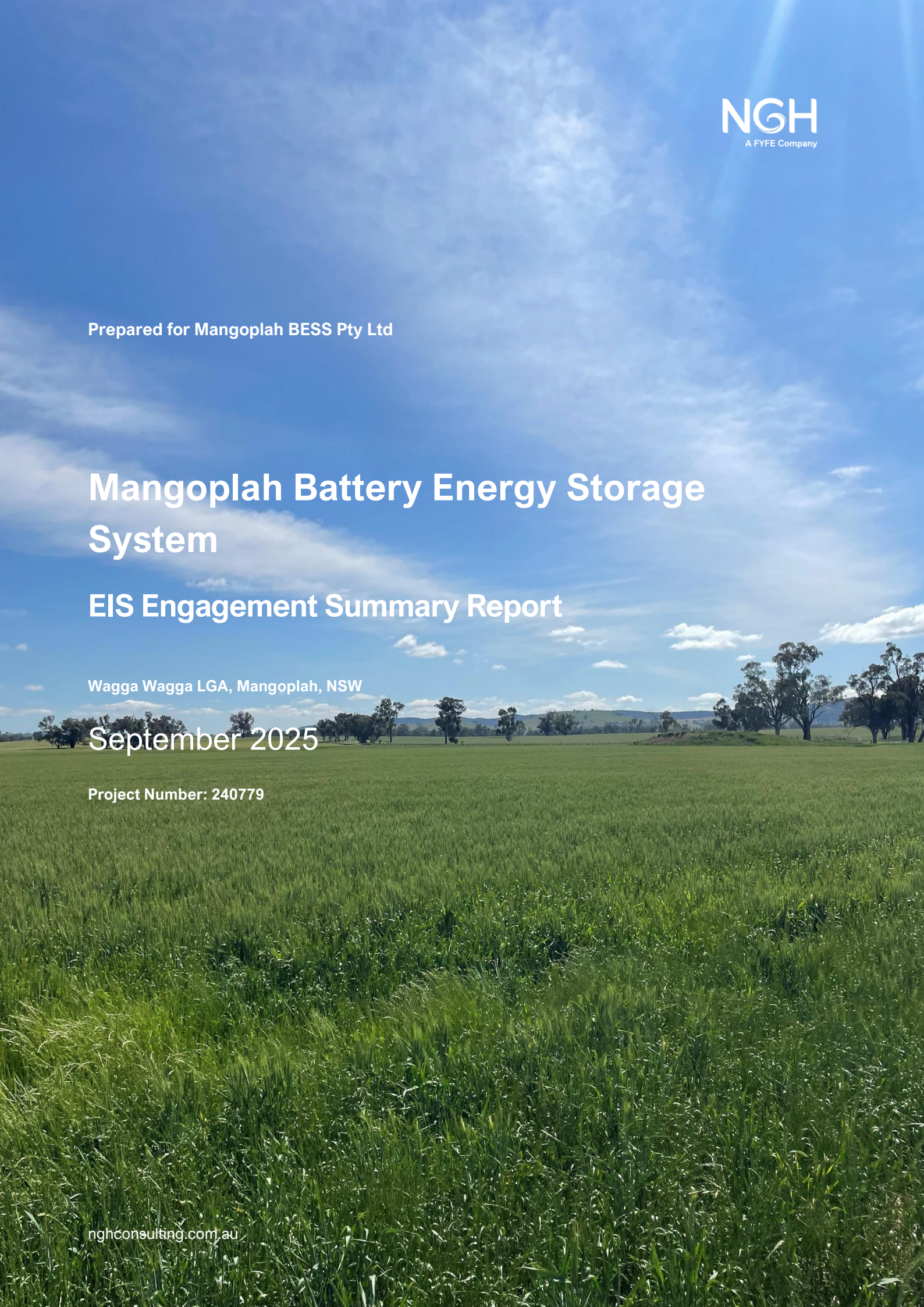

Prepared for Mangoplah BESS Pty Ltd

Mangoplah Battery Energy Storage System

EIS Engagement Summary Report

Wagga Wagga LGA, Mangoplah, NSW

September 2025

Project Number: 240779

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NGH prints all documents on environmentally sustainable paper including paper made from bagasse (a by-product of sugar production) or recycled paper.

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land and pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise that the First Nations peoples of Australia have traditionally managed the resources of this land in a sustainable way, and that they are the original custodians of the Australian environment.

Table of Contents

Acronyms and Abbreviations iii
Executive summary v
1. Overview 7
1.1. Community/stakeholder engagement and consultation 7
1.1.1. Background 7
1.1.2. Scoping phase engagement 8
1.1.3. EIS engagement 10
1.1.4. Key community stakeholders 11
1.1.5. Overview of engagement approach 20
1.2. Summary of consultation findings 28
1.2.1. Overall sentiment 28
1.2.2. Online community feedback survey 29
1.2.3. Summary of key issues and opportunities 34
1.2.4. Future engagement 45
Appendix A Non-associated receiver letter A-1
Appendix B Newspaper advertising (Daily Advertiser) ..... B-I
Appendix C Frequently Asked Questions ..... C-I
Appendix D Fact Sheet ..... D-II
Appendix E Newsletter 1, 2 & 3 ..... E-III
Appendix F Email campaigns: 1, 2 & 3 ..... F-4
Appendix G Community feedback survey G-5
Appendix H WWCC letter H-6
Appendix I Letter to MPs ..... I-I
Appendix J Non-associated receiver map ..... J-I

Figures

Figure 1-1 Importance of social and economic considerations (survey data) 31
Figure 1-2 Concerns about Proposed Mangoplah BESS (survey data) 32
Figure 1-3 Level of support for the Project (survey data) 33
Figure 1 Project location map ..... A-I

Table

Table 1-1 Project stakeholder breakdown and engagement approach 12
Table 1-2 Overview of EIS phase engagement activities 21
Table 1-3 Demographic snapshot – top 3 responses 29
Table 1-4 Response to question, "What do you value most about the local area?" 30
Table 1-5 Planned future engagement activities 45

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACHA	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
CBS	Community Benefit Scheme
CEC	Clean Energy Council
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CSES	Community and Stakeholder Engagement
CSU	Charles Sturt University
DEMP	Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan
DPHI	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (NSW)
EIS	Environmental impact statement
EMS	Environmental Management Strategy
ES	Engagement strategy
FRNSW	Fire and Rescue New South Wales
ha	hectares
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning
ICA	Insurance Council of Australia
km	kilometres
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
LEP	Local Environment Plan
LGA	Local government area
LVIA	Visual Impact Assessment
m	metres
MW	Megawatt
NEM	National Energy Market
NSW	New South Wales

NVIA	Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment
OEMP	Operational Environmental Management Plan
PMF	Probable Maximum Flood
RFS	Rural Fire Service
SES	State Emergency Services
SSD	State Significant Development
TIA	Traffic Impact Assessment
WWCC	Wagga Wagga City Council

Executive summary

Overview

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of Mangoplah BESS Pty Ltd as Trustee for Mangoplah BESS Pty Ltd (The Applicant) is proposing the development of the Mangoplah Battery Energy Storage System (the Project). The Project would involve the construction, operation and decommissioning of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with a capacity of up to approximately 100 Megawatts (MW) / 400MWh (4 hours).

The Project would be located within the Wagga Wagga City Council (WWCC) Local Government Area (LGA), approximately 3.1 kilometres (km) east of the township of Mangoplah, and approximately 30.6 km south of the regional city of Wagga Wagga, New South Wales (NSW). The Project would connect to the national electricity network via the existing 132kV transmission line adjacent to the Project.

The Mangoplah BESS would assist in the stabilisation of the national energy grid, reduce energy wastage, ease peak demand, and support Australia's transition to renewable energy. The Project is anticipated to produce approximately 60 jobs during the peak construction period, with 1-2 full-time ongoing roles expected once operational.

Methodology

A comprehensive stakeholder analysis was developed in November 2024 to inform the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (CSES). Engagement activities during the EIS phase focused on understanding community sentiment, identifying potential impacts and possible mitigation measures, uncovering community benefit-sharing opportunities, and preparing engagement recommendations post-approval.

Feedback was gathered and analysed over 11 months through a combination of written, online, and in-person engagement activities. Communication efforts included 121 letters sent to residents within 4 km of the Project site, briefing letters to Wagga Wagga City Council (WWCC) and local Members of Parliament, and distribution of fact sheets, FAQs, and three (3) newsletters addressing key concerns. Stakeholders also received 71 direct emails and three (3) campaign emails to a 22-person mailing list providing Project updates.

Engagement activities comprised 19 phone conversations, 56 responses to the community feedback survey, five (5) SIA interviews, three (3) in-person meetings, one (1) online meeting, and two (2) community information sessions with approximately 70 attendees. The Applicant also undertook a full-day cultural awareness tour and training opportunity with a local First Nations organisation.

Community and Stakeholder Feedback

Community and stakeholder feedback revealed opportunities for local benefits alongside significant concerns about safety, land use, and environmental impacts.

Opportunities	Challenges
• Community benefit-sharing (support for local groups, facilities, sponsorship, and	• Fire risk and emergency response capacity. • Visual impacts and loss of rural character.

Opportunities	Challenges
beautification). • Local economic boost through business and service participation. • Employment and training opportunities, including education partnerships. • Engagement of local suppliers and contractors. • Cultural awareness and First Nations collaboration.	• Construction disruption (traffic, dust, noise). • Flooding and drainage concerns. • Loss of agricultural land. • Property value impacts. • Biodiversity and habitat disruption. • Waste management and decommissioning. • Pollution and contamination risks. • Insurance affordability and coverage. • Accommodation and service pressures.

Recommendations

Engagement should remain transparent, two-way, and responsive across all Project phases. If approved, priorities include clearly addressing community concerns and closing the feedback loop. During construction, timely updates on traffic, noise, dust, and visual impacts should be paired with opportunities for local business, workforce participation, and First Nations involvement. Once operational, regular communication with residents and education partnerships will help build long-term value, with clear updates during maintenance or decommissioning. Engagement should be monitored, adapted as needed, and supported by a dedicated Project website to maintain trust and accountability.

Conclusion

Consultation revealed strong opposition to the Project, especially from residents nearest the site, who raised concerns about loss of agricultural land, property values, fire risk, environmental impacts, and the cumulative effects of regional renewable development. Survey results confirmed widespread resistance, with minimal neutral or positive views, and many dismissing community benefit sharing as inadequate. While some constructive dialogue occurred, overall sentiment reflected fatigue with ongoing development and scepticism toward consultation processes. The Applicant acknowledged these dynamics and sought to respond, but significant opposition to the Project remains.

1. Overview

Engagement with non-associated receivers and the broader Mangoplah township is crucial for developing a Project that aligns with its social and environmental context, especially in the face of community opposition. Large-scale BESS projects have a particularly unique contribution to the broader environmental impacts of climate change and energy security as they create green, clean energy and work to stabilise the NEM grid. These projects also bring a concentration of both direct and indirect benefits to their host region through community benefit schemes (CBS) along with economic stimulus and employment.

Strong community engagement creates mutual benefits, and when undertaken and utilised successfully can:

- Improve the Project and ensure impacts will be acceptable to the community
- Spread the benefits throughout the community, and
- Build long-term relationships and trust with the community.

1.1. Community/stakeholder engagement and consultation

This section summarises the detailed consultation activities undertaken to achieve the above-outlined goals, considering non-associated receivers, local community members, First Nations community, and government agency stakeholders. It identifies:

- Issues and views raised by stakeholders
- Opportunities to influence the Project
- Plans for future engagement.

1.1.1. Background

This chapter summarises the community engagement and consultation undertaken with the Mangoplah community and other stakeholders during the EIS process. Engagement activities, carried out between November 2024 and October 2025, provided important opportunities to hear feedback and incorporate it into the Project's design.

In response to community feedback, the Project has gone beyond initial commitments by making a series of refinements to reduce potential impacts, strengthen transparency, and demonstrate genuine responsiveness. These measures include:

- The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) was expanded to include additional photomontages from property viewpoints, rather than limiting the assessment to dwellings.
- A commitment was made to establish western screening, even though the visual impact in that area was assessed as low impact.
- Detailed project updates were provided to the community to directly address concerns.
- Nearby receivers were given access to specialist reports prior to the EIS being made publicly available.
- Communication lines were kept open, with the Applicant taking a proactive approach by responding directly to nearby residents via phone and email.

At the same time, the Applicant acknowledges that many in the community continue to oppose the Project, primarily on the grounds of site suitability. This report seeks to reflect that feedback openly and to summarise both the issues raised and the steps taken in response, recognising the value of community input in shaping the Project.

1.1.2. Scoping phase engagement

The Applicant commenced community engagement and consultation for the Scoping Report in August 2024. The communication and engagement activities applied a broad approach in a bid to engage with as many individuals as possible, and developed stakeholder lists to assess the current state of community sentiment towards the Project while working through queries, concerns and identifying potential community benefit sharing (CBS) opportunities.

A full stakeholder analysis was completed to inform the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (CSES) in July 2024. Near non-associated receivers were identified through desktop assessment and were contacted via posted mail, resulting in a total of 238 posted letters to non-associated receivers within 4 km of the site. The letters provided an overview of the Project, instructions on how to complete the community feedback survey, encouraged discussions surrounding concerns and opportunities, invited residents to attend meetings with the project team, and outlined additional steps on how to provide feedback.

60 items of email correspondence were sent out, with recipients including:

- Wagga Wagga City Council (WWCC)
- Member for Riverina
- Member for Wagga Wagga
- Wagga Men's Shed
- Lion Club
- Sunset Probus Club
- Wagga Chamber of Commerce
- Country Women's Association
- Riverina Sustainable Food Alliance
- Maxwell Group
- Sureway Employment & Training
- Sarina Russo
- VERTO
- GTES
- Industry Capability Network (ICN)
- Workforce Australia
- TAFE Wagga
- CSU
- Wagga Wagga High School
- Mount Austin High School
- Indi School
- Riverina Anglican College
- Kooringal High School
- Mawang Gaway
- Bundyi Cultural Tours
- Wagga Local Aboriginal Land Council
- ESI supply Group (Indigenous)
- MCUE Goannas Football Club

A website was established that outlined Project information, Project maps, frequently asked questions (FAQ), and details on how to contact the Project team (via hotline or email). A community feedback survey, which included social and landscape value questions, was also available on the website and through printed materials available at in-person meetings.

In-person meetings were facilitated with members of WWCC, Wagga Wagga Business Chamber, and non-associated receivers within 4 km (10 attendees over three [3] meetings). Two (2) online meetings were facilitated with both the State and Federal members.

During the Scoping phase, the community feedback captured a sense of the perceived issues and opportunities of the Project. The main issues and opportunities for ongoing discussion and consideration during the EIS period included:

- The biggest opportunities were identified as:
    - Community benefit sharing (mentioned six [6] times)
    - Local employment opportunities (as an area to explore further – mentioned three [3] times)
    - Potential road upgrades on neighbouring property (suggested by R1).
- The biggest concerns and/or challenges that were identified were:
    - Accommodation shortages (mentioned two [2] times)
    - Concerns regarding poor internal access route in wet conditions (mentioned six [6] times)

  - Concerns regarding perceived impacts on waterways due to the Project's location adjacent to Burkes Creek (mentioned two [2] times)
  - Concerns regarding increases in insurance (raised by R1, R2-R3, and two [2] community members)
  - Environmental considerations through fire risk (mentioned six [6] times)
  - Cumulative impacts to neighbouring properties due to internal track upgrades (raised by R1)
  - Loss of prime agricultural land (mentioned six [6] times)
  - The notion that a BESS would trigger a solar farm development in the near future (mentioned five [5] times)
  - Impacts on visual amenity (mentioned four [4] times).
- The importance of maintaining continuous engagement with the local community was emphasised by approximately six (6) community members and non-associated receivers, the Member for Riverina, and Member for Wagga Wagga
- When considering community benefits, stakeholders emphasised the importance of keeping benefits local to Mangoplah. Suggestions included:
  - Upgrades to the Mangoplah Hall
  - Upgrades to the club rooms at the football ground
  - Potential support in relation to telecommunication improvements for the area
  - Potential support for access to mains water (some farmers are currently capped by Riverina Water).
- Council emphasised the importance of clear communication with the community for earning social licence and expected minimal concerns due to the project's size. Concerns raised by Council regarding the following topics:
  - Construction timeline
  - Overall footprint
  - Decommissioning plans and waste removal responsibilities
  - Worker accommodation impacts
  - Landowner insurance impacts.
- The Member for Riverina raised questions about neighbour engagement, landowner agreements, site proximity to Holbrook Road and Mangoplah, container colour, and potential vibration issues. The project team outlined ongoing assessments and noise mitigation measures, expressing confidence in minimal impact. Additional queries covered timelines, project costs, SSD status, and next steps. A request was made to receive all current and future materials via email, and while no clear support was stated, the meeting was described as very positive.
- The Member for Wagga Wagga's key concerns included the BESS size and height, the rationale for site selection, and the project's relevance to the region. The team explained the site was chosen for its natural screening and grid suitability, with design details still being finalised. Questions were also raised about the company's background, ownership, and the role of battery storage, with some uncertainty expressed about its local necessity. Interest was shown in a potential Community Benefit Scheme, including improved internet access.
- A First Nations representative from the Bundyi Cultural Tours encouraged that the Applicant undertakes cultural awareness training, to which the Applicant agreed and accepted. Concerns were raised about the site of the BESS, specifically that it borders a creek that may overflow at some point, which needs to be considered. It was emphasised that meetings should occur between nearby neighbours and the First Nations community to break down barriers and foster relationships. It was also mentioned that employment opportunities is a frequent promise that goes unfulfilled.

These issues and opportunities were explored further during the EIS engagement activities and the responses and adaptations applied to the Project are outlined in the section below.

The Applicant recognises that a high level of consultation, engagement and information sharing is required throughout both the EIS phase and beyond. As a result, the Applicant has delivered a robust communications and engagement program that represented a genuine investment in engagement and consultation with the local community.

1.1.3. EIS engagement

Community consultation for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) phase of the Project recommenced in November 2024 and continued through to the EIS submission to the DPHI in October 2025. Throughout this period, the Applicant actively engaged with a broad range of stakeholders, including directly impacted landowners (non-associated receivers), targeted stakeholders, and members of the broader community.

The Project team conducted:

- 121 letters sent to residents within 4 km of the Project site
- Briefing letter sent to WWCC
- Briefing letter sent to Member for Riverina and Member for Wagga Wagga
- 71 stakeholder emails
- Fact sheet to delivered via email
- FAQ document delivered via email
- 3 newsletters emailed to the stakeholder email list, directly responding to key concerns
- 3 campaign emails sent (to a 22-person mailing list) providing Project updates
- 19 phone conversations
- 56 community feedback survey responses
- 3 in-person meetings
- 1 online meeting
- 5 SIA interviews facilitated
- 1 full-day cultural awareness tour and training opportunity undertaken by the Applicant
- 186 users visited the Project website as of 28 August 2025.

Two community information sessions were also hosted at the Mangoplah Hall:

- Tuesday 1 April 2025 from 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm
- Wednesday 2 April 2025 from 7:30 am – 11:30 am.

Together, these sessions attracted approximately 70 attendees, with the purpose of providing stakeholders and community members an opportunity to:

- Learn more about the Project and the SSD and EIS process
- Ask questions directly of the Project team
- Share feedback and concerns
- Explore ideas for potential community benefit-sharing initiatives.

The evening session saw the arrival of a coordinated and vocal group of participants, many of whom appeared to have attended with the intention of demonstrating collective opposition to the Project. While the session remained largely respectful, the tone was heated at times, and several discussions became emotionally charged, reflecting the depth of concern and passion held by local residents.

Rather than engaging in individual or small group conversations, many attendees participated in open group discussions, often with multiple voices contributing at once. As a result, the opportunity for in-depth, one-on-one dialogue between individuals and the Project team was more limited during this session. Nevertheless,

the Applicant acknowledges the significance of this collective engagement, as it demonstrated both the strength of local sentiment and the community's desire to be heard and considered in the planning process.

The morning session offered a more informal and conversational environment, with smaller numbers of attendees engaging in more focused discussions with members of the Project team. This enabled more detailed exploration of individual perspectives, questions, and ideas for local benefit sharing.

Together, both sessions provided valuable insight into community attitudes, capturing a spectrum of views and reinforcing the importance of ongoing, transparent, and responsive consultation.

The EIS engagement period was marked by strong, passionate feedback, particularly from residents in close proximity to the proposed site. Many participants voiced deep concerns and strong opposition, reflecting a high level of interest and emotional investment in the future of their community and the overall agricultural landscape.

While opposition was the prevailing sentiment among directly impacted neighbours, the engagement also revealed small levels of interest and conditional support from the broader community, particularly in relation to potential benefits such as local job creation, training opportunities, and infrastructure improvements.

Key issues included:

- Environmental impacts (including fire risk, pollution, flooding)
- Visual and noise concerns
- Access restrictions and local road disruption
- Property devaluation, mental health concerns, and insurance impacts
- Uncertainty around decommissioning and long-term site management
- Perceived imbalance of risk and reward for nearby landowners, with one stakeholder asking, "outside of community benefits, how does this benefit the neighbours? There is no benefit."
- Loss of agricultural land and farming continuity
- Lack of confidence in the consultation process and the regulatory framework.

Opportunities identified:

- Local job creation and training pathways
- Cultural heritage preservation
- Infrastructure upgrades (roads)
- Partnerships with educational institutions
- Community benefit initiatives and investment
- Environmental rehabilitation and stewardship.

These issues and opportunities were revisited consistently across all engagement formats, contributing to a more nuanced understanding of the Project's potential impacts and benefits. The feedback received during this phase helped shape the SIA and informed potential refinements to the Project design and proposed mitigation measures.

1.1.4. Key community stakeholders

A Project team led by NGH was responsible for developing the Engagement Action Plan (EAP), and implementation of the EAP was done in collaboration between both the Applicant and NGH. A detailed list of Project stakeholders was developed to inform the EAP.

This analysis considered the level of impact, influence, and engagement approach, in keeping with the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Engagement Framework. The engagement approach adopted for each stakeholder group identified was summarised within the EAP.

Table 1-1 Project stakeholder breakdown and engagement approach

Stakeholder group	**Targeted stakeholders**	**Interests**	**Objectives and opportunities**	**Impact** (High / Medium / Low)	**Interest** (High / Medium / Low)	**Quality of relationship** (very poor, poor, neutral, strong, very strong)	**Engagement needs and/or expectations**	**Engagement approach**
Non-associated receivers (within 4km) – see **Appendix J**	Residential properties within a 1 km radius of the proposed site (pending noise and visual assessments).	• Property impacts • Noise impacts • Visual impacts • Access changes • Environmental changes • Commercial agreements • Community benefits • Hazards and risks • Flooding and impacts on waterways • Governance and ownership of the developing entity • Impacts on agricultural outputs.	• Develop a strong partnership with the community • Keep neighbours informed about the Project from early in the planning phase • Identify impacts and mitigations through a collaborative process • Discuss neighbour benefit sharing options directly • Provide opportunities to raise issues and provide feedback.	H	H	Strong - multiple attempts to contact non-associated receivers, noting not all chose to engage/participate, while ongoing conversations occurred with multiple others.	• Consistent engagement • To be informed first of any information • Open and transparent dialogue • Opportunity for discussions and feedback • Face-to-face discussions • Personalised relationships • Discussions regarding impacts and possible mitigations • Collaborative approach towards mitigation development • Understanding of cumulative impacts.	**Inform, consult, involve, collaborate** Consultation with this group will involve phone calls, distributing letters, invitations to the community drop-in sessions and a direct face-to-face meeting at their property.

Stakeholder group	Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Impact (High / Medium / Low)	Interest (High / Medium / Low)	Quality of relationship (very poor, poor, neutral, strong, very strong)	Engagement needs and/or expectations	Engagement approach
Broader community and region	Mangoplah township including residents, businesses, and organisations.	• Visual impacts • Noise impacts • Transport access impacts or changes • Environmental changes • Community benefits • Governance and ownership of the developing entity • Loss of agricultural outputs • Risks and hazards • Regional economic development.	• Develop an understanding of and opportunity to participate in the Project • Provide opportunities to raise issues and provide feedback • Discuss community benefit sharing options.	M	M	Neutral – attempts to engage with the wider community through pop-ups, advertisements, social media, and posters around town	• Ongoing Project updates • Information readily available • Opportunity for discussions and feedback • Identification of benefits.	**Inform, consult, involve** This group should be re-engaged through broader communications during the development application phase through community drop-in sessions, a public notice and communications through the Project team. Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the Project website.
First Nations representatives, groups and organisations.	• Wagga Wagga Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) • Bundyi Cultural	• Environmental changes • Commercial agreements • Impacts to Country	• Engage with the relevant Local Aboriginal Land Council and RAPs through the formal process	H	H	Very strong. Attempts to engage with the LALC and Mawang Gaway occurred. Multiple engagement	• Engagement to occur face-to-face, not technology focused • Open and	**Inform, Involve, Collaborate and Empower** This group should be re-engaged through community drop-in sessions, meetings and

Stakeholder group	Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Impact (High / Medium / Low)	Interest (High / Medium / Low)	Quality of relationship (very poor, poor, neutral, strong, very strong)	Engagement needs and/or expectations	Engagement approach
	Tours • Mawang Gaway Aboriginal Cultural Consultancy • ESI supply Group (Indigenous).	Community benefits • Cultural heritage impacts • Impacts on agricultural outputs.	• Look for opportunities to contribute to the story of Country and contribute to the local Aboriginal Community • Involve local community organisations in community benefit sharing initiatives.			activities were undertaken with ESI supply Group (Indigenous). The Applicant participated in a full-day cultural tour facilitated by Bundyi Cultural Tours.	transparent dialogue • Opportunity for discussions and feedback • To be listened to • Personalised relationships formed • Participation in benefits development • Feelings of empowerment with decision-making.	Project update emails. Ideally, communications to this group would be via direct contact. The approach is to ensure we create meeting opportunities that are best suited to this stakeholder group, mitigating participation barriers where possible. For example, a walk on Country and/or a listen and yarn activity.
Community organisations	• Apex, Rotary, Lions, Country Women's Association (CWA), local sporting organisations, tourism groups, sporting clubs	• Property impacts • Visual impacts • Access changes • Environmental changes • Commercial agreements • Community benefits	• Develop an understanding of and opportunity to participate in the Project • Provide opportunities to raise issues and provide feedback • Discuss	H	H	Neutral - multiple attempts to engage were facilitated.	• Ongoing Project updates • Information readily available • Opportunity for discussions and feedback • Face-to-face discussions	This group should be re-engaged through broader communications during the EIS phase through community drop-in sessions, a public notice (print) and communications via the Project team. Ideally, communications to this group would make use

Stakeholder group	Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Impact (High / Medium / Low)	Interest (High / Medium / Low)	Quality of relationship (very poor, poor, neutral, strong, very strong)	Engagement needs and/or expectations	Engagement approach
	like the Mangoplah Football and Netball Club.	• Governance and ownership of the developing entity • Impacts on agricultural outputs.	community benefit sharing options.				• Discussions regarding issues mitigation, opportunities • Community benefits/VPA discussions.	of the Project website.
Government Agencies/Utility owners	• DPHI and other agencies through the SEARs process (such as NSW Farmers Association) • Wagga Wagga City Council Planning and Development • Department of Agriculture • Transport for NSW (Rail) / UGL • Geo Science NSW	• Impacts on local infrastructure • Assessment process • Consideration of impacts • Consideration and mitigation of concerns • Consultation process • Application of standards and frameworks.	• Develop and maintain a positive relationship • Build on previous discussions • Develop and maintain a positive relationship • Identify opportunities to support the local economy.	M	M	Very strong – ongoing agency and Council consultation underway.	• Ongoing engagement regarding updates • Information readily available • Opportunity for discussions and feedback.	**Inform, consult** This group should be re-engaged directly through phone calls, briefings, distributing letters, and direct meetings/briefings where possible.

Stakeholder group	Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Impact (High / Medium / Low)	Interest (High / Medium / Low)	Quality of relationship (very poor, poor, neutral, strong, very strong)	Engagement needs and/or expectations	Engagement approach
	• Civil Aviation Safety Authority • Air Services Australia • Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) • National Parks and Wildlife.							
State and Federal Members	• Member for Wagga Wagga, Dr Joe McGirr MP • Member for Riverina, the Hon Michael McCormack MP	• Impacts on local infrastructure • Assessment process • Consideration of impacts • Consideration and mitigation of concerns • Consultation process • Application of standards and frameworks.	• Develop and maintain a positive relationship • Build on previous discussions • Develop and maintain a positive relationship • Identify opportunities to support the local economy.	M	H	Strong - Consultation with State and Federal MP facilitated.	• Ongoing engagement regarding updates • Information readily available • Opportunity for discussions and feedback • Community benefits/VPA discussions throughout EIS • Understanding of cumulative impacts.	**Inform, consult** This group should be re-engaged directly through phone calls, briefings, distributing letters, and direct meetings/briefings where possible. Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the Project website.

Stakeholder group	**Targeted stakeholders**	**Interests**	**Objectives and opportunities**	**Impact** (High / Medium / Low)	**Interest** (High / Medium / Low)	**Quality of relationship** (very poor, poor, neutral, strong, very strong)	**Engagement needs and/or expectations**	**Engagement approach**
Schools, TAFEs and Universities	• TAFE Wagga Wagga • Charles Sturt University • Public, Private and Catholic Schools.	• Impacts on local infrastructure • Impacts on local workforce • Training opportunities • Community benefits.	• Ensure organisations are updated on education and vocational opportunities associated with the Project. • Identify relevant community benefit scheme opportunities.	M	L	Neutral – attempts to engage were made.	• Ongoing engagement regarding updates • Information readily available • Face-to-face discussions • Discussions regarding issues mitigation, opportunities.	**Inform, consult, involve** This group should be re-engaged directly through phone calls, distributing letters, invitation to the community drop-in sessions and a direct face to face meeting where possible. Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the Project website.
Business groups/small businesses	• Wagga Wagga Chamber of Commerce • Industry Capability Network • Mangoplah township businesses and those with a broader interest in the region	• Property impacts • Visual impacts • Access changes • Environmental changes • Commercial agreements • Community benefits • Governance and ownership of the developing entity	• Work with the chamber to identify any local businesses that may be impacted by the Project (positive or negative). • Identify opportunities to develop or utilise local capability.	L	H	Very strong – consultation with Chamber and Industry Capability Network occurred.	• Ongoing engagement regarding updates • Information readily available • Opportunity for discussions and feedback • Identification of possible opportunities/participation.	**Inform, consult** This group should be engaged through broader communications during the EIS phase through community open drop-in sessions, a public notice (print) and communications via the Project team. Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the Project website.

Stakeholder group	Targeted stakeholders	Interests	Objectives and opportunities	Impact (High / Medium / Low)	Interest (High / Medium / Low)	Quality of relationship (very poor, poor, neutral, strong, very strong)	Engagement needs and/or expectations	Engagement approach
	• Solar Professionals Wagga Wagga (construction and operation recycling, maintenance and decommissioning services)	• Impacts on agricultural outputs.						
Advocacy groups	• Potentially Wagga Wagga Chamber of Commerce or ESI, though no stakeholder has opted to be an advocate.	• Regional growth • Community benefits • Governance and ownership of the developing entity.	• Consider opportunities for partnerships and community events • Consider advocacy opportunities • Potential for partnerships.	M	M	Very strong - consultation occurred over multiple periods.	• Ongoing engagement regarding updates • Information readily available • Opportunity for discussions and feedback • Identification of possible advocacy activities.	**Inform, consult** Outside of the sensitive receivers identified, this group should be engaged through broader communications during the EIS phase through a community open drop-in session, a public notice (print) and communications via the Project team. Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the Project website.
Groups of	• CWA	• Property impacts	• Identify and	M	H	Neutral/strong -	• Ongoing	**Inform, consult**

Stakeholder group	**Targeted stakeholders**	**Interests**	**Objectives and opportunities**	**Impact** (High / Medium / Low)	**Interest** (High / Medium / Low)	**Quality of relationship** (very poor, poor, neutral, strong, very strong)	**Engagement needs and/or expectations**	**Engagement approach**
renewable objectors	• Riverina Sustainable Food Alliance • Eunony Valley Association.	• Visual impacts • Access changes • Environmental changes • Commercial agreements • Community benefits • Governance and ownership of the developing entity • Impacts on agricultural outputs.	address concerns as required • Prepare responses to known concerns based on previous Projects • Manage issues constructively and efficiently • Ensure equity in the engagement (allow other stakeholders time to talk in information sessions).			consultation occurred over multiple periods.	engagement regarding updates • Information readily available • Opportunity for discussions and feedback. • Discussions regarding issues mitigation, opportunities • Community benefits.	This group should be engaged through broader communications during the EIS phase through community open drop-in sessions, a public notice (print) and communications via the Project team. Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the Project website.

1.1.5. Overview of engagement approach

The EIS engagement phase involved a strategic and multi-channel approach designed to raise awareness, address key concerns, and foster two-way dialogue between the Project team and the community.

Building on insights from the Scoping phase, the Applicant developed and distributed a diverse suite of engagement tools to ensure that stakeholders, particularly non-associated receivers and directly affected neighbours, had opportunities to be heard, informed, and involved. This included the development of targeted materials such as a fact sheet, detailed frequently asked questions (FAQs), and tailored newsletters to respond directly to emerging community questions and misconceptions as they arose.

In direct response to discussions during Scoping, the Project team also actively sought feedback from non-associated receivers and other interested community members on how they would like engagement activities to be shaped moving forward. Despite these targeted efforts, no residents responded to the outreach.

The Applicant also maintained a strong presence with local residents, opting to call non-associated receivers and community members directly rather than relying solely on indirect channels. This approach was aimed at avoiding any “us and them” sentiment, instead fostering quality relationships and ensuring responses were empathetic and grounded in mutual respect.

The engagement approach also placed emphasis on:

- Layered engagement, allowing stakeholders to interact in formats that suited their needs, from public sessions and surveys to direct phone calls and face-to-face briefings
- Responsiveness, by tracking recurring issues and ensuring detailed responses were provided in a timely and accessible manner
- Inclusivity, through cultural awareness training and efforts to engage with underrepresented or quieter voices in the community
- Development of community benefit sharing ideas, drawing on both formal brainstorming sessions and informal conversations.

As engagement progressed, the Project team refined its communication approach to better reflect the values, communication styles, and lived experience of the local community. Given that much of the audience comprised farmers and landholders predominantly aged 55 and above (as noted in the community feedback survey) the team focused on being clear, direct, and transparent in both written and verbal communications.

Technical information was still provided but was framed with practical relevance and local context in mind, acknowledging the community’s strong connection to land, productivity, and long-term stewardship. This approach reinforced the Applicant’s commitment to keeping stakeholders informed and involved, and supported constructive, informed discussions throughout the engagement process.

A summary of the timing and focus of key engagement activities is provided below.

Table 1-2 Overview of EIS phase engagement activities

Activity	Outcome	Delivery timing and reach
Information sessions		
Pop-up community sessions Mangoplah Hall	Explained the Project, outlined the EIS process, discussed issues/opportunities, and engaged with local stakeholders. Materials were produced in large format (i.e., indicative site map, examples of BESS components, Community Benefit Sharing mind map, and the NSW SSD process), Project fact sheets and FAQ documents were available to take away and the team completed feedback forms capturing discussions and sentiment. People were also encouraged to complete the online survey by scanning a QR code on the Project materials in their own time.	• Tuesday 1 April 2025 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm • Wednesday 2 April 2025 7:30 am – 11:30 am • Reach: Approximately 70 attendees
Non-associated receiver consultation		
Posted letters to non-associated receivers within 4 km of the site (See Appendix A)	Provided an update on the Project, an overview of the EIS process, highlighted opportunities to learn more, provided information on how to find the Project website, provided information on community information sessions, responded to key issues and highlighted benefit-sharing opportunities.	• Distribution date: 17 March 2025 • Reach: 121 properties.
Targeted phone calls/liaison	Phone calls were made to discuss the Project and answer questions with non-associated receivers and community members to support discussions around coordinating face-to-face or online meetings, and to discuss key concerns and	• Approximately 19 calls were made.

Activity	Outcome	Delivery timing and reach
	potential mitigations.	
Property visits for visual impact assessments (VIA)	A preliminary LVIA identified seven (7) non-associated private receivers within the 2.5 km study area with a theoretical line of sight to the Project based on topography. Desktop assessment found all would experience Very Low to Low visual impact, with views largely screened or fragmented by existing vegetation. In line with SEARs consultation requirements, further assessment was undertaken for two (2) neighbouring non-associated dwellings, R1 and R2-R3. Site visits in March 2025 included assessment of selected private viewpoints. These confirmed that potential visual impacts are limited to a small number of privately owned properties adjacent to the Project Area, and that existing vegetation and Project scale result in minimal impact from main dwelling views. See LVIA (Section 6.6) in the EIS report for more information.	• All 7 receivers have been assessed using desktop assessment tools including ZVI, topographic maps and aerial imagery • Two (2) property visits facilitated ○ Assessments were undertaken from the primary dwellings, and additionally from viewpoints on the properties (driveway and sheds) to further represent low impact • Public viewpoints also assessed. • Despite the low impact, western screening has been put forward beyond what is required.
Consultation for noise impact assessments (NIA)	For the NIA assessment, seven (7) non-associated residential residences were identified within 2 km of the Project using desktop tools (aerial maps). Rating Background Levels were assumed for rural residences, as required under the Noise Policy for Industry Guideline 2017. As such, no property visits were required. Based on this desktop assessment, no non-associated receivers were identified as exceeding noise allowances during the construction phase of the Project, with no impacts during the operational phase. Noise impacts during construction would be highly localised and short-term. See the NIA report (Section 6.7)	• No property visits required.

Activity	Outcome	Delivery timing and reach
	in the EIS report for more information.	
Traditional media		
Public notice in the Daily Advertiser (See Appendix B)	A public notice was placed in the local newspaper, the Daily Advertiser ahead of the community information sessions on 1 April 2025. The public notice provided an outline of the Project and: • Promoted the community information sessions • Encouraged people to visit the Project website to read the FAQ, and complete the feedback survey • Encouraged people to set up a meeting with the Project team.	• Wednesday 5 March 2025
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Sheet (See Appendix C)	A FAQ document was developed to answer common BESS and NSW SSD-related questions. The Fact Sheet was available at community pop-up sessions, provided at briefings, and on the Project website.	• Throughout the EIS engagement period.
Project Fact Sheet (See Appendix D)	A Fact Sheet was developed to provide an overview of the Project and the NSW SSD process. The Fact Sheet was available at community pop-up sessions, provided at briefings, and on the Project website.	• Throughout the EIS engagement period.
Project Newsletters (See Appendix E)	Regular newsletters were developed to provide updates on the Project's progress, community information sessions, and EIS	• Throughout the EIS engagement period (specifically March 2025 and July 2025).

Activity	Outcome	Delivery timing and reach
	assessment outcomes.	• Reach: 40 stakeholders over three newsletters.
Email campaigns (See Appendix F)		•
Digital tools		
Website https://www.mangoplahbess.com/	Provided a central location for Project updates, information, online survey, and a detailed list of FAQs. The website has been available throughout Scoping and EIS and will remain a source of information for stakeholders as the Project progresses.	Website reach: • 186 page views (as of 28 August 2025).
Online Survey (See Appendix G)	The online survey aimed to capture thoughts on the Project in a way that informed the SIA and follow-up engagement discussions. The survey was promoted through information sessions, stakeholder briefings, newspaper advertisements, printed materials, and on the Project website.	The survey was live for 5.5 weeks between 27 March 2025 and 30 April 2025. Results from the survey included: • 46 complete and 10 incomplete responses received
Stakeholder group presentations/briefings		
Wagga Wagga City Council (WWCC) (See Appendix H)	The Applicant and NGH held several discussions with WWCC between October 2024 and May 2025. The initial discussions focused on providing an update on the Project, an outline of the EIS process, outcomes on technical	• Letter delivered via email on 19 March 2025 • Face-to-face meeting held with the CEO and Manager of Planning on 12 March 2025 • VPA offer with focus criteria for near

Activity	Outcome	Delivery timing and reach
	assessments, discussion of key issues and opportunities, and asking for feedback and expectations regarding benefit sharing and local industry engagement. Subsequent discussions were held to negotiate an agreement regarding the Council-led Community Benefit Scheme, and outcomes to road access requirements.	neighbour benefits was delivered to WWCC on 19 September 2025. This will continue to be discussed. • WWCC currently drafting internal benefit-sharing policy in response to the large number of developments. • Five (5) emails sent/received between 15 November 2024 and August 2025.
Mawang Gaway Bundyi Cultural Tours Bidya Marra Consultancy Wagga Local Aboriginal Land Council	Throughout the Scoping and EIS phases, NGH made multiple attempts to arrange briefings with a representative of the LALC, Mawang Gaway, and Bidya Marra Consultancy. Despite these efforts, a meeting could not be facilitated. Engagement with Bundyi Cultural Tours was prosperous with multiple phone calls and meetings facilitated. During the EIS phase, a full-day cultural tour was undertaken by the Applicant with Bundyi Cultural Tours, representing the Applicant's commitment to knowledge sharing and building strong partnerships in the First Nations community.	• Nine (9) emails between 11 December 2024 and 23 March 2025 • Three (3) newsletters delivered between 7 February 2025 and 15 July 2025 • One (1) cultural tour undertaken on 31 March 2025.
<u>Training providers / employment</u> Sureway Employment & Training Sarina Russo VERTO GTES Workforce Australia (Riverina-Murray)	The Project team provided an update on the Project, outlined the EIS process, provided information on benefit sharing, and details on how to complete the survey and provide feedback, details on the community information events, and requested a meeting for a verbal briefing and/or participation in an SIA interview. A representative from Workforce Australia was interviewed within the SIA.	• Nine (9) emails between 11 December 2024 and 23 March 2025 • Three (3) newsletters delivered between 7 February 2025 and 15 July 2025 • One (1) in-person meeting facilitated with Workforce Australia on 1 April 2025.

Activity	Outcome	Delivery timing and reach
<u>Educational Institutions:</u> TAFE Wagga CSU Wagga Wagga High School Mount Austin High School Indi School Riverina Anglican College Kooringal High School	The Project team provided an update on the Project, outlined the EIS process, provided information on benefit sharing, and details on how to complete the survey and provide feedback, details on the community information events, and requested a meeting for a verbal briefing and/or participation in an SIA interview.	• Three (3) newsletters delivered between 7 February 2025 and 15 July 2025.
<u>Local Community Groups and/or Interest Groups:</u> Wagga Men's Shed Lions Club Sunset Probus Club Mangoplah Goannas Football Club Country Women's Association Riverina Sustainable Food Alliance Maxwell Group	The Project team provided an update on the Project, outlined the EIS process, provided information on benefit sharing, and details on how to complete the survey and provide feedback, details on the community pop-up events, and requested a meeting for a verbal briefing and/or participation in an SIA interview.	• Three (3) newsletters delivered between 7 February 2025 and 15 July 2025.
<u>Professional consultees:</u> Wagga Chamber of Commerce ESI supply Group (Indigenous) Industry Capability Network (ICN)	The Project team provided an update on the Project, outlined the EIS process, provided information on benefit sharing, and details on how to complete the survey and provide feedback, details on the community pop-up events, and requested a meeting for a verbal briefing and/or participation in an SIA interview. A representative from ESI and ICN were interviewed within the SIA.	• Three (3) newsletters delivered between 7 February 2025 and 15 July 2025 • Face-to-face meeting with ESI on 2 April 2025 • Online meeting with ICN on 4 April 2025 • SIA interviews held with ESI 23 July 2025 and ICN 16 July 2025.

Activity	Outcome	Delivery timing and reach
State MP, Member for Wagga Wagga (See Appendix I)	The Project team provided a brief update on the Project and offered to brief Dr Joe McGirr, MP in person or over Microsoft Teams. Supporting information was provided by email to the electoral office.	• Letter delivered via email on 19 March 2025 Eight (8) pieces of email correspondence delivered between 8 November 2024 and 26 March 2025 • Two (2) newsletters provided between March and July 2025 • Face-to-face briefing on 2 April 2025
Federal MP, Member for Riverina (See Appendix I)	The Project team provided a brief update on the Project and offered to brief Mr Michael McCornmack MP over Microsoft Teams. Supporting information was provided by email to the electoral office.	• Letter delivered via email on 19 March 2025 • Three (3) pieces of email correspondence delivered between 8 November 2024 and 19 March 2025 • Two (2) newsletters provided between March and July 2025

1.2. Summary of consultation findings

1.2.1. Overall sentiment

Engagement throughout the EIS phase revealed a mixed community sentiment, with feedback leaning toward negative overall, particularly among those living in close proximity to the Project site.

While some directly impacted nearby receivers were open to dialogue and sought to understand Project implications, a significant proportion expressed strong reservations or opposition, citing concerns around the change of land use, personal impacts (property value and insurance), visual impact, fire risk, and trust in development processes. From the broader Wagga Wagga community and more distant Mangoplah residents, sentiment tended to be more moderate, with lower levels of direct concern observed.

The Applicant acknowledges that this Project is being progressed within a region already experiencing a high concentration of renewable energy developments, including nearby proposed projects such as the Maxwell Downs Solar Farm and the approved Burke's Creek Solar Farm.

Many community members who engaged during the EIS process had already participated in other consultation efforts, resulting in a noticeable sense of frustration and scepticism and a feeling that engagement was merely a "box-ticking exercise." This sentiment carried over into engagement on this Project, despite efforts to distinguish its design, impacts, and benefits.

Compounding this sentiment was the assumption held by some stakeholders that the approval of this Project could pave the way for future solar farm developments in the area. While such future development is speculative and outside the scope of this Project, the lack of clarity about long-term land use has contributed to growing anxiety about cumulative impacts, particularly for those with bordering properties to the Project site, and strong ties to the rural landscape and agricultural identity of the region.

The Applicant recognised this dynamic early in the EIS engagement process and approached consultation with sensitivity to the broader development context, acknowledging that much of the concern was not solely Project-specific, but rather a reflection of ongoing regional change, development fatigue, and a desire for greater transparency and certainty.

This sentiment was also echoed by local state and federal Members of Parliament, who acknowledged that the volume and overlap of engagement processes across the region was becoming tiresome for their constituents, and risked undermining confidence in consultation more broadly. MPs expressed concern about the toll this was taking on community sentiment, while also highlighting the importance of transparent and consistent communication.

Despite these challenges, elected representatives engaged respectfully and openly with the Applicant throughout the EIS period. They also expressed a wish to remain informed about the Project so that they could accurately respond to community enquiries and support the distribution of information where needed.

Despite a generally cautious or critical tone from some stakeholders, the engagement process also revealed small levels of support and constructive dialogue, particularly from members of the wider community who saw value in the Project's potential to deliver local economic benefits, training opportunities, and long-term regional investment.

1.2.2. Online community feedback survey

Communication tools such as posted letters, emails, newspaper advertising, two face-to-face information sessions, FAQ documents, newsletters, and fact sheets encouraged participation in the online community feedback survey for the SIA (see Section **Error! Reference source not found.**). T he survey contained 20 questions and was open for completion for 5.5 weeks between 27 March 2025 and 30 April 2025. 56 responses were received, including 10 incomplete responses. A demographic overview of the three largest respondent groups is provided below.

Table 1-3 Demographic snapshot – top 3 responses

Category	Response option	Percentage	Number of responses
Age	55-64	26.79%	15
Age	65-74	21.43%	12
Age	25-34	17.86%	10
Gender Identification	Female	53.57%	30
Gender Identification	Male	42.86%	24
Gender Identification	Prefer not to say	3.57%	2
Community Involvement	I am involved in agriculture	76.92%	40
Community Involvement	I live here	75.00%	39
Community Involvement	I am a member of a local club or community organisation	48.08%	25
Highest Level of Education	University	37.5%	21
Highest Level of Education	TAFE / Vocational (VET)	25.00%	14
Highest Level of Education	Year 10 or equivalent	21.43%	12
Proximity to Project Site	1 km – 5 km	39.29%	22
Proximity to Project Site	5 km – 10 km	30.36%	17
Proximity to Project Site	More than 10 km but within Wagga Wagga LGA	14.29%	8

Community values and challenges

When asked in the survey **to describe the attributes they are most proud of** (open-ended question), several clear themes emerged. Many participants spoke about the area's "tight-knit community" and "friendly and strong neighbourly bonds", emphasising a culture where "everyone looks out for one another" and people "come together in times of need".

Agricultural heritage and farming traditions were strongly valued, with pride in "family farms keeping productive land for farming", "farming history that goes back over 100 years", and the community's identity as a "proud pioneer farming community".

The natural environment was also a point of pride, described as "beautiful farming area with gorgeous views and naturally stunning" and "rich farming area… surrounded by prime agricultural land", along with a commitment to "protection of flora and fauna".

Others highlighted the area's peace and safety, calling it a "quiet peaceful area" and valuing "the safe nature of the land". Across responses, there was a consistent emphasis on resilience, hard work, and the ability to band together in the face of challenges to the community's livelihood, environment, and way of life.

This is also noted in the SIA in Section 6.13 of the EIS report, with "Engagement feedback and survey responses highlighting pride in productive farming, multi-generational family ties, mutual assistance, and the stewardship of natural resources. These attributes promote a strong sense of place, resilience, and self-reliance, while also shaping how potential changes are interpreted and acted upon."

Table 1-4 Response to question, "What do you value most about the local area?"

Answer choices	Percentage	Number of responses
Cultural heritage	34.62%	18
Community/family ties	78.85%	41
Community safety and resilience	75.00%	39
Historic values	53.85%	28
Landscape and views	82.69%	43
Health and wellbeing	65.38%	34
Natural values, including biodiversity, ecosystems, etc.	75.00	39
Recreation opportunities including sporting, fishing, nature based, etc.	36.54%	19
Work opportunities	30.77%	16
Other (please specify)	7.69%	4

When asked the open-ended question, "**What, if any, do you see as the major challenges that the Mangoplah community is currently facing**?" the following were identified:

- Loss of agricultural land and farming identity, including risk to food production, farmland value, and multi-generational farming traditions. "Destroying valuable farming land… our culture will be destroyed as a result of the solar industry," and ""Renewables on prime agricultural land… it is tearing down the community."
- Environmental and safety risks. Concerns include battery fires, contamination of soil and waterways, and impacts on biodiversity. "Safety: fire is a major risk here at any time… polluting the air and contaminating the soil with chemicals."
- Community division and social change. Respondents noted strained relationships, demographic shifts, and loss of cohesion. "Family's that have been friends for generations have been torn apart because of opposing views."
- Loss of local services, including loss of schools, playgroups, and small businesses. "Loss of services for children such as school and playgroup… potentially losing the local shop and pub."

- Infrastructure and land use changes, including increased traffic, altered water flows, and visual impacts. “Changing the road of entry will alter the water flow and level on our land… the view of the landscape will change.”
- Maintaining rural character. Respondents valued preserving peace, quiet, and the area’s agricultural heritage. “Quiet peaceful area… we do not want this.”

Priorities and concerns

When asked, “**Please identify your level of importance in terms of social and economic considerations**”, the issues rated as “very important” by the most respondents were potential impacts to property values (46 respondents), engagement with near neighbours (44 respondents), and disruption to community cohesion (36 respondents), as seen in the graph below.

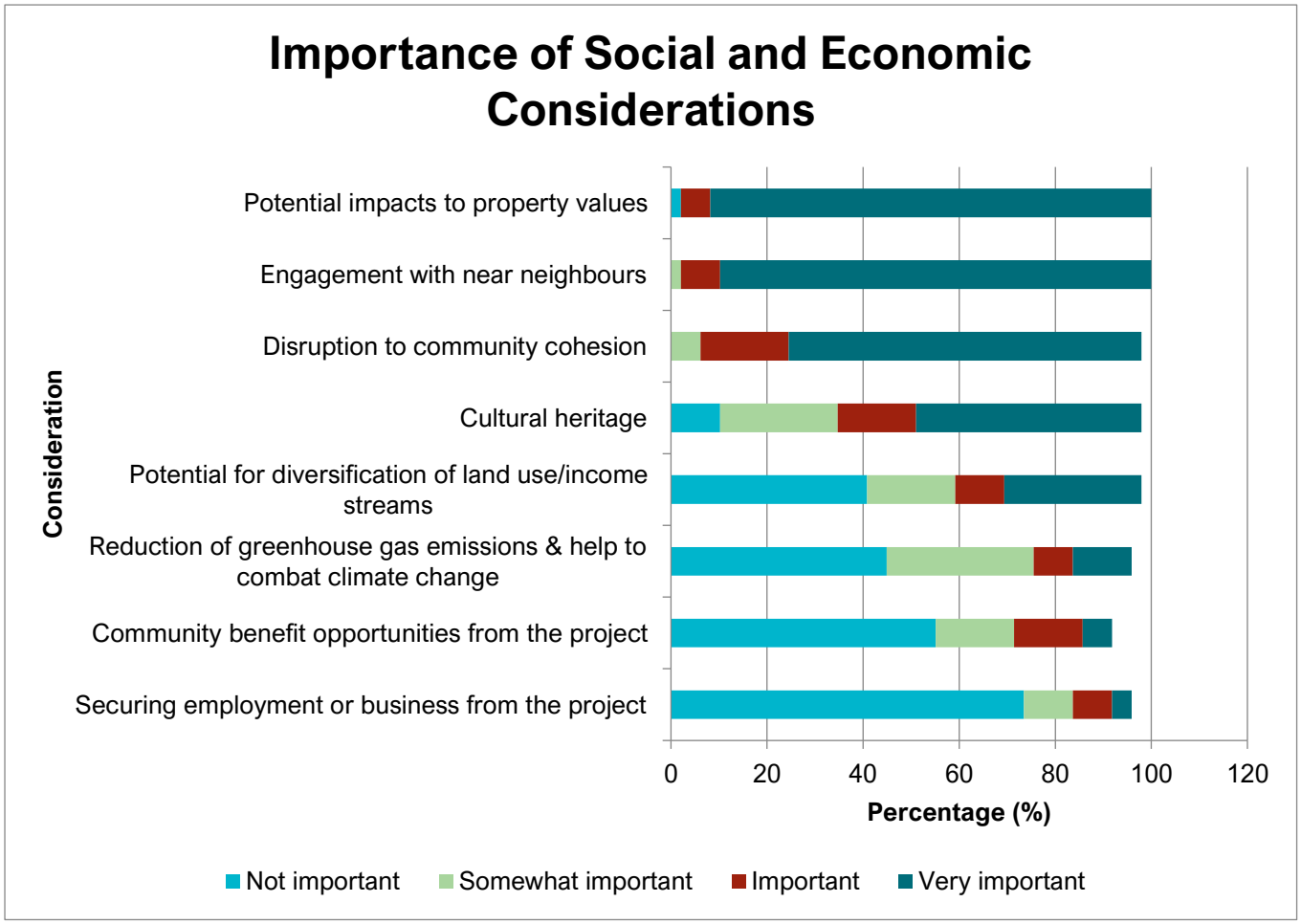


Figure 1-1 Importance of social and economic considerations (survey data)

When asked, *“**What concerns do you have (if any) about the proposed Mangoplah BESS?”***, most respondents reported being “very concerned” across multiple areas, with the highest concern areas being effects on land values (45 respondents), effects on agricultural land use (44 respondents), and potential impacts to waterways (44 respondents), as seen in the graph below.

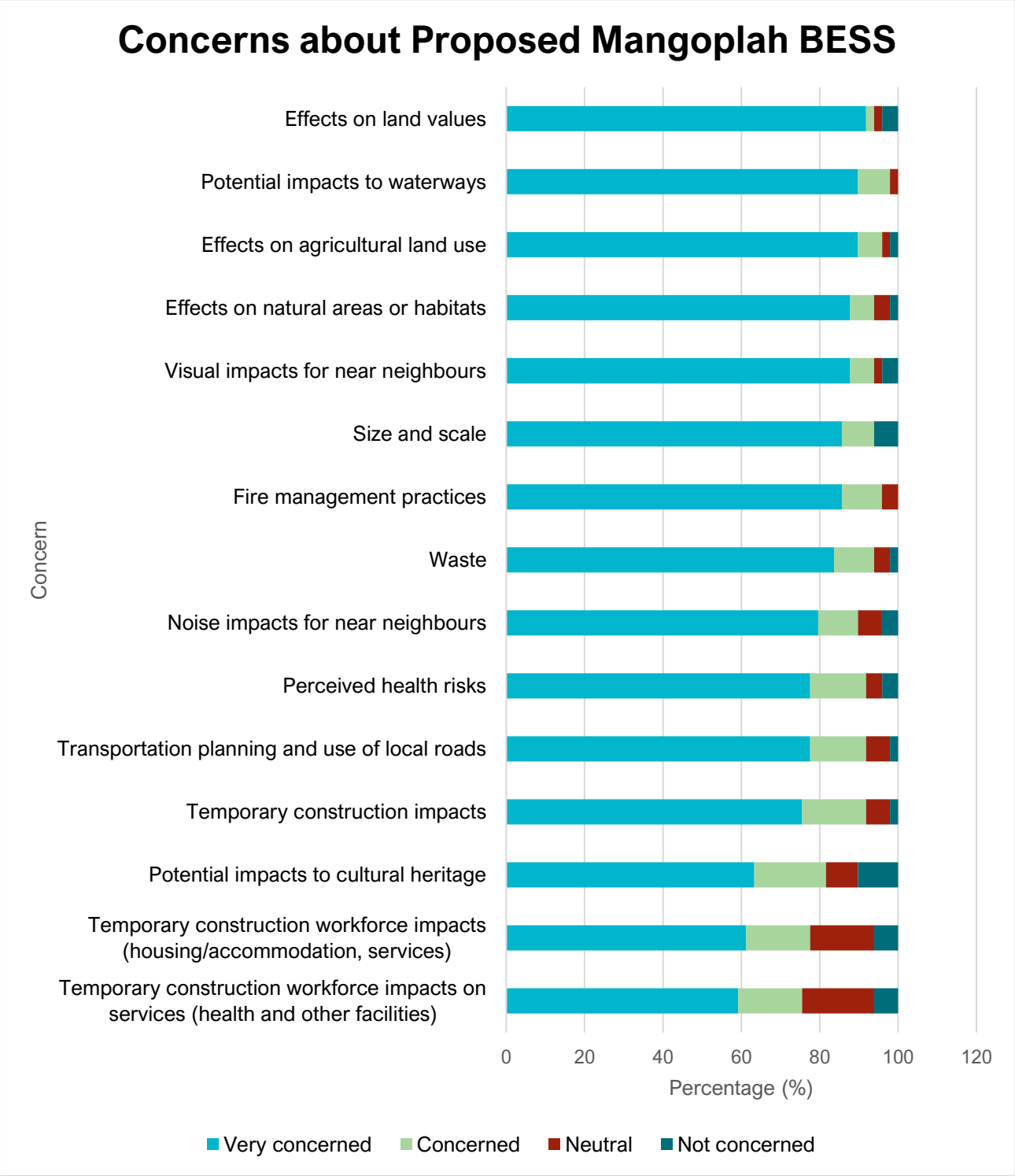


Figure 1-2 Concerns about Proposed Mangoplah BESS (survey data)

Support or opposition

When asked, *"***Please rate your overall level of support for the proposed project***"*, survey results showed overwhelming opposition, with 43 respondents indicating they "strongly oppose" it and only 1 respondent expressing strong support. Neutral or undecided views were minimal, and no respondents

reported somewhat or full support, as seen in the graph on the following page.

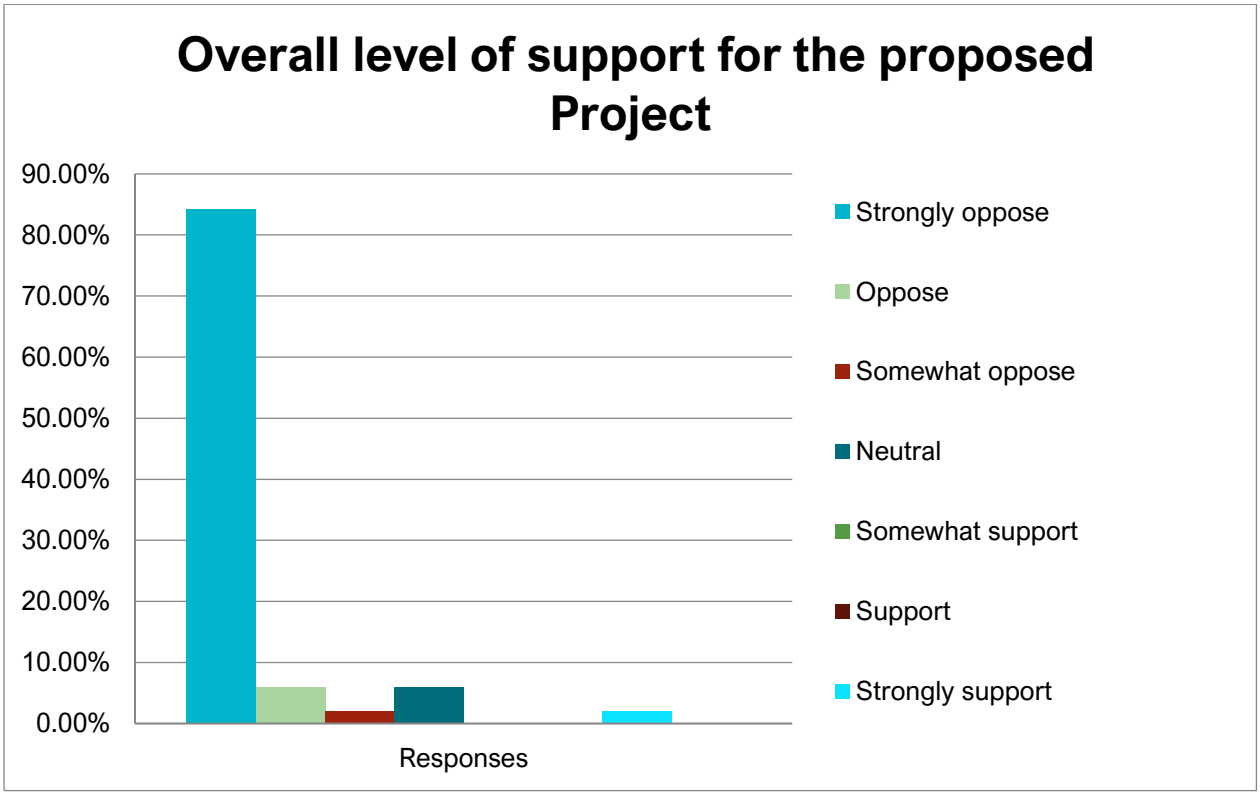


Figure 1-3 Level of support for the Project (survey data)

Community benefits

When asked about potential investment in community initiatives by the Applicant, the majority of respondents stated they did not want any investment and instead opposed the Project entirely. Many expressed that no amount of funding could offset the perceived negative impacts of the proposal, with terms such as “bribery” and “hush money” used to describe the concept of community investment.

Some indicated that investment was incompatible with the community’s values, citing the loss of agricultural land, environmental risks, and concerns about profits leaving the area. A small number of respondents, while still critical of the Project, suggested specific initiatives that could benefit the community if investment were to occur. These included:

- Road infrastructure upgrades to improve traffic safety and capacity
- Enhancements to community facilities such as playgrounds, main street beautification, parks, murals, and public seating
- Sponsorship and upgrades for local sporting clubs (football, tennis)
- Development of recreation infrastructure such as bike/running trails, pool, or gym
- Assistance to farmers through reduced costs of farm materials.

1.2.3. Summary of key issues and opportunities

The Project team responded to community questions and feedback throughout the entire EIS engagement period. Section 3.6 of the SSD Guidelines recommends that applicants categorise key concerns into specific groups for consistency. It is important to note that not all categories are included in the table below, as this depends on the outcomes of the engagement.

The categories outlined in the guidelines include:

- The strategic context, including valued natural and built features that may be affected by the project
- The design of the project and any alternatives considered
- Relevant statutory issues
- Community engagement (e.g. the level and quality of engagement during the EIS preparation and future engagement if the project is approved)
- Economic, environmental, and social impacts of the project
- Justification and evaluation of the project (e.g. alignment with Government plans, policies, or guidelines; overall project merit)
- Issues outside the project's scope (e.g. broader policy matters or unrelated concerns).

Further details on the specific concerns raised during engagement are provided in **Error! Reference source not found.**1**Error! Reference source not found.** be low.

Table 5-1 Key community Project issues and opportunities

Strategic category	Sub-category	Details and project team responses
Economic, environmental, and social impacts of the project	**Fire risk**	Concerns regarding fire risk and safety were raised by approximately 66 stakeholders during consultation activities and the online survey, in particular 54 respondents either explicitly mentioned fire risk or expressed being concerned about fire management in their survey responses. The topic was the most frequently mentioned across all engagement formats, with stakeholders frequently highlighting "fire brigade will not attend fires, so this makes it dangerous for the community." Concerns regarding fire risk and emergency preparedness featured prominently throughout both the community survey and broader consultation activities. Approximately seven (7) stakeholders sought detailed information about the

Strategic category	Sub-category	Details and project team responses
		Project's fire mitigation measures, including vegetation management, emergency vehicle access, and the specific responsibilities of emergency services such as the Rural Fire Service (RFS). One [1] non-associated receiver, who identified as a full-time firefighter, expressed serious concerns based on first-hand experience with lithium battery fires, noting their unpredictability and difficulty to extinguish. Others raised doubts that local volunteer crews would respond to a BESS fire, citing personal safety risks, inadequate site access, and insufficient local capacity. These fears were echoed in multiple survey responses, with some participants referencing the trauma of past bushfire seasons and questioning whether the Project could safely operate in a fire-prone landscape. One respondent asked for guarantees the BESS would not catch fire, while another cited toxic fumes and potential waterway contamination in the event of a fire. A non-associated receiver also questioned whether the Project's fire risk would impact the firebreak requirements along their adjoining property boundary, seeking clarity on whether they would be expected to adjust or extend their own mitigation measures. The Applicant acknowledges community queries regarding bushfire risk and safety. Fire safety has been integral to the Project design, with measures including adequate spacing between units, gravel surfaces to reduce fuel loads, Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems to regulate temperatures, and continuous remote monitoring to detect and address abnormal conditions before they escalate. Asset protection zones, perimeter roads, and compliance with NSW RFS requirements further reduce the potential for fires to enter or leave the site. A Bushfire Assessment (Category 3 – Medium Bushfire Risk) and Preliminary Hazard Analysis have been undertaken, confirming the Project's capacity to protect structures, maintain safe separation between hazards, provide defendable space, support firefighting efforts, and maintain bushfire protection measures. The Proponent continues to engage with the RFS, FRNSW, and other authorities to finalise the Fire Safety Study, emergency response plans, and address community questions. See Section 6.4**Error! Reference source not found.** (PHA) of the EIS report for more information.
The design of the Project and any alternatives	**Potential visual impacts**	Concerns related to visual impact were raised by a total of 54 unique stakeholders during consultation for the Project. This includes 8 mentions during consultation activities and 46 survey respondents who selected "concerned" or "very concerned" in relation to visual impact. These concerns included visual intrusion, the loss of rural or scenic views, and the perceived industrialisation of the local landscape due to the proximity of the infrastructure to homes, roads, and

Strategic category	Sub-category	Details and project team responses
considered		community viewpoints. Survey respondents echoed these sentiments, describing the Project as visually dominant, out of place, and at odds with the rural identity of Mangoplah. Common themes raised during consultation included the degradation of visual amenity in what many described as a natural and agricultural setting, concern about property devaluation, and requests for screening vegetation or buffers to reduce the visibility of infrastructure. In several cases, stakeholders explicitly questioned the adequacy of the proposed LVIA, and others expressed frustration that the long-term landscape character would be permanently altered. In response, the Applicant explained the preliminary LVIA findings, which identified seven (7) non-associated private receivers within the 2 km study area with a theoretical line of sight to the Project based on topography. Desktop assessment found all would experience Very Low to Low visual impact, with views largely screened or fragmented by existing vegetation. In line with SEARs consultation requirements, further assessment was undertaken for two (2) neighbouring non-associated dwellings, R1 and R2-R3. Site visits in March 2025 included assessment of selected private viewpoints from the residence, plus additional on-farm views from sheds and driveways, highlighting the LVIA went above and beyond the guidelines (2023). These confirmed that potential visual impacts are low, and that existing vegetation and Project scale result in minimal impact from main dwelling views. Despite the low impact, the design has been altered to include western screening, going beyond what is required. See Section 6.6 (LVIA) of the EIS report for more information.
Economic, environmental, and social impacts of the project	**Potential construction impacts**	Concerns about construction impacts were raised by 46 survey respondents who selected “concerned” or “very concerned” in the community feedback survey, with a further seven (7) mentions during wider engagement activities. Key issues included increased traffic, dust, noise, and general disruption to rural life during construction. Stakeholders questioned whether local roads could accommodate construction vehicles and called for safety upgrades and traffic management plans. Frustration was also expressed around the lack of clear mitigation planning, and a few stakeholders questioned the environmental integrity of the Project, with one noting, “You will create more carbon emissions in construction and leave a toxic waste behind killing the natural habitat…”

Strategic category	Sub-category	Details and project team responses
		In response, the Applicant communicated to residents that, if approved, the Project will be subject to a comprehensive set of environmental and operational management plans to reduce construction-related impacts. These will be coordinated through a Project Environmental Management Strategy (EMS), including the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP), and Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP). Each plan will be prepared ahead of its respective project stage and supported by targeted sub-plans, such as a Soil and Water Management Plan and a Traffic Management Plan, to ensure construction is undertaken safely, responsibly, and with minimal disruption. These plans will detail actions to manage potential impacts on local roads, air quality, and the surrounding environment, and will be developed in accordance with approval conditions. All management plans will be reviewed by the relevant authorities to ensure compliance, accountability, and that any inconvenience to the community is kept to a minimum during construction. See Section 6.3 (TIA) of the EIS report for more information.
Economic, environmental, and social impacts of the project	**Flooding**	Concerns about flooding and overland runoff were consistently raised throughout the consultation process, with particularly strong and detailed feedback provided by R1. Across multiple engagements, R1 expressed serious concern about the site's flood vulnerability, particularly in relation to Burke's Creek and the broader drainage patterns of the surrounding paddocks. R1 repeatedly questioned the Applicant on whether worst-case flood scenarios had been modelled and what design measures would be in place to manage heavy rainfall and overland flow. He emphasised that the site has a known history of inundation and warned that any alteration to natural drainage paths could result in unintended runoff impacts to neighbouring land, including his dams that rely on runoff. His feedback reflected both a high level of concern and deep familiarity with the local flood behaviour. A further 17 stakeholders raised related concerns across open-ended survey responses and broader engagement activities. One respondent stated, "Not the right place — close to a waterway and a flood plain." Others noted that the natural fall of the land and undulating terrain could cause floodwater to pool or redirect in unexpected ways if not properly managed during site preparation and construction.

Strategic category	Sub-category	Details and project team responses
		The Applicant acknowledges concerns about past flooding and potential changes from the Project. A detailed hydrology assessment by Cumulus Engineering modelled extreme events using the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF), which covers scenarios equal to or more severe than the 2010 flood. Findings confirm the BESS footprint is outside the main floodway, subject only to shallow inundation (less than 30 mm), and will not increase flood depths, change water flow, or create new hazards for neighbouring properties or downstream areas. Proposed access road upgrades are not expected to adversely affect current conditions, and a designated emergency route will ensure safe access and departure during flood events, for use in emergencies only The Project meets all flood risk management planning requirements and has been reviewed with Council and the State Emergency Service (SES), who have been engaged on modelling and emergency management measures. The assessment confirms the Mangoplah BESS will not worsen flooding or impact neighbouring landholders. See Section 6.8 (Hydrology) of the EIS report for more information.
Economic, environmental, and social impacts of the project	**Property value**	Concerns related to property value were raised by a total of 49 unique stakeholders during EIS consultation. This includes three (3) mentions during consultation activities and 46 survey respondents who referenced the potential for reduced home values due to the proximity of the Project. Concerns were often tied to broader themes of visual impact, fire risk, and the industrial character of the infrastructure being out of place in a rural, agricultural setting. Stakeholders expressed fears that the Project would negatively affect resale potential, diminish the aesthetic and economic appeal of surrounding land, or result in financial loss for neighbouring landowners. Several community members stated that the uncertainty surrounding future infrastructure developments, including the assumption that the Project could pave the way for further solar or battery projects, was increasing anxiety about long-term land value. Others questioned whether compensation would be offered to those most impacted, particularly if valuations were demonstrably affected. One non-associated receiver noted that they had already been warned by a local real estate agent that nearby energy developments may deter future buyers. Another respondent linked the issue to broader feelings of unfairness, expressing that those bearing the brunt of perceived risks, such as noise, views, or safety fears, would receive no

Strategic category	Sub-category	Details and project team responses
		direct benefit yet suffer a potential loss in asset value. In response, the Applicant communicated to residents that, as grid-scale battery projects are relatively new in Australia, there is no clear evidence they affect property values or limit future land use opportunities. The Project has been designed in line with mitigation measures recommended by specialist assessments, including the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) and Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment (NVIA), with both concluding that residual impacts are low. The LVIA, undertaken in accordance with NSW visual impact guidelines, found minimal visual impact to private receivers due to existing vegetation and the scale of the Project In direct response to community concerns, and not as a direct result of LVIA outcomes, the Applicant committed to screen planting along the western boundary to further reduce perceived impacts. The NVIA confirmed that construction and operational noise will comply with all relevant criteria given the Project's size and distance from receivers. These findings confirm the Project will not create new adverse impacts for neighbouring properties, and the Applicant remains committed to minimising any factors that could influence perceptions of property value. Property value considerations are also addressed within the broader SIA. See Section 6.13 (SIA) of the EIS report for more information.
Economic, environmental, and social impacts of the project	**Loss of agricultural land / change in land use**	Concerns about the loss of agricultural land and impacts on farming operations were raised by 56 unique stakeholders during consultation for the Project. This included five (5) mentions during consultation activities and 48 survey respondents who selected "concerned" or "very concerned" when asked about agricultural land use. Stakeholders commonly viewed the Project as incompatible with the surrounding farming landscape; with fears it could lead to the industrialisation of productive rural land and set a precedent for further development. Several raised issues around the reduction of viable farmland, loss of rural character, and potential impacts on the agricultural economy. These concerns were especially pronounced among generational farmers, some of whom tied the Project to broader frustrations about regional planning and land use. One respondent described the situation simply as: "Destruction of the agricultural community." Others called for energy infrastructure to be sited on non-arable land and questioned how the Project might affect access, grazing, and surrounding paddocks. The Applicant acknowledges the strategic importance of local agriculture and notes that soil mapping indicates the site

Strategic category	Sub-category	Details and project team responses
		is classified as Class 4, meaning it is generally suited to grazing and limited cropping rather than high-value intensive agriculture. With the Project's relatively small footprint (3.6ha of fenced BESS), all surrounding agricultural activities will be able to continue unaffected. The site was selected for its proximity to existing grid infrastructure and compatibility with nearby development, balancing technical requirements with land use considerations. See Section 6.11 (land use capability) of the EIS report for more information.
Economic, environmental, and social impacts of the project	**Biodiversity impacts**	Concerns about biodiversity loss, native vegetation, and impacts to local flora and fauna were raised by at least 54 unique stakeholders across both the community survey and consultation activities. This figure includes stakeholders who selected "concerned" or "very concerned" in response to the survey question on "Effects on natural areas or habitats," as well as those who raised the issue in open-ended survey responses. Key themes included potential disruption to wildlife habitats, clearing of trees and vegetation, and broader degradation of the area's natural ecosystems. Stakeholders highlighted the presence of native forest and local creek systems surrounding the Project site, as well as specific species and habitats they felt could be threatened. One participant referenced their involvement in a "squirrel glider protection program through National Parkes and Wildlife Services," expressing concern that the Project would jeopardise that work. Several respondents pointed to the cumulative impact of multiple developments in the area, arguing that even small disturbances could have lasting consequences for biodiversity connectivity and ecosystem health. Comments also reflected general distress about the perceived "ecocidal impacts" of clearing or altering native landscapes for infrastructure. The Applicant acknowledged these concerns and explained that the proposed location for the BESS was selected within a cropped paddock due to its flat terrain and absence of trees, thereby reducing impacts on native vegetation. Only a small number of trees (five in total) will need to be removed along the access road. By situating the BESS in previously grazed and pasture-improved areas, disturbance to natural ecosystems is minimised, with limited impacts on native vegetation and wildlife habitat. The site has also been positioned to avoid paddock trees, meaning there are not expected to be significant impacts on bird nesting sites or other native animal habitats. This includes the squirrel glider,

Strategic category	Sub-category	Details and project team responses
		which was observed in the area during biodiversity surveys. The BESS site itself is wholly exotic in character, and has been located as far as possible from Burkes Creek, within the cropped paddock, to further reduce any potential indirect impacts on the waterbody and riparian woodland habitat. Further details are provided in Section 6.1 (Biodiversity) of the EIS report.
Economic, environmental, and social impacts of the project	**Waste**	Concerns about waste management and decommissioning were raised by 46 survey respondents who selected "concerned" or "very concerned" in relation to end-of-life impacts of the Project, in addition to at least six (6) stakeholders identified during consultation activities. These concerns focused on the uncertainty surrounding lithium-ion battery disposal, the long-term handling of toxic materials, and whether clear and enforceable plans exist to ensure the site is remediated and cleared at the end of the Project's life. Several respondents questioned whether decommissioning obligations would be legally binding or adequately funded, with one stakeholder stating that "lease agreements or contracts aren't worth the piece of paper they're on." A strong theme of distrust emerged, with many respondents sceptical that the land would ever be returned to its original condition. One participant asked bluntly whether the development would become "toxic waste in less than 10 years", while another described the potential outcome as "a scam... a social and environmental disaster." Multiple comments raised concern about the cumulative environmental burden, with one respondent stating the Project would "leave toxic waste behind killing the natural habitat, native animals and bankrupting neighbours." The Applicant acknowledged community concerns about decommissioning and explained that a detailed decommissioning plan is a mandatory requirement within the EIS. This plan will outline how battery materials will be safely managed at the end of the Project's life, including removal, dismantling, and recycling in accordance with national regulations. It was explained that utility-scale battery systems, such as those proposed for the Project, are more technologically advanced than residential batteries, with longer operational lifespans, enhanced durability, and integrated systems to support end-of-life management and recyclability. The Applicant noted that larger systems offer greater recycling value

Strategic category	Sub-category	Details and project team responses
		due to their size, material concentration, and ease of disassembly. In Australia, battery stewardship is being strengthened through initiatives such as the B-cycle program and the recently introduced NSW Product Lifecycle Responsibility Act (2025), which makes recycling and safe disposal mandatory for producers. Industry leaders, including Tesla, are also implementing take-back schemes to ensure responsible dismantling and material recovery. See Section 7.2 (Resource use and waste generation) of the EIS report for more information.
Economic, environmental, and social impacts of the project	**Pollution and contamination**	Concerns about pollution, environmental contamination (toxins), and poison were raised by at least eight (8) unique survey respondents and seven (7) stakeholders during consultation for the Project. As there was no direct survey question referencing contamination or pollution, this analysis is based on specific word choices in open-ended responses. Concerns focused on the potential for toxic fumes, chemical runoff, and contamination of soil and waterways, particularly in the event of a battery failure or fire. Stakeholders questioned whether the Project could be safely integrated into the landscape without placing local ecosystems, human health, and livestock at risk. One resident warned of “toxic poisonous fumes – causing death for human beings, stock & wildlife,” while another raised fears about “toxic fumes drifting to adjoining neighbours and village”. The potential for contamination of Burke’s Creek was raised repeatedly, including by community members who expressed concern about chemicals entering local water systems during emergency events. A First Nations stakeholder also raised this concern and requested information around the water management strategy. Others asked whether the batteries could withstand extreme weather, and how stormwater would be managed to avoid environmental harm. The Applicant communicated to residents that the Project is specifically designed to prevent chemical leaks and protect surrounding land, waterways, and biodiversity. Each battery unit includes internal bunding to capture and isolate any potential spills, and in the rare event of a fire, an advanced detection system will shut down the unit prior to ignition. The Rural Fire Service (RFS) does not apply water to battery fires, further reducing the risk of contaminated runoff entering soil or waterways. In addition, appropriate drainage controls will be incorporated to minimise pollutant

Strategic category	Sub-category	Details and project team responses
		generation, including consideration of how to manage water that may be applied to surrounding land during an emergency fire response. This will be explored further as part of the detailed design process. As part of the EIS, baseline soil testing has been undertaken to understand existing conditions. If approved, these conditions will be monitored throughout construction and operation under the Project's environmental management plans, ensuring any potential issues are identified and addressed promptly. The Applicant also confirmed that Burkes Creek and other waterway areas on the northern part of the site have been intentionally avoided to protect biodiversity and reduce environmental impacts. See Section 6.10 (Soils and contamination) of the EIS report for more information.
Economic, environmental, and social impacts of the project	**Community benefits**	Community benefits were referenced apprehensively across the engagement activities, with approximately nine (9) relevant suggestions identified in the community survey and six (6) mentions during consultation activities. While not a dominant theme, suggestions from survey respondents and stakeholders included financial support for local community groups, sponsorship of sporting organisations, upgrades to the local playground and hall, beautification of the village area, murals and travelling facilities (such as park benches and bins) to encourage visitors to stop, upgrades to the main street, and helping farmers by reducing the cost of farm materials. Another stakeholder proposed the creation of protection zones through Landcare programs, expressing interest in preserving local flora and fauna. Practical ideas were also raised, such as supporting the Mangoplah Rural Fire Brigade to keep equipment updated, and one respondent noted: "Create safer roads. It is a high traffic area, and the roads need to be wider." These ideas were typically presented as suggestions rather than expectations and often accompanied by scepticism about whether such benefits would ever eventuate. During the community information sessions, the heated and emotional atmosphere deterred many attendees from engaging with the 'community benefits brainstorming' poster. One couple approached the poster intending to contribute ideas but stepped away after realising that others in the room were vocally opposed to the Project. A more common tone among the community was one of doubt or criticism toward the concept of community benefits, with one particularly strong statement captured within the survey describing the idea as disingenuous: "There are no genuine community benefits ever." See Section 6.13.4 (Mitigation measures, particularly the Community Benefit Sharing Program) in the EIS report for more information.
Economic,	**Impacts to**	Concerns related to insurance impacts were raised by a total of seven (7) unique stakeholders during EIS consultation.

Strategic category	Sub-category	Details and project team responses
environmental, and social impacts of the project	**insurance**	This includes five (5) mentions during consultation activities and two (2) survey respondents who directly referenced insurance concerns in open-ended responses. These concerns centred on the potential for rising insurance premiums, loss of coverage, and uncertainty around liability in the event of fire, structural failure, or other incidents associated with the Project. No specific question was included in the community feedback survey to capture broader data on this topic, meaning the number of community members holding such concerns may be higher than recorded. A recurring theme among stakeholders was that the Project's proximity to homes and farmland may result in properties becoming uninsurable, or at least more expensive to insure, particularly due to perceived fire risk. Several community members with farming backgrounds cited prior experiences with local insurers refusing coverage for properties near industrial infrastructure. Others raised questions about who would bear responsibility if the Project contributed to property damage, livestock harm, or environmental contamination. Notably, one non-associated receiver stated that their insurer had already indicated the Project's presence may impact their policy. Another noted that their bushfire insurance premiums had increased in recent years and feared that BESS infrastructure would exacerbate this trend. At the time of writing, the Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) has stated that insurers do not have specific concerns related to neighbouring energy infrastructure and are unaware of instances where a property owner has been unable to provide insurance or has increased premiums as a result of a neighbour's energy infrastructure. Additionally, the Clean Energy Council (CEC) is not aware of any evidence that demonstrates renewable projects significantly increased risk to neighbouring landholders. This assessment is based on the need to adhere to rigorous standards and regulations, being thoroughly assessed in the planning phase, developing comprehensive emergency management plans and undertaking activities to actively reduce risk. The CEC also links increases to premiums to inflation more broadly, and the increase in natural disasters seen due to climate change. Regardless of this, the Applicant is aware of the concerns raised about insurance and acknowledges the importance of addressing them. Through assessments within the EIS (such as bushfire and hazards), the Project will identify mitigation measures to reduce these concerns. In addition, the Project will be designed in full compliance with all SSD criteria and limits, including noise, visual, and other relevant standards, as well as agency requirements.

1.2.4. Future engagement

The following future engagement activities are recommended for the Project should it progress through to construction and operation. See Section 6.13 (SIA) of the EIS report for further engagement needs, impacts and benefits.

Table 1-5 Planned future engagement activities

Group	Response to submissions	Post approval	Construction	Operation
Stakeholders	Non-associated receivers, wider Mangoplah community, WWCC, Member for Riverina, Member for Wagga Wagga, Rotary Club of Wagga, Wagga Men's Shed, Wagga Lions Club, Apex Club, Wagga Chamber of Commerce, CSU, TAFE, local First Nations community, Wagga Wagga LALC, and local Mangoplah businesses.	Non-associated receivers, wider Mangoplah community, WWCC, Member for Riverina, Member for Wagga Wagga, Rotary Club of Wagga, Wagga Men's Shed, Wagga Lions Club, Apex Club, Wagga Chamber of Commerce, CSU, TAFE, local First Nations community, Wagga Wagga LALC, and local Mangoplah businesses.	Non-associated receivers, wider Mangoplah community, WWCC, Member for Riverina, Member for Wagga Wagga, Rotary Club of Wagga, Wagga Men's Shed, Wagga Lions Club, Apex Club, Wagga Chamber of Commerce, CSU, TAFE, local First Nations community, Wagga Wagga LALC, and local Mangoplah businesses.	Non-associated receivers, wider Mangoplah community, WWCC, Member for Riverina, Member for Wagga Wagga, Rotary Club of Wagga, Wagga Men's Shed, Wagga Lions Club, Apex Club, Wagga Chamber of Commerce, CSU, TAFE, local First Nations community, Wagga Wagga LALC, and local Mangoplah businesses.
Key actions	• Applicant to review and consider all submissions made during the public exhibition of the EIS. • Applicant to prepare a detailed Response to Submissions (RtS) report addressing the issues raised by stakeholders, agencies, and the community. • Applicant to provide targeted updates to	• Applicant to provide updates to interested non-associated receivers on the results of visual impact assessments and noise impact assessments conducted. • Applicant to deliver update of EIS outcome to interested stakeholder groups such as non-associated receivers (who have opted into future	• Applicant to engage with near non-associated receivers and the wider Wagga community about planned traffic arrangements, construction activities and impact mitigations. • Applicant to provide detailed engagement with non-associated receivers and the wider community about visual impact	• Applicant to continue to engage with near non-associated receivers with key details regarding operation details of the site. • Applicant to continue to engage with the local community and key community groups to highlight key milestones during operation. • Applicant to collaborate

Group	Response to submissions	Post approval	Construction	Operation
	interested stakeholders (non-associated receivers, WWCC, Bundyi Cultural Tours, ESI Supply Group, local state and federal representatives, wider First Nations groups, and community organisations) outlining how key issues raised in submissions have been addressed in the RtS. • Applicant to maintain ongoing availability (via email, phone, and meetings) to clarify technical aspects of the RtS for stakeholders who request further explanation. • Applicant to continue dialogue with WWCC, the local First Nations community, and industry groups regarding the Project's benefit-sharing arrangements, and to integrate feedback where feasible. • Applicant to communicate to the wider Mangoplah and Wagga Wagga community the next steps in the	communications), WWCC, Bundyi Cultural Tours, ESI Supply Group, and local state and federal representatives. • Applicant to continue to engage with the local community and key community groups to highlight key milestones pre-construction. • Applicant to continue discussions with WWCC around the development of a CBS including negotiations on a formal figure and a governance structure. • Applicant to continue engagement with ESI Supply Group and other identified First Nations groups regarding local industry participation opportunities pre-construction.	mitigations, including proactive planting of screening vegetation. • Applicant to provide updates via letters (up to 2 km radius), email updates and public notices regarding construction activities, employment opportunities and expected impacts (traffic, noise, dust). • Delivery of updates to interested stakeholder groups such as non-associated receivers, WWCC, Bundyi Cultural Tours, ESI Supply Group and local state and federal representatives. • Updates to be provided to stakeholders who have opted into future communications. • Facilitate events for local suppliers or employees to allow for local participation during the construction phase of the Project. • First Nations representative	with local schools and education/skills providers to provide education opportunities through presentations etc. • Applicant to engage via email and posted letters to residents within a 2 km radius should any large maintenance work be carried out during operation and mitigate any impacts that may arise. • Continue to foster strong relationships with the community via the establishment of community partnerships and industry participation. • Continue to establish the Applicant as an active, responsible member of the wider community. • Proactively communicate the decommissioning strategy (including damaged components, where relevant) to interested stakeholder groups and the wider

Group	Response to submissions	Post approval	Construction	Operation
	approvals process, including anticipated timeframes.		from Bundyi Tours to be invited to undertake heritage induction for construction phase.	community.
Consistency with 'Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects' (DPHI, 2024)	• Engagement during the RtS phase will demonstrate transparency, by clearly explaining how community and stakeholder concerns have been considered. • The RtS process will allow for two-way engagement, not only informing stakeholders but also responding to queries, ensuring alignment with the guideline's principles of "responding and closing the loop."	• Continue to engage with the community, WWCC and government agencies during the pre-construction, construction, operation and decommissioning of the project (and/or rehabilitation of the site) in line with the conditions of approval. • The community is able to track the progress of the Project and raise any post-approval concerns with the Applicant and/or contractor.	• Proactive, transparent, and collaborative engagement, spanning from informing on construction activities to involving and collaborating through benefit-sharing opportunities and other community partnership opportunities. • Applicant will also continue to gather ideas from the local community regarding opportunities to work with local businesses and/or suppliers and minimise construction impacts.	• Applicant will continue to actively engage during the operation and decommissioning stage of the Project in line with the conditions of approval. • Applicant will also continue to foster strong relationships with key stakeholders and further liaise with WWCC regarding the implementation of benefit sharing within the local community through the requested CBS program or VPA.
Monitoring of effectiveness for community participation	• The Applicant will track the number and type of issues raised in submissions and assess how effectively responses have been communicated back to the community. • Engagement effectiveness	• The evaluation of community participation will be continuously monitored, reviewed, and adapted post-approvals to ensure ongoing transparency and involvement in the project. • The Applicant will continue to gather community	• The Applicant will continue to liaise with stakeholders and monitor community sentiment to resolve key issues and opportunities. • Explain to stakeholders at post-approval how community views were	• The Applicant will continue to proactively engage through the operation and decommissioning stage to ensure the local community and interested stakeholder groups are well-informed on key

Group	Response to submissions	Post approval	Construction	Operation
	will be monitored through stakeholder feedback following the RTS release, with adjustments made where additional clarification is required. • Commitment to continuous improvement of engagement methods between RtS and final determination of approval.	feedback through to assess the community's experiences and perceptions, identifying areas for improvement. • Engagement approaches will remain flexible and will be reassessed throughout the post-approval phase based on feedback, which may include modifying meeting formats, diversifying communication channels, or addressing key community concerns.	considered when reaching decisions and how they helped to inform the Project. • Applicant will utilise local knowledge and expertise with suppliers and contractors where possible. • Applicant will ensure they use appropriate engagement techniques when targeting specific groups. • The Project website will continue to update information on the progress of the Project, and to make information easily accessible to stakeholders.	elements of the Project. • Proactive engagement will make it easy for the community to access information. • A Project website will continue to facilitate information on the Project, to make information easily accessible for stakeholders and community members.

Appendix A Non-associated receiver letter

SAMSUNG C&T RENEWABLE ENERGY AUSTRALIA

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA)

Suite 8.04, Level 8
227 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000

14 March 2025

Dear Resident,

RE: Proposed Mangoplah Battery Energy Storage System

Following our previous communication in August 2024 about the proposed Mangoplah BESS, we are reaching out again to provide an update and gather your valuable feedback. The Project, being investigated by Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA) is located 3 km east of the Mangoplah township, off Holbrook Road.

You are receiving this letter as you live within 4 km of the Project site. A map of the proposed site location is enclosed with this letter for your reference.

Your feedback is essential to shaping this Project, developing community initiatives for SREA to support, and informing the procedures related to the proposed BESS. We want to ensure that the local community has the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the Project.

The expected capacity and storage duration for the BESS would be approximately 100MW/400MWh (4-hour storage) and its investment value will trigger the NSW State Significant Development (SSD) planning pathway through the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

Project update

In mid-2024, SREA commenced engaging with the community and key stakeholders to complete the initial stages of a development application, called a Scoping Report.

The Scoping Report was submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) in October 2024, and SREA subsequently received the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) on 27 November 2024. The SEARs list the information that must be included with a development application in the form of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Scoping Report and SEARs can be found here https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/mangoplah-battery-energy-storage-system.

The Project team is now working through the detailed assessment required for the EIS, which will accompany the development application.

The EIS and the associated community engagement activities are being managed by NGH – a leading Australian environmental, social, and planning firm. SREA is currently working with NGH to gather information from locals to help inform the EIS.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

The EIS allows us to fully assess the merits of the proposed BESS while engaging with the local Mangoplah community in more detail to better understand issues, shape the project and inform opportunities to share benefits locally.

The EIS assessments have commenced and will continue over the coming months. The EIS will include specialist impact assessment reports, such as:

- Visual impact
- Noise
- Biodiversity
- Heritage
- Traffic and transport
- Social impact.

SREA aims to submit the EIS report to the DPHI in mid-2025. Community and stakeholder engagement over the coming months will be summarised within the EIS, along with the outcomes of the specialist reports outlined above.

Once the EIS is submitted, it will be placed on public exhibition. During this stage, the community and government agencies will be invited to provide feedback on the Project. SREA will then respond to any issues, comments or concerns raised by the community and stakeholders within a Submissions Report. DPHI will then make a recommendation on whether the project should be approved.

Visual Impact Assessments (VIA)

Technical experts have commenced the VIA for the Mangoplah BESS. Properties requiring detailed assessment have already been identified, and landowners have been contacted directly to arrange specialist visits for data collection. The outcomes of these assessments will be shared in upcoming newsletters. To receive updates via email, please reach out using the contact details provided at the end of this letter.

How to provide feedback

SREA is committed to engaging and collaborating with residents to support beneficial outcomes for both the environment as well as the local community. Communities are at the centre of what we do, and our team is proudly committed to genuine community engagement and strives to build positive relationships.

SREA and NGH are hosting two community information drop-in sessions that will be held in early April 2025. Members from NGH and the SREA team will be there to discuss the Project and answer questions. The details of the information sessions are on the following page.

Tuesday, 1 April 2025
3:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Mangoplah Hall
14 Cox St, Mangoplah NSW 2652

Wednesday, 2 April 2025
7:30 am – 11:30 am

Mangoplah Hall
14 Cox St, Mangoplah NSW 2652

We would be happy to arrange a one-on-one meeting to discuss the Project in more detail if you are unable to attend the sessions above. If you're interested, please let us know your preferred time within the available dates, and we will coordinate an in-person meeting.

If you prefer an online meeting, we can arrange one outside of these dates. To do this, please contact the Project team via one of the methods provided at the end of this letter.

We also encourage you to complete the community feedback survey through the QR code, or by visiting https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MangoplahBESSEIS.

Local benefits

Community Benefit Schemes are an integral part of State Significant Developments in NSW, ensuring that local communities receive long term advantages beyond job creation and related services.

We welcome your input on local priorities and ideas for sharing the benefits of the Project as we explore ways to invest in the community. SREA's investment will align with NSW's Benefit-Sharing Guideline (2024), which ensures that communities benefit from renewable energy development in their region in proportion to the project's scale and impact.

To read the guidelines, visit: https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-11/benefit-sharing-guideline.pdf.

During peak construction, the development will support approximately 60 jobs, with an average of 20-30 jobs throughout the entire construction period. Additionally, it will help boost the local economy by diversifying income and increasing revenue for businesses such as food providers, lodging, and tourism operators. If the Project is approved, we will engage with local businesses and service providers to explore opportunities for participation.

Once operational, the site will be largely remotely managed, with an estimated 1-2 full-time equivalent roles. The Project will also make a significant contribution to the NSW Government's goal of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050 by supplying clean, renewable energy to the grid.

About Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA)

SREA began operations in Australia in 2022 and has solar and storage project interests across New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland. SREA currently operates out of offices in Sydney and Brisbane, with personnel working remotely in Victoria.

To meet the needs of clients aiming to diversify their energy mix amid stringent carbon emissions requirements, SREA strives to become a full-spectrum energy provider in the clean energy sector. The company is committed to deploying sustainable energy resources with a vision to create value globally.

Over the past two decades, SREA has completed several renewable projects worldwide, including the world's largest wind and solar power cluster in Ontario, continuously delivering solutions that enable customers to fully leverage renewable resources.

Get in touch

SREA will always look for ways to invest in the local community to help support local initiatives and improvements. We would also love to hear your ideas on how to share Project benefits locally, so if you have any suggestions on initiatives or programs that would support the local community, please reach out.

If you have any questions about the Project, please contact us via any of the following methods:

W: https://www.mangoplahbess.com

E: engage@nghengage.com.au

P: 1800 607 484.

Kind regards,

Stephan Mitchell
Development Manager

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA)

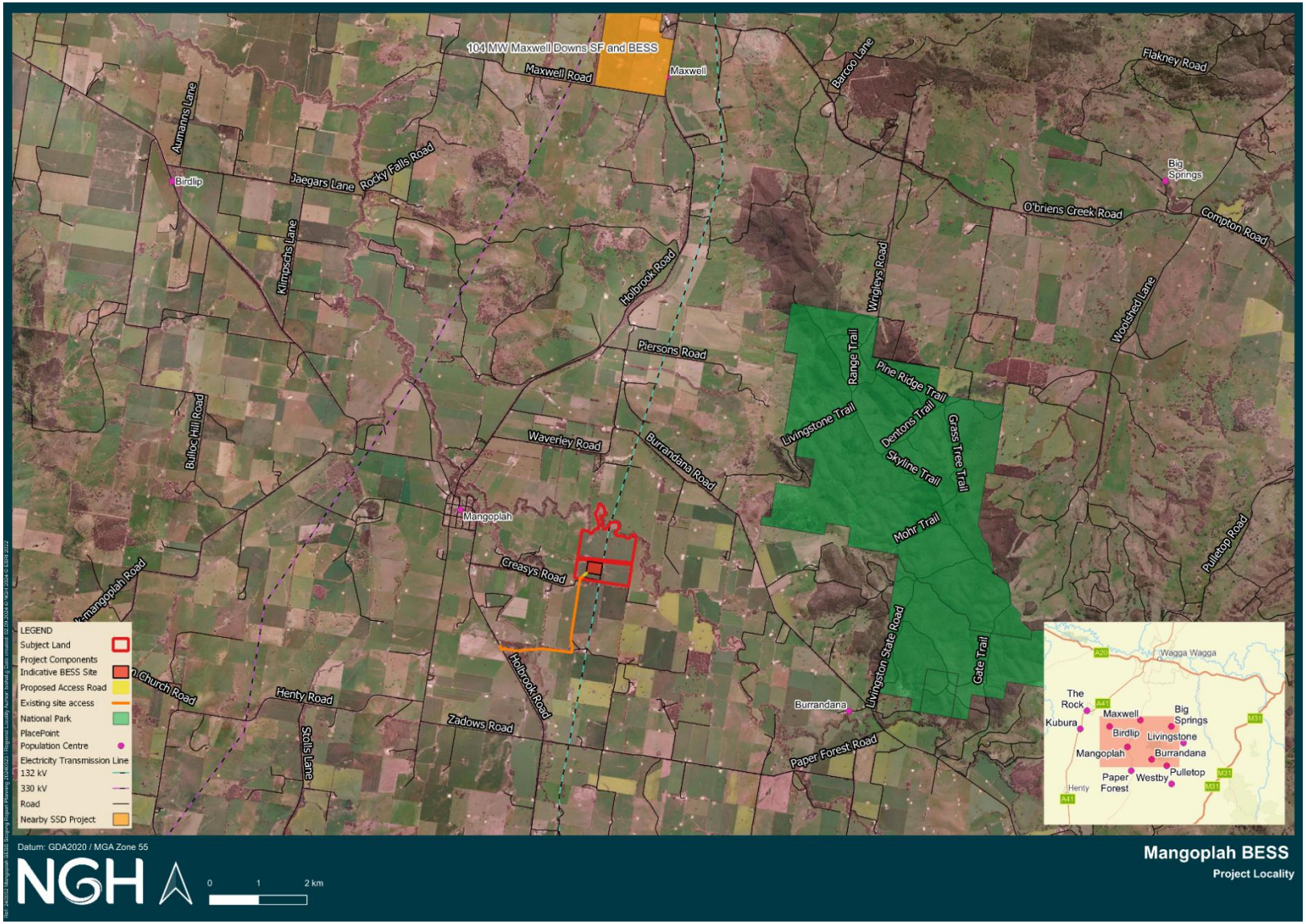


Figure 4 Project location map

Appendix B Newspaper advertising (Daily Advertiser)

Street of the Year award with resid
Lockett and Isabel Jones accepting
award from Wagga's Mayor, Kevin Wales and Tiddy Towns Committee president, Bob Williams.

The new national office for clay target shooting in Wagga has recently spent more than $600,000 on renovations and upgrades.

50 YEARS AGO

Wagga's Mayor, Ald Dick Gorman, defended the use of sheep to keep down weeds at the Wagga Cemetery after several complaints were received by Council.

l open rodeo was held at the Kurrajong Reserve at North Wagga.

Retail stores in Wagga will open for late night shopping on Wednesday rather than Thursday this week so as families will be able to prepare for the Easter long weekend. Stores will also be closed on Saturday morning.

A record number of 568 dogs took part in the recent Wagga Kennel Club show.

Work is proceeding to schedule on a new bridge across the Murrumbidgee River

vertising the new Holden Gemini developed jointly by GM and Isuzu Motors Japan.

Mr and Mrs Lionel Robinson of Old Narrandera Road celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Mr Bartie Nixon of North Wagga who has lived with his wife, Violet in the same house since 1921 celebrated his 91st birthday.

RSL Club President Mr Stan Sadleir reported that the Club made a net profit of $123,412 during the 12 months ending last December which was an increase of almost $20,000 on the previous year.

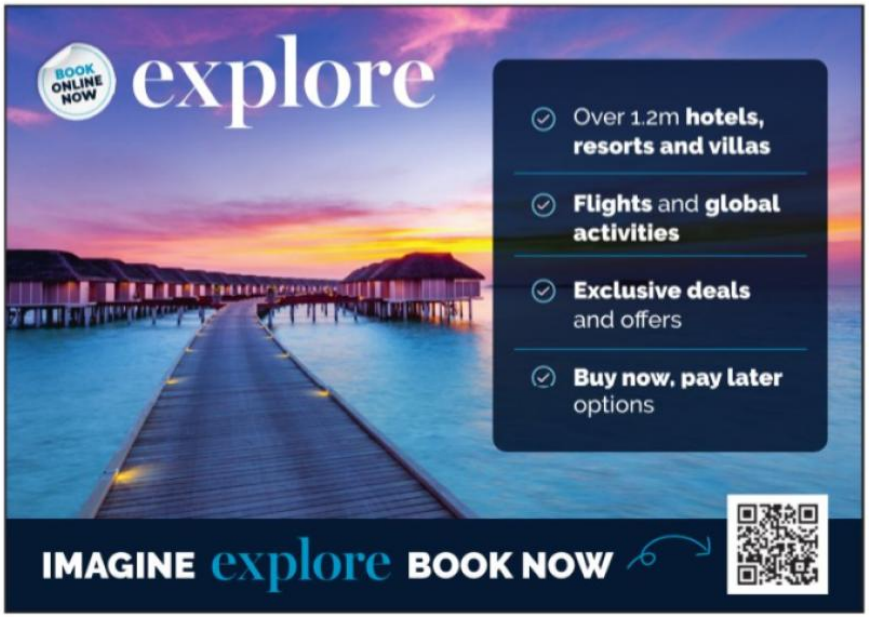
About 70 Riverina school teachers have

a four times Australian representative and president of the NSW Orienteering Association.

David French, Helen McIntyre and Sally Meech were among those winning medals at the Little Athletics State Championships.

Keith Rowe and Barry Sadlier from the Tolland Soccer Sporting Club presented guernseys and soccer balls to Tolland Primary School Sports Mistress, Jenny Currie and School Captain Peter Jollife.

Contact Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society at www.wwdhs.org.au or on Facebook



Mangoplah Battery Energy Storage System Community Information Sessions

SAMSUNG C&T RENEWABLE ENERGY AUSTRALIA

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA) is developing a planning application for a potential Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in Mangoplah, NSW, approximately 3.1 km east of the township. The project has now moved to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) stage which allows SREA to fully assess the merits of the proposed BESS. SREA invites you to attend a community drop-in session where you can learn more about the project, meet the team, and provide valuable feedback.

Come and Meet the Team

Tuesday, 1 April 2025
3:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Mangoplah Hall
14 Cox St, Mangoplah NSW 2652

Wednesday, 2 April 2025
7:30 am – 11:30 am
Mangoplah Hall
14 Cox St, Mangoplah NSW 2652

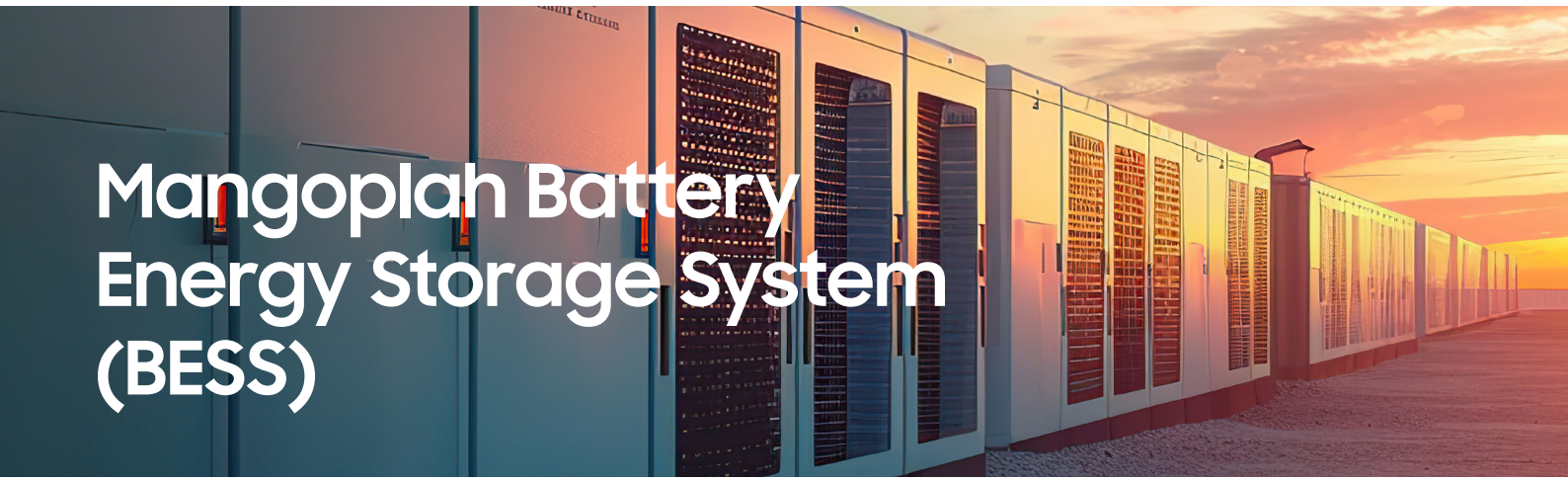
If you have any questions about the Project, please contact us via any of the following methods:
E: engage@nghengage.com.au
P: 1800 607 484
W: https://www.mangoplahbess.com.au

Alternatively, feel free to provide your feedback via the QR code.

Appendix C Frequently Asked Questions

SAMSUNG C&T RENEWABLE ENERGY AUSTRALIA

FAQs



Mangoplah Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

General

What is proposed?

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA) is proposing the development of the Mangoplah Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The Project would involve the construction, operation and decommissioning of a BESS with a capacity of 100 Megawatts (MW) / 4000MWh (4-hr storage).

The Project would be located within the Wagga Wagga City Council Local Government Area (LGA), approximately 3.1 kilometres (km) east of the township of Mangoplah, New South Wales (NSW) and approximately 17.8km northwest of The Rock, and 30.6 km south of the regional city of Wagga Wagga. The site address is 4178 Holbrook Road, Mangoplah NSW 2652.

Who is Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA)?

SREA began operations in Australia in 2022 and has solar and storage project interests across New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland. SREA is a fully owned subsidiary of Samsung C&T Corporation.

To meet the needs of clients aiming to diversify their energy mix amid stringent carbon emissions requirements, SREA strives to become a full-spectrum player in the clean energy sector. The company is committed to deploying sustainable energy resources with a vision to create value globally.

Over the past two decades, the Energy Division of Samsung has completed several renewable projects worldwide, including one of the world's largest wind and solar power cluster in Ontario, continuously delivering solutions that enable customers to fully leverage renewable resources.

Why is this proposal needed? Isn't there enough renewable energy being produced in the area?

NSW has a roadmap to reduce emissions by 70% by 2035 compared to 2005 levels and increase NSW's update in renewable energy generation. This statewide initiative will create 6,300 construction and 2,800 ongoing jobs in regional Australia and will reduce electricity prices in the state by $130 per year for households, $430 for small businesses and reduce NSW's carbon emissions by approx. 90 million tonnes (NSW Government 2020). Currently, the renewable energy penetration in NSW is 53% (Energy NSW 2024), which includes large scale solar, rooftop solar, hydro power stations, wind, and biomass power stations.

The Project will contribute to filling this target, create new jobs, and will contribute to electricity price reduction and carbon emissions reduction.

What is a BESS?

A BESS is an energy storage system that uses a group of batteries to store electrical energy from a variety of sources, including solar. The system compensates for the intermittency of sources, providing backup power to address certain constraints such as weather conditions and lack of grid space. They are crucial to the increased adoption of dispersed energy sources and infrastructure, reducing the risk of widespread power outages.

BESS's serves as a crucial type of generator, alongside synchronous machines, for maintaining system strength during both normal operation and contingencies to ensure network security.

Where is the Project up to?

The Scoping Report for the proposed Mangoplah BESS was submitted to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) in November of 2024, and obtained Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) on 27 November 2024. The SEARs list the requirements that must be addressed. This signifies the beginning of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) phase of the Project.

Who approves the Project?

As a state-significant project, the Project will be reviewed by the NSW Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

When will construction commence and how long will construction take?

The construction start date is dependent on a variety of factors, including development approval, selecting a construction company, and receiving grid connection approvals, negotiation of a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) and completion of the Financial Close process. Currently construction is estimated to commence in 2027. Once construction contractors are appointed, works on site are to take approximately 12-15 months.

How long will this Project operate for? What happens after that?

The operational life of the Project is expected to be 20-30 years. Once the BESS reaches its end of life, it will be decommissioned, and the land will return to its original condition, or reenergised. This will involve removing the BESS and related infrastructure and restoring the site. The decommissioning requirements will be set out within contracts with the landowner and within the approvals process.

What will happen to the residual land?

The residual land will continue to be used the landowner.

How do I contact the Project team if I have any questions?

If you have any questions about the Project, please contact us via any of the following methods:

E: engage@nghengage.com.au
P: 1800 607 484
W: www.mangoplahbess.com

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

What does a BESS look like?

BESS's are container-like modular systems grouped with multiple inverter stations that are configured based on site and capacity obligations and can be compared to shipping container-like objects. The containerised form of the BESS will decrease installation and maintenance duration, enhance the electrical and environmental safety of the entire plant, and minimise the impact on the original landscape. As technology improves, the systems are becoming increasingly efficient and more compact.

The Project would include the following key built form features:

- BESS including battery enclosures, inverters, transformers, switchgear and control room
- Onsite substation including transformer switch bays and switchgear housed in portable substation containers
- Connection from the onsite substation to the existing overhead 132kv transmission network
- Permanent office, operation and maintenance (O&M) buildings, hardstands and Project signage
- Site access to the BESS from Holbrook Road, internal site access tracks and parking
- Stormwater management infrastructure, lighting, fencing and security.

Why did Samsung choose this site for the potential BESS?

The site was selected following careful consideration of planning, environmental, community, grid and commercial criteria. The site was selected for the following reasons:

- Sufficient levels of available capacity on the grid distribution system
- Site is not classified as Strategic Agricultural Land (SAL)
- Proximity to a grid connection, being the 132kV transmission line that traverses the site
- Suitable planning context
- Low potential impacts to biodiversity and heritage
- The relatively small development footprint
- Low land use conflict.

The site is currently used for cropping (Canola). Further investigations, including a soil survey, will be conducted during the EIS phase to confirm soil fertility and assess erosion risks. The project covers a relatively small footprint and will ensure that appropriate soil management strategies are incorporated to minimise agricultural impacts.

Will there be any visual impact?

Inevitably, the installation of a BESS will have some effect on the current look of the landscape, though the BESS cubicles are unlikely to emit glare or reflection. The Development Application process consists of independent technical assessments, and visual impact will be assessed as part of this. If required, BESS facilities can be screened (by either vegetative or artificial means) to minimise any potential visual impacts.

SREA is committed to working closely with the local community to address any concerns and encourages the community to approach them with any issues that may arise.

Will I be able to hear the BESS?

Like all large-scale developments, BESS facilities may generate noise, however, due to the NSW Noise Policy for Industry 2017 and the BESS's location, it is not expected to be heard by nearby residents or the community. The main source of the sound includes:

- Inverter station and unit transformer,
- HV transformer in voltage step-up substation,
- Cooling fans required to regulate the operating temperature of the individual battery cells.

The inverter stations are built in a containerised cabinet to reduce noise level naturally. The sound of the battery cooling load is like an air conditioning unit or a dull whirring noise.

The noise level will decrease with distance and can be further reduced by the installation of acoustic enclosures or barriers. Studies are ongoing to assess noise levels, the impact this may have on the area, and clear mitigation recommendations.

TECHNICAL

What type of BESS units will be used?

The design is still to be finalised; but lithium-ion is the preferred electrical storage technology because it is cost-effective and a proven technology which is readily available for broad scale deployment at the site. During detailed design, the Original Equipment Manufacturer (battery supplier) will be confirmed through commercial tendering and procurement processes to ensure the Project is optimised in terms of yield and efficiency, within the parameters of the approval.

How will construction traffic and road impacts be managed?

During the anticipated 12-15 month total construction period, construction vehicles would range from light vehicles to 26m B-Doubles. Over mass and oversize vehicles would be required for transportation of large BESS infrastructure, such as the HV transformer. Light vehicles would arrive during AM/PM peaks with heavy vehicle deliveries to be spaced out during the day.

How high will the units be?

BESS units will be installed on low-lying structures and are expected to not exceed 5.5m above the natural ground level. It is expected that the project area will be at the same height or lower than other existing features in the landscape.

Will there be outages during construction?

There will be no outages expected during the construction phase. Once the BESS is built and operational, it will help to increase the grid stability.

Where will water be sourced from during construction?

Water will be needed during construction, including dust suppression, the initial filling of the water tank for bushfire preparedness, and staff amenities. Once operational, the BESS will require minimal water usage, as the infrastructure is designed to operate remotely without the need for water. Operational water use will typically be limited to staff amenities, landscaping irrigation, and occasional refilling of the fire water tank as necessary.

Potential water sources are currently being investigated, and discussions with the local council are ongoing to identify suitable and sustainable supply options.

Are there health risks associated with EMF's and living near a BESS?

EMFs (electro-magnetic fields) are naturally present in the environment. They are present in the earth's atmosphere as electric fields, while static magnetic fields are created by the earth's core. EMF are also produced wherever electricity or electrical equipment is in use (e.g. household appliances like fridges, and powerlines).

The use of electricity in daily life exposes us to low frequency EMF and are not considered a risk to human health (**ARPANSA, n.d**). Your kitchen stove has an EMF range of 2-30 milligauss (mG) and your hairdryer 1-70mG. Standing at the edge of a transmission powerline easement would be in the range of 10-50mG, and under a transmission powerline 20-200mG.

The current international standard for human exposure to limit EMF set up the International Commission of Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) is 2000mG (**EnergyCo, 2022**).

EMFs from a BESS are typically less than household appliances and are not distinguishable from background levels at the site boundary.

Technical and engineering experts, including the Australian Radiation Protection and the Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) have found no known or documented electromagnetic radiation impacts associated with big batteries.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Does this development indicate a future solar farm in the immediate area?

The Mangoplah BESS is being developed as a standalone project, independent of any solar farm development. SREA has no plans or proposals for a solar farm in the immediate area. The focus of this Project is exclusively on providing a reliable, utility-scale energy storage solution to support the existing electricity grid.

What happens in the case of a chemical spill?

BESS facilities are designed to manage chemicals and avoid chemical spills on site. The liquid-cooled bottom plate of a battery pack can prevent a spill, and the container is sealed from bottom side to avoid any leak. The Environmental Management Strategy, SCADA and BMS will also help to identify, address, and manage dangerous goods and chemical hazards.

Design solutions would include reviewing site hydrology and changes as a result of the development and ensuring sufficient drainage capacity and mechanisms to prevent chemical spills from leaving the site.

Is the site affected by flooding?

Comprehensive assessments are currently being undertaken to evaluate whether the site is susceptible to flooding. These assessments include traffic and hydrology investigations as part of the EIS process, which will confirm the suitability of the BESS site and access road under heavy rainfall conditions. SREA is collaborating closely with technical experts to ensure that any potential impacts on neighbouring properties are minimised. While the likelihood of significant stormwater flooding impact is low, the design of the BESS incorporates measures to ensure its infrastructure remains stable and secure.

Do batteries increase fire risk?

The Project would be designed in accordance with the relevant Australian and international standards, with fire mitigation incorporated into the design to ensure its safe operation and minimise fire risk. The Project will be equipped with a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and a Battery Management System (BMS) to monitor for faults in real-time, including smoke and system temperatures.

The BMS main role is to prevent damage to the battery cells from over-charging and over-discharging and to maintain the charge within the cells in the optimal performance range.
If the BMS detects any abnormal conditions, it shuts the battery down. This protects the cells from damage. Importantly, the BMS can act to shut a battery down before it reaches a point where it becomes a safety hazard.

Design solutions would be provided to support the BMS, including gas detection and fire protection measures. Details of these solutions depend on the selected battery provider and would be detailed in a Fire Safety Study (FSS). The FSS would be approved by Fire and Rescue NSW prior to construction. Additionally, the Project would:

- Develop and implement an Emergency Response Management Plan to outline the protocols and requirements for fires and other risks
- Select a reputable Original Equipment Manufacturer with a track record in Australia
- Ensure project equipment is subject to quality assurance testing (such as Factory Acceptance Testing) prior to commissioning
- Ensure qualified commissioning /licensed workforce undertakes the work.

Are batteries recyclable?

Battery manufacturing has greatly improved in efficiency and scale in the past decade, driven by the critical growth phase of battery recycling. Nearly all materials in a lithium-ion battery, including nickel, cobalt, graphite, copper, aluminium, iron, and lithium, can be recycled, with up to 95% recovery rate.

CSIRO is actively involved in supporting lithium-ion battery recycling through research on metal and material recovery processes, new battery materials development, and fostering a circular economy for battery reuse and recycling.

Australia's lithium battery recycling industry, though in its early stages, is already demonstrating progress towards a cleaner and more sustainable future, with operational recycling facilities like Envirostream in Victoria.

The Ecocycle Group of companies has also announced the largest and most advanced lithium battery recycling plant in Australia will commence operation in late 2025.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

How many jobs will be created by the construction and operation of the Project?

Employment opportunities will range from skilled to manual labour, with an estimated 60 full time equivalent (FTE) construction jobs at peak construction, and up to 1-2 operation roles annually.

Using qualified local contractors is a key element for SREA who will work with local service and product suppliers to boost the local economy.

Will neighbouring insurance premiums be impacted by the development?

Based on available information, there is no indication that the development of energy infrastructure will have a direct impact on neighbouring insurance premiums. As confirmed by the Insurance Council (**May 2024**), there have been no reported cases where their members have denied coverage or increased premiums solely due to the presence of energy infrastructure on a property or nearby.

The **Clean Energy Council** similarly highlights that any adjustments to insurance premiums are unlikely to be directly tied to clean energy developments. Instead, rising insurance costs are largely driven by broader factors, including the escalating frequency and costs of natural disasters, inflation affecting building and vehicle repair expenses, the increasing value of homes and vehicles, and higher operational costs for insurers.

Will there be always a contact onsite in case of emergency?

The BESS would operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week and be monitored remotely (including CCTV), with infrastructure maintenance undertaken on-site. An operational and maintenance (O&M) contractor would be employed to operate the Project (including maintenance, repair, troubleshooting, and monitoring).

What other benefits will the community receive?

As the project is expected to operate for 30 years, SREA is dedicated to delivering long-term investment in the regions and communities where we work. Community engagement is a priority for us, ensuring the project creates meaningful economic and social benefits for all involved.

SREA is adhering to the **NSW Government's Benefit Sharing Guidelines** (2024) and encourages community members to review these guidelines for more information. SREA are committed to ongoing engagement with all stakeholders who have an interest in, or may be affected by, the project. Feedback collected through these interactions will inform the development of a tailored community benefit program designed to foster positive outcomes and deliver real value to the local area.

SREA welcomes and encourages continued community input, particularly ideas and opportunities for initiatives that they can support to further benefit the region.

What is a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)?

A power purchase agreement or a PPA is simply a contract to buy power at a specific price. The 'Seller' in this type of agreement is usually a utility-scale generator e.g. solar, BESS and wind farms. The 'Purchaser' in this type of agreement will have significant electricity requirements which allow them to purchase all or some of the output of a project. Examples of buyers include utilities, governments, and major corporates. Examples of companies that have entered into PPAs across Australia include Telstra, Mars, Blue Scope Steel, Snowy Hydro, UNSW, and Coles, with many others considering this option.

Appendix D Fact Sheet

SAMSUNG C&T RENEWABLE ENERGY AUSTRALIA

Fact Sheet | 2025 February

Mangoplah Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Benefits

Increases clean energy storage
The BESS improves the stability and reliability of the electricity network by storing energy during periods of low demand, and dispatching energy during periods of peak demand and emergency events.

Create jobs
Approximately 60 full time equivalent (FTE) construction jobs at peak and 1-2 FTE operational jobs.

Income for local area
Diversify income and increase revenue to ancillary services such as food and accommodation to the local area.

About SREA

SREA began operations in Australia in 2022 and has solar and storage project interests across New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland. SREA is a fully owned subsidiary of Samsung C&T Corporation.

To meet the needs of clients aiming to diversify their energy mix amid stringent carbon emissions requirements, SREA strives to become a full-spectrum player in the clean energy sector. The company is committed to deploying sustainable energy resources with a vision to create value globally.

Over the past two decades, the Energy Division of Samsung has completed several renewable projects worldwide, including one of the world's largest wind and solar power clusters in Ontario, continuously delivering solutions that enable customers to fully leverage renewable resources.

Overview

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA) is proposing to construct and operate a standalone Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in Mangoplah NSW, located 3.1 km east of the township, off Holbrook Road.

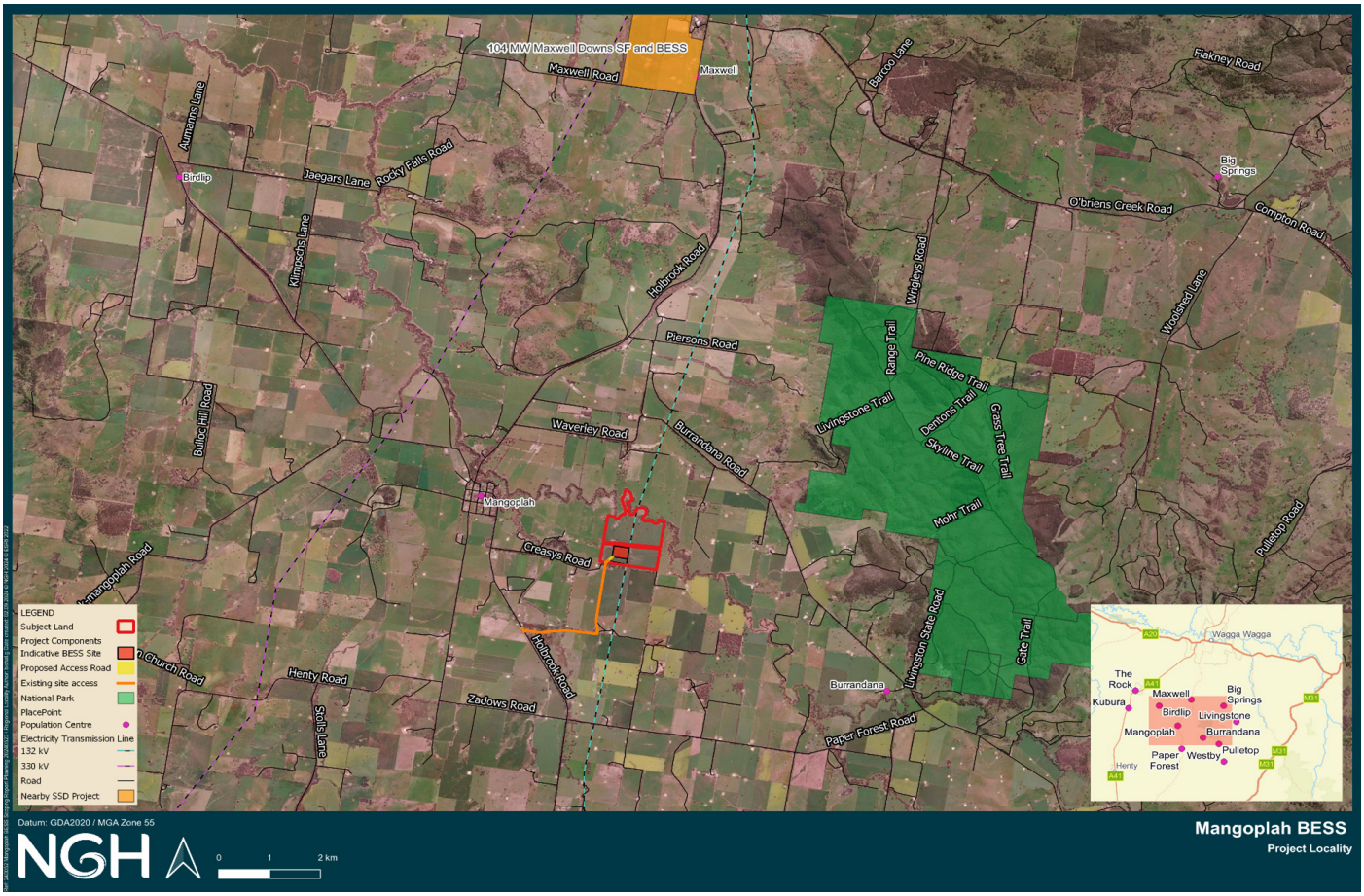
The purpose of the development is to assist the national electrical grid at times of peak demand and in times of emergency. The proposed project is expected to have a capacity of up to 100MW/400MWh.

Project

The Mangoplah BESS will utilise the latest technology in the sector, complying with all safety and hazard parameters that are highly regulated by the Australian Government. Design and layout of the project will be compliant with local planning laws and will specifically aim to minimise any potential environmental, cultural heritage and neighbour impacts.

Construction and operation of the project would involve the following key components:

- BESS including battery enclosures, inverters, transformers, switchgear and control room
- Onsite substation including transformer switch bays and switchgear housed in portable substation containers
- Permanent office, operation and maintenance (O&M) buildings, hardstands and Project signage
- Site access to the BESS from Holbrook Road, internal site access tracks and parking
- Stormwater management infrastructure, lighting, fencing and security.



Project updates

In mid-2024, SREA began engaging with the community and stakeholders to complete a **Scoping Report** for a development application. Submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing, and Infrastructure (DPHI) in November. SREA received the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (**SEARs**) on 27 November 2024. The SEARs outline the necessary information for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which SREA is now preparing.

The EIS will fully assess the proposed BESS, considering community input and specialist reports on visual impact, noise, biodiversity, heritage, traffic, transport, and social impact. SREA plans to submit the EIS to DPHI in mid-2025. After submission, the EIS will be publicly exhibited for feedback. SREA will address community and stakeholder concerns in a Submissions Report, after which DPHI will decide whether or not to approve the project.

Why Mangoplah

The chosen land was selected following careful consideration of planning, environmental, community, grid and commercial criteria.The site is considered suitable as it provides a direct connection to an existing overhead 132 kV electricity transmission network and has a relatively small footprint that is being designed to minimise potential environmental, social and agricultural impacts.

Questions and feedback

Community engagement is a key aspect of the development application process, enabling SREA to invest directly in the community based on local feedback. It helps identify concerns and ensures that community benefit programs are tailored to meet local residents' needs and wants.

For more information, to provide feedback, or to register to receive project updates, please contact us via any of the following methods:

E: engage@nghengage.com.au
P: **1800 607 484**
W: **www.mangoplahbess.com**

Or complete the feedback survey
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MangoplahBESSEIS.

Appendix E Newsletter 1, 2 & 3

SAMSUNG C&T RENEWABLE ENERGY AUSTRALIA

Newsletter | 2025 February

Mangoplah Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA) is proposing to construct, operate and decommission a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in Mangoplah NSW, located 3.1 km east of the township, off Holbrook Road.

The Project is expected to have a capacity of 100MW/400MWh.

Project Update

In mid-2024, SREA commenced engaging with the community and key stakeholders to complete the initial stages of a development application, called a Scoping Report.

The Scoping Report was submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) in November 2024, and SREA subsequently received the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) on 27 November. The SEARs list the information that must be included with a development application in the form of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The project team is now working through the detailed assessment required for the EIS, which will accompany the development application.

For more details, please visit:

Scoping Report

SEARs

Who is SREA

SREA began operations in Australia in 2022 and has solar and storage project interests across New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland. SREA is a fully owned subsidiary of Samsung C&T Corporation.

To meet the needs of clients aiming to diversify their energy mix amid stringent carbon emissions requirements, SREA strives to become a full-spectrum player in the clean energy sector. The company is committed to deploying sustainable energy resources with a vision to create value globally.

Over the past two decades, the Energy Division of Samsung has completed several renewable projects worldwide, including one of the world's largest wind and solar power clusters in Ontario, continuously delivering solutions that enable customers to fully leverage renewable resources.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

The EIS allows us to fully assess the merits of the proposed BESS. In parallel, the local Mangoplah community will be engaged to better understand issues, shape the project and identify opportunities to share benefits locally.

The EIS assessments have commenced and will continue over the coming months. The EIS will include specialist impact assessment reports, such as:

- Visual impact
- Noise
- Biodiversity
- Heritage
- Hydrology
- Traffic and transport
- Social impact

SREA plans to submit the EIS report to the DPHI by mid-2025. Over the next several months, input from the community and stakeholders will be carefully considered and incorporated into the EIS. This report will also include a summary of the findings from the specialist reports mentioned earlier.

Once the EIS is submitted, it will be placed on public exhibition. During this stage, the community and government agencies will be invited to provide feedback on the project. SREA will then respond to any issues, comments or concerns raised by the community and stakeholders within a Response to Submissions Report. DPHI will then make a recommendation on whether the project should be approved.

Contact us

Community engagement is a key aspect of the development application process, enabling SREA to invest directly in the community based on local feedback. It helps identify concerns and ensures that community benefit programs are tailored to meet local residents' needs and wants.

If you are interested in learning more about Mangoplah BESS or providing feedback, contact us here:

E: engage@nghengage.com.au
W: www.mangoplahbess.com
P: 1800 607 484

Next steps

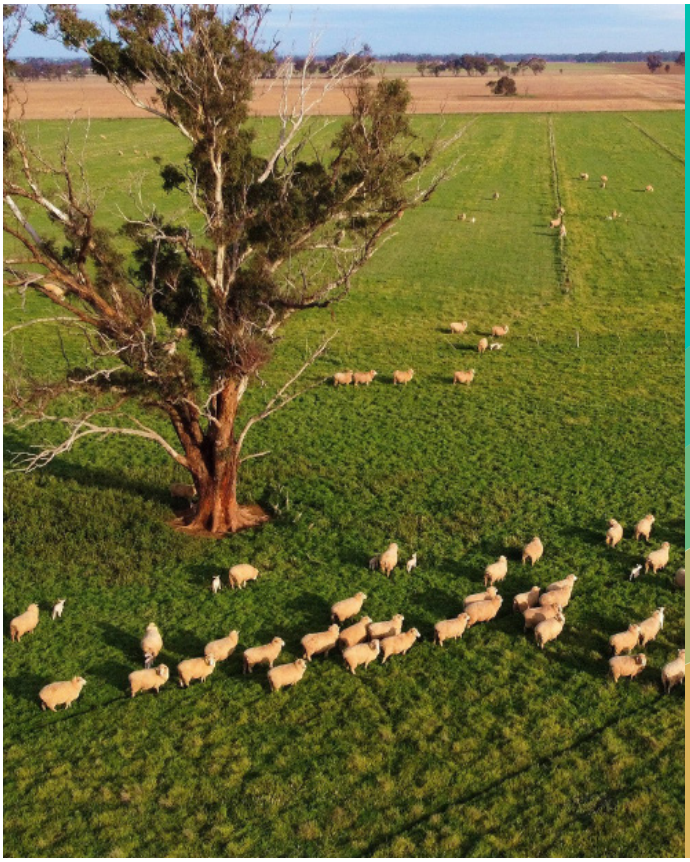
The SREA team are busy planning their next visit to Mangoplah to host community events in early April 2025, providing interested community members with the opportunity to come along and meet the team.

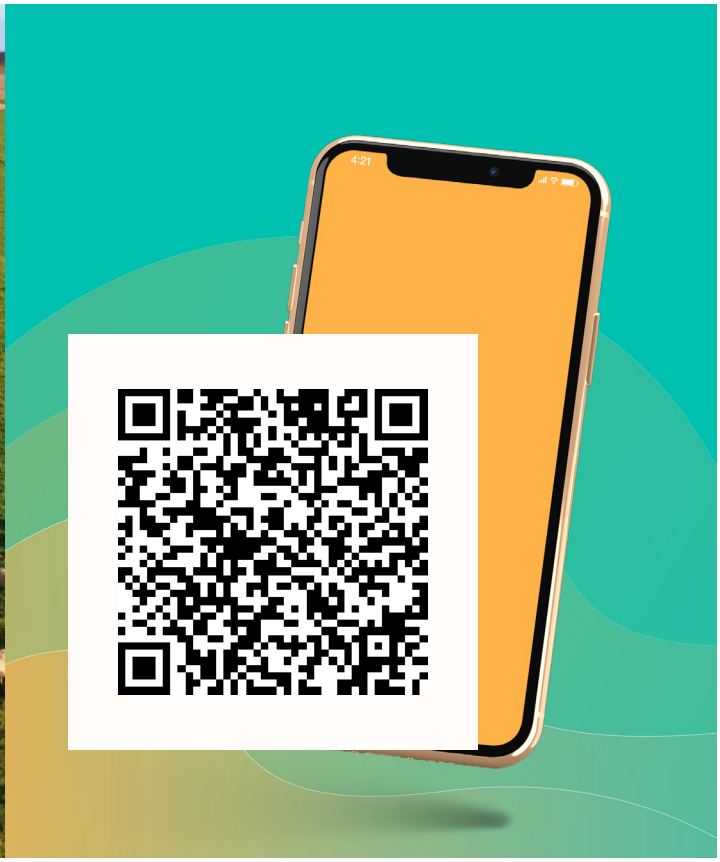
Keep your eye on your inbox for further updates.

Community Feedback Survey

Community feedback is important to the development of the Mangoplah BESS, and your input will help formulate the EIS.

You can complete the community information survey here or via the QR code.





NSW STATE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT

TIMELINE

1 Announcement
Project announced to community, government and industry

Scoping Report

2 Scoping Report
Consultation and preliminary technical analysis undertaken. The Scoping Report determines which technical assessments are required within the EIS.

3 SEARs issued
Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) received.

WE ARE HERE

4 EIS preparation
Technical studies and community engagement to inform the design of the proposal and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

5 EIS submission
EIS finalised and submitted to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI)

EIS Report

6 EIS notification
EIS on public exhibition for 28 days for community and agency comment

7 Response to submissions
Address comments raised about the proposal in a 'Response to Submissions' report

Response to Submissions Report

8 EIS consideration
EIS is considered by DPHI and a recommendation is provided

9 Determination
The Minister for Planning or the Independent Planning Commission decides the proposal

= community input opportunities

Key FAQs

What is a BESS?

A BESS is an energy storage system that uses a group of batteries to store electrical energy from a variety of sources. The system compensates for the intermittency of the grid, providing back up power to address certain constraints such as weather conditions and lack of grid space.

Will this have a big visual impact?

Inevitably, the installation of a BESS will have some effect on the current look of the landscape, though the BESS cubicles are unlikely to emit glare or reflection. The Development Application process consists of independent technical assessments, and visual impact will be assessed as part of this. If required, BESS facilities can be screened (by either vegetative or artificial means) to minimise any potential visual impacts.

SREA is committed to working closely with the local community to address any concerns and encourages the community to approach them with any issues that may arise.

The BESS structures will only be approx. 2.6m in height and screening vegetation and fencing to mitigate any visual impacts will be investigated as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Are there health risks associated with EMFs and living near a BESS?

EMFs (electro-magnetic fields) are naturally present in the environment. They are present in the earth's atmosphere as electric fields, while static magnetic fields are created by the earth's core. EMF are also produced wherever electricity or electrical equipment is in use (e.g. household appliances like fridges, and powerlines).

The use of electricity in daily life exposes us to low frequency EMF and are not considered a risk to human health (**ARPANSA, n.d.**). Your kitchen stove has an EMF range of 2-30 milligauss (mG) and your hairdryer 1-70mG. Standing at the edge of a transmission powerline easement would be in the range of 10-50mG, and under a transmission powerline 20-200mG.

The current international standard for human exposure to limit EMF set up the International Commission of Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) is 2000mG (**EnergyCo, 2022**).

EMFs from a BESS are typically less than household appliances and are not distinguishable from background levels at the site boundary. Technical and engineering experts, including the Australian Radiation Protection and the Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) have found no known or documented electromagnetic radiation impacts associated with big batteries.

Do batteries increase fire risk?

The Project would be designed in accordance with the relevant Australian and international standards, with fire mitigation incorporated into the design to ensure its safe operation and minimise fire risk. The Project will be equipped with a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and a Battery Management System (BMS) to monitor for faults in real-time, including smoke and system temperatures.

The BMS main role is to prevent damage to the battery cells from over-charging and over-discharging and to maintain the charge within the cells in the optimal performance range.

If the BMS detects any abnormal conditions, it shuts the battery down. This protects the cells from damage. Importantly, the BMS can act to shut a battery down before it reaches a point where it becomes a safety hazard.

Design solutions would be provided to support the BMS, including gas detection and fire protection measures. Details of these solutions depend on the selected battery provider and would be detailed in a Fire Safety Study (FSS). The FSS would be approved by Fire and Rescue NSW prior to construction. Additionally, the Project would:

- Develop and implement an Emergency Response Management Plan to outline the protocols and requirements for fires and other risks
- Select a reputable Original Equipment Manufacturer with a track record in Australia
- Ensure project equipment is subject to quality assurance testing (such as Factory Acceptance Testing) prior to commissioning
- Ensure qualified commissioning /licensed workforce undertakes the work.

Key FAQs

How will construction traffic and road impacts be managed?

During the anticipated 12-15-month total construction period, construction vehicles would range from light vehicles to 26m B-Doubles. Over mass and oversize vehicles would be required for transportation of large BESS infrastructure, such as the HV transformer. Light vehicles would arrive during AM/PM peaks with heavy vehicle deliveries to be spaced out during the day.

Will I be able to hear the BESS?

Like all large-scale developments, BESS facilities may generate noise, however, due to the NSW Noise Policy for Industry 2017 and the BESS's location, it is not expected to be heard by nearby residents or the community. The main source of the sound includes:

- Inverter station and unit transformer,
- HV transformer in voltage step-up substation,
- Cooling fans required to regulate the operating temperature of the individual battery cells.

The inverter stations are built in a containerised cabinet to reduce noise level naturally. The sound of the battery cooling load is like an air conditioning unit or a dull whirring noise.

The noise level will decrease with distance and can be further reduced by the installation of acoustic enclosures or barriers. Studies are ongoing to assess noise levels, the impact this may have on the area, and clear mitigation recommendations.

What happens in the rare case of a chemical spill?

BESS facilities are designed to manage chemicals and avoid chemical spills on site. The liquid-cooled bottom plate of a battery pack can prevent a spill, and the container is sealed from bottom side to avoid any leak. Containment measures such as bunding, spill trays at the BESS foundation, and chemical absorbents are in place to capture materials on site.

Design solutions would include reviewing site hydrology and changes as a result of the development and ensuring sufficient drainage capacity and mechanisms to prevent chemical spills from leaving the site.

What will happen with the BESS once it reaches its end of life?

The life span of the project is expected to be 20-30 years and once the BESS reaches its end of life, it will be decommissioned, and the land will return to its original condition, or reenergised. This will involve removing the BESS and related infrastructure and restoring the site. The decommissioning requirements will be set out within contracts with the landowner and within the approvals process.

Are batteries recyclable?

Battery manufacturing has greatly improved in efficiency and scale in the past decade, driven by the critical growth phase of battery recycling. Nearly all materials in a lithium-ion battery, including nickel, cobalt, graphite, copper, aluminium, iron, and lithium, can be recycled, with up to 95% recovery rate.

CSIRO is actively involved in supporting lithium-ion battery recycling through research on metal and material recovery processes, new battery materials development, and fostering a circular economy for battery reuse and recycling.

Australia's lithium battery recycling industry, though in its early stages, is already demonstrating progress towards a cleaner and more sustainable future, with operational recycling facilities like Envirostream in Victoria.

The Ecocycle Group of companies has also announced the largest and most advanced lithium battery recycling plant in Australia will commence operation in late 2025.

Does this development indicate a future solar farm in the immediate area?

The Mangoplah BESS is being developed as a standalone project, independent of any solar farm development. SREA has no plans or proposals for a solar farm in the immediate area. The focus of this Project is exclusively on providing a reliable, utility-scale energy storage solution to support the existing electricity grid.

Will neighbouring insurance premiums be impacted by the development?

Based on available information, there is no indication that the development of energy infrastructure will have a direct impact on neighbouring insurance premiums. As confirmed by the Insurance Council (**May 2024**), there have been no reported cases where their members have denied coverage or increased premiums solely due to the presence of energy infrastructure on a property or nearby.

The **Clean Energy Council** similarly highlights that any adjustments to insurance premiums are unlikely to be directly tied to clean energy developments. Instead, rising insurance costs are largely driven by broader factors, including the escalating frequency and costs of natural disasters, inflation affecting building and vehicle repair expenses, the increasing value of homes and vehicles, and higher operational costs for insurers.

Mangoplah Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA) is proposing to construct and operate a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in Mangoplah NSW, located 3.1 km east of the township, off Holbrook Road.

The purpose of the development is to support the Australian and New South Wales Government's commitment to reliable electricity supply by storing excess energy from the grid during periods of low demand and discharging this stored energy during times of peak demand. This will enhance the community's energy resilience and contribute to the country's clean energy targets, whilst also sharing the Project benefits with the local community. The Project is expected to have a capacity of 100MW and 4-hour storage.

The Mangoplah BESS has progressed to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) phase under the State Significant Development (SSD) pathway. This phase enables SREA to conduct a detailed assessment of the Project's potential impacts while engaging more closely with the Mangoplah community.

Through this process, SREA aims to better understand local concerns, refine the Project design, and explore opportunities to share benefits with the community.

Have your say

SREA invites residents and the wider community members to learn more about the Project and provide their insight into their community and feedback for the Project by attending a community drop-in session.

The two sessions provide interested community members with the opportunity to come along and talk to our Project team at a time that suits you. The community drop-in sessions will be hosted at:

Tuesday, 1 April 2025
3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Mangoplah Hall
14 Cox Street Mangoplah NSW 2652

Wednesday, 2 April 2025
7:30 am - 11:30 am

Mangoplah Hall
14 Cox Street Mangoplah NSW 2652

Local benefits

SREA is working with Council and the community to explore a Community Benefit Sharing option, ensuring the development delivers real local benefits. Guided by resident feedback, the Social Impact Assessment, and agency recommendations, these discussions will shape how we invest in the community.

We welcome your ideas on how Project benefits can best support the local community, ensuring alignment with NSW's Benefit-Sharing Guideline (2024) for fair and proportional investment.

To read the guidelines, visit: https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-11/benefit-sharing-guideline.pdf.

Cultural Heritage surveys

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) is currently in progress, undertaken in collaboration with a local Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP).

The ACHA is a thorough and detailed process that involves extensive site investigations, consultation with Traditional Owners, and careful analysis of historical records.

The on-the-ground survey has been completed and assessed whether the Project may impact heritage artifacts or culturally significant sites. To-date, a small number of artefacts were identified on the Project site but not within the development footprint.

The goal is to ensure that any culturally significant elements within the Project area are identified, respected, and appropriately managed.

Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment

Preliminary assessments of construction and operational noise have been completed, ensuring alignment with SEARS and relevant noise policy guidelines. The assessment considered potential noise impacts from site works, road upgrades, and increased traffic during construction, as well as operational noise once the Project is running.

Early results indicate that noise levels, including those from access road upgrades, remain within acceptable limits, with no exceedances at non-associated residences.

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) for the Mangoplah BESS is currently underway, incorporating viewpoints from neighbouring private properties.

Specialist assessments have begun, with key properties identified for detailed evaluation. Landowners have been contacted, and site visits for data collection have been completed. The photos taken will contribute to the final report, which will be submitted as part of the EIS.

To help visualise the Project, the LVIA will include photomontages and an artist's impression, illustrating how the BESS will appear from various perspectives.

Biodiversity surveys

Initial biodiversity surveys have been completed, with targeted assessments scheduled for March to study key species, including:

- Southern myotis (microbat)
- Barking owl
- Brush-tailed phascogale
- Eastern pygmy possum
- Key's matchstick grasshopper
- Koala
- Masked owl
- Squirrel glider

These surveys are part of a broader environmental assessment contributing to the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR). The BDAR evaluates potential impacts on local biodiversity and outlines measures to avoid, minimise, or offset any environmental effects.

The Project site consists mainly of exotic pasture, with the access road passing through box gum grassy woodland. Efforts are being made to minimise impacts by avoiding woodland and grassland wherever possible.

Preliminary Hazard Analysis (PHA)

The Preliminary Hazard Analysis (PHA) is currently being conducted to assess potential risks associated with the BESS before construction and operation begin. This process identifies key hazards, including thermal runaway, electrical faults, fire risks, chemical leaks, and mechanical failures.

By addressing these risks early, the PHA ensures that preventative measures–such as fire suppression systems, emergency shutdown protocols, and safety monitoring–are in place. This helps to minimise risks while ensuring the facility operates safely and reliably.

Other assessments

Other supplementary assessments currently underway include hydrology, which examines potential impacts on surface water, drainage, and flood risks, and traffic, which assesses how the Project may affect local roads, traffic flow, and transport infrastructure.

EIS submission and next steps

SREA aims to submit the EIS report to the DPHI in mid-2025. Community and stakeholder engagement over the coming months will be summarised within the EIS, along with the outcomes of the specialist reports outlined above.

Contact us

Community engagement is an important part of development application and allows us to understand any concerns the community may have.

If you have any questions about the Project, please contact us via any of the following methods:

W: https://www.mangoplahbess.com/
E: engage@nghengage.com.au
P: 1800 607 484.

Community feedback survey

Community feedback is important to the development of the Mangoplah BESS, and input from the community will help formulate the EIS.

You can complete the community information survey here https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mangoplahBESSEIS or via the QR code.

SAMSUNG C&T RENEWABLE ENERGY AUSTRALIA

Newsletter | July 2025

Mangoplah Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Project update

As we approach the end of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) phase of the Project, independent specialist assessments are being finalised. These reports allow us to thoroughly evaluate the Project's potential impacts and respond to the questions and concerns raised by the community.

We sincerely appreciate your patience as we reviewed each assessment, conducted further research, held internal discussions, and prepared comprehensive responses.

On the following pages, you'll find detailed answers to the questions raised during the Mangoplah BESS information sessions in April, as well as those received via the survey, phone and email since then.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact us using the methods listed below and a member of our team will be in touch.

What's next?

The full EIS report, encompassing all specialist assessment outcomes, is due to be submitted to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) in the coming months. Once the EIS is officially accepted as complete by the DPHI, it will be made available for public review and comment. During this period, various stakeholders, including the general public, industry experts, and government agencies, will have the opportunity to provide feedback, express support, or raise any concerns about the Project.

The exhibition period, which typically lasts a minimum of 28 days, is an important part of the approval process and ensures that all voices are heard.

If you're interested in reviewing the EIS or following project updates, keep an eye on the Mangoplah BESS project page in the Major Projects Portal. This will be your primary source for accessing the EIS and staying informed on the next steps as the Project progresses

If you have any questions about the Project, please contact us via any of the following methods:

W: https://www.mangoplahbess.com

E: engage@nghengage.com.au

P: 1800 607 484

Are renewables reliable?

We understand that some community members have concerns about the reliability of renewable energy and how weather can affect it.

While solar and wind power do rely on natural conditions, BESS's are specifically designed to solve this challenge. They store electricity when it's available, whether from sun, wind, or other sources, and supply it when it's needed, even if the weather isn't ideal.

One useful analogy is to think of the electricity grid as a highway. If there's an unexpected traffic jam, like a substation going offline, a BESS acts like a fast detour. It immediately sends power where it is needed, so lights stay on, and appliances keep running even if something else in the system has failed.

As we move away from coal fired power stations to renewable energy, this kind of technology is an important part of helping stabilise the grid as our state and national energy infrastructure undergoes significant change.

Why here? Why not a REZ?

We understand that some members of the community question why the Project is proposed outside a Renewable Energy Zone (REZ), rather than within one. While REZ areas are designated for large-scale transmission upgrades and are ideal for concentrated energy development, energy generation and storage are still required outside these zones to support a balanced and resilient energy network.

A key part of the site selection process is ensuring minimal impact to neighbours, surrounding land use, and the local community. This includes thorough consideration of visual, noise, and heritage impacts.

We are aware that some community members have expressed concern about the site's proximity to areas of pioneer significance in Mangoplah. We want to reassure residents that a detailed Heritage Assessment has been completed. No European or Aboriginal artefacts were identified at the BESS site, noting a scar tree and artefact along the access road were discovered and will be avoided.

A Landscape Character and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) confirms that prominent heritage locations, including the Mangoplah Station complex, Mangoplah Hall, and the Mangoplah Cenotaph for example, will not be visually impacted by the Project.

Who is paying for the Mangoplah BESS? Is it taxpayers?

The Project is being developed by Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia (SREA) (the Proponent).

SREA is a leading global renewable energy Project developer successfully delivering renewable energy Projects across Europe, Korea, Canada and the United States of America. In Australia, SREA currently has a development pipeline of 2 GW in NSW, VIC and QLD.

The Project is a private development and has not received any funding or subsidies from the State or Commonwealth governments. This approach reflects the Proponent's confidence in the Project's financial viability and the commitment to delivering renewable energy Projects independently.

Will my house be devalued?

As grid-scale battery Projects are relatively new in Australia, there is limited evidence to suggest any changes to property values or impacts on future land use opportunities.

The Project has been designed to align with the mitigation measures recommended by various technical assessments, such as the LVIA and Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment (NVIA), with mitigated impacts assessed as low due to their unlikely and / or minor nature.

The LVIA developed for the Project has assessed visual impacts to private receivers and public viewpoint in accordance with relevant NSW visual impact guidelines. With the extent of existing vegetation and scale of the Project, the assessment identified there is minimal visual impact from private receptors.

However, given the community survey response concern with regards to visual impacts, the Proponent has incorporated screen planting along the western boundary of the Project to further negate this perceived impact.

The NVIA developed for the Project has included construction and operational noise modelling to estimate potential noise impacts associated with the Project. Construction and operational noise are predicted to comply with all relevant noise criteria, due to the scale of the Project and distance from receivers.

Nonetheless, we remain committed to minimising potential impacts that could influence property perceptions.

Will insurance for neighbouring landholders be impacted?

The Proponent understands that neighbouring landowners may be concerned about insurance premiums rising as a result of a renewable development being nearby.

While insurance providers apply their own risk assessment and pricing models, the EIS demonstrates that the risks associated with this Project are clearly understood and can be effectively mitigated with a high degree of confidence.

Importantly, the Insurance Council of Australia has stated that they are **"not aware of any instances where Insurance Council members have been unable to provide insurance or have increased premiums as a result of a farm (or a neighbouring property) hosting energy infrastructure."**

For more information, we encourage you to refer to the Insurance Council of Australia's statement regarding farm insurance and energy infrastructure.

Potential PFAS

The Proponent is currently considering using the Tesla Megapack 2 XL system for the Mangoplah BESS Project. This system includes a thermal unit that helps keep the battery components at a safe and stable temperature by heating or cooling them as needed. It works using pumps, a compressor, and a small heater to move and control the temperature of a coolant fluid.

The system uses a sealed loop that contains both a coolant (a mix of water and ethylene glycol) and a refrigerant called R-134a (1,1,1,2-Tetrafluoroethane). Importantly, neither the coolant nor the refrigerant used in the BESS system contains PFAS.

It is also important to note that there is currently no public documentation that states that PFAS forms part of the megapacks.

Is slave labour involved?

While it is acknowledged that the employment and processing standards of overseas manufacturers are an important ethical issue, this is not a matter that can be considered by the NSW planning system and is outside the scope of what the consent authority can consider or influence in decision-making.

However, it is acknowledged that the BESS industry faces challenges in Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) performance due to a heavy reliance on component manufacturing limited to particular geographic regions. Lithium and cobalt are both critical battery components, but their mining and processing often involves labour abuse and ethical malpractices.

As part of the due diligence during the tendering process, the Proponent will review the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) modern slavery approach. The preferred OEM at this stage is Tesla. Tesla has a stringent procurement auditing process, and its Responsible Sourcing Policies outline a robust approach to forced labour, modern slavery, child labour and human trafficking. It has published a Modern Slavery Transparency Statement which sets out mitigating steps it has taken around its sourcing of raw materials for batteries.

It also meets the Proponent's Management of Partners expectations and is taking a range of actions to address modern slavery in its supply chain. Tesla acknowledges that there are modern slavery risks in the global battery supply chain and is transparent about the challenges and the mitigations it applies. The Proponent will continue to work closely with the supplier to identify and address any modern slavery risks.

References:

Tesla - Additional Resources | Tesla Australia and via Modern Slavery Statements Register.

The Proponent's policies are outlined in its 2024 sustainability report:

- Human Rights Management Policy (PDF page 49)
- Management of Partners (PDF page 57)
- Sustainable Supply Chain Management (PDF page 63)

Does the Mangoplah BESS mean solar is coming to Mangoplah?

The Mangoplah BESS is associated with the broader development of renewable energy and aligns with the NSW Electricity Strategy. It contributes significantly toward the NSW Government's target of net-zero emissions by 2050 by supporting the integration of clean energy into the electricity grid.

However, while BESS Projects support renewable energy, the Mangoplah BESS is not a solar or wind farm. Each BESS, solar, or wind project is assessed independently on its own merits. The Proponent does not intend to expand the Mangoplah site to include solar; the Project is a standalone BESS with no solar component proposed and does not rely on any other solar developments in the region.

Importantly, the electricity used to charge the BESS can come from any generator connected to the National Electricity Market, meaning there is no requirement for a solar farm (or any specific generator) to be located nearby.

The Wagga region benefits from a robust electricity network with strong connections across NSW and interstate. A key advantage of the Mangoplah BESS is that it provides a non-network solution to help maintain reliable electricity supply to the Wagga and Albury areas.

Will the BESS emit EMF?

Electromagnetic fields (EMFs) are a natural part of our environment. They occur in the earth's atmosphere as electric fields and are also created by the earth's core as static magnetic fields. In everyday life, EMFs are also produced by anything that uses electricity, including common household appliances such as fridges, hairdryers, and kitchen stoves, as well as infrastructure like powerlines.

According to the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA), we are exposed to low-frequency EMFs on a daily basis, and these are not considered a risk to human health, For example, EMF levels from a kitchen stove can range from 2 to 30 milligauss (mG), while a hairdryer may range from 1 to 70 mG. Standing near the edge of a powerline easement may expose you to 10 to 50 mG, and directly underneath a powerline, levels can reach 20 to 200 mG. For comparison, the international safety limit for public exposure, as set by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), is 2,000 mG.

BESS's generate EMF levels that are typically lower than those produced by household appliances. At the edge of a BESS site, these EMFs are not distinguishable from background environmental levels. Extensive reviews by technical experts, including ARPANSA, have found no known or documented health risks or electromagnetic radiation impacts linked to large battery installations.

Unlike alternating current (AC) systems, which can generate more electromagnetic interference (EMI) due to changing voltage and current, lithium-iron phosphate batteries and other direct current (DC) components in BESS produce very low EMI. The main source of potential EMI is the power conversion system, which handles the switch between DC and AC. However, these components are designed, tested, and certified to meet strict international standards, particularly IEC 61000-6-4.

This standard, along with Australian Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) regulations, ensures that the system will not interfere with nearby telecommunications, such as radio or mobile phone services. The risk of EMI from the facility is considered negligible.

Will there be flooding impacts?

Some community members have raised concerns about past flood events and how proposed road upgrades might affect future heavy rainfall. These concerns were passed on to Cumulus Engineering, the firm responsible for the hydrology assessment.

The purpose of the assessment was to understand existing flood conditions, check for any new impacts from the proposed development, and help guide the design to minimise flood risk in line with planning requirements.

One resident specifically requested that the 2010 flood event be included in the modelling. Although direct data from 2010 was not available, the assessment used the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF). This is based on the most extreme rainfall scientifically possible for the area, taking into account available historical records and weather patterns. In practical terms, it covers events of a similar or even greater scale than the 2010 floods.

It is acknowledged in the report that during a flood, water from Paper Forest Creek flows over the area near the access track, spreading out from south to north. The access track slows the water down, which causes it to build up on the upstream side, with water levels reaching up to 700 mm deep over the track.

Proposed upgrades to the access road are expected to help alleviate some of these existing flooding conditions; however, the extent of improvement will be confirmed during the detailed design phase and validated through an updated hydrology assessment.

The flood modelling shows that overall flood behaviour on the site remains largely unchanged. There is no evidence of increased flood levels, deeper water, or new risks beyond the footprint of the BESS. Water flow is not negatively affected on nearby properties or downstream areas.

Key findings:

- The BESS footprint is outside the main floodway, with only shallow flood depths (less than 30 mm) and low hazard levels.
- There are no significant changes to water flow or flood behaviour on neighbouring land or waterways. Any changes are limited to within the Project site.
- An alternative access route provides safe entry and exits during a flood. This route commences from the BESS site's south-eastern corner and travels south for approx. 3.4 km along an unnamed track. It connects with Paper Forest Road, then continues west towards Zadows Road, also crossing Paper Forest Creek.

The development meets the flood risk management requirements under the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) and the relevant planning guidelines.

The Proponent and Cumulus Engineering have been working with Council and the State Emergency Services (SES), ensuring their concerns have also been addressed. A meeting with Council and SES was facilitated in June 2025 to discuss flood modelling, outcomes, and questions around emergency management.

While we recognise flooding has impacted the area in the past, the Mangoplah BESS will not worsen existing conditions or create new flood risks.

How will construction impacts be managed?

The Proponent acknowledges that, if approved, the Project will be subject to an overarching range of environmental and operational management plans designed to reduce construction-related impacts. All commitments and mitigation measures will be managed through a Project Environmental Management Strategy (EMS), which will include the following key plans:

- Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)
- Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP)
- Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP)

These plans will be developed sequentially, ahead of each Project stage. Each plan will be supported by sub-plans, such as a Soil and Water Management Plan and a Traffic Management Plan, to ensure construction is carried out in a safe, controlled, and environmentally responsible manner.

The plans will outline specific actions and controls to manage potential disruptions to local roads, air quality, and the surrounding environment. Their goal is to ensure all construction activities are compliant with regulations and minimise inconvenience to the community.

All management plans will be developed in accordance with approval conditions and reviewed by the relevant authorities to ensure compliance and accountability throughout the construction period.

Impacts to biodiversity and bird nesting sites

The hydrology assessment for the Mangoplah BESS confirms that the Project will not cause any adverse flooding impacts. Flood modelling, including extreme events beyond the scale of the 2010 flood, shows that water flow patterns remain largely unchanged and contained within the Project area. As there are no changes to flood levels or water behaviour on surrounding land or waterways, there is no increased flood risk to nearby habitats, including areas where bird nesting occurs.

Additionally, only a few trees will be cleared along the access road, resulting in no significant impact to bird nesting sites or other native animal habitats, including the squirrel glider.

Where will water come from?

The Proponent is currently engaging with Riverina Water and exploring other supply options to secure a water source that meets the requirements set out in the Project's approval conditions and bushfire management plans and for construction needs (such as dust control). It is important to note that the construction water requirements are low for BESS facilities, being approximately 2.5ML to 3.5ML over the entire construction period.

Recent bushfire assessments, carried out by EMBER Bushfire Consulting, highlight the need for a reliable and accessible water supply at the Mangoplah BESS site. This is essential to support emergency crews in the event of a nearby bushfire or if a fire were to affect the site itself.

As part of the final site design, the Mangoplah BESS will include multiple dedicated water tanks made from non-combustible materials, which will be used for firefighting purposes only.

Key recommendations from EMBER include:

- A minimum 2 x 50,000-litre static water tanks located either within the Asset Protection Zone (APZ) or near the facility's entrance, to support firefighting efforts for the BESS, substation, and other infrastructure.
- A detailed Bushfire Emergency Management and Operations Plan to be developed and followed during both the construction and operational phases of the Project.

These steps are part of the Proponent's broader commitment to bushfire preparedness and safety.

What is the fire risk?

The Proponent recognises the queries raised by the community regarding bushfire risk and safety in relation to the Project.

Fire safety has been a central consideration in the design of the Mangoplah BESS. Key safety features include adequate spacing between units and installation on gravel surfaces to reduce fuel loads and minimise the risk of fire spread.

Equipment such as heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) will safely maintain temperature conditions within BESS enclosures, including during high temperature conditions. Continuous remote monitoring of the battery performance will detect and respond to any abnormal conditions, with the ability to isolate and shutdown any batteries well before the risk of fire.

Asset protection zones and perimeter roads, in accordance with NSW Rural Fire Service requirements, have been incorporated into the design. These and other mitigation measures reduce the potential for fires to enter or leave the development.

In line with best practice for fire management relating to a BESS, the recommended response in the highly unlikely event of a battery fire is a controlled, non-intervention approach. Emergency service personnel will be on-site and on standby during this event, allowing the affected unit to burn out under supervision while ensuring the fire does not spread to adjacent equipment (including adjoining batteries) or surroundings.

It is important to note that such scenarios are extremely rare, and the Project incorporates multiple layers of safety to prevent and contain any such event. The likelihood of fires starting from other development types within the region (such as residential, commercial, agriculture, fuel and transport) far exceeds the potential associated with a BESS development.

As part of the EIS, a comprehensive Bushfire Assessment has been completed by a qualified professional to meet the requirements specified by the NSW RFS and FRNSW. The site has been classified as a Category 3 - Medium Bushfire Risk area under the Planning for Bushfire Protection framework, which typically applies to grassland and open cropping environments. The development will also require a site-specific bushfire emergency plan to provide ongoing management of risks during construction and operation.

In addition, a Preliminary Hazard Analysis (PHA) has been undertaken to identify and evaluate potential hazards associated with the operation, maintenance, or failure of the BESS, including fire, thermal runaway, electrical faults, and explosion risks.

Together, the Bushfire Assessment and PHA confirm that the Project will be capable of:

- Providing protection to structures from bushfire exposure
- Maintaining appropriate separation between potential hazards and infrastructure
- Supporting safe access and egress for emergency services
- Providing for a defendable space around key infrastructure
- Enabling the ongoing maintenance of bushfire protection measures
- Providing utility services capable of supporting firefighting efforts

Independent fire modelling undertaken as part of the Tesla Megapack and Megapack 2XL Fire Protection Engineering Analysis (Fisher Engineering Inc., 2023) further supports the safety case. The analysis concluded that in the unlikely event of a fire, flames would not propagate to adjacent units, even under worst-case wind conditions. It also confirmed that the system's explosion control system can mitigate the risk of an explosion, even under an extreme failure scenario such as the forced thermal runaway of multiple cells.

The Proponent continues to work closely with the RFS, FRNSW, and other relevant authorities, who are central to the review and approval of the Fire Safety Study and emergency response plans. We are also engaging directly with the RFS to respond to community questions, including those related to emergency response procedures.

Impacts to mental health

We understand that changes in the local environment, especially those involving large-scale projects, can affect people in different ways, including their wellbeing. The Proponent takes community feedback seriously and recognises that mental health is an important part of a resilient and connected community.

We acknowledge that the Project has caused stress for some neighbours and others in the wider community. It is important that we consider not only environmental and economic factors, but also the social and psychological impacts that may arise.

To help better understand these concerns, we are carrying out assessments on issues such as visual changes and noise. We hope that providing clear information about these impacts will help reduce uncertainty and ease some of the anxiety within the community.

We also encourage everyone to take care of themselves, to check in with friends and neighbours, and to seek support if needed. Services such as Lifeline or Beyond Blue and local mental health providers are available to offer help when things feel difficult.

If this is you, we encourage you to seek support:

Murrumbidgee LHD Access line: 1800 800 944 (24/7)
Lifeline: 13 11 14 (24/7)
Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636 (24/7)

Uncertainty around new technologies

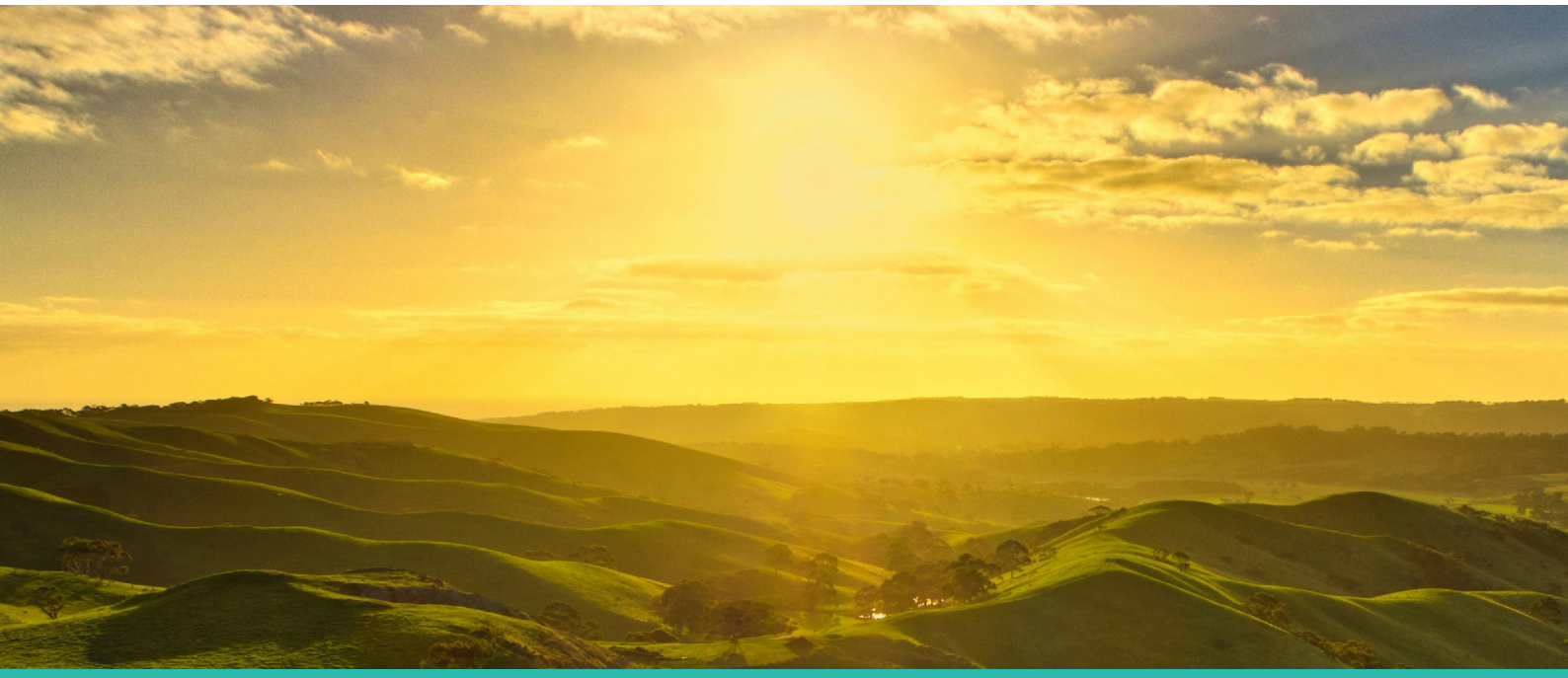
The Mangoplah BESS energy storage is a lithium-iron phosphate battery, or LFP. These batteries are specifically engineered for long-term safety and reliability. Unlike mobile device batteries, which are designed to be lightweight and compact, LFP batteries are built for stability and long life.

In comparison, phone and tablet batteries are typically designed to last 2 to 3 years, or around 300 to 500 full charge cycles, before their performance starts to noticeably drop. This is because they're built for portability, not long-term use. They are also more likely to wear out quickly due to constant use, frequent fast charging, and exposure to changing temperatures and humidity.

Unlike utility-scale systems, these devices don't have active systems to manage their environment, so the batteries are more affected by everyday conditions like heat, cold, and moisture. All of this shortens their life considerably.

The Mangoplah BESS, in comparison, is proposed for up to 20 years. The batteries are housed in secure, climate-controlled containers and are monitored constantly by systems that regulate heat, voltage, and other conditions to ensure safe operation.

These safety measures, along with the nature of LFP battery chemistry, significantly reduce the risk of overheating or fire. They are widely recognised for being one of the safest and most stable types of battery technology available.



What happens if SREA sells the Project?

The obligations to meet the SSD consent are borne by the applicant (not the landowner). Should the development application be approved, it would be tied to the land. If the land is sold or a new owner takes over, the approved SSD consent remains valid for the development on that land.

The Project has an option to lease agreement with the landowner for the Project (i.e. does not have ownership).

Given the scale of the Project and its substantial cost, it is common to invite investors and developers during the development process. Due to the scale and financial obligations associated with the Project, the Proponent will only proceed with partners who are both trustworthy and capable of fulfilling contractual commitments.

In a situation where the applicant goes insolvent, the obligations may fall to the landholder. This is because the requirement to decommission and rehabilitate a Project applies to the land rather than any company.

However, an agreement has been reached with the landholder to ensure the Project can be decommissioned. Unlike mining Projects, almost all investment in renewable energy happens upfront. Coupled with relatively small decommissioning costs, this means the ongoing risks are extremely low and the cost of decommissioning can generally be recuperated in as little as 2 years of operation.

What benefits will the community receive

We understand that some community members may view Community Benefit Schemes (CBS) as a form of compensation or a way for developers to "buy" community support. However, CBS are a formal and important part of the development application process for SSDs in NSW. They are intended to ensure that communities hosting major renewable energy Projects receive lasting and meaningful benefits.

These benefit-sharing programs help deliver positive outcomes for the wider community where the development is located. The aim is to ensure that the benefits of these Projects are shared locally and go beyond the immediate delivery of jobs and services.

This ongoing financial contribution is separate from the capital investment of the Project. It adds to the likely local economic benefits, commitments to local procurement, and broader legacy outcomes, such as long-term career pathways rather than short-term jobs.

The NSW DPHI's Benefit-Sharing Guideline (2024) sets out the expectations and best practices for these schemes. The guideline:

- Provides clear information to applicants, councils and communities about the value of benefit-sharing in large-scale renewable energy Projects in NSW
- Outlines how benefit-sharing should be incorporated into SSD and Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI) applications, including for solar, wind and BESS
- Encourages coordination of benefit-sharing initiatives across Projects
- Supports the rapid rollout of renewable energy in NSW, particularly in REZs, while ensuring host communities see real and lasting benefits from the energy transition

You can read the full guideline here:
Benefit-Sharing Guideline

During community consultation, we received only a small number of suggestions on how this annual contribution could be used, including potential upgrades to the Mangoplah Hall and support for the Mangoplah Football Club. We are now in discussions with Council to determine how this funding can best support the needs and priorities of the Mangoplah community.

If you have any ideas on how the Proponent can support the local community, please contact us at

E: engage@nghengage.com.au
P: 1800 607 484

Waterway and soil contamination

BESS's are specifically designed to prevent chemical leaks and protect surrounding land and water. Each unit includes internal bunding (built-in containment structure) to capture and isolate any potential spills. In the rare event of a fire, the BESS uses an advanced warning or fire detection system (i.e. heat or gas) to shut down the megapack prior to ignition. Additionally, the RFS does not apply water to battery fires, further reducing the risk of contaminated runoff entering the surrounding soil or waterways.

As part of the EIS process, baseline testing of soil and water quality is carried out to understand current conditions. If the Project is approved, these conditions will continue to be monitored throughout construction and operation under detailed environmental management plans, ensuring any potential issues are identified and addressed promptly.

In response to community feedback, a request was made to shift the BESS further north on the site to lessen visual impacts. However, this could not be accommodated from a design and environmental standpoint, as the northern part of the site includes waterways, specifically Burkes Creek, which have been intentionally avoided to protect biodiversity and the waterway, and to minimise environmental impacts.

Impacts to air quality

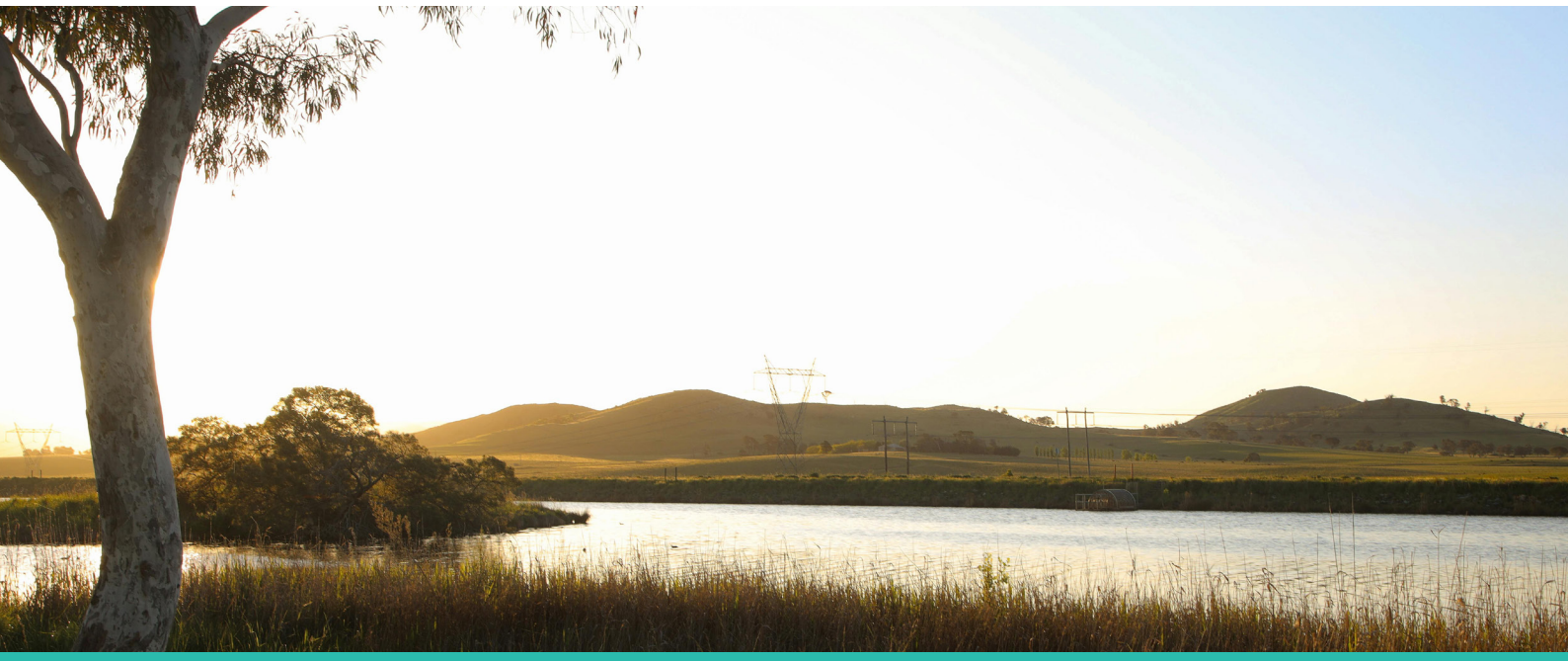
Some community members expressed concern about air quality, particularly the potential release of toxic pollutants during a battery fire and the possible health impacts on nearby residents and first responders.

A well-known example is the 2021 fire at the Victorian Big Battery in Geelong. The fire began in one Tesla Megapack (MP1) containing lithium-ion cells and spread to a neighbouring unit (MP2) during installation and commissioning. MP1 had been manually shut down earlier that morning with no abnormal signs. Smoke was later observed, prompting the isolation of all Megapacks and a call to emergency services. The fire was contained to the two units and burned out over six hours without any injuries or explosions.

To assess any community impact, EPA Victoria deployed two mobile air quality monitors within 2 km of the site in locations where community exposure was most likely. Key pollutants measured included hydrogen fluoride, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, and volatile organic compounds. These substances can pose health risks under certain conditions. However, the EPA confirmed that air quality in the local area remained good throughout the incident, and there were no lasting environmental impacts or health issues reported (Fisher Engineering, 2022).

These findings indicate that, even in the rare event of a battery fire, the impact on air quality is unlikely to pose a significant risk to the health of the community or emergency responders, provided the incident is managed properly. Insights gained from this event have been incorporated into the PHA report.

Nevertheless, despite the very low fire risk, any potential effects from smoke or fumes will be thoroughly assessed in a Fire Safety Study during the post-approval phase. This study will include the identification and application of mitigation measures to manage any potential impacts.



Who is responsible for decommissioning?

If a large-scale energy Project is approved, strict conditions apply for the entire life of the Project, from construction to operation, and through to decommissioning and rehabilitation. These conditions are legally binding and remain in place for the life of the Project and beyond.
We understand that communities sometimes worry about what happens if a Project owner goes bankrupt or walks away.
The Proponent wants to assure the community that the Project owner will be responsible for decommissioning, and this is detailed in the agreement with the landowner.

Rehabilitation of the site must meet clear objectives:

- The land must be safe, stable, and non-polluting
- All infrastructure, both above and below ground, must be removed (unless the Planning Secretary or electricity network provider requires some of it to remain)
- The land must be restored to its previous productive use
- Public safety must be maintained at all times
- Any damage caused during removal must be substantially repaired

Neither the host landowner or the community will be left with the burden of waste or abandoned infrastructure. The site will be cleaned up, restored, and made safe by the owner of the Project at the end of its life.

What might happen to the waste at the end of the BESS lifecycle?

Australia currently recycles just 10% of its lithium-ion and LFP battery waste, compared to a 98% recovery rate for lead-acid batteries (CSIRO, 2024). While this figure includes small batteries from devices like vapes, e-bikes, and electronics, larger BESS offer far greater recycling value due to their size, high material concentration (such as lithium, copper, aluminium, and iron), and ease of disassembly.

The national B-cycle program, backed by the Australian Government and managed by the Battery Stewardship Council, supports the safe collection and recycling of used batteries, including LFP types. As of 2024, 10 accredited and EPA-licensed recyclers are actively processing mixed battery waste across Australia.

Battery manufacturers and suppliers, including Tesla, are also introducing take-back schemes that allow customers to return used systems for responsible dismantling and material recovery. This closed-loop approach is becoming more common as the industry evolves and matures.

In a major policy development, New South Wales introduced the Product Lifecycle Responsibility Act in April 2025. This legislation makes battery stewardship mandatory, requiring producers to meet strict guidelines for design, reuse, recycling, and safe disposal.

With the rapid growth of utility-scale BESS installations, the number of batteries reaching end of life is expected to rise significantly. This trend is likely to accelerate investment in local recycling facilities and support the development of a more sustainable battery industry in Australia.

How has the community consultation processes met the guidelines?

The Proponent is committed to transparent, respectful, and ongoing community engagement in line with the NSW SSD guidelines. From the early Scoping phase, when consultation was not yet required, we have actively engaged with the community to help inform the planning and design of the Project.

To date, we have delivered hundreds of letters, sent and responded to hundreds of emails, met with many residents' one-on-one, held information sessions, and made numerous phone calls. We have remained consistently accessible and responsive to questions, concerns, and feedback.

We recognise that community expectations are changing. There is a growing demand for open communication, meaningful involvement in decision-making, and clear, timely benefits that reflect both the scale of a Project and its local impacts. The Proponent is committed to meeting these expectations by:

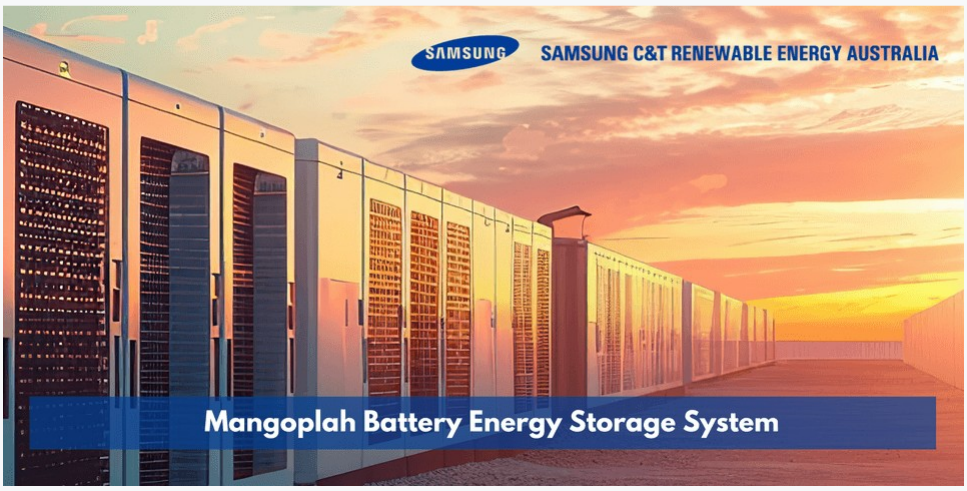
- Providing clear, accurate, and easy-to-understand information
- Offering genuine opportunities for input throughout the process
- Reporting back on how community feedback has been considered and reflected in the Project

This approach reflects our commitment to engaging respectfully with the community and ensuring the Project is developed in a way that considers local interests and concerns.

Appendix F Email campaigns: 1, 2 & 3

Amy Mahon

From: noreply@consultationmanager.com
Sent: Tuesday, 30 September 2025 11:25 AM
To: Amy Mahon
Subject: Test Email



Community information events

Thank you to everyone who took the time to connect with us last week at our community information sessions at the Mangoplah Hall. Your time and input is greatly appreciated.

It was a valuable opportunity for us to discuss the proposed Mangoplah BESS with community members, nearby residents, and local groups. We heard a wide range of views and these insights will play a key role in shaping the project and its associated assessments as we move forward with the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

We recognise the strong passion within the community and the depth of feeling expressed during the sessions. It's clear there is a deep connection to the region, and a shared determination to ensure the land is respected and cared for. We acknowledge and respect these perspectives.

Many important questions were raised, and we are now working through detailed responses and will include them in our next newsletter. We appreciate your patience as we take the time to provide thorough answers.

What we heard

Feedback from our community sessions has brought to light several key concerns and opportunities. We recognise that many topics were raised, and there are concerns that the project's benefits might not outweigh the community's worries about its potential impacts.

Below are some of the points we heard, though this list is not exhaustive.

Concerns

- Fire and bushfire risk was the most prominent concern raised by the community. We acknowledge how critical this issue is to residents.
- Questions were raised in regard to the possibility of water contamination, particularly in relation to Bourkes Creek, by several attendees.
- The risk of toxic smoke in the event of a fire on or near the proposed Mangoplah BESS site was also highlighted.
- Concerns about possibility of soil contamination over time were mentioned.

- Questions were raised about how a fire originating from a neighbouring property and spreading to the project site could affect insurance and liability for local residents.

These and other concerns shared during the sessions are being taken seriously. Each issue raised will be carefully considered and investigated as part of the project's ongoing planning and assessment processes. We are committed to continuing this conversation and will provide further information in our next newsletter.

Opportunities

When considering the Community Benefit Scheme (CBS) that would be implemented should this project be approved, we understand that administering these benefits as locally to Mangoplah as possible is a high priority.

We were provided with some fantastic ideas of what could be involved within the CBS, and these will be outlined within the EIS. Discussions regarding the CBS will be held during meetings with Council (outlining what we have heard from the community and what suggestions have been raised).

We encourage you to continue to provide ideas that may contribute to the CBS using the contact details detailed at the end of this correspondence.

EIS submission

The purpose of the EIS is to assess the economic, environmental and social impacts of the project. It helps the community, Council, government agencies and NSW Government Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) get a better understanding of the project, so they can make informed decisions on the merit of the proposed development.

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA) aims to submit the EIS report to the DPHI in mid-2025. Community and stakeholder engagement will be summarised within the EIS, along with the outcomes of the specialist reports that are currently underway.

Once the EIS is lodged on the NSW Major Projects portal, it will be made available for public comment, typically for a minimum of 28 days. During this period, the local community and stakeholders can review the EIS and submit their feedback.

You will be notified of this next phase of the process.

Next steps

We are committed to providing ongoing updates on the project and the feedback received prior to the lodgement of the EIS. Updates will be shared through our project newsletter and targeted meetings.

If you would like to be added to the newsletter distribution list, please email us at engage@nghengage.com.au.

About Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA)

SREA began operations in Australia in 2022 and has solar and storage project interests across New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland. SREA is a fully owned subsidiary of Samsung C&T Corporation.

To meet the needs of clients aiming to diversify their energy mix amid stringent carbon emissions requirements, SREA strives to become a full-spectrum player in the clean energy sector. The company is committed to deploying sustainable energy resources with a vision to create value globally.

Over the past two decades, the Energy Division of Samsung has completed several renewable projects worldwide, including one of the world's largest wind and solar power clusters in Ontario, continuously delivering solutions that enable customers to fully leverage renewable resources.

Give feedback

Community input plays an important role in the development of the Mangoplah BESS and it's not too late to provide your feedback! Scan the QR code below (or click on it) to complete the survey by 4:00 pm AEST on 30 April 2025.

Get in touch

If you have any questions about the project, feel free to contact us via one of the following methods:

E: engage@nghengage.com.au
P: 1800 607 484
W: https://www.mangoplahbess.com

One of our friendly team will respond as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

Stephan Mitchell | Development Manager
Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd

Amy Mahon

From: noreply@consultationmanager.com
Sent: Tuesday, 30 September 2025 11:25 AM
To: Amy Mahon
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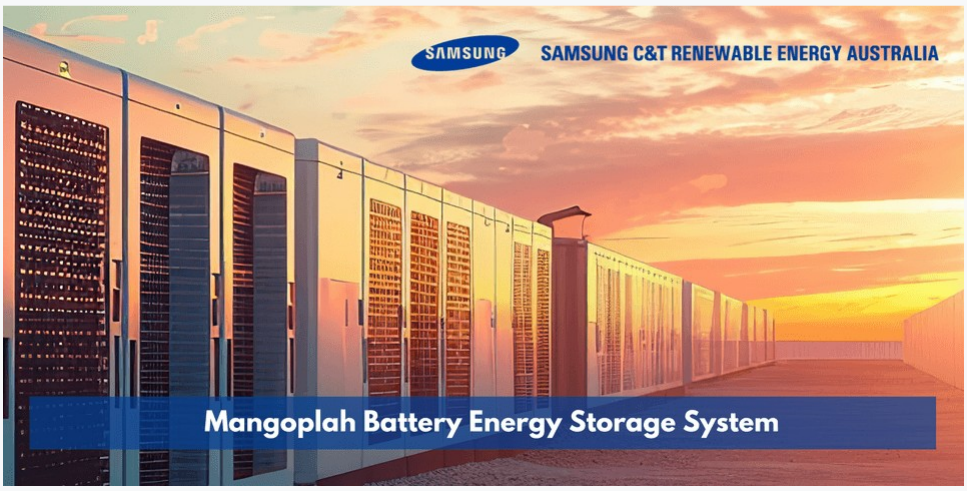

Progress on community newsletter

Thank you for your continued interest in the Mangoplah BESS project. We know the upcoming newsletter is highly anticipated, as it provides more detailed responses to several key questions we've received.

While we originally planned to distribute the newsletter in June, it's currently undergoing finalisation to ensure accuracy and clarity. We now expect it to be ready for release within the next fortnight.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing patience. It is greatly appreciated.

Get in touch

If you have any questions about the project, feel free to contact us via one of the following methods:

E: engage@nghengage.com.au
P: 1800 607 484
W: https://www.mangoplahbess.com

One of our team will respond as soon as possible.

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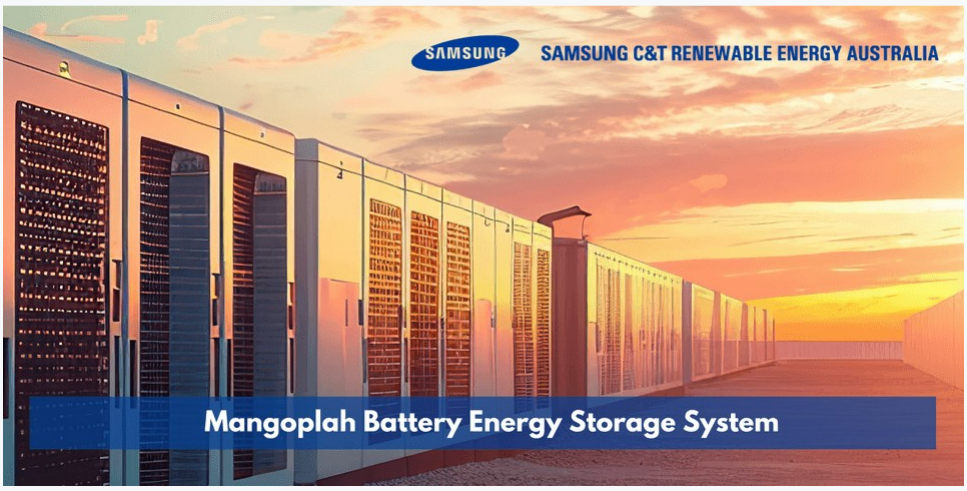

Community feedback survey closed

Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate in the community survey, which closed at 4:00 pm on Wednesday 30 April. We received 56 responses from a mix of local residents and people from the wider region.

Your feedback has provided valuable insight into the community's priorities and concerns. This information will help support the ongoing assessments in the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure's (DPHI) planning process for the Mangoplah BESS.

Here's a summary of some of the key themes from the responses:

What do you value most?
Landscape and views – 43 responses

Level of support for the project
Strongly oppose – 43 responses

Main reason for interest in the project
Potential adverse impacts on the local area – 43 responses

Top concerns about the Mangoplah BESS
Effects on land values – 45 respondents reported being very concerned

Most important social and economic considerations
Potential impacts to property values – 45 respondents rated this as very important

We appreciate your input and will continue to share updates as the project progresses.

How does community feedback impact the project?

We understand that there are community concerns towards the proposed Mangoplah BESS, and the renewable energy transition as a whole. Sharing those views is an important part of the planning process, and all feedback is welcome. To have the greatest impact we encourage constructive, considered and localised feedback.

This project is being assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD), which means it's reviewed by the DPHI under state planning policies. While the overall need for the project is considered at a state level, local feedback can shape how the project is delivered—especially when it highlights specific concerns.

Community input can help guide how potential benefits are delivered to the local area and can also highlight risks or concerns (such as traffic, road safety, fire management, noise, and environmental impacts) that are considered in specialist assessments during the planning process.

Clear, constructive feedback helps ensure these issues are properly considered and can lead to real changes that reduce impacts and improve outcomes for nearby residents.

What happens now?

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA) and our specialist consultants are continuing to finalise a range of technical assessments and reports for the project. These include but are not limited to ecological surveys (including the use of anabat sound monitoring to detect bat activity near the project site, and camera traps to capture footage of small marsupials), bushfire, landscape and visual assessments (informed by

community survey results) and hydrology studies designed to understand local water movement and ensure surrounding land is not adversely impacted.

We understand that many in the community are eager for answers to the questions and concerns raised. SREA feels it would be a disservice to the community to offer partial or premature responses at this stage, so will be waiting until the completion of necessary studies before more extensive and definitive answers are provided. The goal is to ensure that when answers are provided, they are clear, informed, and backed by complete and accurate technical data.

More information will be shared as soon as the assessments are finalised, and we continue to provide full and transparent updates as they become available.

How we have engaged so far

We appreciate the feedback we've received and acknowledge calls for stronger engagement. We take that feedback seriously and remain committed to ongoing communication.

For transparency, the following activities have been carried out to share information and receive feedback from the community to date:

- 56 survey responses
- 240 letters delivered
- 22 phone calls made
- 115 emails sent or responded to
- 1 newspaper advertisement in the Daily Advertiser
- Approximately 50 attendees at information sessions
- 2 email updates sent to our mailing list (31 recipients)
- 8 in-person meetings with a total of 23 attendees
- 3 online meetings
- 54 newsletters distributed (with one more to come)
- 8 SMS's sent or responded to

Future engagement activities

At last month's information sessions, many community members expressed a preference for a town hall-style meeting. We understand that for many, this

format was seen as an opportunity to send a united message about their opposition to the project. We respect and acknowledge those feelings.

Based on the feedback received on the issues that matter most to you, and after careful consideration, we've decided not to hold a town hall meeting. While we recognise its symbolic value, we feel it may not provide the most effective setting for the kind of meaningful, two-way conversations we're aiming to support. We remain committed to ongoing engagement and will continue to explore other formats that allow for more focused, constructive dialogue.

Next steps

We are currently reviewing all the feedback and concerns shared by the community so far. A detailed newsletter is being prepared to respond to the key themes raised. This update will include input from our technical specialists and aim to provide accurate, thorough, and considered responses.

This newsletter is expected to be shared in June, depending on the completion of ongoing technical assessments that will help inform the responses. We sincerely appreciate your patience as we work to provide a thorough and transparent update.

Get in touch

If you have any questions about the project, feel free to contact us via one of the following methods:

E: engage@nghengage.com.au
P: 1800 607 484
W: https://www.mangoplahbess.com

One of our team will respond as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

Stephan Mitchell | Development Manager
Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd

Appendix G Community feedback survey

SAMSUNG C&T RENEWABLE ENERGY AUSTRALIA

Mangoplah BESS - EIS Community Survey

Share your thoughts on the Mangoplah Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) proposal

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA) is proposing to develop a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), approximately 3 km east of Mangoplah, NSW.

This survey aims to help us gain a better understanding of community values, benefits and opportunities, and perceptions about the proposed Mangoplah BESS.

Your responses will help to inform the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) as part of the proposed project's broader Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). All survey information is stored securely and survey responses in the SIA report will remain anonymous.

If you provide contact details, they will only be used to engage with you about this proposal. For any questions, please email us at engage@nghengage.com.au or visit the project website **here**.

The survey has 20 questions and will take around 5-10 minutes to complete. Survey closes **4:00 PM, Wednesday 30 April 2025.**

Thank you for your feedback and for completing the survey.

SAMSUNG C&T RENEWABLE ENERGY AUSTRALIA

Mangoplah BESS - EIS Community Survey

About you

* Gender identification

- ◯ Female
- ◯ Male
- ◯ Gender neutral
- ◯ Prefer not to say

* Age

- ◯ Under 19
- ◯ 20-24
- ◯ 25-34
- ◯ 35-44
- ◯ 45-54
- ◯ 55-64
- ◯ 65-74
- ◯ 95-84
- ◯ 85 and over

* Where best describes where you live?

- ◯ Less than 1km from the proposed project site
- ◯ 1km - 5km from the proposed project site
- ◯ 5km - 10km from the proposed project site
- ◯ More than 10km from the proposed project site but still within the Wagga Wagga City Council LGA
- ◯ I don't live here but I own land/property
- ◯ I don't live here but visit the area for recreation
- ◯ I don't live here but visit the area for work
- ◯ Other (please specify)

* What is your highest level of education?

- ◯ Did not go to school
- ◯ Year 8 or below
- ◯ Year 9 or equivalent
- ◯ Year 10 or equivalent
- ◯ Year 11 or equivalent
- ◯ Year 12 or equivalent
- ◯ TAFE / Vocational education and training (VET)
- ◯ University

SAMSUNG C&T RENEWABLE ENERGY AUSTRALIA

Mangoplah BESS - EIS Community Survey

Community

* In what way are you involved in the community? Choose all that apply.

- [ ] I live here
- [ ] I attend school or work locally
- [ ] I am a member of a local club or community organisation
- [ ] I am involved in agriculture
- [ ] I am involved in the university
- [ ] I am involved in tourism
- [ ] I am a near neighbour to the proposed development
- [ ] I own a business
- [ ] I work for an agency/organisation that is focused on this area
- [ ] I am not involved in the community
- [ ] Other (please specify)

What do you value most about the local area? Choose all that apply

- [ ] Cultural heritage
- [ ] Community/family ties
- [ ] Community safety and resilience
- [ ] Historic values
- [ ] Landscape and views
- [ ] Health and wellbeing
- [ ] Natural values, including biodiversity, ecosystems, etc.
- [ ] Recreation opportunities including sporting, fishing, nature based, etc.
- [ ] Work opportunities
- [ ] Other (please specify)

Please describe the attributes you are most proud of within your local community.

* What, if any, do you see as the major challenges that the Mangoplah community is currently facing?

SAMSUNG C&T RENEWABLE ENERGY AUSTRALIA

Mangoplah BESS - EIS Community Survey

The Project

* Please rate your overall level of support for the proposed project.

- [ ] Strongly oppose
- [ ] Oppose
- [ ] Somewhat oppose
- [ ] Neutral
- [ ] Somewhat support
- [ ] Support
- [ ] Strongly support
- [ ] Undecided/I don't know enough about it

What are the main reasons you're interested in the proposed project? Choose all that apply.

- [ ] I have a business and I would like to seek potential work or business opportunities with the project
- [ ] The proximity to my residence
- [ ] The potential adverse impacts on the local area
- [ ] I want to build my understanding of the project
- [ ] Other (please specify)

SAMSUNG C&T RENEWABLE ENERGY AUSTRALIA

Mangoplah BESS - EIS Community Survey

Visual amenity

* What landscape characteristics in local area are important to you? [best lookouts/public viewing locations]

* Please rate the scenic value of the following landscape features:

	Low	Moderate	High	Not applicable
Grazing land	◯	◯	◯	◯
Cropped farmland	◯	◯	◯	◯
Bushland areas	◯	◯	◯	◯
Rivers/creeks	◯	◯	◯	◯
Vegetation	◯	◯	◯	◯
Hills	◯	◯	◯	◯
Ridgelines	◯	◯	◯	◯
Townships	◯	◯	◯	◯

SAMSUNG C&T RENEWABLE ENERGY AUSTRALIA

Mangoplah BESS - EIS Community Survey

Important factors

* What concerns do you have (if any) about the proposed Mangoplah BESS?

	Very concerned	Concerned	Neutral	Not concerned	
Potential for visual impacts for near neighbours	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Potential for noise impacts for near neighbours	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Transportation planning and the use of local roads	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Temporary construction impacts (i.e., noise, traffic, dust)	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Temporary construction workforce impacts (i.e., local housing/accommodation, services)	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Temporary construction workforce impacts on services (health and other facilities)	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Effects on agricultural land use within the region	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Effects on land values	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Effects on natural areas or habitats	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Perceived health risks	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Fire management practices	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Potential for impacts to waterways	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Potential for impacts cultural heritage	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Size and scale	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Waste	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

Other (please specify)

* Please identify your level of importance in terms of **social and economic** considerations

	Not important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important	
Potential for diversification of land use/income streams	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Securing employment or business from the project	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Potential impacts to property values	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Cultural heritage	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Engagement with near neighbours	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Disruption to community cohesion	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions & help to combat climate change	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Community benefit opportunities from the project	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

Other (please specify)

SAMSUNG C&T RENEWABLE ENERGY AUSTRALIA

Mangoplah BESS - EIS Community Survey

Decision making process

* In terms of the potential for Mangoplah BESS to invest in community initiatives, what do you think they could invest in on an annual basis [Also suggest ways to manage]

Thinking about the company, SREA, and the proposed project, please indicate your agreement with the following statements.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Slightly disagree	Not sure	Slightly agree	Agree	Strongly agree
People in my community will have opportunities to participate in the decision-making process.	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
The project team will be interested in knowing what I think about the proposed project.	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
I think the project team will listen to and respect my opinions.	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

In your opinion, what would good community engagement in this community look like?

SAMSUNG C&T RENEWABLE ENERGY AUSTRALIA

Mangoplah BESS - EIS Community Survey

How would you like the Project Team to engage with you going forward?

- ◯ Follow up phone call
- ◯ I would like a meeting at my residence
- ◯ I would like to subscribe to email updates
- ◯ I would like a regular newsletter via email
- ◯ I will visit the website if I need extra information
- ◯ No further contact necessary
- ◯ Other (please specify)

Contact details

Name	
Organisation name (if applicable)	
Address	
Postcode	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

Is there anything else that you would like to tell us or feel that is important to say?

Appendix H WWCC letter

SAMSUNG C&T RENEWABLE ENERGY AUSTRALIA

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA)

Suite 8.04, Level 8
227 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000

19 March 2025

Carly Hood - Manager of Environment and Sustainability
Wagga Wagga City Council
243 Baylis Street
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
e: hood.carly@wagga.nsw.gov.au

Dear Carly,

RE: Project update: Proposed Mangoplah Battery Energy Storage System

Following on from our conversations in October last year, we wanted to reach out again and provide an update on the proposed **Mangoplah Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)** in Mangoplah, NSW.

For context, SREA is studying a 10.4 ha portion of land (The Project Site) off Holbrook Road, Mangoplah for the siting of the BESS, that would connect into the 132 kV electricity transmission network that traverses the site.

The expected capacity and storage duration for the BESS would be approximately 100MW/400MWh (4-hour storage) and its investment value will trigger the NSW State Significant Development (SSD) planning pathway through the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

A map of the proposed site location and indicative layout is enclosed with this letter for your reference.

Project update

In mid-2024, SREA commenced engaging with the community and key stakeholders to complete the initial stages of a development application, called a Scoping Report.

The Scoping Report was submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) in October, and SREA subsequently received the Secretary's Environmental Assessment

Requirements (SEARs) on 27 November 2024. The SEARs list the information that must be included with a development application in the form of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Scoping Report and SEARs can be found here https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/mangoplah-battery-energy-storage-system.

The project is now working through the detailed assessment required for the EIS, which will accompany the development application.

The EIS and the associated community engagement activities are being managed by NGH – a leading Australian environmental, social, and planning firm. SREA is currently working with NGH to gather information from locals to help inform the EIS.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

The EIS allows us to fully assess the merits of the proposed BESS while engaging with the local Mangoplah community in more detail to better understand issues, shape the project and inform opportunities to share benefits locally.

The EIS assessments have commenced and will continue over the coming months. The EIS will include specialist impact assessment reports, such as:

- Visual impact
- Noise
- Biodiversity
- Heritage
- Traffic and transport
- Social impact

SREA aims to submit the EIS report to the DPHI in mid-2025. Community and stakeholder engagement over the coming months will be summarised within the EIS, along with the outcomes of the specialist reports outlined above.

Once the EIS is submitted, it will be placed on public exhibition. During this stage, the community and government agencies will be invited to provide feedback on the Project. SREA will then respond to any issues, comments or concerns raised by the community and stakeholders within a Submissions Report. DPHI will then make a recommendation on whether the project should be approved.

Future engagement

SREA is committed to engaging and collaborating with residents to support beneficial outcomes for both the environment as well as the local community. Communities are at the centre of what we do, and our team is proudly committed to genuine community engagement and strives to build positive relationships.

SREA and NGH are hosting two community information drop-in sessions that will be held in early April 2025. Members from NGH and the SREA team will be there to discuss the Project and answer questions. The details of the information sessions are:

Tuesday, 1 April 2025 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Wednesday, 2 April 2025 7:30 am – 11:30 am
Mangoplah Hall 14 Cox St, Mangoplah NSW 2652	Mangoplah Hall 14 Cox St, Mangoplah NSW 2652

Thank you for confirming the in-person meeting at your Wagga Wagga City Council office on 1 April 2025 at 11:30 am. We are looking forward to speaking with you then.

Local benefits

Community Benefit Schemes are an integral part of State Significant Developments in NSW, ensuring that local communities receive long term advantages beyond job creation and related services.

We welcome your input on local priorities and ideas for sharing the benefits of the Project as we explore ways to invest in the community. SREA's investment will align with NSW's Benefit-Sharing Guideline (2024), which ensures that communities benefit from renewable energy development in their region in proportion to the project's scale and impact.

To read the guidelines, visit:https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-11/benefit-sharing-guideline.pdf.

During peak construction, the development will support approximately 60 jobs, with an average of 20-30 jobs throughout the entire construction period. Additionally, it will help boost the local economy by diversifying income and increasing revenue for businesses such as food providers, lodging, and tourism operators. If the Project is approved, we will engage with local businesses and service providers to explore opportunities for participation.

Once operational, the site will be largely remotely managed, with an estimated 1-2 full-time equivalent roles. The Project will also make a significant contribution to the NSW Government's goal of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050 by supplying clean, renewable energy to the grid.

About Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA)

SREA began operations in Australia in 2022 and has solar and storage project interests across New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland. SREA currently operates out of offices in Sydney and Brisbane, with personnel working remotely in Victoria.

To meet the needs of clients aiming to diversify their energy mix amid stringent carbon emissions requirements, SREA strives to become a full-spectrum energy provider in the clean energy sector. The company is committed to deploying sustainable energy resources with a vision to create value globally.

Over the past two decades, SREA has completed several renewable projects worldwide, including the world's largest wind and solar power cluster in Ontario, continuously delivering solutions that enable customers to fully leverage renewable resources.

Get in touch

SREA will always look for ways to invest in the local community to help support local initiatives and improvements. We would also love to hear your ideas on how to share Project benefits locally, so if you have any suggestions on initiatives or programs that would support the local community, please reach out.

If you have any questions about the Project, please contact us via any of the following methods:

W: https://www.mangoplahbess.com

E: engage@nghengage.com.au

P: 1800 607 484.

Kind regards,

Stephan Mitchell
Development Manager

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA)

SAMSUNG C&T RENEWABLE ENERGY AUSTRALIA

Appendix I Letter to MPs

SAMSUNG C&T RENEWABLE ENERGY AUSTRALIA

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA)

Suite 8.04, Level 8
227 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000

19 March 2025

Dr Joe McGirr, MP
Member for Wagga Wagga

64 Baylis Street
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

e: waggawagga@parliament.nsw.gov.au

RE: Project update: Mangoplah Battery Energy Storage System

Dear Mr McGirr,

As you may recall from our correspondence in October last year, Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA) is currently assessing the potential for a battery energy storage system (BESS) located approximately 3.1 km east of Mangoplah, NSW.

For context, SREA is studying a 10.4 ha portion of land (The Project Site) for the siting of the BESS, that would connect directly into the 132 kV electricity transmission network that traverses the site.

The expected capacity and storage duration for the BESS would be approximately 100MW/400MWh (4-hour storage) and its investment value will trigger the NSW State Significant Development (SSD) planning pathway through the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

BESS developments provide reliable and efficient energy by stabilising the grid. They store energy from renewable sources like solar, and make it available during peak periods, or when the sun is not shining. The project would assist in reducing Australia's emissions, improve national resilience in energy supply, and support affordable clean energy for Australians. The project will also provide benefits to the local community.

Project update

In mid-2024, SREA commenced engaging with the community and key stakeholders to complete the initial stages of a development application, called a Scoping Report.

The Scoping Report was submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) in October, and SREA subsequently received the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) on 27 November 2024. The SEARs list the information that must be included with a development application in the form of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Scoping Report and SEARs can be found here https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/mangoplah-battery-energy-storage-system.

The project is now working through the detailed assessment required for the EIS, which will accompany the development application.

The EIS and the associated community engagement activities are being managed by NGH – a leading Australian environmental, social, and planning firm. SREA is currently working with NGH to gather information from locals to help inform the EIS.

Our planned engagements over the coming months include:

- Ongoing discussions with nearby landowners
- Two face-to-face pop-up information sessions
- Email/letter updates to the stakeholder database focused on assessment activities
- Presentations to a range of groups, including the Berrigan Shire Council
- Running an online survey focused on capturing thoughts on key issues and landscape values
- Social impact specific research – including targeted interviews to discuss impacts and opportunities.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

The EIS allows us to fully assess the merits of the proposed BESS while engaging with the local Mangoplah community in more detail to better understand issues, shape the project and inform opportunities to share benefits locally.

The EIS assessments have commenced and will continue over the coming months. The EIS will include specialist impact assessment reports, such as:

- Visual impact
- Noise
- Biodiversity
- Heritage
- Traffic and transport
- Social impact

SREA aims to submit the EIS report to the DPHI in mid-2025. Community and stakeholder engagement over the coming months will be summarised within the EIS, along with the outcomes of the specialist reports outlined above.

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We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss the Project further at your Wagga office. If this would be of interest, please advise a day and time outside of the above information sessions, and our team will organise an in-person meeting (or online on a different date, if preferred).

Local benefits

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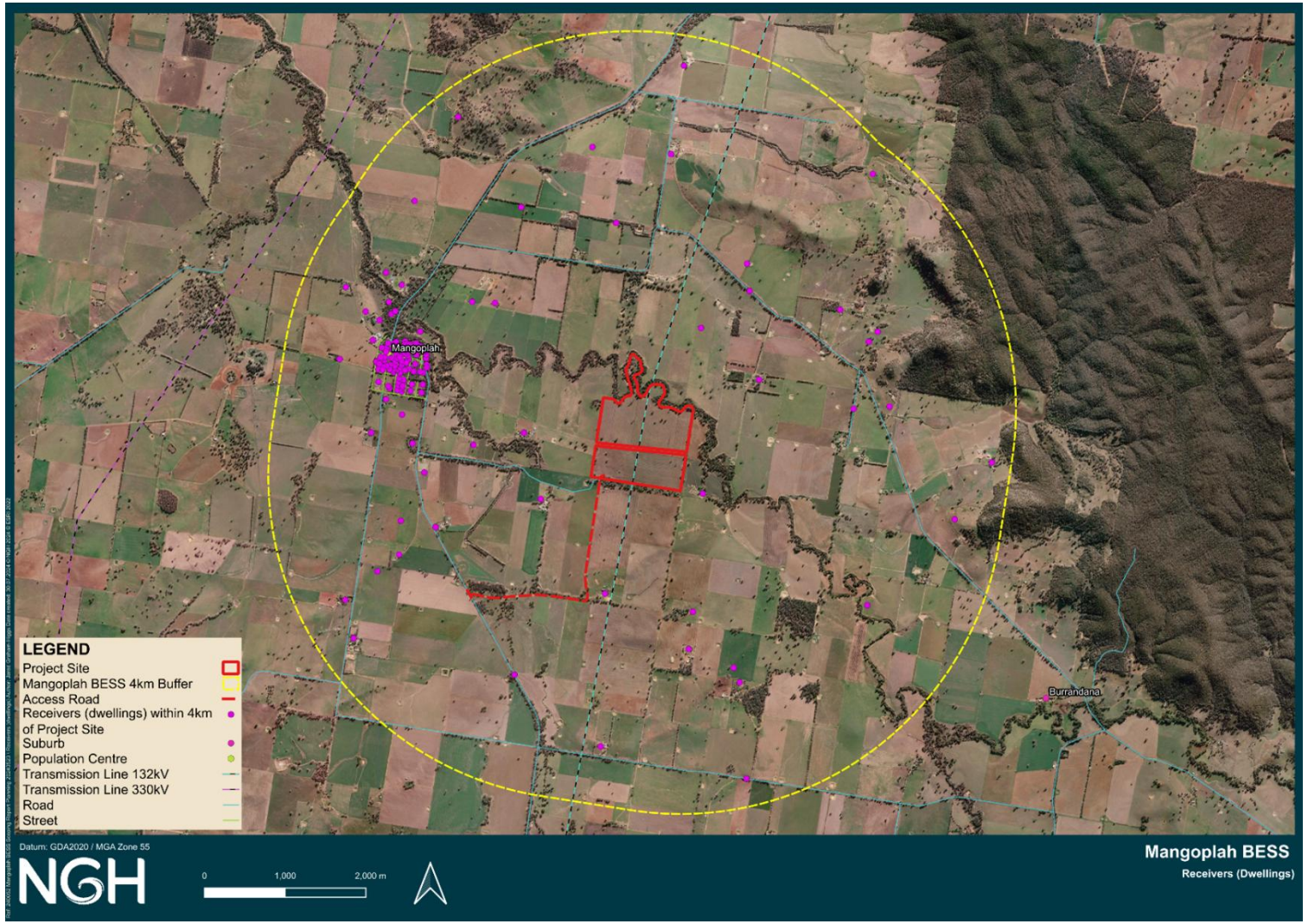
Kind regards,

Stephan Mitchell
Development Manager

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA)

SAMSUNG SAMSUNG C&T RENEWABLE ENERGY AUSTRALIA

Appendix J Non-associated receiver map



NGH

NSW • ACT • QLD • VIC

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