrabri, New South Wales. This engagement supported the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed project.

SLR developed communications materials, including newspaper advertisements, to promote the engagement sessions. These materials aimed to reach a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including the local community and key decision-makers, encouraging attendance at the engagement sessions or participation through Social Impact Assessment (SIA) survey responses. Tailored letters and emails were sent to local political representatives, state and federal government departments, and near neighbours to encourage engagement with the Project team. These communications also addressed specific concerns, such as traffic impacts, emergency management plans, and community partnership opportunities.

Recognising a neutral sentiment within the Narrabri community toward BESS projects, SLR and Enervest established key performance indicators to ensure meaningful engagement:

- Engage with community members and stakeholders willing to participate to understand their perceptions and concerns about the project.
- Learn about the unique attributes of Narrabri, including what the community values and any specific local nuances.

The consultation program featured the following key activities:

- A community pop-up event held at the Narrabri Rotary Markets on the banks of the Namoi River, Tibbereena Street, Narrabri, on Saturday 2 November 2024. This event introduced the project and Enervest to the local community while gathering feedback on the proposed project and community sentiment towards BESS projects or other regional initiatives.
- A community drop-in session conducted at the Narrabri Aquatic Centre on Tibbereena Street, Narrabri, on Thursday 14 November 2024. This session provided detailed information about the Project, addressed community and stakeholder questions, and gathered additional feedback on sentiment toward the Stoney Creek BESS Project;.
- Targeted doorknocking to near neighbours to introduce Enervest, discuss the project, and hand out project collateral.
- One-on-one meetings with key stakeholders were held to discuss the project in detail, allowing for tailored engagement and addressing specific concerns.

During these sessions, a range of stakeholders engaged with the project team, and many community members sought to educate themselves further about BESS projects. Common concerns raised included:

- Traffic and transport: concerns about increased heavy vehicle movement during construction and operational phases.
- Social impact: questions about local employment opportunities, procurement plans, and the broader social benefits for the Narrabri community.



- Emergency management: interest in fire risk mitigation strategies and coordination with emergency services, emphasized by stakeholders, including local fire service representatives.
- Community benefit sharing: requests for greater clarity on how the project would provide tangible benefits to the local community and the local Aboriginal community.

The consultation process successfully engaged a diverse range of stakeholders, with the pop-up event and drop-in session collectively attracting 30 attendees. Given the general neutrality within the community about BESS projects, this level of attendance reflects positively on the engagement efforts. The interactions provided valuable insights into community perceptions, stakeholder concerns, and Narrabri-specific nuances, laying the groundwork for future collaboration between Enervest and the local community.

Moving forward, SLR recommends that Enervest continue to engage with the community and stakeholders by providing regular updates as the project progresses and maintaining open communication channels. This approach will ensure stakeholders remain informed and have ongoing opportunities to actively participate in the decision-making process.

The remainder of this report details the engagement program's approach, along with specific recommendations and actions for Enervest's consideration. The recommendations focus on building community capacity through education, knowledge sharing, and fostering long-term, mutually beneficial relationships with the community and local stakeholders.



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Appendices

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

Term	Meaning
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
CCC	Community Consultative Committee
CSEP	Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FAR	NSW Fire and Rescue
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
MW	Megawatt
NIN	Narrabri Industrial Network
RFS	Rural Fire Service
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
TMP	Traffic Management Plan



1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this Engagement Report (the Report) is to provide an overview of the community and stakeholder engagement program undertaken to support Enervest's Stoney Creek BESS Project.

This report outlines the key objectives and approach of the engagement program, summarises the key findings, key themes, and insights gathered, and provides considerations for engagement and communication materials for future stages of the Project.

2.0 Project overview

The Stoney Creek BESS Project is a proposed energy storage system designed to enhance energy integration and support the growing demand for reliable energy in the Narrabri region, and New South Wales. The 125-Megawatt (MW) BESS will store surplus energy from renewable sources, dispatching it during peak demand periods to enhance grid stability. The project also includes a connection to TransGrid's existing Narrabri 132/66kV substation.

As part of the EIS process, community and stakeholder engagement was undertaken to ensure transparency, gather insights into community sentiment, and address early concerns from the community and key stakeholders.

3.0 Engagement overview

3.1 Key performance indicators

SLR in collaboration with Enervest, identified the measures of success for the engagement program. A key priority was to identify and engage with key stakeholders and sensitive receivers to ensure that, at a minimum, these individuals were informed about the proposed Stoney Creek BESS Project and provided the opportunity to interact with the project team to learn more about the proposed development.

Our experience has demonstrated that while providing opportunities for community engagement is essential, actual participation can sometimes be limited. Given this, we focused on actively engaging with those willing to participate, aiming to understand community and stakeholder perceptions and concerns about the project. Additionally, it was important to gather insights specific to Narrabri, such as what the community values about living in the area are, and any local nuances that should be considered during the planning and development process.

3.2 Stakeholder identification

As part of the preparation for the engagement period, SLR developed a comprehensive stakeholder list. This list included sensitive receivers, state and federal government departments, relevant business owners, local emergency services, community leaders, the Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC), and the Narrabri Industrial Network (NIN). The full stakeholder list is provided in Appendix A of this report.



3.3 Engagement approach

3.3.1 Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

A Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP), attached as Appendix B, was developed as a foundational framework through detailed desktop analysis for the Stoney Creek BESS Project.

The primary objective of the CSEP was to identify and engage key local stakeholders, including near neighbours, residents, community groups, the LALC, the Narrabri Shire Council, and other relevant organisations such as the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) and the NIN. The purpose was to gather valuable feedback, foster trust, and ensure transparent communication during the preparation of the EIS application.

To support this objective, the CSEP established a high-level social baseline for the project by analysing publicly available data. This analysis identified key stakeholders and highlighted the potential risks associated with both the engagement process and the project itself.

Consideration of community demographics, social sensitivities, and potential project impacts informed the selection of engagement tools and methods that were specifically tailored to the Narrabri community and surrounding areas.

The CSEP also outlined core engagement principles to guide the process, including:

- Ensuring open and honest communication through transparency from Enervest in relation to the project and its potential impacts.
- Actively seeking to engage a diverse range of stakeholders, including First Nations groups.
- Remaining flexible to respond effectively to community needs, emerging issues, and stakeholder feedback throughout the engagement process.

This structured approach provided the framework necessary to deliver a meaningful and effective consultation process for the Stoney Creek BESS Project, laying the foundation for ongoing collaboration with stakeholders and the Narrabri community.

3.3.2 Communication channels

A variety of communication channels were employed to inform stakeholders about the key drivers and benefits of the Stoney Creek BESS project, as well as to promote the upcoming engagement activities. These tools ensured a comprehensive outreach strategy tailored to the Narrabri community and key stakeholders. The communication tools and activities are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1 Communication tools

Tool	Activity description
Targeted traditional mailout	Near neighbours near the project site were identified and contacted through a direct mail campaign. Letters invited recipients to call the dedicated project telephone line or email to schedule a meeting with the project team. A total of 13 letters were sent via priority Australia Post delivery, with 0 letters returned.
Email notification	To complement the traditional mail campaign, an email notification was sent to 9 key stakeholders including the Narrabri Shire Council, community organisations, the LALC, and the NIN. These emails highlighted the project's



Tool	Activity description
	purpose and invited stakeholders to have a one-on-one meeting with the project team.
Newspaper advertisement campaign	Advertisements were placed in the Narrabri Courier newspaper on 31 October 2024. The campaign included a print advertisement, which aimed to raise awareness of the Project and promote the community drop-in session to a broad audience.
Dedicated project phone line	A dedicated phone line, 1300 164 211, was established to provide stakeholders with direct access to the Project information and support. The phone number was prominently included in all printed and digital communications to encourage queries and feedback.
Dedicated project email address	A dedicated email address, stoneycreek@enervest.com.au , was created to facilitate stakeholder communication. This email was included in all printed materials and managed by the Project team to ensure timely responses to enquiries.
Online SIA survey	An online SIA survey was launched to collect feedback and understand community concerns about the Project. A QR code was included on project collateral such as factsheets, posters and postcards, allowing stakeholders to easily access the survey via their mobile devices.
Project database	To expand community engagement, stakeholders were encouraged to sign up for Project updates via the Project website. This facilitated ongoing communication awareness.
Project website	A dedicated Project website (https://enervest.com.au/project/stoney-creek-bess/) was created to host up-to-date information about the Project and to promote the engagement period. The webpage also provided stakeholders with the opportunity to sign up for the Project updates and access key materials.
Project collateral	Informational materials were developed to support the in-person engagement sessions and to inform the community about the Project. Key collateral included: • Project factsheet A concise overview of the Project, highlighting its objectives, key messages, potential benefits, and timeline. It served as an accessible reference for community members to understand the Project's purpose. • Project poster Outlined key details during engagement events, providing clarity on Project requirements and enabling direct communication with Project team members. • Project map A detailed visual representation of the Project site, including the location of the BESS and its proximity to local landmarks such as Stoney Creek Road, the Old Cemetery, and Bailey Road. • Postcard for SIA survey promotion Included a QR code linking to the online SIA survey, encouraging participation and facilitating feedback collection.



3.3.3 Engagement opportunities

Opportunities for face-to-face engagement were actively promoted to provide community members and key stakeholders with direct access to the Project team. These interactions were designed to foster open communication, address concerns, and gather valuable feedback. The activities are outlined in Table 2.

Table 2 Engagement activities

Tool	Activity description
Pop-up event	A pop-up event was held on Saturday 2 November 2024 from 8:00AM to 12:30PM at the Narrabri Rotary Markets on the banks of the Namoi River, Tibbereena Street, Narrabri. This high-traffic public location was chosen to maximise visibility and accessibility to the local community. The event provided high-level information about the Project, whilst introducing Enervest to the local community. Community members interested in more in-depth discussions were encouraged to attend the upcoming community drop-in session. Project collateral was distributed at the event.
Drop-in event	A drop-in event was held on Thursday 14 November 2024, from 5:00PM to 7:00PM at the Narrabri Aquatic Centre, Tibbereena Street, Narrabri. Community members were invited to learn more about the Project in detail. This event allowed attendees to engage directly with Project representatives from both Enervest and SLR, ask questions in a one-on-one or small group setting, and provide feedback. Project collateral was distributed at the event.
Near neighbour door knocking	Near neighbour door knocking was conducted ahead of the community pop-up event and drop-in session to introduce Enervest and provide tailored information about the Stoney Creek BESS and its potential impact on nearby properties during the construction phase. During these interactions, communication materials were distributed to facilitate discussions and address any questions or concerns raised by property owners and residents.
Stakeholder meetings	Face-to-face meetings were conducted with the RFS, Geni Energy, Transgrid, Narrabri Council Shire, and the Narrabri LALC at their Narrabri offices. These meetings provided an opportunity to introduce the project, address enquiries, and gain a deeper understanding of key areas of interest and concerns associated with the Narrabri Shire. Ongoing consultation has occurred with Narrabri Shire Council in relation to matters including benefit sharing options. Consultation with the LALC and Registered Aboriginal Parties has been undertaken as part of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

3.3.4 Engagement to inform Social Impact Assessment

Targeted engagement with stakeholders and affected community to inform the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) was undertaken in parallel with the public consultation program. Building on the engagement undertaken during the scoping phase (see Section 1.6.1 of the attached CSEP), SIA consultation included an online survey and interviews with affected stakeholders.

Affected stakeholders were invited to participate in interviews to understand potential impacts (both positive and negative) arising from the project as well as possible mitigation and enhancement measures. Thirteen invitations were distributed via mail and email resulting in six semi-structured interviews conducted with the Chamber of Commerce, Council officers and local residents.

The SIA survey was distributed via mail out containing a QR code to 4,090 homes within a 10km radius of Narrabri, receiving one response during the EIS phase.

A thematic summary of feedback collected during SIA engagement has been incorporated into Section 4.0 and Section 4.9.1 of this Engagement Summary Report. Engagement outcomes are reported in detail in the SIA report prepared as part of the EIS for this Project.



4.0 Engagement outcomes

4.1 Pop-up event

Approximately 22 people attended the pop-up event, held on Saturday 2 November 2024, at the Narrabri Rotary Markets, from 8:00AM to 12:30PM. The casual, accessible setting was selected to encourage residents to stop by at their convenience while enjoying the community market atmosphere.

The Project team set up an informative stall featuring posters, maps and communication materials. Representatives from Enervest and SLR were present to provide information about the Stoney Creek BESS Project, introduce Enervest to the community, address community questions, and gather valuable insights about community perceptions and concerns specific to Narrabri and the Project.

During the event, attendees raised a variety of queries, which predominantly aligned with the themes outlined below.

4.1.1 Local economic and community benefits

Several residents expressed significant interest in understanding how the Stoney Creek BESS Project could deliver meaningful and tangible benefits to the local community. Key areas of interest included opportunities for local job creation, support for local businesses, and funding for community initiatives. Residents specifically mentioned the potential for contributions to local schools, daycare facilities, and other essential services in Narrabri, highlighting a desire for broader community enrichment.

In addition, community members raised questions regarding the Project's approach to workforce and supplier engagement. They sought clarification on how the Project plans to prioritise hiring from the local workforce and whether efforts would be made to procure goods and services from local businesses. Residents emphasised the importance of ensuring that the Project's economic benefits directly support the Narrabri region, both during the construction and operational phases.

4.1.2 Potential traffic disruptions

Residents expressed concerns about potential traffic disruptions during the construction phase of the Stoney Creek BESS Project. Specifically, they queried how increased vehicle movements, including heavy construction traffic, would be managed to ensure the continued accessibility of Stoney Creek Road.

Given that some residents rely exclusively on Stoney Creek Road for daily transportation, suggestions were made to implement measures to accommodate construction vehicles while minimising disruptions to local traffic. These included scheduling construction vehicle movements during off-peak hours, implementing traffic management plans, and considering temporary road upgrades to support increased usage and maintain safety standards for all road users.

4.1.3 Grid stability and power outages

Discussions arose regarding the potential of the Stoney Creek BESS Project to stabilise the local power grid and mitigate power outages. Some attendees expressed interest in how the Project could enhance energy reliability in the Narrabri region, ensuring a consistent power



supply during peak periods. They sought reassurance that the BESS would provide tangible benefits to the local grid and support the region's energy needs.

Other attendees questioned whether the Project's benefits would directly impact the local power grid or if the stored energy would primarily serve broader state or national requirements. These enquiries highlighted a desire for clarity on how the Project would integrate with and improve the energy infrastructure specific to the Narrabri area.

Photo 1 Enervest Project team engaging during the pop-up event



4.2 Community drop-in session

9 people attended the drop-in session, which was held on Thursday 14 November 2024, at the Narrabri Aquatic Centre on Tibbereena Street, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

The session provided a valuable opportunity for stakeholders to engage in meaningful dialogue with the Project team. Attendees were able to voice their concerns, ask detailed questions, and receive comprehensive information about the Stoney Creek BESS Project. This open engagement approach helped to foster transparency, build trust, and strengthen relationships within the local community.

During the session, attendees raised a range of questions and concerns, which predominantly aligned with the themes outlined below.

4.2.1 Land ownership and development potential

Stakeholders highlighted opportunities for land use related to the Stoney Creek BESS Project. A specific property owner, familiar with renewable energy projects, expressed interest in selling land suitable for the BESS, citing its RU1 zoning and fit-for-purpose characteristics. The owner also mentioned prior challenges in securing funding for development, suggesting the need for collaboration or investment. This feedback underscores the importance of engaging with local landowners and developers to explore mutually beneficial opportunities.

4.2.2 Community integration and interest in project functionality

Community members expressed curiosity about how the BESS would integrate into the local energy system. Stakeholders enquired about the ability for residents, particularly those in Narrabri town, to contribute surplus energy to the battery and benefit directly from the Project. This feedback highlights the need for clear communication about how the Project will function and its potential to support local energy needs.

4.2.3 Concerns about ownership and broader implications

One stakeholder raised concerns about the ownership structure of Enervest and the origins of the batteries, questioning whether they are manufactured in Australia. Scepticism was also expressed regarding global warming and the financial implications of the Project, particularly the potential for foreign investors to profit. These concerns reflect a need for transparency about the Project's ownership, supply chain, and local economic benefits to address misconceptions and build trust.

4.2.4 Suggestions for community-centric energy solutions

Stakeholders suggested the Stoney Creek BESS Project could provide greater community benefits by adopting a more localised energy model. Ideas included enabling residents to sell power to and buy power back from the battery to generate local economic benefits. While acknowledging the complexities of managing a community-driven battery model, stakeholders highlighted its potential to foster stronger community ties. Suggestions also included engaging with local renewable energy advocates and ensuring the Project contributes to broader community development.

4.2.5 Concerns about grid stability

Some stakeholders raised concerns about grid reliability, citing current issues with power quality and home battery disconnections on their streets. While they acknowledged it is



unlikely the BESS would worsen these issues, there is a need for reassurance that the Project will enhance grid stability and not exacerbate existing problems. This feedback underscores the importance of providing technical information to demonstrate the Project's positive impact on the local grid.

4.2.6 Support for the project with construction concerns

Stakeholders expressed overall support for the Project but highlighted concerns about potential construction-phase impacts, particularly on Stoney Creek Road. Specific issues included ensuring that critical services, such as garbage collection and school transportation, remain uninterrupted. Stakeholders suggested the implementation of a robust Traffic Management Plan (TMP) to address these concerns and minimise disruptions. Proactive communication about construction planning will be key to maintaining community support.

4.3 Door knocking with near neighbours

Door knocking was conducted on 1 November 2024, targeting residents along Stoney Creek Road and Bailey Road. 12 residents were reached in total. During the visits, factsheets and SIA postcards with survey links were distributed to provide residents with accessible information about the Stoney Creek BESS Project and to encourage their participation in the feedback process. During these discussions, near neighbours raised a range of questions and topics which are outlined below.

4.3.1 Traffic management during construction

Residents on Stoney Creek Road expressed concerns about traffic disruptions during the construction phase. As Stoney Creek Road is their only access route to their properties, they enquired as to how construction traffic would be managed to ensure their daily activities would not be hindered. These concerns highlight the need for a comprehensive Traffic Management Plan (TMP) to address safety and accessibility.

4.3.2 Misunderstanding about project location

A few residents on Bailey Road initially believed that the BESS facility would be located on vacant land directly behind their properties. Once it was clarified that this was not the case, these residents expressed no further concerns about the Project's location.

4.3.3 Flooding concerns

Residents on Bailey Road raised flooding as a significant issue, noting that the road is completely flooded approximately twice a year, with some households requiring evacuation during severe weather events. They emphasised the need for the Project team to consider these conditions in its planning, particularly for access and infrastructure resilience during flooding events.

4.4 Data summary

Among the primary concerns raised were the management of community benefits and issues related to grid stability.

Residents emphasised the importance of ensuring that the Project provides tangible and meaningful benefits to the local community. Concerns centred on how community benefits would directly address local priorities, such as support for community organisations, and other initiatives that align with the needs of Narrabri residents. Ensuring transparency in the



management and distribution of community benefits is critical to building trust and fostering positive community relationships.

Stakeholders expressed concerns about the impact of the BESS on grid reliability. While some residents sought reassurance that the Project would enhance grid stability and mitigate power outages, others questioned whether the facility might inadvertently exacerbate existing issues, such as power quality fluctuations. These concerns highlight the need for clear communication about the technical capabilities of the BESS, its role in improving grid performance, and the measures in place to ensure it does not negatively affect local energy infrastructure.

These concerns present opportunities for Enervest to address stakeholder apprehensions proactively by:

- Clearly outlining how funds and resources will be allocated, with a focus on addressing local priorities and engaging community input in decision-making processes.
- Sharing detailed technical information about how the BESS will stabilise the grid, prevent outages, and provide long-term benefits to the Narrabri region.

Maintaining open communication channels to keep stakeholders informed and involved throughout the Project lifecycle.

Overall, community sentiment toward the Project remains positive. While residents generally express optimism about the Stoney Creek BESS Project, a sense of neutrality is evident amongst stakeholders. This suggests that while there is no significant opposition, there is also a lack of strong enthusiasm or engagement from parts of the community.

This neutrality or mild positivity provides Enervest with a strategic opportunity to deepen engagement and shift sentiment further toward active support. By addressing the key concerns highlighted above and emphasising the long-term benefits of the Project – such as job creation, enhanced grid stability, and meaningful community investments – Enervest can work to foster greater enthusiasm and trust among stakeholders.

4.5 Council meetings

A meeting was held with the Manager of Economic Development from Narrabri Shire Council on Friday 1 November 2024, to discuss the Stoney Creek BESS Project, focusing on its business model, infrastructure considerations, and alignment with regional development priorities.

The conversation began with a discussion of the Project timeline, with the Council seeking clarification on when construction is expected to commence. The Manager also explored the business case for the BESS, questioning whether Enervest plans to lease battery capacity to other entities, establish its own solar operations, or rely on existing coal-fired power stations for charging.

Infrastructure constraints were a key point of discussion, particularly challenges faced by large-scale solar farms in the past. The Manager noted that capacity constraints in the energy network have previously hindered viability by preventing power from being fed into the grid. Questions were raised about whether widespread adoption of BESS facilities, without simultaneous upgrades to existing infrastructure, could result in similar bottlenecks.



Logistical concerns were also addressed, particularly related to transportation and access. The Manager inquired about the weight and width of machinery required for construction and whether the single bridge on Stoney Creek Road could accommodate this load. Past infrastructure projects used the old bridge, and questions were raised about whether upgrades or special accommodation would be required. Additionally, the Manager asked if Enervest had liaised with rail authorities regarding machinery crossing over rail lines.

The discussion shifted to the Project's financial and operational structure. The Manager sought clarification on who Enervest's customers would be and the rationale for energy network providers to partner with Enervest rather than develop similar infrastructure themselves. Questions were also raised about whether existing energy networks had requested the development of the BESS or if it was initiated through a competitive tendering process. The Manager further explored financing, including the role of banks in funding these projects and the potential for long-term contracts (e.g., 20–30 years) with TransGrid to provide services.

Overall, the meeting highlighted key infrastructure and financial considerations, emphasising the importance of ensuring the Project aligns with local development priorities and regional energy needs. The Manager expressed interest in maintaining an open dialogue with Enervest as the Project progresses to address these concerns and explore opportunities for collaboration.

There has been ongoing communication with Council since the initial November 2024 meeting, including a meeting on 24th June 2025, as well as phone calls and email correspondence. During this period Council has been kept informed with the progress of the proposed development and have discussed the community benefit initiatives.

4.6 LALC meeting

A meeting was held with the CEO of the Narrabri LALC on Friday 1 November 2024, to discuss the Stoney Creek BESS Project, focusing on opportunities for local Aboriginal procurement, training, and broader community benefits.

The conversation highlighted the importance of creating meaningful economic opportunities for the local Aboriginal community. The CEO emphasised the need for Enervest to prioritise Aboriginal workers for both the construction and operational phases of the Project. Additionally, the development of training programs was suggested as a way to build local capacity, equipping community members with skills that could lead to long-term employment opportunities and economic growth.

Cultural representation was a key focus of the discussion. The CEO proposed incorporating Aboriginal art on the exterior of the BESS containers, not only to celebrate and promote local culture but also to enhance the visual integration of the facility within the community. The idea of dedicating a portion of the Project land to support the LALC's bush tucker initiative was also raised. This initiative would allow the community to sustainably use the land for traditional purposes, promoting Aboriginal knowledge and practices while generating additional opportunities for economic and cultural engagement.

The discussion further explored ways to support housing and energy security for the local Aboriginal community. Suggestions included allocating land for housing and installing renewable energy solutions, such as batteries or solar panels, to reduce energy costs and improve access to clean energy. These initiatives were seen as opportunities to align the



Project with the community's long-term aspirations while fostering stronger relationships with Enervest.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to continue discussions and work collaboratively to integrate these ideas into the Project. Both parties expressed enthusiasm for the potential to deliver lasting cultural, social, and economic benefits to the local Aboriginal community through the Stoney Creek BESS Project.

Ongoing consultation with Aboriginal communities has been undertaken as part of the ACHAR, having regard to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW, 2010) including the consultation process outlined within. Details are included in the ACHAR, at Appendix G of the EIS.

4.7 Geni Energy

A meeting was held with the Managing Director from Geni Energy on Friday 1 November 2024, to discuss the Stoney Creek BESS Project, with a particular focus on community engagement, local benefits, and community energy collaboration.

The conversation centred on strategies to enhance community engagement and address concerns about community fatigue from ongoing renewable energy projects in the region. The Managing Director highlighted the importance of employing local residents for engagement roles to build trust and ensure the Project aligns with community expectations. She noted that past projects, such as the Malls Creek Solar Farm, faced challenges due to underprepared engagement efforts and reliance on external contractors. To avoid similar pitfalls, they recommended forming a Community Consultative Committee (CCC) to facilitate clear communication, resolve issues, and establish a direct line of feedback between the Project team and stakeholders.

They also raised the need for consistent and transparent communication, suggesting that the Project's collateral and website be regularly updated to keep stakeholders informed about progress and key developments. They emphasised that proactive engagement is critical to overcoming scepticism and fostering positive sentiment within the community.

A significant point of discussion was the broader implications of renewable energy projects in the region. Geni Energy proposed co-locating a community battery alongside the Enervest BESS, which could act as a local energy hub, providing educational opportunities and direct benefits to the community. They also suggested that these hubs could be positioned as federal projects to enhance community access to renewable energy resources. The idea of creating local energy hubs was further discussed as a way to demystify renewable energy technology and communicate its benefits in accessible terms.

Geni Energy expressed concern about the lack of tangible benefits for communities hosting renewable energy projects. She noted that while projects like Stoney Creek BESS have the potential to generate positive outcomes, communities often feel they bear the burden of negative sentiment without receiving adequate rewards. To address this, she stressed the importance of emphasising local economic contributions, such as job creation and partnerships with local suppliers.

Both Enervest and Geni Energy acknowledged the challenges of community engagement in regions already hosting renewable projects and agreed on the importance of proactive strategies to foster trust and collaboration. Geni Energy outlined that while communities want renewable projects to succeed, more needs to be done to align these initiatives with local expectations and priorities.



The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to open communication, exploring collaborative opportunities, and ensuring the Stoney Creek BESS Project delivers meaningful benefits to the Narrabri community.

4.8 RFS meeting

A meeting was held with the Narrabri RFS in Narrabri on Friday 15 November 2024 to discuss the Stoney Creek BESS Project, with a focus on safety, emergency management, flooding, and fostering collaborative relationships between the Project team and local emergency services.

The conversation centred on ensuring the Stoney Creek BESS facility integrates robust safety measures and emergency preparedness protocols. The Project team detailed the planned safety infrastructure, which includes five levels of fire management systems, gated security, and a bushfire assessment as part of the EIS. Stakeholders from the RFS emphasised the importance of designing facility access points to enhance firefighting capabilities and suggested collaborative efforts with both FAR and RFS to refine response strategies.

Flooding and stormwater management were key topics of discussion, as the region is prone to fast-moving floodwaters during summer storms. Stakeholders highlighted past efforts to redirect water around Narrabri and suggested leveraging historical flood data, topographical maps, and drone footage to inform mitigation plans. Proposed measures for the Stoney Creek facility include raising infrastructure and constructing levy banks to safeguard the site against flooding.

Emergency management and regional collaboration were also emphasised. The RFS shared insights into their annual operations, which include managing 250–300 incidents across a 300-kilometre radius, encompassing hazmat response and flood management. They recommended that Enervest join the Emergency Management Committee to build networks, provide Project updates, and collaborate with local agencies on disaster preparedness. Stakeholders noted the dual structure of NSW fire services and stressed the value of engaging both FAR and RFS to ensure comprehensive coverage and coordination.

Both parties expressed a strong interest in ongoing collaboration beyond the Project's construction phase. This includes joint efforts on emergency planning, the use of shared resources such as flooding imagery via SharePoint, and continued discussions to ensure the Project aligns with local safety and environmental priorities. The meeting underscored the importance of building trust with stakeholders and leveraging local expertise to support the Project's development and operation.

4.9 Online engagement interactions

4.9.1 Online community survey

An online SIA community survey was developed to gather community input and identify key concerns in preparation for the EIS application for the Stoney Creek BESS Project.

The survey was open from 26 September to 5 December 2024 and aimed to collect feedback on the potential social and community benefits of the Project. The purpose of the survey was to incorporate community perspectives into the Project's planning process, address any concerns, and identify areas requiring targeted mitigation strategies to ensure alignment with local expectations.



During the survey period, the survey platform recorded 27 visits, but only one submission was received. This response rate indicates the challenges of engaging the community through online surveys, a common hurdle in projects of this nature. Despite the limited participation, the single submission provided insight into community perceptions and priorities.

The respondent was male and aged 55–64 years. Their feedback, while limited in representation, highlights specific areas of interest and concern that warrant attention. This section of the report analyses the response in detail, identifying the key issues raised and outlining proposed mitigation measures to address them.

The findings from this survey will inform the ongoing engagement strategy, ensuring that the Project remains responsive to community needs and expectations while proactively addressing any potential concerns.

4.9.1.1 Community and area values

The respondent emphasised the importance of community and family ties, as well as work opportunities, in shaping the local identity of Narrabri. They described the area as sustainable, reflecting a deep appreciation for the social and environmental qualities of the region. This highlights the respondent's connection to the community and their belief in the potential for sustainable development to align with Narrabri's existing values.

4.9.1.2 Personal investment in renewable energy

The respondent shared their significant investment of \$35,000 in solar battery systems for both their home and workplace. This personal commitment to renewable energy underscores their interest in sustainable technologies. However, they expressed concerns about the potential for Enervest's BESS to overload Essential Energy transformers, which could result in their solar inputs being cut off. This indicates apprehension about how the Project might interact with existing energy infrastructure and the impact it could have on individual renewable energy setups.

4.9.1.3 Concerns and priorities

The respondent identified work opportunities as a top priority for the Narrabri community, emphasising the need for the Project to contribute to local employment. They also voiced concerns about fire risks and emergency planning, noting the importance of robust measures to protect the community. Additionally, they highlighted the need for better consultation processes, opportunities for community input, and careful consideration of potential impacts on health, wellbeing, and community cohesion. These concerns reflect a desire for the Project to prioritise safety and consultation, inclusivity, and positive community outcomes.

4.10 Proposed mitigation measures

Based on the key issues raised in the survey, the following mitigation measures were proposed by the respondent.

4.10.1 Collaborative energy planning

Concerns were raised about the potential impact of the Project on existing renewable energy systems, particularly regarding transformer overloads. To mitigate this, it is recommended that Enervest collaborate with Essential Energy and other key stakeholders to assess



infrastructure capacity and implement any necessary upgrades. Clear communication about these measures would reassure residents with personal renewable energy investments.

4.10.2 Comprehensive fire and emergency planning

Fire risks were a significant concern to the respondent, highlighting the importance of robust fire management and emergency response measures. Through the development of a fire mitigation strategy in collaboration with local emergency services and conducting risk assessments it will ensure the community is informed about emergency protocols. Regular updates on these plans will help build trust and confidence in the Project's safety measures.

4.10.3 Local job creation initiatives

The respondent identified work opportunities as a critical community priority. To support this, it is recommended that Enervest prioritise local hiring and training programs during both the construction and operational phases of the Project. This would ensure tangible economic benefits for Narrabri residents and align the Project with community expectations.

4.10.4 Transparent consultation process

The feedback underscored the need for a more inclusive and transparent consultation process. It is recommended that Enervest establish an ongoing presence in the Narrabri community, establish ongoing feedback mechanisms to ensure the community has meaningful opportunities to provide input throughout the Project's lifecycle. This would help address concerns and foster stronger community relationships.

4.10.5 Community cohesion and wellbeing

Concerns about the potential impact on community cohesion and wellbeing suggest the need for initiatives that actively support these areas. It is recommended that Enervest establish a Community Benefit Fund and explore partnerships with community organisations, sponsor community events, or contribute to programs that enhance social connectivity and resilience. Demonstrating a commitment to community wellbeing would help mitigate perceived disruptions and foster goodwill.

5.0 Reporting and monitoring

The engagement process utilised Consultation Manager, to capture and organise stakeholder feedback, including sentiment and key concerns raised throughout the consultation period. By systematically documenting stakeholder input, the Project team ensured that all feedback was accurately recorded, enabling thorough analysis and transparent reporting. This structured approach not only supported the identification of recurring themes and concerns but also provided a reliable basis for informing project planning and will assist in engagement strategies moving forward.

6.0 Recommendations and actions

Effective engagement and communication strategies are critical to ensuring the ongoing success of the Stoney Creek BESS Project. Future engagement efforts should prioritise active listening to community feedback, acknowledging and addressing concerns, and incorporating stakeholder input into project planning and decision-making in the approvals phase. By fostering transparency and inclusivity, Enervest can build trust and strengthen its relationship with the Narrabri community.



Establishing and maintaining strong relationships with the community, local stakeholders, and key organisations will be essential to navigating project complexities and achieving shared outcomes. These partnerships will not only help mitigate potential challenges but also ensure that the Project delivers tangible benefits to both the community and the environment.

Based on the engagement program delivered to date and the insights gathered, the following recommendations and future considerations have been identified to guide the next stages of the Project's development.

6.1 Engagement approach

6.1.1 Traffic and transport disruptions

One of the primary concerns raised by the community and stakeholders was the potential traffic and transport disruptions during the construction phase of the project. To address these concerns, it is recommended that Enervest collaborate closely with the Narrabri Shire Council to develop and implement strategies that ensure local roads, particularly Stoney Creek Road, can accommodate the increased construction traffic whilst minimising disruptions for residents.

A comprehensive TMP should be developed to outline specific measures for managing construction-related traffic, ensuring safe and efficient road use. A public facing TMP should be shared with the community in advance, highlighting how it will mitigate potential disruptions and maintain accessibility for local residents.

Additionally, proactive communication will be essential. It is recommended that Enervest provide timely and transparent updates on road conditions, planned improvements, and any temporary disruptions. Clear and consistent communication will help manage community expectations, alleviate concerns, and demonstrate the Project's commitment to minimising local impacts while prioritising safety and accessibility.

6.1.2 Maximising local economic and community benefits

Maximising the project's contribution to the local economy and ensuring tangible community benefits is a critical priority for the Narrabri community. Establishing a Community Benefit Fund in collaboration with the Narrabri Shire Council and local community leaders is recommended to support key initiatives and organisations, including groups such as Narrabri Rotoract. By keeping the community informed about how the fund will be allocated to enhance local services and infrastructure, Enervest can foster transparency, trust, and long-term goodwill.

Additionally, implementing a local procurement strategy is strongly encouraged. This approach would involve engaging community businesses in the project's supply chain and prioritising the hiring of local workers during both construction and operational phases where feasible. Demonstrating a commitment to local economic growth not only aligns with community expectations but also strengthens Enervest's social license to operate, positioning the company as a valued and responsible partner in the region.



6.1.3 Fire and flood safety emergency management

Addressing fire safety and emergency management is a critical aspect of the project. Strengthening collaboration with the Narrabri RFS is essential to ensure the highest standards of safety and preparedness. This could include facilitating fire safety training for local emergency responders, conducting regular fire drills, and implementing site-specific emergency management measures such as a helicopter landing pad and clear, well-maintained emergency access routes to the facility.

Enervest has already established a strong foundation in this area, as evidenced by the positive outcomes of the initial meeting with the RFS. Building on this progress, we recommend ongoing and proactive collaboration with the RFS to reinforce community education and address common misconceptions about battery safety, fire hazards, and emergency response protocols. These efforts will not only enhance the Project's safety but also foster trust and confidence among community members and local stakeholders.

6.2 Summary of actions and recommendations

A summary of the key actions and recommendations to guide future engagement for the Stoney Creek BESS Project is provided in Table 3. This table categorises key themes identified during the engagement process alongside actionable steps and recommendations to address them effectively.

Table 3 Key actions and recommendations

Key themes	Actions and recommendations
Traffic and transport management	• Develop a comprehensive TMP in collaboration with the Narrabri Shire Council to address construction-related traffic. • Ensure the TMP includes measures to maintain accessibility for residents on Stoney Creek Road and Bailey Road. • Provide regular updates to the community on road conditions, planned improvements, and temporary disruptions. • Engage directly with residents to address individual concerns and incorporate their feedback into the TMP.
Local economic contributions	• Establish a Community Benefit Fund in collaboration with the Narrabri Shire Council and community leaders to support local initiatives, such as community organisations and groups, such as Narrabri Rotaract. • Implement a local procurement strategy to prioritise hiring local businesses and contractors for construction and operations. • Develop training programs to equip local workers with skills needed for Project roles, fostering long-term economic benefits. • Provide transparent reporting on how local businesses and workers are benefiting from the Project.
Fire safety and emergency management	• Collaborate with the Narrabri RFS to deliver fire safety training programs and conduct joint fire drills. • Include appropriate emergency management infrastructure, such as a helicopter pad and accessible emergency routes, in Project planning. • Conduct a comprehensive fire risk assessment and communicate fire mitigation strategies to the community. • Develop community education initiatives to dispel myths about battery safety and emergency response protocols.



Key themes	Actions and recommendations
Community engagement and awareness	- Regularly update the Project website and communication collateral to ensure stakeholders have access to accurate and transparent information. - Address engagement fatigue by engaging with local representatives for community consultation efforts. - Have an ongoing Enervest presence in the community and develop ongoing surveys to gather community input and ensure concerns are addressed proactively.
Flooding concerns	- Engage specialists to assess flood risks and develop mitigation measures, including raised infrastructure and levee banks. - Share flood risk assessment findings with the community to build trust and demonstrate resilience planning. - Incorporate historical flood data and community input into environmental planning to address concerns about stormwater management.
Community education	- Develop educational programs to explain energy technology and its benefits in accessible terms, emphasising the Project's role in supporting the regional energy grid. - Explore the possibility of co-locating a community battery alongside the Enervest facility to provide direct benefits to residents and enhance community engagement. - Partner with local organisations to foster community cohesion through a Community Benefit Fund, sponsorships, events, and initiatives tied to the Project's benefits.
Consultation documentation	- Use Consultation Manager to systematically document stakeholder feedback, track sentiment, and analyse key themes for reporting and planning purposes. - Ensure stakeholder feedback is revisited regularly to inform decision-making and improve engagement strategies. - Develop clear reporting processes to demonstrate how community input has influenced Project outcomes.





Appendix A:

Stakeholder List



Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder/s	Potential Interests/Concerns	Engagement tools
Enervest	- CEO - General Manager - Communications and Engagement	- Whole of project - Progress and budget - Approvals - Issues and reputational risks for the organisation	- Briefings - Ongoing internal reporting
BESS Project Team	- Project Manger - Project Director		- Weekly project meetings - Regular email/phone contact as required
Registered Aboriginal Party	Gomeroi People via the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC)	- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage assessment and management - Native Title issues - Procurement opportunities - Environmental management	- Ongoing via Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Assessment process - Initial introduction via phone/email through existing relationship, cultural heritage specialist as available - Ongoing email, phone, meeting as required
Aboriginal organisations	NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce	- Social impacts - Community partnership opportunities - Employment opportunities - Impacts/benefits to Aboriginal owned businesses - Renewables education and awareness	- Ongoing - Initial introduction via phone/email through existing relationship, cultural heritage specialist as available - Ongoing email, phone, meeting as required
Landowners	Site owners	- Community opposition/concern - Community division	Ongoing direct contact through dedicated land agent
	Neighbouring/ directly impacted residents	- Land access - local traffic - hazard - biosecurity - Amenity impacts - Compensation	- Introduction letter/email - Door knock/flyer drop - Offer of briefing/meeting - Ongoing updates (email) at project milestones - Dedicated landowner liaison



Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder/s	Potential Interests/Concerns	Engagement tools
		Impact mitigation	- Introduction letter/email - Door knock/flyer drop - Offer of briefing/meeting - Ongoing updates (email) at project milestones
	Adjacent landowners	- Land access - local traffic - hazard - biosecurity - Amenity impacts	
	Local farmers / businesses	- Land access - local traffic - hazard - biosecurity - loss of/ change to Agricultural land	
	Township residents	- Local and regional access routes - Economic opportunities and enhancing existing infrastructure - Employment and training opportunities - Post development land use - Land management (weed, feral animals, fire) - Community engagement opportunities - Community benefit funds/programs	- Local advertising and signage - Introductory mail out/ flyer drop - newsletter at project milestones - Project website - Project email/phone general enquiry line - Community pop-up/ drop-ins
Narrabri Shire Council	Council officers - Infrastructure Delivery - Projects and assets - Road services - Waste	- Planning - Economic development - Infrastructure - Community development - Local benefits	- Ongoing contact through established relationships - Notification ahead of major engagement events and public communications - Briefings at project milestones



Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder/s	Potential Interests/Concerns	Engagement tools
	- Water Services - Planning and Sustainability - Economic Development - Planning and development - Regulatory compliance - Tourism and cultural services	- Jobs and investment - Training and procurement - Amenity and traffic/access impacts - Community concern and opportunities - Community engagement opportunities	
	Councillors - Mayor – Darrell Tiemens - Deputy Mayor – Brett Dickinson - Ward councillors	- Local benefits - Jobs and investment - Amenity and traffic/access impacts - Community concern and opportunities - Community engagement opportunities - Community sentiment	Approach via Councillors for initial briefing and subsequent meetings at project milestones
	Council committees - Floodplain Management Advisory Committee - Emergency Management Committee - Narrabri Airport Advisory Committee (Internal) - Narrabri Bush Fire Management Committee	- Special interest areas - Impacts and benefits - Partnership opportunities - Community engagement opportunities - Community benefit opportunities - Cumulative impacts and benefits	- Offer of project briefings - Project updates - Project website and collateral - Approach via council officers
State Government	New South Wales Minister for Planning and Public Spaces – Paul Scully	- Request for State Significant Infrastructure Status - SSI assessment process and regulatory requirements	- Ongoing as required via regulatory process - Briefings and targeted meetings - Email and phone



Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder/s	Potential Interests/Concerns	Engagement tools
		- Community and stakeholder sentiment and feedback - Alignment with State policy and strategic directions	
	State Member Member for Barwon - (Roy) Royal Francis Butler	- Community and stakeholder sentiment and feedback - Community impacts and benefits - Economic impacts and benefits - Environmental impacts and mitigations - Employment and training opportunities and procurement - Cumulative impacts and opportunities for coordinated benefit sharing - Community and stakeholder engagement opportunities and outcomes	- Ongoing contact through established relationships - Email and phone - Offer of briefing - Notification ahead of major engagement events and public communications
	- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development - Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water - Conservation Programs, Heritage & Regulation Group - Water Group - Heritage NSW	- Regulatory referral body - Regulatory approvals process, requirements and compliance - Environmental and social impacts - Agricultural land impacts - Impacts to fish habitats - Traffic and transport impacts - Impacts to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage - Reputational risk to government	- Ongoing as required via regulatory process - Face-to-face meetings - Letters/emails/phone calls



Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder/s	Potential Interests/Concerns	Engagement tools
	- Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure - Crown Lands NSW - Water NSW - Transport for NSW (TfNSW) - NSW Rural Fire Service - NSW Fire and Rescue - NSW Resources - Service NSW		
Federal Government	Federal Member Member for Parkes - Mark Coulton	- Whole of project/progress of project - Environmental management - Cultural heritage impacts - Social impacts/procurement - Community partnership opportunities for Traditional Owners - Economic benefit/job opportunities in the region - Partner opportunities with training providers to create job-ready workers - Community sentiment	- Ongoing contact through established relationships - Notification ahead of major engagement events and public communications - Briefings at project milestones
	Federal Departments - Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water - Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional	- Energy transition and policy alignment - Community sentiment and awareness - Agricultural land impacts - Impacts to biodiversity and habitat	- Ongoing contact through established relationships



Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder/s	Potential Interests/Concerns	Engagement tools
	Development, Communications and the Arts	- Impacts to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage - Reputational risk to government	
Peak Bodies	Agriculture - National Farmers Federation - NSW Farmers - Namoi Water	- Impacts/benefits to farmers in the region with potential land procurement and future procurement - Water licencing - Financial impact/benefit to farmers in the region	- Introduction letter/email - Offer of small group meeting/phone call - Ongoing updates (email) at project milestones - Project website - Project email/phone general
	Renewables - Clean Energy council - Climate Council - Australian Energy Storage Council - Climate change authority	- Policy development on issues impacting the sector - Promotes value of the sector to the community	
Authorities, regulators and policy-makers	Federal - Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner - Australian Energy Market Operator - Australian Energy Regulator - Clean Energy Regulator - Energy Users Association of Australia	- Impact/benefit to local environment - Well-being and safety of local flora and fauna - Impacts on/disturbance to areas of cultural heritage - Water quality and conservation - Regulatory compliance and reporting	- Ongoing contact through established relationships - As required and advised through regulatory process - Notification (and briefing as requested) of project milestones and major engagement activities - Participation in focussed workshops
	State - Water NSW - NSW Ombudsman		



Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder/s	Potential Interests/Concerns	Engagement tools
	Murray-Darling Basin Authority		
Emergency Services	- Narrabri Police Station - NSW Rural Fire Service - Fire and rescue NSW Narrabri - NSW State Emergency Service - VRA Rescue NSW – Narrabri - Narrabri District Health Service Hospital	- Bushfire risk - Bushfire risk management plans - Worker accommodation and population fluctuation - Crime and public safety management - Hazard management	- Introduction letter/email - Offer of small group meeting/phone call - Circulate all public engagement materials and event programs - newsletter at project milestones - Representation on consultative committee (if required)
Transmission network Providers	TransGrid	- Connections and infrastructure - Substation owner	- Ongoing contact through established relationships - As required and advised through regulatory process - Notification (and briefing as requested) of project milestones and major engagement activities
Local Media	- The Narrabri Courier - Border News - Country Leader - Cotton Magazine	- Local interest or community concern - Impact to local character /identity - Jobs and investment - Worker populations and accommodation - Environmental impacts/management - Value of agricultural land - Social impacts - Aboriginal cultural heritage impacts - Partnership/employment opportunities - Advertising opportunities	- Project website - Project communications and publications - Media release - Public event advertising



Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder/s	Potential Interests/Concerns	Engagement tools
Business networks and local businesses	- Narrabri Industrial Network - Narrabri Chamber of Commerce - Geni.Energy (Community Engagement Manager – Lucinda Barrett) - Narrabri Airport - Shell Narrabri Truck Stop - Australian Recycled Plastics - WTC Group (Civil Construction) - Petrie Excavation - Coles Narrabri - Woolworths Narrabri North	- Opportunities and benefits for local businesses through procurement, employment, training and supply chain - NFP focussed on jobs and investment in renewables in Narrabri - Narrabri community battery trial project - Impact/benefit to business in pivot from traditional farming - Partnership and procurement opportunities - Engagement opportunities - Promotion of project and events - Agribusiness impacts and industry change - Diversity in agricultural income - Change in land use and industry trends	- Introduction letter/email - newsletter at project milestones - Circulate all public engagement materials and event programs - Project website, email and phone - Surveys and feedback forms - Themed round table discussions/workshops - Representation on consultative committee (if required)
	Local real estate agents - Jacob and Anderson - Henessy Real Estate - KR Property - Carla Baxter Real Estate - Rural Property NSW - Harcourts Narrabri Agricultural agents - Elders Narrabri Workforce accommodation - Civeo Narrabri Village		



Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder/s	Potential Interests/Concerns	Engagement tools
Community groups and facilities	- Narrabri Library - Narrabri Region Visitor Information Centre - Narrabri Community Kiosk - The Crossing Theatre - Narrabri Saleyards - Narrabri Golf Course - Narrabri Pistol Club - Narrabri Dirt Bike Club - Narrabri Speedway (Northwest Speedway) - Narrabri Jockey Club - Narrabri Showgrounds	- Engagement venues - Local interest - Amenity impacts - Employment and training opportunities - changes to local land use - Local history - Changes / disruption to local and regional transport/access - Local environmental impacts - Public education - Community benefit sharing opportunities - Opportunities to learn and contribute to the Project - Sustainability outcomes	- Introduction letter/email - newsletter at project milestones - Circulate all public engagement materials and event programs - Project website, email and phone - Surveys and feedback forms
	Social media (public) - Narrabri notice board - Namoi Noticeboard - Narrabri Business Classifieds Group	- Community sentiment - Sharing of public info	Monitor only
Enviro groups	- Narrabri Community Battery Trial project (Sally Hunter – Geni Energy) - Narrabri Community Bush Care Group - Namoi River Community Group	- Climate change and sustainability - Investment in renewables - Training and employment opportunities - Public education	- Introduction letter/email - newsletter at project milestones - Circulate all public engagement materials and event programs - Project website, email and phone - Surveys and feedback forms



Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder/s	Potential Interests/Concerns	Engagement tools
		- Community benefit sharing opportunities - Opportunities to learn and contribute to the Project - Volunteer opportunities	
Tertiary and further education providers	- TAFE NSW – Narrabri - Narrabri - Community College - The University of Sydney Plant Breeding Institute - Country Universities Centre North West	- Curriculum opportunities - Education and training - Procurement - Research and development	- Introduction letter/email and offer of Project briefing - Newsletter at project milestones - Circulate all public engagement materials and event programs
Schools	Primary and secondary schools - Narrabri Public School - Narrabri West Public School - St Fracis Xavier Primary - Little Crocs - Narrabri High School	- Curriculum opportunities - Promotion through school networks	- Introduction letter/email and offer of Project briefing - Newsletter at project milestones - Circulate all public engagement materials and event programs





Appendix B:

Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan





Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Stoney Creek Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Enervest Pty Ltd

Prepared by:

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SLR Project No.: 620.31316.00000

14 June 2024

Revision: 2

Revision Record

Revision	Date	Prepared By	Checked By	Authorised By
1.1	3 June 2024	Astrid Ruban	Esther Diffey	
2	14 June 2024	Astrid Ruban	Esther Diffey	

Basis of Report

This report has been prepared by SLR Consulting Australia (SLR) with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the timescale and resources allocated to it by agreement with Enervest Pty Ltd (the Client). Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected, which has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

This report is for the exclusive use of the Client. No warranties or guarantees are expressed or should be inferred by any third parties. This report may not be relied upon by other parties without written consent from SLR.

SLR disclaims any responsibility to the Client and others in respect of any matters outside the agreed scope of the work.



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Attachments

Attachment A Stakeholder Mapping

Attachment B Detailed Delivery Plan



1.0 Introduction

1.1 Project Background and Overview

Enervest Pty Ltd (Enervest) seeks to establish a 125-Megawatt (MW) Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and an underground cable connection to TransGrid's Narrabri 132/66kV substation with an estimated investment of \$300 million.

The Project is proposed on Lot 156 in DP 754944 at 41 Stoney Creek Road, Narrabri NSW 2390. The existing Narrabri 132/66kV substation is located on Lot 1 in DP 502189, 70 Stoney Creek Road, Narrabri NSW 2390, approximately 40m south of the site.

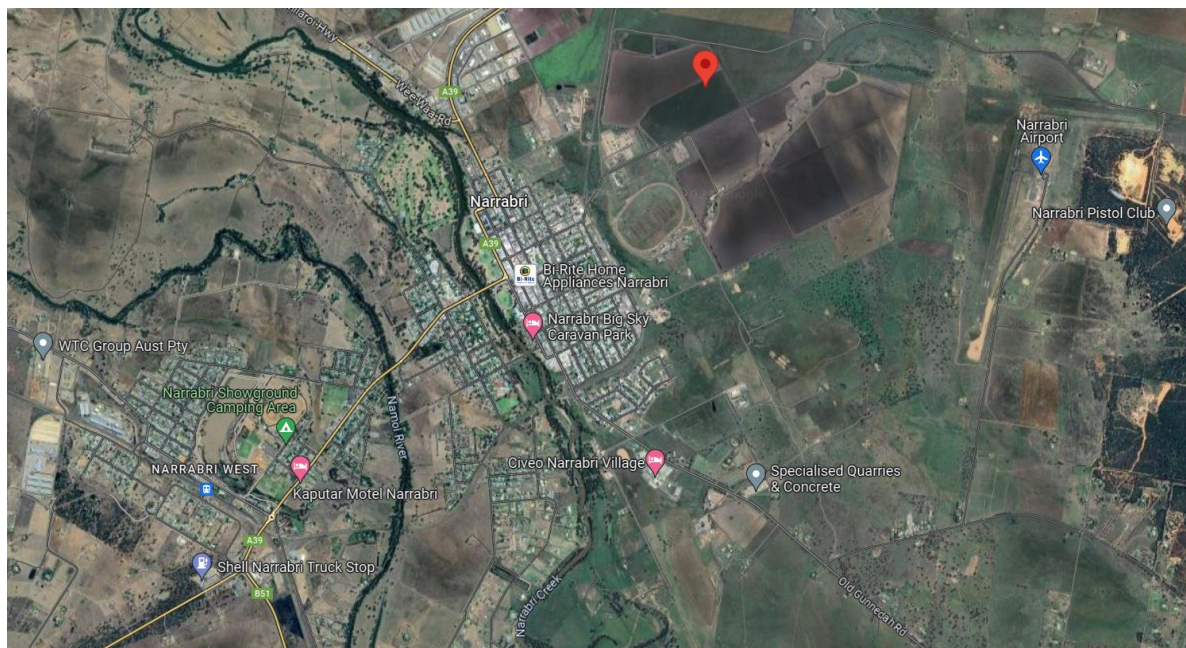
1.2 Site location

The site and surrounds are on the northeastern outskirts of the Narrabri township on land currently used for farming. **Figure 1** shows the site location (in red) in relation to the Narrabri township and surrounds.

Narrabri straddles the Namoi River and Narrabri Creek as well as the Newell Highway. The Gamilaraay/Gamilaroi/Gomeroi/Kamilaroi Nation are Traditional Owners of the area.

The Narrabri River corridor also hosts a range of recreational assets including golf courses and sports fields. Narrabri Airport lies to the east of the site with the majority of local services, and residential population concentrated in the township area. Industrial and extractive industries are typically located to the west and north of the township. A workforce accommodation village is located south of the township.

Figure 1 Site location



Project Overview

The proposed development comprises of approximately 192 batteries, each contained individually within a shipping container. Approximately 64 inverters (one per every three batteries) are located externally to the shipping containers. Batteries and inverters are fixed to hardstand, and accessible by an internal road.

Other physical features of the development include a control room/switchgear, transformers, circuit breakers, harmonic filters, auxiliary transmission lines, car parking, lay down area, landscaping, security fencing/lighting, and a single demountable building used for storage.

The development is self-operating and only requires minor periodic visitation by an authorised person. The facility is otherwise restricted to the public.

Table 1 Project Summary

Project Element	Description
Proposed Development - Construction and Operation Summary	The Project would generally involve the following components: • Mobilisation and establishment of access, temporary construction facilities and laydown area; • Transport of construction personnel, associated heavy and light vehicles, and materials to and from site on a day-to-day basis, dependent on construction schedule; • Road works to formalise internal site access road to accommodate heavy vehicles, including a new driveway crossover to Stoney Creek Road; • Clearing and grubbing, cut, fill and compaction activities to create level pads; • Installation of drainage; • Installation of concrete footings or pads to support transformers, BESS battery packs, control building and other outdoor electrical infrastructure; • Delivery and placement of all equipment on the footings/pads; • Trenching, installation and backfilling of underground cabling between equipment on the pad including the BESS battery packs, transformers, auxiliary electrical equipment and the control room; • Construction of gravel hardstand, gravel internal roads, control room/switchgear, transformers, circuit breakers, harmonic filters, auxiliary underground transmission lines, car parking, lay down area, landscaping, security fencing/lighting, and a single demountable building used for storage; • Acoustic attenuation measures, to be determined as part of detailed assessment; • Removal of temporary construction facilities, and rehabilitation of disturbed areas following completion of construction of the Project.
Site Access	Access to the Project Area is proposed to be via Stoney Creek Road via a new driveway crossing. The internal access road is planned to be gravel formalised to accommodate heavy vehicles associated with the construction of the BESS.
Grid Connection	A new underground transmission line will be constructed to connect the BESS substation, to the existing TransGrid Narrabri 132/66kV substation to the immediate southwest of the BESS footprint area. The transmission line will transect the Project Area and connect to the Narrabri 132/66kV substation to the southwest via underground transmission lines. Following further consultation with TransGrid, the transmission line will run southwest from the southern portion of the BESS footprint, crossing the Stoney Creek Road reserve, then entering the Narrabri 132/66kV substation land.
Construction Duration	Construction of the Project is anticipated to take approximately 12 months.



Project Element	Description
Operation Life Expectancy	The operational life of the Project will be determined by the evolving nature of the technology, however, is anticipated that the lifespan will be approximately 20-30 years. It is expected that the successive lease terms will be executed under the Lease contract. This will be leased from the landowner on a long-term 30-year basis, with a 10 year option to renew lease. No Subdivision is proposed for this development.
Decommissioning	The Project would be decommissioned, and the infrastructure removed, returning the site to its original use following the approximate 20–30-year life expectancy. However, the Project may continue beyond 30 years if it is deemed viable to extend the lifespan of the development.

1.3 Project messages

The following outlines the key messages guiding engagement for the Stoney Creek BESS. It is supported by detailed messaging addressing local context and concerns to be outlined in the respective detailed delivery plans.

1.3.1 Key messages

About the project

- The Stoney Creek Battery Energy Storage System is a \$300 million State Significant investment proposed to be developed in Narrabri.
- The Project is owned by Enervest, an Australian owned and operated leader in the renewable energy industry since 2008.
- The proposed 125-Megawatt (MW) battery will connect to the existing electricity grid via a short underground cable to TransGrid's Narrabri 132/66kV substation.
- The proposed development comprises of approximately 192 batteries, each contained individually within a shipping container.
- BESS projects use innovative technology to store excess electricity for later release into the grid.
- Large-scale batteries play a crucial role in the integration of renewable energy sources to the grid, which results in enhanced network stability, economic generation and increased environmental sustainability.
- Stoney Creek is one of several Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) projects being developed by Enervest in Australia.

Project approvals and investigations

- Stoney Creek BESS is a State Significant project and will be assessed by the NSW Government.
- Enervest are preparing a range of detailed technical investigations to support the development application of Stoney Creek BESS.

Delivering local benefits

- The Stoney Creek BESS could attract investment of around \$300 million.



- Based on previous similar projects, up to \$30 million is expected to stay in Narrabri Shire through jobs, workforce accommodation, meals, entertainment, transport, fuel and other local procurement and supply chains.
- The Project expects to create approximately 200 full-time equivalent jobs during construction.
- The Project will allow the continued sustainable growth of Narrabri, supporting the transition to a renewable energy future.

Working with local businesses

- The Project will capitalise on the procurement of local goods and services assisting to grow local businesses
- Enervest is creating an online register of local businesses, where owners can enter their details and capabilities.
- Enervest and its contractors can use this information to meet their needs locally where solutions are possible and competitive.

Working with local communities

- Enervest proposes to create the Narrabri Development Fund in consultation with the local Council, land council, local business and community groups.
- The Fund will invest at least \$1.2 million into the local community over the 40-year life of the Project.
- Proud of its Indigenous heritage, Enervest commits to investing at least 1% of the total budget with Indigenous service providers over the life of the Project where providers are registered, suitable and available.
- Enervest want to work with the Narrabri community to identify opportunities to deliver community benefits through this Project.
- Enervest is creating an online register of community organisations and charities where local groups can enter their details and capabilities and propose opportunities to work with Enervest to contribute to local community programs and initiatives.
- We will engage with local community and stakeholders to hear your thoughts, understand any concerns and answer your questions about the Project.

Find out more or get in touch

- We are holding a series of public engagement events throughout Narrabri where you can find out more about the Project, meet and ask questions of the project team, and provide feedback.
- You can find out more about the project and how you can get involved via our project website.
- You can get in touch with the project team via the project website, phonenumber or email.

1.3.2 Project negotiables

Table 2 summarises the Project elements that can be influenced by community and stakeholder feedback, as well as the Project constraints or non-negotiables that cannot be influenced.



Table 2 Project negotiables and non-negotiables

Category	Negotiables	Constraints / Non-negotiables
Project design	- Attractive design with potential impact mitigation measures - Landscape elements and visual treatments (pending consultation with Council) - Contribution of local knowledge - Design treatment of any walls required	- Battery design - Hours of operation - Vegetation removal for site access routes - Commitment to minimise vegetation loss wherever practicable
Statutory and technical requirements	Appetite to go above and beyond minimum requirements set out under Council or other approvals	- Council approvals - Statutory processes and requirements
Community impacts and opportunities	- Local Content and Services Opportunities - Traditional Owner involvement and procurement - How community is engaged - Project naming (public facing) - Education partnerships - Community benefits models and co-design process - Community sponsorship opportunities - Construction scheduling (having consideration of major community events and activities)	Grid constraints on official project naming

1.4 Purpose of this Document

This Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) seeks to outline the communication and engagement needs and activities for genuine and transparent engagement required for the successful delivery of this project.

This CSEP has been prepared in accordance with [Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects 2024](#) published by Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) and Section 3.5 of the *State Significant Guidelines – Preparing A Scoping Report*.

This CSEP is a 'live' document and will be updated by SLR throughout the lifetime of the Project. It identifies stakeholders and outlines the appropriate associated engagement procedures and processes required for the successful delivery of this project. The CSEP will outline tailored actions including controls, mitigations, key messages, communication methods, and engagement frequency, at a minimum.

1.5 Consultation to Date

On 21 October 2022, Enervest and SLR met with representatives of DPHI to introduce the project and obtain preliminary feedback. Enervest provided DPHI with a high-level concept plan and briefing letter which outlined the proposal and key items of consideration. The DPHI provided guidance on the preparation of the future SSD Application and identified areas for further investigation, including transmission connections and potential environmental impacts of the connection.



It is acknowledged that during the assessment process the application will be referred to several State agencies as well as Narrabri Shire Council (Council). The anticipated referrals include Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW), TransGrid, NSW Environment and Heritage and Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

Enervest is proud of its Indigenous heritage. Engagement with the local Traditional Owners - the Gomeri People via the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) has commenced with the maildrop and subsequent discussions with the CEO. Consultation will continue through the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment process and as required through targeted engagement.

1.6 Social Impact Scoping report

Element Environment prepared a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Scoping Report in May 2023. This SIA Scoping Report was prepared in accordance with the *Social Impact Assessment Guideline 2021* and *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects 2021* published by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI, formerly the Department of Planning and Environment).

The purpose of the SIA Scoping Report was to:

- establish a social baseline for the project
- identify project activities that could potentially have social impacts and group them in the social impact categories in the SIA guideline
- provide a summary (scoping worksheet) of potential social impacts that require additional assessment
- establish appropriate methodologies to investigate and assess project related social impacts
- provide a brief overview of potential management measures and ongoing monitoring.

It is noted that these guiding documents were revised and updated in 2023 and 2024 respectively. However, the SIA Scoping Report included some preliminary engagement with local community and stakeholder which has been considered in the preparation of this CSEP.

1.6.1 Engagement to inform SIA Scoping

Through the SIA Scoping Report, engagement with the local community and stakeholders commenced in February 2023, by way of mail out to residents and businesses of Narrabri, providing a project information sheet, project team contact details, and a link to the website and an online survey. In total 1,695 letters were distributed.

An online meeting has been held with the local Member of Parliament (MP) along with face-to-face meetings throughout August 2023 with representatives of the following stakeholders:

- Narrabri Shire Council
- Geni Energy (local not-for-profit community solar and battery installer)
- Narrabri Chamber of Commerce
- Narrabri Industrial Network.

Invitations to meet were also extended to the following stakeholders, but at the time no response was received.

- Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council



- Narrabri Regional Visitor Information Centre
- Narrabri Chamber of Commerce
- Tattersalls Hotel
- Mid-Town Inn Narrabri.

1.6.2 Preliminary assessment of impacts and opportunities

The SIA Scoping Report identified and described a series of potential impacts arising from the project – both positive and negative – along with recommended engagement to support detailed investigation through the EIS phase.

Table 3 summarises the impacts identified and, where appropriate, has informed the design of the proposed engagement program for the EIS stage of the project.

Table 3 Summary of preliminary social impacts identified through SIA Scoping Report (2023)

Impact category	Potential impact	Description of impact	Anticipated outcome	Further engagement recommended
Community	Cohesion and function	Workforce would positively influence friendliness and community cohesion, depending on construction/operational workforce requirements	Positive	Stakeholder interviews
Community	Cohesion and function	Workforce would negatively influence friendliness and community cohesion, depending on construction/operational workforce requirements	Negative	Stakeholder interviews
Community	Character	Alignment with the progressive character of the community and its support for renewables	Positive	Community information session and attendee poll/survey
Surroundings	Access to and use of the natural environment	Fostering clean air and water, healthy forests and climate as predicted advantages/ improvements compared to non-renewable industries	Positive	Community information session and attendee poll/survey
Surroundings	Access to and use of the natural environment	Reduction of high-yield crop land, depending on the location of the project site	Negative	N/A (To be addressed through other technical investigations)
Livelihoods	People's capacity to sustain themselves	Positive impact on employment in Narrabri	Positive	Stakeholder interviews
Access	Access and use of infrastructure	Positive impacts for energy security (access to energy) for the current and future population	Positive	Stakeholder interviews



2.0 Engagement Approach and Principles

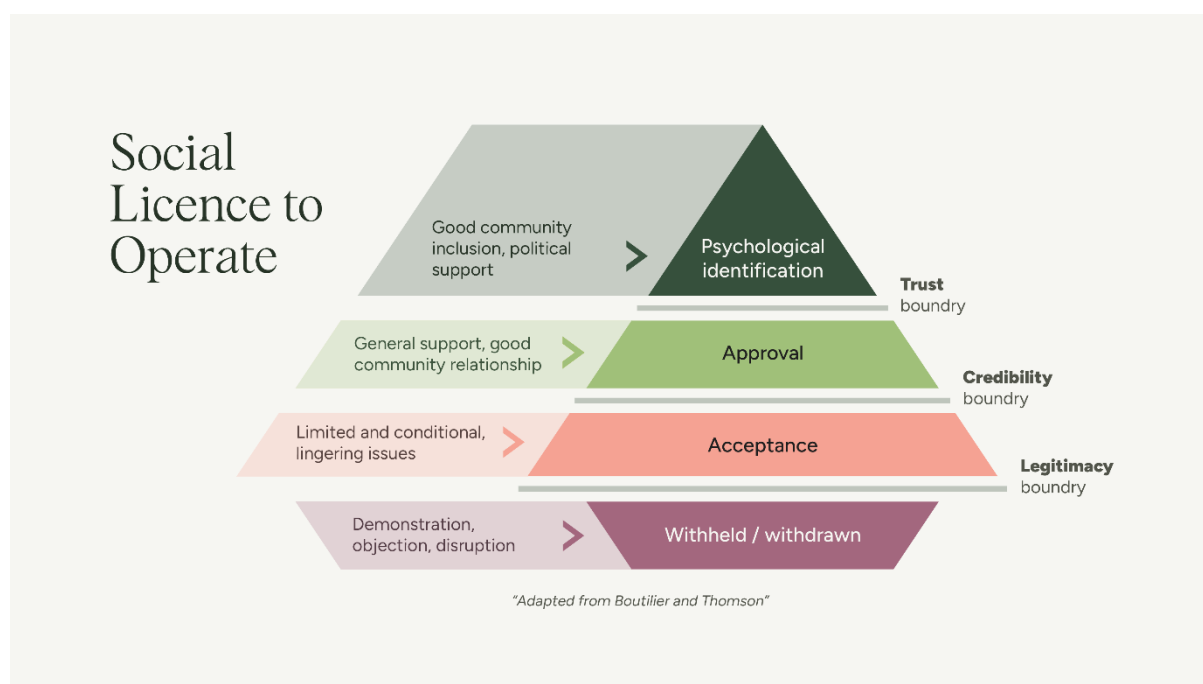
2.1 Approach

This CSEP has been prepared to include national and international best practice principles and guidelines, including the following:

- International Association for Public Participation (IAP2)
- AA1000SES: International standard for stakeholder engagement
- Renewables industry and Government recommendations such as those identified by the [Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner](#).

In addition, ensuring that a Social Licence to Operate is attained and retained throughout the Project's lifecycle is key to the Project's ongoing success.

Figure 2 Social Licence to Operate, adapted from Boutilier and Thomson



Enervest will have regard to the landowners, communities and stakeholders who may be directly impacted by the Project, and will seek to identify the level of, and ways of, mitigating any impacts and implement agreed mitigation strategies.

The engagement approach outlined in this Plan is guided by the core principles of **transparency, responsiveness and accountability**.

2.1.1 Integration with Social Impact Assessment

This CSEP also acknowledges the interplay of community engagement and the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) that will be prepared concurrently and guided by the SEARs process.

Early engagement or pre-SEARs engagement sets the foundation for a sound EIS process.

Broad pre-SEARs engagement is not mandatory. However, the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) positively views proactive engagement with stakeholders and affected



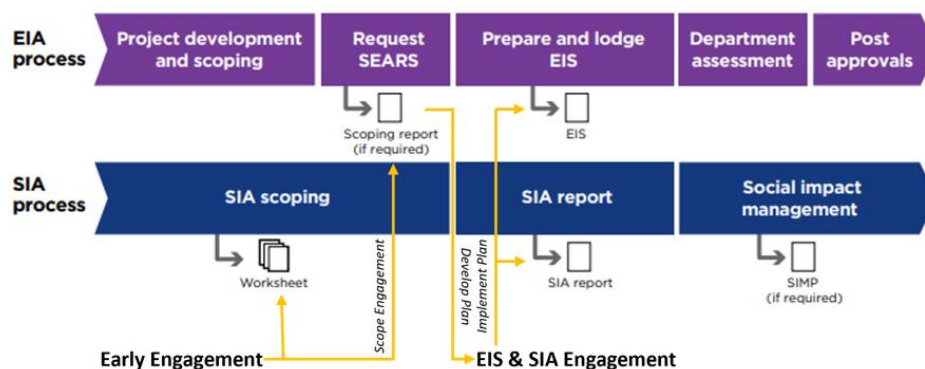
communities. It also leads to a more robust scoping report and a de-risked EIS consultation process.

Approximately 70% of projects in Australia experience delays due to stakeholder issues, according to a 2022 report by the Australian Institute of Project Management (AIPM). A 2020 study by the University of New South Wales found that 39% of Australian projects fail due to stakeholder issues such as poor communication, unrealistic expectations, and conflicts.

Early engagement is a crucial step in any project, as it helps to keep stakeholders and communities informed and prevent mistrust that could hinder the establishment of Social Licence. For SSDAs, it also gives project proponents the opportunity to gain insight into any potential concerns or issues that may arise throughout the project's lifecycle.

We understand that in order to develop an effective EIS consultation plan that meets the objectives of *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects*, it's crucial to have a robust scoping report with an accurate mapping of stakeholder issues. This will enable your EIS delivery team to allocate adequate and realistic time for project delivery planning. As such this CSEP seeks to maximise the opportunity for and value of engagement early in the EIS process.

Figure 3 Opportunities for early engagement within the EIS process



Early engagement also provides a valuable opportunity to understand community context and identify issues for inclusion in early phases of impact assessment. In particular, early engagement can meaningfully inform:

- An understanding of the social context and initial community sentiment towards potential impacts to be investigated through the EIS
- An understanding of whom you will consult with to better understand those impacts
- An understanding of how best to approach community and stakeholders as part of the broad public engagement program and to support technical investigations.



2.2 Key Objectives

This stakeholder engagement program aims to ensure that landowners, communities and stakeholders are provided with accurate information regarding the development of the Project and how they can contribute. It also seeks to support concurrent technical assessments, including a Social Impact Assessment, to meet statutory requirements of the SSDA process and facilitate a successful outcome.

The following are key objectives which have guided the development of the CSEP and its methodology:

- Provide clear, accurate and up-to-date information:
 - To introduce Enervest, the Project, benefits and drivers
 - To familiarise the community and build awareness around the SSDA process and project approvals
 - To build awareness and understanding of BESS technology and the broader, longer-term benefits of transition to renewables and contribution to Net Zero
 - To demonstrate an understanding of interests and concerns of communities and stakeholders and how feedback has informed Project refinement
 - To promote opportunities to be involved in the project and establish realistic expectations about how community and stakeholder feedback may be incorporated
 - To articulate Project negotiables that can be influenced through community and stakeholder contribution and Project constraints and decisions that cannot be influenced
 - To explain Project timeframes and processes to establish realistic expectations and build community empowerment.
- Consult meaningfully with communities and stakeholders and provide suitable opportunities and channels:
 - To ensure their interests, values and concerns are understood
 - To drive productive conversations
 - To seek informed input into Project negotiables and refine project design in conjunction with the front-end engineering design (FEED) process
 - To capture meaningful feedback to inform Project decisions and promote mutually beneficial outcomes
 - To identify opportunities and methods to deliver community benefits.
- To support technical assessments undertaken as part of the Environment Impact Statement, where possible, by
 - Promoting awareness of technical investigations, methodology and findings
 - Exploring potential impacts and mitigations
 - Aligning community and stakeholder consultation with technical investigations to minimise stakeholder fatigue or confusion
- Build and maintain Social and Cultural Licence with community and stakeholders to facilitate approvals, construction and operation of the Project
- Establish and strengthen relationships with stakeholders and communities and across the Project team:



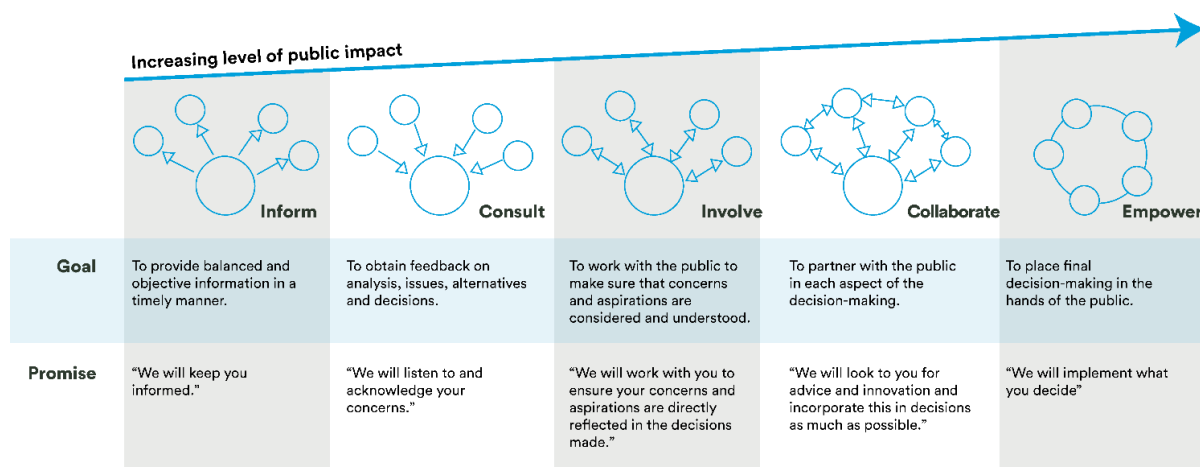
- To work collaboratively with First Nations groups, social enterprises and Indigenous businesses
- To establish acceptance and trust in the Project through responsiveness, consistency and accountability
- To establish and maintain positive and productive relationships with approval authorities and decision makers
- To build internal capture of engagement across the Enervest Project team and encourage for continual improvement of engagement practices.

2.3 IAP2 Core Values

The proposed engagement methodology will follow the principles and values outlined in the International Association of Public Participation's (IAP2) Quality Assurance Standard.

These high-level frameworks and standards outline best-practice expectations of principle, process and value, and provide a consistent model for design and delivery of engagement. The proposed level of engagement will be to *inform, consult, collaborate* and *empower*, depending on the stakeholder segment, as per the IAP2 Spectrum in **Figure 4**.

Figure 4 IAP2 Spectrum

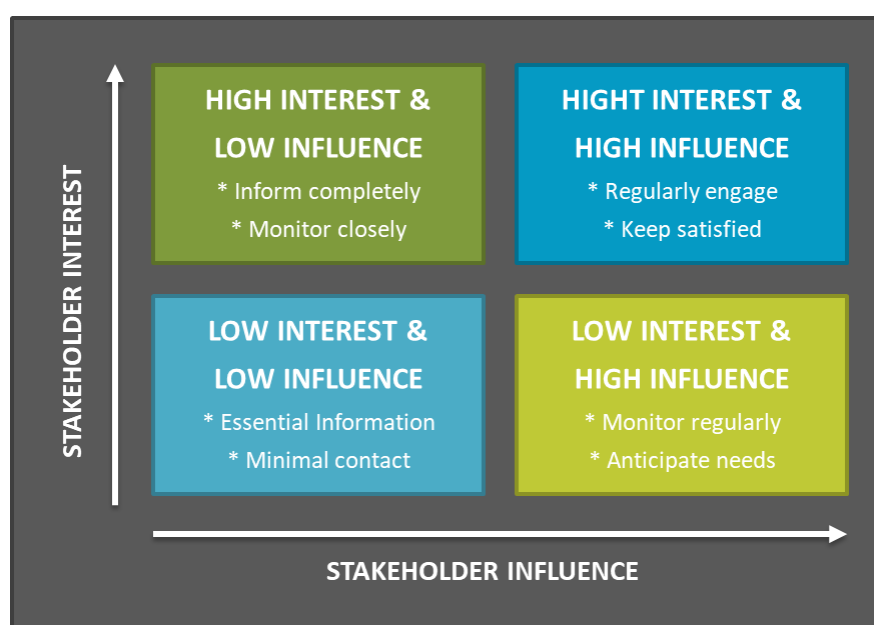


3.0 Stakeholder Identification and Analysis

Stakeholders refer to any person or group of persons who have or feel they have an interest or can affect/be affected by an issue or decision. The Project covers diverse stakeholders with varying levels of interest, influence, power, or impact relative to any issue. The level of influence/interest of a stakeholder group should be a consideration in shaping their level of participation in the engagement process, timing of engagement and the methodology for the engagement.

The interest/influence matrix shown in **Figure 5** is a strategic tool used in stakeholder management to categorise stakeholders based on their level of interest in a project or organisation and their level of influence or power to affect the project's outcomes. The matrix supports the prioritisation of engagement efforts and the development appropriate strategies for managing and communicating with stakeholders.

Figure 5 Interest/Influence Matrix for Stakeholder Prioritisation



3.1 Stakeholder Analysis

Table 4 summarises the stakeholder groups identified through mapping and outlines the engagement activities proposed to consult with these groups.

A detailed list of individual stakeholders and their interests is attached as Appendix C of this Plan. This stakeholder list will be reviewed and updated at each phase of the Project, as new activities are undertaken, and new stakeholders are identified.

Table 4 Stakeholder summary table

Stakeholder groups	Engagement approach
Landowners	
Site owners	Enervest owns the site
Neighbouring/ directly impacted residents	- Introduction letter/email - Door knock/flyer drop - Offer of briefing/meeting - Ongoing updates (email) at project milestones - Ongoing contact (email/phone) with key project personnel



Stakeholder groups	Engagement approach
Adjacent landowners Local farmers / agricultural businesses	• Introductory mail out/flyer drop • Offer of briefing/meeting • Project website • Project enquiry phone and email • Ongoing updates (email) at project milestones • Community pop-up/drop-ins
Township residents	• Local advertising and signage • Introductory mail out/flyer drop • newsletter at project milestones • Project website • Project email/phone general enquiry line • Community pop-up/drop-ins
Traditional owner and representative groups	• Initial introduction via phone/email • Site meeting and walk through • Ongoing contact through established relationships via phone/email as required • Coordination with Aboriginal Cultural Heritage assessment as required
Aboriginal businesses	• Initial introduction via phone/email through existing relationship, cultural heritage specialist as available • Targeted briefing and ongoing email, phone, meeting as required and as agreed • Ongoing updates (email/phone) • Offer of further briefing/meeting at project milestones
Government	
Local Government Officers	• Ongoing contact through established relationships and channels (phone, email, meetings) • Notification ahead of major engagement events and public communications • Briefings at project milestones or on request
Local Councillors	• Approach via Council officers for initial briefing and subsequent meetings at project milestones • Briefing packs • Offer of milestone briefings
State Government Departments	• Leverage existing relationships and maintain ongoing channels • As required per statutory processes and channels
State Members Federal members	• Leverage existing relationships • Introductory letter/email with offer of project briefing • Ongoing updates (email/phone) • Offer of further briefing/meeting at project milestones
Emergency Services	
• Police • Fire • Ambulance • SES	• Statutory referrals regarding Fire and Emergency Management Plan • Introduction letter/email • Offer of briefings at project milestones • Offer to circulate all public updates/newsletters
Businesses and industry	
Business networks and local businesses	• Introduction letter/email • newsletter at project milestones • Circulate all public engagement materials and event programs • Participation in small group meetings/workshops • Procurement register expression of interest
Peak bodies	• Introduction letter/email • Offer of small group meeting/phone call • Ongoing updates (email) at project milestones • Project website • Project email/phone general enquiry line
Schools and education providers	
Tertiary and further education	• Introduction letter/email • Offer of briefing • Ongoing updates (as requested) • Opportunity to be involved in community benefit schemes



Stakeholder groups	Engagement approach
Primary and secondary schools	• Introduction letter/email • newsletter at project milestones • Circulate all public engagement materials and event programs
Community groups	
Community groups	• Introduction email • Offer of small group meeting • newsletter at project milestones • Project website • Project email/phone general enquiry line
CALD communities	• Liaise with Council • Leverage existing networks and events • Translation services (as advised, in collaboration with Council)
Media	
Local newspapers and media	• Media release • Public event advertising • Project website



4.0 Potential Risks and Mitigations

Outlined below in **Table 5** are key project risks, and mitigations to these risks. This risk analysis will be subject to ongoing review and revision as engagement progresses.

Table 5 Main Risks and Mitigations

Risk	Mitigation/s
Community uncertainty and low levels of awareness could result in community concern and opposition.	- Detailed early investigation of social context and risk - Early and ongoing engagement with Council - Maintain visible in-community presence and regular communication - Incorporate community education into engagement phases and activities
Spread of misinformation could undermine project messaging and derail productive conversations	- Engage early and throughout - Accurate, concise and consistent project messaging - Respond to known or anticipated concerns identified through preliminary investigation - Ongoing response to issues emerging through engagement - Maintain principles of transparency and responsiveness - Targeted consultation to address known sources of misinformation
Community opposition could leak from one project to another	- Pre-emptive planning to identify and address concerns and opposition before escalation to outrage - Targeted consultation with key opponents - Discrete project branding to disambiguate between projects
Community mistrust or legacy issues (such as frustration with previous projects that didn't proceed or realise commitments)	- Early and ongoing engagement with Council - Maintain visible in-community presence and regular communication - Respond to known or anticipated concerns identified through preliminary investigation
Project impacts and changes could generate community division	- Detailed early investigation of social context and risk - Early and ongoing engagement with Council - Maintain principles of transparency, responsiveness and consistency - Pre-emptive planning and mitigations regarding community risk
Community and stakeholder resistance to change or new technology (such as the transition to renewables)	- Public awareness and education campaign incorporated in engagement program - Incorporate explorations of community benefit opportunities - Encourage participation in consultation for concerned groups - Maintain visible in-community presence and regular communication - Prepare case studies to demonstrate outcomes and impacts - Highlight and encourage input into social procurement opportunities
Low levels of regulatory (Council) or political (Council, State Member) interest at project outset may not reflect real levels of community interest/concern about the project.	- Detailed stakeholder mapping to inform scan of likely political interest and angle - Proactively offer briefing to Council and State Members to ensure that they are informed of the project ahead of community interest - Demonstrate understanding of potential community interest developed through desktop sentiment review and similar project experience - Demonstrate alignment with relevant policy and strategic vision where possible - Demonstrate potential community benefits to drive positive interest and advocacy - Invite Councillors and/or State Members to engagement events - Proactively provide regular updates to Council and State Members - Seek feedback from Councillors and State Members regarding issues identified, likely sentiment and proposed engagement approach.
Community or stakeholder face barriers to access and/or inclusion in engagement opportunities	- Provide multiple opportunities and channels to gather information and provide feedback - Promote opportunities and project information through local community networks - Maintain principles of inclusion and accessibility - Detailed early investigation of social context and risk - Early and ongoing engagement with Council
Uncontrolled information leaks compromise engagement objectives and processes	- Maintain visible in-community presence and regular communication - Maintain and promote direct project information channels such as web portal, email and phone lines



Risk	Mitigation/s
	• Maintain principles of transparency, responsiveness and consistency • Ongoing response to issues emerging through engagement
Community opposition or impacts result in reputational damage for Enervest	• Early and ongoing engagement with Council • Maintain visible in-community presence and regular communication • Maintain principles of transparency, responsiveness and consistency • Pre-emptive planning and mitigations regarding community risk
Communities and stakeholders experience engagement fatigue as a result of ongoing projects and cumulative impacts	• Capitalise on existing channels and community activity programs • Clear and detailed engagement objectives for each phase and activity • Messaging and branding clearly distinguished from other projects
Proposed community benefits and commitments are not realised	• Continuity through later project stages • Incorporate delivery and management processes into design of benefit programs
Interactions with members of the public during engagement activities resulting in conflict, including the potential for aggressive, threatening, violent behaviours.	• Safe Work Method Statement developed prior to all site visits and face-to-face interactions. • All staff to be aware of their surroundings at all times. • Ensure all staff are thoroughly briefed prior to any face-to-face engagement activities. • Notify local police of any events prior to the date of commencement. • Ensure all door-knock, letterbox drop and face-to-face meetings are undertaken with a minimum of two staff present. • Staff to follow escalation protocols as outlined in event plans. • All staff to carry project communication details if available and refer all public questions to official sources of information such as project website and fact sheets. • All staff to walk away if confronted by members of the public and avoid conflict. • Report any incidents to the Project Manager. • If feeling imminently threatened or at risk of injury/assault, notify police.

4.1 Managing issue escalation

We acknowledge that change is challenging for communities. This includes the introduction of new concepts and technologies and change to established ways of life that can arise from significant infrastructure projects.

All major projects should anticipate a degree of community concern and/or opposition as a result of uncertainty, fear, discomfort, distrust, or any number of legacy issues.

Where concern and opposition escalate, projects may encounter community outrage that can threaten the social license or reputation of the project. Outrage is an unproductive state that inhibits productive conversations and relationship building. It breeds mistrust and can result in misinformation which can be hard to undo.

Concern and opposition are hard to avoid, but through proactive analysis and management we can minimise the risk of escalation to outrage. While we seek to avoid community outrage through community and stakeholder mapping, detailed planning, and sentiment analysis, it is vital to ensure that any engagement approach includes strategies to rapidly address and respond to outrage if and when it emerges.

Mitigating or minimising the escalation of community concern to outrage often requires a project 'reset'. This significantly impacts project timeframes, programs, and costs. However, ensuring that project planning includes strategies to manage outrage can make the signs of outrage easier to identify and rapidly address by implementing agreed strategies.

This CSEP incorporates the following principles to minimise the risk of outrage escalation:

- Social risk-informed engagement design



- Community focused listening
- Mythbusting using up-to-date project information relevant to the local context and reflecting currently available technical information and community capacity to engage in complex concepts.
- Detailed and ongoing government and project stakeholder briefing
- Detailed event planning including staff briefings, and safety and security protocols
- Regular debriefing, review and revision of planned engagement program to include upscaled resourcing and detailed response plan as required
- Internal review of organisational culture and capacity
- A coordinated campaign of public messaging to redress reputational impacts
- Responsive, transparent and accurate communications and reporting.



5.0 Stakeholder Engagement Overview

5.1 Communication and Engagement Tools and Activities

The choice of engagement tools and techniques depends on the desired outcome of the Project's engagement. If the goal is to gather information from the community such as identifying issues, opportunities, and local knowledge, the engagement methods will differ from those used to involve the community in discussions to shape or influence project outcomes. The engagement methods will be customised to meet the needs of the community and stakeholders, addressing any barriers that may prevent effective engagement. A list of engagement tools and activities and their application is provided in Table 6.

Table 6 Engagement Tools and Activities

Tool	Description
Face-to-face meetings	Face-to-face meetings with local Councils, landowners and other key stakeholders to discuss the Project and its objectives.
Stakeholder briefings	Targeted meetings (online or in-person) to provide project introductions and updates relevant to specific stakeholder interests.
Kitchen table	One-on-one meetings by arrangement with directly impacted stakeholders to discuss specific impacts and potential mitigations or negotiate compensation.
Letter drops	Letter drops to directly impacted properties to introduce the project and offer a meeting or discussion.
Public engagement events (drop-in sessions)	In-person, informal drop-in sessions to build awareness of the Project, inform and educate the community on the Project. These sessions provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to meet with the Project team and raise any concerns or questions about the project and provide feedback through appropriate feedback channels.
Pop-ups	Informal activations in public sites to promote the project and engagement opportunities and information and feedback channels.
Webinars	Online information sessions providing project updates and the opportunity to hear from technical specialists and members of the project team.
Project enquiry phoneline/email	A direct contact point for the community and stakeholders to ask questions and seek support to participate in the process.
Business procurement register	An online portal to collect information and register businesses expressing an interest to be included on the local procurement panel for construction and operation phases. This register would be promoted through project collateral and website.
Project enquiry portal	An online, public portal hosted on the project website to collect feedback, questions and ideas from community and stakeholders.
Project website	A central hub of project information and interactive opportunities to participate through digital engagement tools. Written materials such as e-updates and printed communication materials and advertising will direct people to the online engagement hub on the website as a central project resource.
Surveys and feedback portal	Feedback forms, surveys (online or hard copy) and interactive maps to capture feedback from stakeholders to inform project designs and contribute to community benefit opportunities. Feedback tools will be made available at all engagement events.
Printed communication materials	Including project factsheets, posters and flyers distributed to key locations and made available at engagement events and in digital formats on all online engagement platforms.
Local newspaper and media	Traditional media campaign to promote the project, share information and advertise engagement platforms, events and opportunities.



Tool	Description
Community benefit model	The Narrabri Development Fund will invest \$1.2m in the community over the 40-year Project life. At least 1% of the Project Budget will be invested with suitable Indigenous service providers. Enervest strives to deliver lasting community benefits through community programs, sponsorships or funds. Enervest will work with Council, stakeholders and community representatives to design an appropriate model and approach to delivering community benefits through the Stoney Creek BESS.

5.2 Media Enquiries

Project employees are required to direct all media enquiries to the Enervest media representative. They must not provide any information/comment regarding the Project to any media or political representatives.

Media contact: Luke Scott

Email: stoneycreek@enervest.com.au

A brief media release will be prepared prior to key events sessions or public announcement of the project. It is recommended that this be reviewed prior to issue to ensure it reflects emerging themes and the local context where appropriate.

Any comment prepared for media must be reviewed against existing approved project messaging. FAQs and collateral to ensure consistency. Where new information is provided, this should be reflected in updated website copy and messaging as practicable.

Note: Public media messaging is designed to supplement ongoing, direct consultation such as phone calls, emails, meetings and briefings. Media messaging does not constitute a response to enquiries and issues raised through direct conversations with individual stakeholders or groups.

5.3 Phone call and email enquiries

The following outlines the procedures and protocols for managing enquiries via the public email or phone line. Both of these channels will be managed by Enervest in the first instance, with contributions from specialists or the broader team as required.

5.3.1 Email

A public enquiry email address will be created for each project:

stoneycreek@enervest.com.au

Accounts will be monitored regularly throughout business hours. All emails to this address will receive an automated response confirming receipt and commitment to reply in a specified timeframe where a response is required – typically **2 business days**.

All responses to public emails should be issued via the project email account.

Account managers

The email account will be monitored by the following Enervest Project team members:

Name 1, email

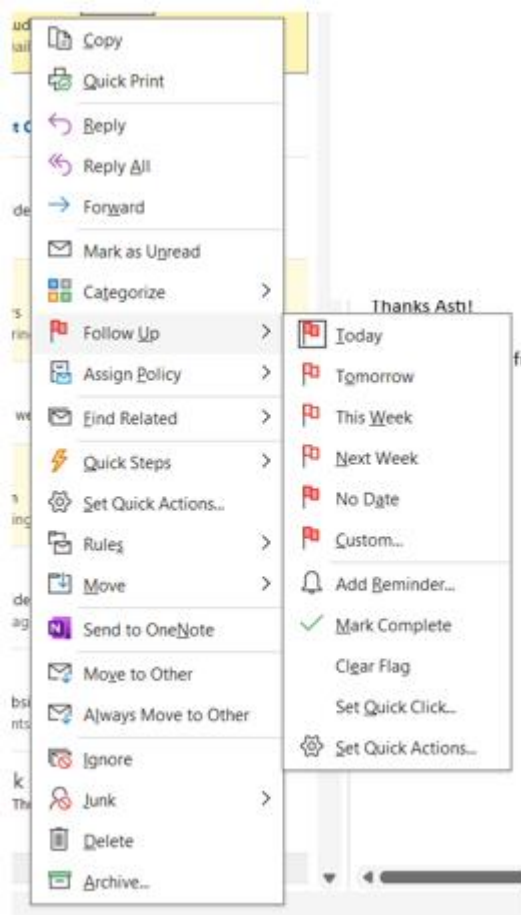
Name 2, email

Email protocols

The following outlines the process for emails received via the public enquiry address.



1. Incoming emails receive automated response acknowledging receipt and committing to response within two business days (where a response is required)
2. Email account is checked at least three times per day (morning, midday, afternoon)
3. All junk and spam emails will be deleted
4. All new legitimate emails are opened and recorded in Consultation Manager
5. Emails not requiring a response are marked as complete (right click, follow up, green tick)



6. Emails requiring response that can be provided through established messaging or FAQs will be replied within 48 hours.
 - a) Ensuring that email reply is captured on Consultation Manager and event closed out
 - b) Marked as complete
7. Emails requiring additional information or response from a third party (technical specialists etc) will be marked with a red flag:
 - a) Enervest protect team member will reply to email to acknowledge receipt and provide progress update to sender
 - b) Forward email to relevant team member/specialist requesting confirmation of receipt and estimated response timeframe
 - c) Record email and assign actions in Consultation Manager
 - d) Compile response and reply to sender via project email account OR follow up with phone call or direct email where further discussion is required.

5.3.2 Phone enquiry line

A public enquiry phone line will be established to receive public enquiries.

Calls to this line will be forwarded to a digital message bank using the voxbox platform.



Callers will hear a recorded messages (provided by Enervest) acknowledging receipt and committing to a response time frame – typically **1 business day**

Callers will then be asked to record a message including any relevant information and contact details

An automated email will be sent to the following nominated project team members including the originating phone number, a transcript and an audio recording of any messages received:

- Name1, title, email
- Name2, title, email
- Consultation Manager inbound email

Phone protocol

The following outlines the process for emails received via the public enquiry address.

1. Nominated team member to record call and transcript in consultation manager
 - a) Close out entry where no response is required
2. Where a response is required and can be provided using approved messaging, the nominated team member will return the call using their direct line with called ID hidden (or via a nominated line as required)
 - a) Record enquiry and response in consultation manager
3. Where a response requires additional information or contribution from a third party. The nominated team member will:
 - a) Forward the enquiry to the relevant team member/specialist and seek confirmation of receipt and an estimated response timeframe
 - b) Provide an update to the caller including estimated response time
 - c) Record enquiry and actions in Consultation Manager.

5.4 Media enquiries and events

Project employees are required to direct all media enquiries to the Enervest media representative. They must not provide any information/comment regarding the Project to any media or political representatives.

Media contact: Luke Scott

Email: stoneycreek@enervest.com.au

5.5 Feedback, Complaints and Grievances

The established internal Complaints Investigation and Response Plan (CIRP) will apply to any complaints or grievances received.

5.6 Roles and responsibilities

Table 7 outlines the key project team members and their respective roles and responsibilities.

Table 7 Project team roles and responsibilities

Organisation	Project role	Responsibilities	Name
Enervest	Project lead - Opus	Program oversight Technical oversight	Julian Voller
	Project Manager – Stoney Creek	Risk review Key stakeholder contact	Julian Hampton
SLR	Engagement Lead (PM)	Strategy development Engagement risk	Conor Dwyer



Organisation	Project role	Responsibilities	Name
		Engagement program Content drafting and review Reporting structure and review	
	Engagement delivery support	Material drafting Logistics Engagement delivery support Community benefits Report drafting	Stephanie Skordas / Marco Biamonti
	Engagement review (PD)	Review and QA Risk review Social procurement	Esther Diffey
	Planning	Planning package oversight Project program Client liaison	Hugh Jones



6.0 Monitoring and Evaluation

Enervest and/or SLR will record external stakeholder interactions for the Project through the consultation database platform provided by Enervest.

It is important that this platform is updated following engagement activities to ensure interactions, feedback and outcomes can be adequately monitored and reported. This assists in maintaining the principles of transparency, accountability and responsiveness and to manage engagement and Project risk.

The platform and inputs will be regularly monitored and audited to ensure accuracy, timeliness and consistency and to inform ongoing reporting. This will include:

- the number of engagement activities undertaken
- attendance numbers at meetings and townhalls
- level of stakeholder understanding of the Project, including potential impacts, benefits and management measures
- community support for the Project
- community feedback provided via the website or engagement activities
- community grievances/complaints.

This Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be revised prior to the commencement of each engagement activity to incorporate lessons learned, stakeholder feedback and any evolving issues, opportunities and risks that may have arisen.

Any review should consider feedback from the landowners, agricultural businesses, key stakeholders, and Project team members.

The monitoring metrics for this Plan are outlined in Table 8 and respond to the Project objectives outlined in Section 6.0.

Table 8 Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan monitoring criteria

Objective	What will be measured	How it will be measured
Provide clear, accurate and up-to-date information	• How aware the community and stakeholders are of the project • Incidence of misinformation • The timeliness of information to community and stakeholders • Transparency around what the public can influence and what cannot be influenced	• Number and rate of website visits • Number of participants • Comparison of participation to the stakeholder analysis • Capture participant feedback during engagement activities • Monitor issues/complaints recorded through stakeholder interactions
Consult meaningfully with communities and stakeholders and provide suitable opportunities and channels	• The extent to which the community and stakeholder feedback contributes to impact mitigations • Timely delivery of engagement activities to maximise opportunities to influence design and planning • Closing the loop with participants about how findings have informed project decision-making • Participant satisfaction with delivery of engagement activities • Community and stakeholders interested in the project can	• Demonstrated consideration of community and stakeholder input in project development and decision-making incorporated into reporting • Public summary to report back to the community and stakeholders • Track stakeholder conversations and issue themes progress with Project decisions • Capture participant feedback during engagement activities



Objective	What will be measured	How it will be measured
	contribute feedback to inform the project	Gather feedback from the project team on how community and stakeholder input was used
Build and maintain Social and Cultural Licence with community and stakeholders to facilitate approvals, construction and operation of the Project	- How effectively was the engagement delivered in line with this Plan - Emergence and incidence of concern, opposition and/or outrage - Demonstrated adaptation and improvement of engagement program and practice in response to lessons learnt	- Track deliverables against the Plan - Document of how continual improvement approach is occurring - Capture feedback on how community and stakeholder input was used - Demonstrated and reported nexus between feedback and project refinement - Monitor issues and complaints recorded through stakeholder interactions
Establish and strengthen relationships with stakeholders and communities and across the Project team	- How effectively the project has engaged with affected/interested stakeholders and community - How effective was the project in identifying stakeholders and their engagement needs - Responsiveness to issues and complaints	- Number of calls logged - Number of meetings held - Number of enquiries managed positively - Number of enquiries - Anecdotal feedback and sentiment - Effective resolution of stakeholder actions



7.0 References

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure 2022 *State Significant Development Guidelines: Preparing a scoping report*.

Appendix A to the state significant development guidelines

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-03/ssd-guidelines-preparing-a-scoping-report.pdf>

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure 2023 *Social Impact Assessment Guideline*

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2023/GD1944%20SIA%20Guideline%20NEW%20VI%2014%2002%2023.pdf>

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure 2024 *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects*

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-03/undertaking-engagement-guidelines-for-ssp.pdf>

International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) 2015 *Quality Assurance Standard for Community and Stakeholder Engagement*, viewed 25 September 2023, Available:

International Association for Public Participation Australasia,

[IAP2_Quality+Assurance+Standard.pdf \(iap2content.s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com\)](#)

IAP2 2014, *Public Participation Spectrum*, viewed 25 September 2023, Available:

International Association for Public Participation Australasia,

[IAP2_Public_Participation_Spectrum.pdf](#)





Attachment A Stakeholder Mapping

Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Stoney Creek Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Enervest Pty Ltd

SLR Project No.: 620.31316.00000

14 June 2024

Table 9 Detailed Stakeholder Map

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder/s	Potential Interests/Concerns	Engagement tools	IAP2 Level of Engagement
Enervest	- CEO - General Manager - Communications and Engagement	- Whole of project - Progress and budget - Approvals - Issues and reputational risks for the organisation	- Briefings - Ongoing internal reporting	Collaborate/ Empower
BESS Project Team	- Project Manger - Project Director		- Weekly project meetings - Regular email/phone contact as required	
Registered Aboriginal Party	Gomeroi People via the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC)	- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage assessment and management - Native Title issues - Procurement opportunities - Environmental management	- Ongoing via Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Assessment process - Initial introduction via phone/email through existing relationship, cultural heritage specialist as available - Ongoing email, phone, meeting as required	Collaborate
Aboriginal organisations	NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce	- Social impacts - Community partnership opportunities - Employment opportunities - Impacts/benefits to Aboriginal owned businesses - Renewables education and awareness	- Ongoing - Initial introduction via phone/email through existing relationship, cultural heritage specialist as available - Ongoing email, phone, meeting as required	Involve / Collaborate
Landowners	Site owners	- Community opposition/concern - Community division	Ongoing direct contact through dedicated land agent	Collaborate
	Neighbouring/ directly impacted residents	- Land access - local traffic - hazard - biosecurity - Amenity impacts - Compensation - Impact mitigation	- Introduction letter/email - Door knock/flyer drop - Offer of briefing/meeting - Ongoing updates (email) at project milestones - Dedicated landowner liaison	Involve
	Adjacent landowners	- Land access - local traffic - hazard - biosecurity - Amenity impacts	- Introduction letter/email - Door knock/flyer drop - Offer of briefing/meeting - Ongoing updates (email) at project milestones	Consult / Involve



Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder/s	Potential Interests/Concerns	Engagement tools	IAP2 Level of Engagement
	Local farmers / businesses	- Land access - local traffic - hazard - biosecurity - loss of/ change to Agricultural land		Consult
	Township residents	- Local and regional access routes - Economic opportunities and enhancing existing infrastructure - Employment and training opportunities - Post development land use - Land management (weed, feral animals, fire) - Community engagement opportunities - Community benefit funds/programs	- Local advertising and signage - Introductory mail out/ flyer drop - newsletter at project milestones - Project website - Project email/phone general enquiry line - Community pop-up/ drop-ins	Inform / Consult
Narrabri Shire Council	Council officers - Infrastructure Delivery - Projects and assets - Road services - Waste - Water Services - Planning and Sustainability - Economic Development - Planning and development - Regulatory compliance - Tourism and cultural services	- Planning - Economic development - Infrastructure - Community development - Local benefits - Jobs and investment - Training and procurement - Amenity and traffic/access impacts - Community concern and opportunities - Community engagement opportunities	- Ongoing contact through established relationships - Notification ahead of major engagement events and public communications - Briefings at project milestones	Involve / Collaborate
	Councillors - Mayor – Darrel Tiemens - Deputy Mayor – Brett Dickinson - Ward councillors	- Local benefits - Jobs and investment - Amenity and traffic/access impacts - Community concern and opportunities - Community engagement opportunities - Community sentiment	Approach via Councillors for initial briefing and subsequent meetings at project milestones	Consult / Involve
	Council committees - Floodplain Management Advisory Committee - Joint Regional Planning Pane - Narrabri Airport Advisory Committee (Internal)	- Special interest areas - Impacts and benefits - Partnership opportunities - Community engagement opportunities - Community benefit opportunities - Cumulative impacts and benefits	- Offer of project briefings - Project updates - Project website and collateral - Approach via council officers	Inform / Consult



Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder/s	Potential Interests/Concerns	Engagement tools	IAP2 Level of Engagement
	- Narrabri Bush Fire Management Committee - Public Art Advisory Committee (Internal)			
State Government	New South Wales Minister for Planning and Public Spaces – Paul Scully	- Request for State Significant Infrastructure Status - SSI assessment process and regulatory requirements - Community and stakeholder sentiment and feedback - Alignment with State policy and strategic directions	- Ongoing as required via regulatory process - Briefings and targeted meetings - Email and phone	Consult
	State Member Member for Barwon - (Roy) Royal Francis BUTLER	- Community and stakeholder sentiment and feedback - Community impacts and benefits - Economic impacts and benefits - Environmental impacts and mitigations - Employment and training opportunities and procurement - Cumulative impacts and opportunities for coordinated benefit sharing - Community and stakeholder engagement opportunities and outcomes	- Ongoing contact through established relationships - Email and phone - Offer of briefing - Notification ahead of major engagement events and public communications	Inform / Consult
	- Department of Primary Industries - Biodiversity Conservation NSW - Water NSW - Department of Planning and Environment - Heritage NSW - Crown Lands NSW - Development Assessment NSW - Transport for NSW (TfNSW) - Service NSW	- Regulatory referral body - Regulatory approvals process, requirements and compliance - Environmental and social impacts - Agricultural land impacts - Impacts to fish habitats - Traffic and transport impacts - Impacts to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage - Reputational risk to government	- Ongoing as required via regulatory process - Face-to-face meetings - Letters/emails/phone calls	Consult / Involve
Federal Government	Federal Member Member for Parkes - Mark Coulton	- Whole of project/progress of project - Environmental management - Cultural heritage impacts	Ongoing contact through established relationships	Inform/ Consult



Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder/s	Potential Interests/Concerns	Engagement tools	IAP2 Level of Engagement
		- Social impacts/procurement - Community partnership opportunities for Traditional Owners - Economic benefit/job opportunities in the region - Partner opportunities with training providers to create job-ready workers - Community sentiment	- Notification ahead of major engagement events and public communications - Briefings at project milestones	
	Federal Departments - Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	- Energy transition and policy alignment - Community sentiment and awareness - Agricultural land impacts - Impacts to biodiversity and habitat - Impacts to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage - Reputational risk to government	Ongoing contact through established relationships	Inform
Peak Bodies	Agriculture - National Farmers Federation - NSW Farmers - Namoi Water	- Impacts/benefits to farmers in the region with potential land procurement and future procurement - Water licencing - Financial impact/benefit to farmers in the region	- Introduction letter/email - Offer of small group meeting/phone call - Ongoing updates (email) at project milestones - Project website - Project email/phone general	
	Renewables - Clean Energy council - Climate Council - Australian Energy Storage Council - Climate change authority	- Policy development on issues impacting the sector - Promotes value of the sector to the community		
Authorities, regulators and policy-makers	Federal - Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner - Australian Energy Market Operator - Australian Energy Regulator - Clean Energy Regulator - Energy Users Association of Australia	- Impact/benefit to local environment - Well-being and safety of local flora and fauna - Impacts on/disturbance to areas of cultural heritage - Water quality and conservation - Regulatory compliance and reporting	- Ongoing contact through established relationships - As required and advised through regulatory process - Notification (and briefing as requested) of project milestones and major engagement activities - Participation in focussed workshops	Involve
	State - Water NSW - NSW Ombudsman - Murray-Darling Basin Authority			



Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder/s	Potential Interests/Concerns	Engagement tools	IAP2 Level of Engagement
Emergency Services	- Narrabri Police Station - NSW Rural Fire Service - Fire and rescue NSW Narrabri - NSW State Emergency Service - VRA Rescue NSW – Narrabri - Narrabri District Health Service Hospital	- Bushfire risk - Bushfire risk management plans - Worker accommodation and population fluctuation - Crime and public safety management - Hazard management	- Introduction letter/email - Offer of small group meeting/phone call - Circulate all public engagement materials and event programs - newsletter at project milestones - Representation on consultative committee (if required)	Consult
Transmission network Providers	TransGrid	- Connections and infrastructure - Substation owner	- Ongoing contact through established relationships - As required and advised through regulatory process - Notification (and briefing as requested) of project milestones and major engagement activities	Consult
Local Media	- The Narrabri Courier - Border News - Country Leader - Cotton Magazine	- Local interest or community concern - Impact to local character /identity - Jobs and investment - Worker populations and accommodation - Environmental impacts/management - Value of agricultural land - Social impacts - Aboriginal cultural heritage impacts - Partnership/employment opportunities - Advertising opportunities	- Project website - Project communications and publications - Media release - Public event advertising	Inform
Business networks and local businesses	- Narrabri Industrial Network - Narrabri Chamber of Commerce - Geni.Energy (Community Engagement Manager – Lucinda Barrett) - Narrabri Airport - Shell Narrabri Truck Stop - Australian Recycled Plastics - WTC Group (Civil Construction) - Petrie Excavation - Coles Narrabri - Woolworths Narrabri North	- Opportunities and benefits for local businesses through procurement, employment, training and supply chain - NFP focussed on jobs and investment in renewables in Narrabri - Narrabri community battery trial project - Impact/benefit to business in pivot from traditional farming - Partnership and procurement opportunities - Engagement opportunities - Promotion of project and events - Agribusiness impacts and industry change	- Introduction letter/email - newsletter at project milestones - Circulate all public engagement materials and event programs - Project website, email and phone - Surveys and feedback forms - Themed round table discussions/workshops - Representation on consultative committee (if required)	Inform / Consult



Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder/s	Potential Interests/Concerns	Engagement tools	IAP2 Level of Engagement
	Local real estate agents - Jacob and Anderson - Henessy Real Estate - KR Property - Carla Baxter Real Estate - Rural Property NSW - Harcourts Narrabri Agricultural agents - Elders Narrabri Workforce accommodation - Civeo Narrabri Village	- Diversity in agricultural income - Change in land use and industry trends		
Community groups and facilities	- Narrabri Library - Narrabri Region Visitor Information Centre - Narrabri Community Kiosk - The Crossing Theatre - Narrabri Saleyards - Narrabri Golf Course - Narrabri Pistol Club - Narrabri Dirt Bike Club - Narrabri Speedway (Northwest Speedway) - Narrabri Jockey Club - Narrabri Showgrounds	- Engagement venues - Local interest - Amenity impacts - Employment and training opportunities - changes to local land use - Local history - Changes / disruption to local and regional transport/access - Local environmental impacts - Public education - Community benefit sharing opportunities - Opportunities to learn and contribute to the Project - Sustainability outcomes	- Introduction letter/email - newsletter at project milestones - Circulate all public engagement materials and event programs - Project website, email and phone - Surveys and feedback forms	Inform / Consult
	Social media (public) - Narrabri notice board - Namoi Noticeboard - Narrabri Business Classifieds Group	- Community sentiment - Sharing of public info	Monitor only	n/a



Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder/s	Potential Interests/Concerns	Engagement tools	IAP2 Level of Engagement
Enviro groups	- Narrabri Community Battery Trial project (Sally Hunter – Geni Energy) - Narrabri Community Bush Care Group - Namoi River Community Group	- Climate change and sustainability - Investment in renewables - Training and employment opportunities - Public education - Community benefit sharing opportunities - Opportunities to learn and contribute to the Project - Volunteer opportunities	- Introduction letter/email - newsletter at project milestones - Circulate all public engagement materials and event programs - Project website, email and phone - Surveys and feedback forms	Consult
Tertiary and further education providers	- TAFE NSW – Narrabri - Narrabri - Community College - The University of Sydney Plant Breeding Institute - Country Universities Centre North West	- Curriculum opportunities - Education and training - Procurement - Research and development	- Introduction letter/email and offer of Project briefing - Newsletter at project milestones - Circulate all public engagement materials and event programs	Inform / Consult
Schools	Primary and secondary schools - Narrabri Public School - Narrabri West Public School - St Francis Xavier Primary - Little Crocs - Narrabri High School	- Curriculum opportunities - Promotion through school networks	- Introduction letter/email and offer of Project briefing - Newsletter at project milestones - Circulate all public engagement materials and event programs	Inform (with potential to consult in later phases)



Attachment B Detailed Delivery Plan

Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Stoney Creek Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Enervest Pty Ltd

SLR Project No.: 620.31316.00000

14 June 2024

Table 10 Detailed Delivery Plan (proposed)

Phase	Activity	Location	Purpose	Responsibility TBC	Outstanding actions TBC	Timeframe (proposed TBC)
1. SEARs referral and regulatory process	a) Scoping meeting with DPHI	Online	- Introduce the project with high-level concept plan and briefing letter - DPHI guidance on the preparation of the future SSD Application and identified areas for further investigation - Confirm referral authorities: Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW), TransGrid, NSW Environment and Heritage and Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), Narrabri Shire Council - Confirm consultation and technical investigations required - Confirm next steps and preferred method of ongoing consultation	Enervest SLR Planning	Complete – ongoing	October 2022
	b) Preliminary engagement to inform scoping reports	Subject to individual specialists	- Contact with relevant stakeholder and referral authorities to introduce the project and capture preliminary feedback to inform: - Aboriginal Archaeological Due Diligence Assessment - Preliminary Transport Impact Assessment - Social Impact Assessment Scoping Report	Technical specialists, overseen by SLR and Enervest	Complete – ongoing	2023
	c) Preliminary engagement with Traditional Owner groups	Mailout and meetings	- Introduction to Gomeroi People via the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) - Confirm best approach for ongoing engagement	Enervest	Complete – ongoing	2023
	d) Preliminary community engagement to inform SIA Scoping	Mail out (letter and survey)	- Public introduction to project - Seek preliminary feedback regarding community values and local sentiment - Inform impact scoping and potential mitigations	Element	Complete	2023
	e) Meeting with NSW Minister for Planning	Meeting (in person or online)	- Discuss proposal for expanded project scale - Request State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) status	Enervest	TBC	Mid – late 2024
2. Introduction to EIS	a) Phone call/email call to Council	Phone / email	- Introductory meeting with Council planners to discuss proposal - Identify appropriate contacts within Council - Offer introduction meeting to brief relevant Council officers - Confirm next steps, expectations and preferred method for future project updates/communications	Enervest / SLR	TBC	TBC
	b) Council officer briefing As requested	Council offices or online	- Provide project overview, update and proposes approval pathways - Outline engagement to date - Confirm understanding of community sentiment and likely concerns - Confirm available resources, references and contacts for technical investigations	Enervest	TBC	TBC
	c) Councillor and local member introduction and offer of briefing	Phone / email	- Introduction to project and Enervest - Offer of briefing including proposed agenda - Confirm any other information requirements - Confirm date, location and attendees	Enervest	TBC	TBC
	d) Councillor and local member briefing As requested	Offices / online	- Brief project introduction and overview of approval process - Overview of community and stakeholder engagement approach and technical assessment - Review of community understanding, likely issues, impacts and mitigations - Capture any insights into local context or community preferences - Confirm expectations regarding ongoing contact and preferred methods	Enervest to lead with SLR support as required	TBC	TBC
	e) Door knock and letter drop to neighbouring / impacted residents	On site	- Confirm names and contact details - Is there anything in particular you would like to know about the project? - Do you have any specific concerns about the Project? - What is the best way to keep in contact with you?	Enervest and SLR	TBC	TBC
	f) Follow up phone call after door knocks As requested	Phone/ / email	- Do you have any questions about the project or the information provided? - Would you like to arrange a time to meet on site or in-person? - Is there any more information we can provide for you? - Are you interested in attending upcoming Community Engagement events we are holding?	Enervest	TBC	TBC
	g) Follow up meetings with impacted residents As requested	On location. As per individual stakeholder arrangement	- Provide information to address specific concerns (as raised at doorknock/ email/phone contact) - Provide information about project program and upcoming announcements - Is there anything else we should know about?	Enervest	TBC	TBC

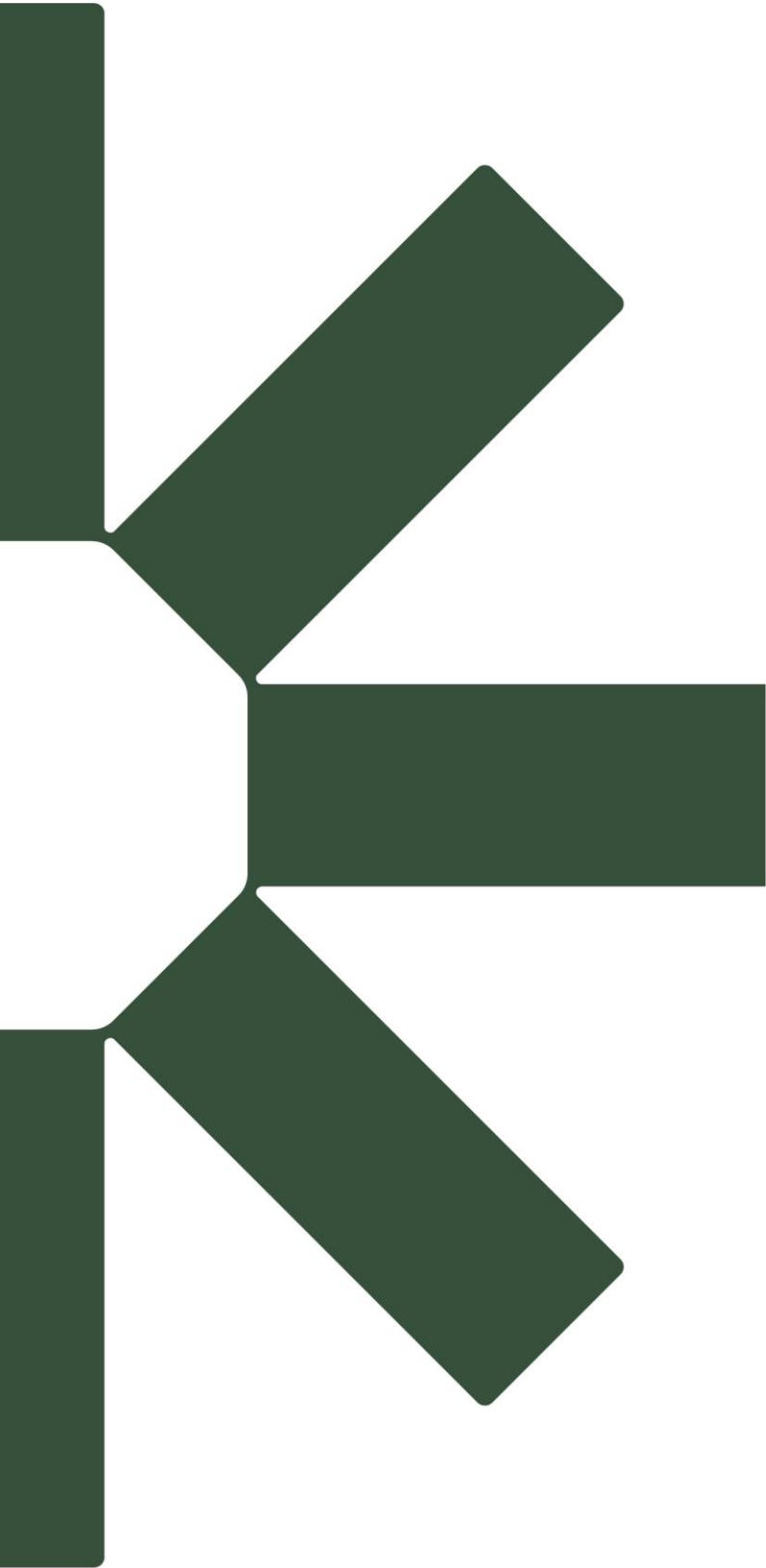


Phase	Activity	Location	Purpose	Responsibility TBC	Outstanding actions TBC	Timeframe (proposed TBC)
			- What are your thoughts about the project? - Is there anything we can do to mitigate your specific concerns? - How would you prefer to work with us going forward?			
	h) Letter to stakeholder s previously engaged through technical assessment	Letter / email (pending established contact details and preferences)	- Reestablish contact following initial engagement - Re-introduce the project - Confirm accurate details and communication preferences - Outline process going forward - Invite for follow up engagement as required	Technical specialists with oversight from SLR/Enervest	TBC	TBC
3. Public project announcement	a) Project website content update and launch	Online Council website Email databases	- How would you like to be kept up-to-date on the project and engagement activities? - Register for online engagement activities - Tell us what's important to you about your local area	SLR with support (review/approvals, on ground support) by Enervest	TBC	TBC
	b) Launch project email and phone line					TBC
	c) Website enquiry follow up	Email/ phone call				TBC
	d) Distribute project flyers	Mail out to Local residents and business (Postal distribution area TBC) Community hubs and high traffic areas				TBC
	e) Email invitation / notification to stakeholders engaged to date through public interest or technical investigations	Campaign email (from project address) Direct email from technical specialists or relationship owner				TBC
	f) Distribute project posters	Community hubs and high traffic areas				TBC
	g) Media release	Local media Online Email				TBC
	h) Local media advertising (project and event promotion)	Local papers				TBC
	i) Monitor local social media activity	online	Monitor only for level of interest, sentient and emerging issues. No interaction	All	TBC	TBC
	j) Project notification (per statutory requirement)	Local papers Site signage	N/a. Statutory process	SLR planning Enervest to review	TBC	TBC
4. Public events (in person and online) Subject to detailed planning	a) Community pop-ups x 2	TBC – high traffic areas and local events	- How would you like to be kept up to date on the project and engagement activities? - What is important to you about your local area? - What would you like to know about renewables/BESS technology? - What are your concerns about the project? - How would you like to see these concerns/impacts addressed? - What would you like to know more about? - What do you think are the opportunities that we can provide local community benefit through this project? - What are the opportunities for us to work with local businesses? - Is there anything else we should know? /Can you share any local knowledge with us?	SLR to plan and prepare SLR and Enervest to attend	TBC	TBC
	b) Drop-in session #2	TBC		SLR to plan and prepare Delivered by SLR and Enervest		TBC
	c) Sit-in sessions (as required)	TBC		SLR to plan and prepare as contingency Enervest to determine need	TBC	TBC
	d) Attendance at local events (eg. Business chamber events) As available	TBC		Enervest to attend SLR to support as required	TBC	TBC



Phase	Activity	Location	Purpose	Responsibility TBC	Outstanding actions TBC	Timeframe (proposed TBC)
	e) Offer of individual or small group meeting (up to 4x1 hour) with stakeholders (as requested)	Online or at location agreed		Enervest with support from SLR as required	TBC	TBC
	f) Follow up phone call to impacted residents (at end of engagement period)	On location / as requested	- Have we answered your question/responded to your concerns? - Outline program for additional technical investigations/refinements as required - How would you like to keep in touch? - Outline approach for ongoing negotiation where required	Enervest with support from SLR as required	TBC	TBC
	g) Response to media	Email / phone	N/a. Response to enquiry only	Enervest with support from SLR	TBC	TBC
5. Close the loop	a) Email update to stakeholders engaged through technical investigations	Email / phone	- Project update - Summary of relevant engagements undertaken - Overview of engagement outcomes (relevant to stakeholder interests) - Overview of next steps - Invitation for follow up phone call or meeting as required	Technical specialists with oversight from SLR/Enervest	TBC	TBC
	b) Thankyou email to info session attendees and stakeholders contacted to date	email	- Do you have any other questions about the project? - Do you have any ideas about how we can work together to provide benefits to the local community or businesses? - How would you like to be contacted with regard to ongoing or future project news?	SLR to draft Enervest to distribute	TBC	TBC
	c) Follow up contact	Phone / meeting	- Is there any further information we can provide? - Does this information satisfy your enquiry? - Does this amendment address your concern? - How would you like to be contacted with regard to ongoing or future project news?	Enervest with support from SLR as required	TBC	TBC
	d) Response to media	Phone / email / website	N/a. Response to enquiry and promotion only	Enervest with support from SLR	TBC	TBC
	e) Monitor project email / phone and website portal	Email / phone / website	N/a. Response to enquiry	Enervest with support from SLR	TBC	TBC
	f) Public engagement summary	Online	- Thank you for your contributions - Do you have any further questions? - How would you like to be kept up to date with the project? - Would you like to be involved in future discussions about community benefits?	SLR to draft. Enervest review	TBC	TBC
	g) Major website update	Online	- Would you like to register your interest for our local supplier panel? - Is there anything you'd like to know about the project? - Do you have any ideas about how we can work together to provide benefits to the local community or businesses? - How would you like to be contacted with regard to ongoing or future project news?	SLR to draft. Enervest review	TBC	TBC
	h) Follow up briefing As requested	Council offices or online	- Do you have any further questions? - How would you like to be kept up to date with the project? - Would you like to be involved in future discussions about community benefits?	Enervest to lead SLR to support as required	TBC	TBC
	i) Prepare detailed engagement summary report	Internal document issued to project team	n/a. Internal document for Enervest reporting and monitoring.	SLR	TBC	TBC





Making Sustainability Happen



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