

Appendix D Community and stakeholder engagement

Corowa BESS

Appendix D - Community Consultation Supporting Materials



Engagement Activities and Supporting Materials

The summary of community engagement is in the EIS Chapter 5 – this Appendix provides the examples of the methods of communication.

Materials used to support the engagement activities include:

- Surveys and feedback forms for community information sessions (online)
- Project-specific brochures/information sheets/flyers/posters
- Letters sent via Australia Post or letterbox dropped (including information sheets)
- Newspaper advertising
- Press releases
- Emails with photomontages, landscaping, site design, and other project information

1. Community Day #1 – 20 May 2025

Community Day #1 was hosted at Corowa's Memorial Hall. Council members, direct neighbours, interested community members, and environmental groups attended.

1.1 Email Invites with Project Site Map



Federation Council
Federation Council Building & Planning
100 Edward Street
Corowa NSW 2646

06/05/25

Dear Federation Council Building & Planning,

We are writing to invite you to our Community Day for Flow Power's Corowa Energy Project. As a key stakeholder to this project, we value your feedback. We would be grateful for the opportunity to consult with you, and with the broader community, prior to submitting the project's development application.

The planned project site is located at 275 Whitehead St Corowa, NSW 2646, adjacent to the Essential Energy substation, approximately 4 kilometres from the town centre. Please see the attached map for details. Corowa Battery is a proposed 100MW / 200MWh capacity Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) to be constructed on approximately 4 hectares. We plan to submit our application for Development Approval to the Department of Transport and Planning, later this year. Flow Power will undertake environmental, noise, cultural heritage and other specialist investigations on site to inform this process.

If you would like to speak to us in-person about the project, ask any questions or provide feedback, please see the below details of our community day/ drop-in session.

- When: Tuesday 20 May 2025
- Where: Memorial Hall Corowa - 86/88 Sanger St, Corowa NSW 2646
- Time: 12pm – 4pm

If you are unable to make this session, we are happy to schedule an alternative time to speak with you. If you have any queries or feedback in relation the project, please don't hesitate to get in touch via the contact details below.

Yours sincerely,

Corowa Battery Project Team, Flow Power

E: info@CorowaBattery.com.au



1.2 Advertisement in local newspapers



COROWA ENERGY PROJECT

Flow Power is developing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) near Corowa, to provide essential grid services for the local electricity network and community.

Flow Power is dedicated to collaborating with communities and stakeholders throughout the project development lifecycle. We value your feedback. We will be hosting a drop-in information session and look forward to engaging with community members and local businesses to discuss the project.

**Tuesday, 20 May 2025,
12pm - 4pm**

Memorial Hall Corowa
86/88 Sanger St,
Corowa NSW 2646

info@CorowaBattery.com.au
[https://flowpower.com.au/
renewable-energy-projects/](https://flowpower.com.au/renewable-energy-projects/)

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1.3 Brochure distributed in town and at community day

A Flow Power Project

Flow Power partnered with community energy group, Renewable Newstead, to build the Newstead Community Energy Project.

The 3 MW solar farm and 5 MWh BESS can generate enough renewable energy to power 1,300-1,600 homes - around 3 times Newstead's current requirements - helping secure the community's energy supply for years to come.

This is estimated to reduce Newstead's CO₂ emissions by about 5,750 tonnes annually, contributing to the sustainable energy future the community has long envisioned.



ABOUT US

Flow Power is one of Australia's fastest growing energy retailers, working to accelerate the renewable energy transition.

Since 2009, we've delivered cleaner, cheaper energy for our customers, thanks to our innovative electricity contracts, in-house engineering capabilities, energy management technology and portfolio of renewable generation projects.

Annually, our renewable project portfolio generates over 930 GWh of renewable energy for Australia.

Questions about the Corowa Energy Project?

Flow Power is committed to working with communities and key stakeholders throughout the project development lifecycle.

If you'd like to know more about Corowa Energy Project or get involved, please get in touch with Flow Power's Projects team.

1300 080 608
info@corowabattery.com.au



COROWA ENERGY PROJECT

THE PROJECT

Flow Power is in the early stages of developing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in Corowa, designed to provide reliable renewable energy to the local community and NSW grid.

The project will involve the planning, construction and operation of a BESS, with an indicative capacity of 100 MW / 200 MWh.

The proposed site is located at 275 Whitehead St, Corowa and is approximately 6 hectares.



Planned project activities

The project will involve installation of the following infrastructure, associated buildings and works including:

- Installation of the BESS containers, with up to 200 MWh of energy storage
- Ancillary infrastructure and equipment, including an onsite substation to connect to Essential Energy network, operational and maintenance facility and control room
- Site access from Whitehead Street
- New security fencing and screening landscaping as required around the perimeter of the project area



Project benefits

- The BESS project will store excess power from renewable sources like solar and wind and release it during peak demand or low generation periods.
- The project will also enhance grid stability by responding to fluctuations in the network. In this way it helps contribute to affordable, reliable, sustainable energy delivered to communities and businesses within NSW.
- Regional investment in the NSW energy sector, delivering direct financial benefits to local communities.
- Installation of utility-scale batteries can postpone or replace costly power line upgrades that would ultimately be paid for by electricity customers.
- Approximately 100 jobs created during construction, and longer-term maintenance contracts, preferencing local workers and businesses.
- Community Benefit Initiatives will be developed in consultation with local stakeholders.

1.4 Posters at Community Day

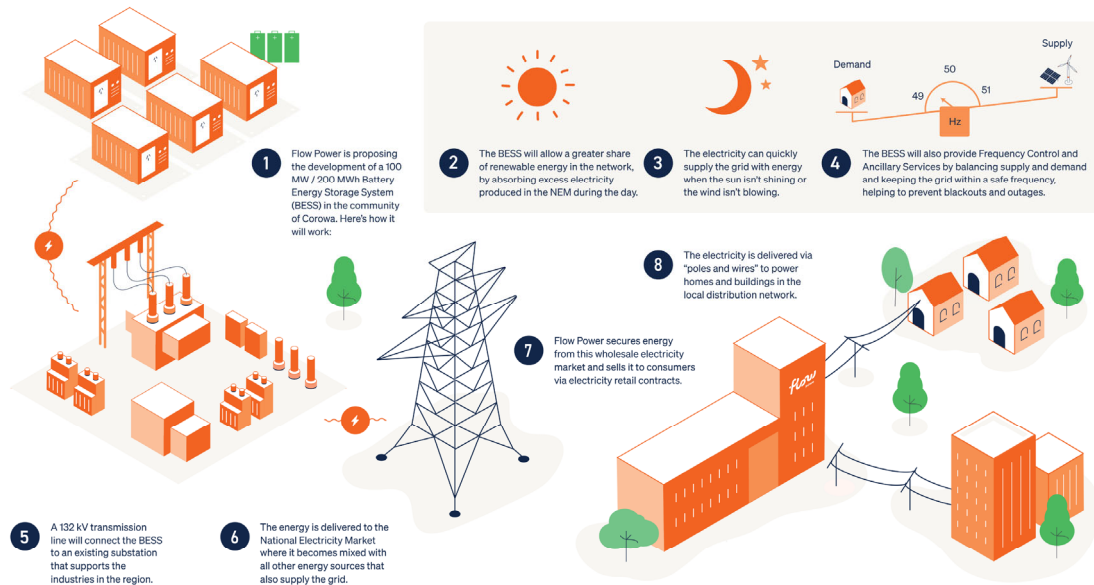
Project map



Legend

 Project scoping area

How will the battery work?



1.5 Photos



1.6 Follow Up Email with Renewable Energy Project Process (post Community Day)

A document regarding the general renewable energy project process was made available to neighbours. This was sent to select neighbours who expressed interest in understanding more about the renewable energy project process.



Corowa NSW 2646

28/5/2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for attending Flow Power's Community Day at the Memorial Hall to discuss the potential Energy Project. It was great to meet you in person and to hear your feedback.

We received great questions on the day and wanted to use this letter to address a few items and provide additional clarity. Questions were asked regarding the development process for an energy project such as a battery, where Flow Power are up to in this development process, and when/how we engage with neighbours and communities.

We created a document that outlines the general process that many renewable projects go through – please see this enclosed. This document is a guideline only and aims to provide information about the development process.

Flow Power are in the early stages of project planning. As of a few weeks ago, Flow Power entered Step 2 on the enclosed document (Feasibility Tests & Community Engagement). Flow Power met with the Council and then, as you know, held the first Community Day (20th May) shortly thereafter. Feasibility tests are being undertaken on site, which allow a better understanding for project suitability. Tests include but are not limited to surveying, environmental studies, fire safety assessments, noise assessments etc.

What are the next steps?

We anticipate feasibility testing may be completed in September/October. After the results are complete and analysed, Flow Power will provide you a project update. We will also host another Community Day at that time and will provide you advanced notice. After the second community day, and after we incorporate further feedback provided by yourselves and the



wider community, Flow Power plan to submit our application for Development Approval to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure. This submission will be available for public exhibition where formal feedback may be submitted.

In the meantime, if you have queries or further feedback in relation the project, please don't hesitate to get in touch. You can reach us via the info email, company phone number, or if you prefer a direct line to speak to someone, please see Mark's mobile number: 0461 361 994.

Thank you again for attending and for sharing your feedback.

Mark Raymond, Nilo Monkienon, and Kait Williamson

Flow Power

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E: info@CorowaBattery.com.au
W: flowpower.com.au

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General Development Process for Renewable Energy Projects

Please see below a general development process that is common for renewable energy process. This document is a general guideline only. You can also learn more about our company via our website: <https://flowpower.com.au/renewable-energy-projects/>. Flow Power are passionate about meaningfully engaging communities and stakeholders throughout the lifecycle of the project.

1. Project Identification and Site Selection

A project's journey begins by identifying areas suitable for renewable energy development. This phase includes thorough analysis to ensure the sites we select have the potential to balance technical feasibility, environmental sustainability, and minimal community disruption.

We reach out to landowners in potential project areas, offering additional information and answering initial questions.

2. Feasibility Tests and Community Engagement

Once a landowner partner is found, we assess the site and conduct detailed feasibility studies. This includes evaluating solar, battery, or wind resources, environmental impact, community impact, infrastructure access, and other factors critical to project success.

During this stage, we prioritise transparency and invite community feedback. Through drop-in meetings/community days, surveys, and conversations, we gain valuable insights and aim to ensure landowners, neighbours, community members and First Nations representatives and stakeholders are heard and informed.

[Corowa BESS project is currently at this stage.](#)

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3. Development Application and Environmental Impact Statements (EIS)

Based on the feasibility tests and community feedback, we prepare a detailed development application, which typically includes an EIS for the local, state and federal agencies as necessary to assess the potential environmental benefits and impacts of the project.

Cultural Heritage: In line with our commitment to sustainability, we conduct thorough cultural heritage assessments. We work closely with local organisations and representatives to ensure First Nations people are meaningfully and sustainably engaged, ensuring cultural heritage is respected and upheld.

Grid Connection: We also work closely with local electricity network operators to assess the feasibility of the electrical connection. We endeavour to maintain and where possible enhance electrical network security and efficiency.

4. Public Exhibition and Submissions

The development application and supporting documents are made available for public review. This provides the community an opportunity to review the project details, ask questions, and provide feedback.

We actively encourage landowners, neighbours, community members, First Nations representatives and stakeholders to submit their input. This feedback is invaluable for refining the project and ensuring it meets community needs and expectations.

5. Assessment of Submissions and Approval Process

After feedback is submitted, we carefully review all feedback received and respond to concerns through clarifications and, where appropriate, modifications to the project design. We incorporate feedback received where possible.

Upon responding to submissions, the project undergoes a formal assessment process by the relevant authorities. Project approval is granted with considerations that the project meets environmental, cultural, and community standards.

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In conjunction with project approval, an additional approval is sought to connect to the grid by the local transmission or distribution network operator. The technical performance of the project is modelled and tested by engineers from both Flow Power and AEMO, the Australian Energy Market Operator, to confirm safe and secure access to the grid.

6. Contracting and Financing

After obtaining approvals, we finalise contractor partnerships and square away any outstanding financing for the project. We endeavour to use local contractors and First Nations organisations where possible.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming one of our suppliers, please see our website: <https://flowpower.com.au/goods-and-services-register/>

Throughout this process, we keep all stakeholders updated on financial milestones and significant partnerships to demonstrate our commitment to transparency.

7. Procurement, Early Works, and Design

This phase prepares all items required to commence construction. This includes ordering long-lead time materials, finalising design plans, and preparing site construction management plans. We coordinate with landowners, neighbours, local councils and communities on these plans to minimise disruption to daily activities during construction.

8. Construction

With approvals in place, contracts executed, and design completed, the construction commences. We coordinate with landowners, neighbours, local councils and communities to minimise disruption to daily activities during site preparation and construction.

Typical major construction activities may include road building, earthworks, fencing, and assembling and installing major components, such as solar panels or wind turbines.

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We maintain an open line of communication, keeping all stakeholders and local communities updated on construction progress. We welcome feedback, which can be submitted by emailing info@corowabattery.com.au or contacting a member of our team.

Before full-scale operation, the project undergoes rigorous testing to ensure safe and effective functionality and compliance with the National Electricity Rules (NER).

When we are able, we enjoy inviting our local contacts and community members to participate in an 'Open Day' event, celebrating the project and acknowledging the everyone's collective role in enabling the project to come to fruition.

9. Operations – Generating Clean Energy

With the project operational, our focus shifts to efficiently producing clean energy and optimising the output for the community and the wider grid network.

We offer regular updates and remain available to address questions long after the project is operational. Ongoing community benefits will be established and made available during the project. Our community initiatives are designed to be fit-for-purpose for each area in which we work.

10. Decommissioning

Many of our projects operate for 20-30 years. When the time comes for a project's lifecycle to end, we are committed to a thorough decommissioning process. This includes dismantling structures, removing them from the site, making-good the land, and minimising any environmental impact by recycling the decommissioned materials.

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2. Community Day #2 – 20 May 2025

2.1 Email Invites

For the Open Day, we invited over 50 stakeholders. This included local Councillors, Council planning staff, Essential Energy, potential local contractors, nearby neighbours, the local RFS, and local environmental groups. Letters were sent to all stakeholders, alongside a tailored email (e.g., direct neighbours received a personalised email alongside a formal invitation letter).



Adrian Butler
Federation Council

Dear Adrian,

We are writing to invite you to our Community Day for Flow Power's Corowa Energy Project. Corowa Energy Project is a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) developed by Flow Power. The project would be located at Whitehead St, Corowa, NSW 2646 approximately 4 kilometres from the Corowa town centre. As a local stakeholder to this project, we value your feedback. We would be grateful for the opportunity to consult with you, and with the broader community, prior to submitting the project's development application.

The planned project site is located adjacent to the Essential Energy substation, approximately 4 kilometres from the town centre. Please see the attached map for details. The project proposal has the capacity of 100MW/200MWh with an area of approximately 4 hectares. Flow Power plan to submit our application for Development Approval to the Department of Planning, Housing, and Infrastructure, later this year. We will undertake environmental, noise, visual, cultural heritage and other specialist investigations on site to inform this process.

If you would like to speak to us in-person about the project, ask any questions or provide feedback, please see the below details of our community day/ drop-in session.

- When: Thursday 20 November 2025
- Where: TAFE Corowa – the Connected Learning Centre's Maker Space, Corner of Riesling and Isabel Street
- Time: Drop in anytime between 3pm – 7pm

If you are unable to make this session, we are happy to schedule an alternative time to speak with you. If you have any queries or feedback in relation the project, please don't hesitate to get in touch via the contact details below. Yours sincerely,

Mark Raymond – Head of Project Development
Kat Williamson – Head of Community and Stakeholder Engagement
Niilo Monkkonen – Project Manager

Flow Power

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1/11/2025



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2.2 Advertisements

This advertisement was showcased in the Corowa Free Press and other local newspapers.



Corowa Energy Project - Information Session

Flow Power is developing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) near Corowa, to provide essential grid services for the local electricity network and community. Flow Power is dedicated to collaborating with communities and stakeholders throughout the project development lifecycle. We will be hosting an information session and look forward to engaging with community members and local businesses to discuss the project.

Thursday, 20 November 2025 | Drop in anytime between 3pm and 7pm
TAFE Corowa – Connected Learning Centre – Maker Space
Corner of Riesling and Isabel Street
info@CorowaBattery.com.au
<https://flowpower.com.au/renewable-energy-projects/>

2.3 Information Fact Sheets

2.3.1 Bushfire and Preliminary Hazard Assessment Fact Sheet





Bushfire and Preliminary Hazard Assessment - Corowa Battery Energy Storage System

The Bushfire Assessment Report evaluates the proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) in terms of its capability for life safety, property and infrastructure protection, and emergency response in an external bushfire event and specifies design and management measures for the proposed BESS to be compliant relevant regulations. The Preliminary Hazard Assessment looks at hazards as a result from the project, such as a negative impact on people's health from any hazardous materials.

Bushfire assessment highlights

- ✓ The proposed BESS site is not mapped as bushfire prone land. However, the grasslands surrounding the BESS site are mapped as vegetation category 3 in response to the impact of grass fires
- ✓ With the implementation of the following measures, the proposed BESS is considered capable of satisfying the relevant bushfire protection requirements:
 - Recommended construction standard as per the National Construction Code
 - Recommended asset protection zone
 - Compliant access and egress
 - Maintain static water supply
 - Ongoing asset protection zone/ landscape management
- ✓ A dedicated Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan should be prepared for the Project prior to construction to address operational response, evacuation triggers, and roles/ responsibilities

Preliminary hazard analysis (PHA) highlights

- ✓ The assessment looks at any possible dangers to people's health from the project. This includes things like fire risks, whether anything could catch fire on its own and any electromagnetic fields created by the equipment or power connection. The assessment also includes an early review of whether any hazardous materials might be involved in the project
- ✓ The risk profile for the proposed BESS is considered tolerable under the principle of As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP), with 13 medium-risk events and 4 low-risk events identified. Most medium-risk events are related to fire events that have onsite impacts, and their exposure is likely to have minimal offsite impacts
- ✓ There is negligible potential for offsite fatality or injury identified, thus meeting the land use planning criteria
- ✓ Proposed internal BESS separation distances exceed key guideline requirements and, together with the size of the site and distances to neighbours, the proposed BESS does not pose a significant off-site risk, and the proposed separation distance is considered appropriate at the planning stage
- ✓ The results of this PHA are to be used as inputs for the Emergency Response Plan, Fire Safety Study, and the Bushfire Emergency Management and Operations Plan
- ✓ The proposed BESS construction is to be progressed adhering to the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) recommendations, and relevant recommendations from the Victorian Big Battery Project's Fire Statement of Technical Findings

Environmental Noise and Vibration Assessment - Corowa Battery Energy Storage System



The Environmental Noise and Vibration Assessment evaluates the level of noise that the proposed Corowa Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is likely to create during construction works and operation, and in terms of traffic and cumulative noise.

Construction noise

- ✓ The predicated construction noise levels of the BESS comply with the construction Noise Management Level (NML) at all identified nearby residences
- ✓ There is potential for NML exceedances when the three loudest plant items run at the same time in close proximity to certain receivers. These predictions assume equipment is positioned at the closest points to each receiver and operating concurrently, which is not typical of actual site operations
- ✓ Predicted construction noise from the BESS and access road remains below the “highly noise-affected” threshold at all receivers

Operational noise

- ✓ With a 3.5-metre-high solid noise barrier in place, worst-case operational noise levels meet the criteria at all identified nearby residences. Meaning that no nearby residences will have a significant negative noise impact
- ✓ Operational noise from the BESS will not add to cumulative noise at any identified nearby residences, and the predicated noise level is unlikely to cause sleep disturbance

Road traffic noise

- Negligible noise from operational traffic is expected due to low number of vehicle movements
- Road traffic noise from construction-related vehicles along the access route is predicted to comply with the relevant Road Noise Policy (RNP) criteria at nearby residences

Mitigation mechanisms

- Building a solid noise barrier
- Using time-based controls and respite to manage short-term NML exceedances
- Implementing feasible practises: proper maintenance of plant and equipment, avoid unnecessary noise, switch off idle equipment, and keep close community liaison with a trained contact and a complaints procedure

2.3.3 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Report fact sheet



Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report - Corowa Battery Energy Storage System

Protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage in state significant development projects is both a legal duty and a way to respect the enduring history and living culture of Aboriginal people. With careful assessment and management of impacts, project goals can be achieved while protecting sites, stories, practices, and connections to land, including sacred places, ceremonial areas, artefacts, and intangible traditions held by Traditional Owners.

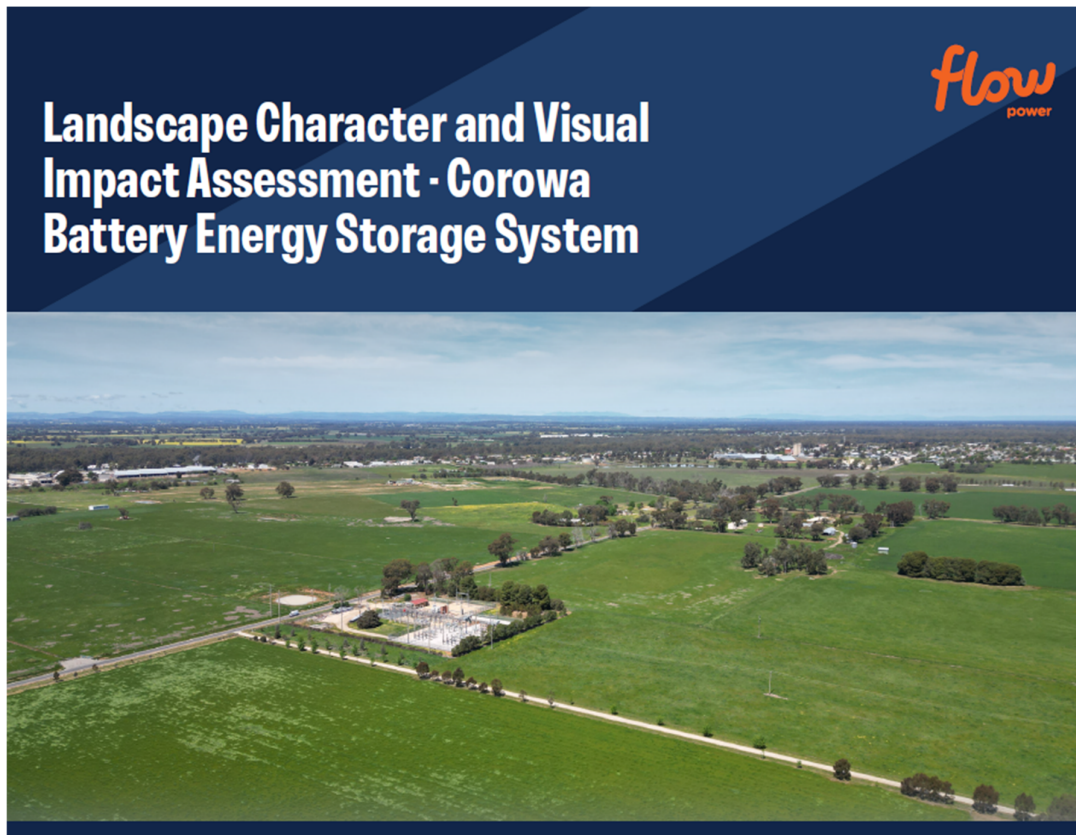
Findings

- There are no previously recorded Aboriginal sites within or near the Development Footprint of the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
- No Aboriginal sites were found, and no areas within the Development Footprint were assessed as likely to contain subsurface archaeological deposits, due to extensive landform modification and the absence of elevated landforms near permanent or semi-permanent water sources
- The site assessment and walkover was done with Dozer Atkinson, Bangerang man and Member of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Education (ACHE)
- Through consultation with the Aboriginal community, any Aboriginal cultural heritage values within the Amendment Assessment Area have not been identified

Recommendations

- The proposed project may proceed with caution noting that there are specific protocols to follow in the unlikely events that unexpected Aboriginal heritage items and human remains are encountered during work
- The proposed project may proceed without further archaeological investigation noting that there are specific standards to adhere in terms of the Development Footprint and staff training on cultural heritage induction

2.3.4 Landscape and Visual Impact Fact Sheet



The Landscape Character and Visual Impact Assessment (LCVIA) assesses how the presence of the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) may affect the existing visual amenity, landscape character and scenic quality.

Key public viewpoints and visual impact

- ✓ Sections along Whitehead Street and Bullecourt Road: overall visual impact - very low
- ✓ Geo Way Road: no visual impact because intervening elements that hinder visibility are present

Overall visual impact

- ✓ Although some views of the BESS are possible, the overall impact is assessed to be very low. Photomontages indicate that in areas where the BESS could be seen, existing scattered vegetation, the substation and its screen planting are likely to limit visibility further
- ✓ The proposed project can be undertaken without impacting the existing landscape character of the area and with minimal to no impact on nearby public or private viewing locations

Mitigation measures

- ✓ Due to the minimal to no impact caused by the proposed BESS, no specific mitigation measures are recommended
- ✓ Flow Power is committed to establishing additional vegetation screening along the northern and southern boundaries of the proposed BESS and this is expected to further reduce the BESS visibility from the assessed viewpoints

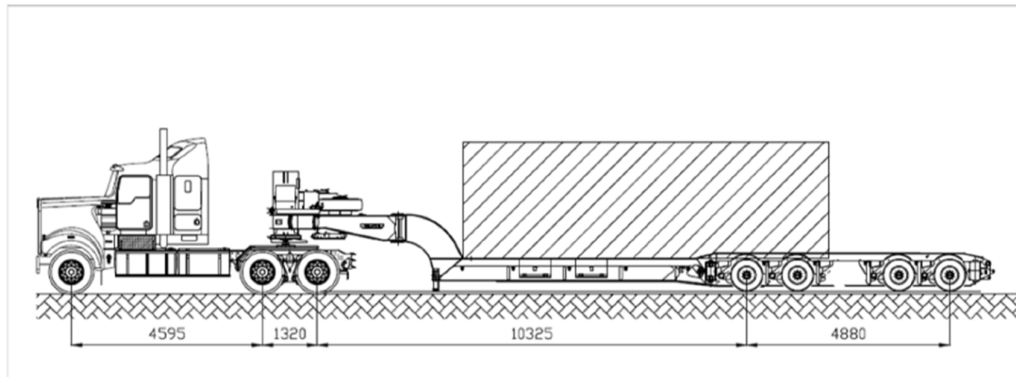
2.3.5 Traffic Impact Assessment Report Fact Sheet

Traffic Impact Assessment Report- Corowa Battery Energy Storage System



The Traffic Impact Assessment was a requirement for this State Significant Development project, where a report has been developed that assesses the construction, operational and decommissioning traffic impacts and access arrangements for the Corowa BESS project.

Figure 11: Example Battery Container Vehicle Combination



Findings

- ✓ During the construction period (spanning 18 months, with peak construction period lasting 6 months), a construction workforce of up to 75 personnel would be on-site during the peak construction phase and would primarily be drawn from Corowa. It is projected that during peak construction the Project could generate up to 50 light and 24 heavy vehicles per day
- ✓ The Traffic Impact Assessment recommended two road upgrades:
 1. At the intersection of Honour Avenue and Bullecourt Road to provide a short channelised right turn treatment; and
 2. The site access from Whitehead St to accommodate the Project traffic
- ✓ During operation the Project is expected to generate up to 8 vehicle movements per day associated with 1-2 maintenance personnel accessing the Project Area with some deliveries
- ✓ Decommissioning is anticipated to generate a similar level of traffic to the construction stage
- ✓ The preferred access route for the oversize/overmass vehicle transporting the largest BESS component is from either the Port of Melbourne or Port of Geelong. The transport route is from north through Honour Avenue, bypassing the Corowa township

Recommendations

- To mitigate the impacts of the Project during construction a Traffic Management Plan would be prepared which outlines a range of traffic management measures in order to ensure the construction traffic would have a minimal impact to the capacity and safety of the surrounding road network
- The assessment concluded that with the proposed access upgrades, the road network is able to accommodate the expected vehicle types and traffic volumes during the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the Project (subject to the proposed site access upgrades and traffic management measures). Further, the site access location has been suitably designed to allow vehicles to safely enter and exit the Project Area

2.3.6 Social and Economic Impact Assessment Fact Sheet



Social and Economic Impact Assessment – Corowa Battery Energy Storage System

The Social and Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) evaluates the impact that the project will cause to the community and economy. SEIA examines likely positive and negative impacts to areas such as livelihoods, culture, way of life, surroundings and social amenity, and the economic impact at local and state level.



Why is the Social and Economic Impact Assessment important?

Projects of this nature can impact local communities with changed conditions to way of life, infrastructure, land use, employment, and the environment. The SEIA ensures:

- Community consultations and engagement capture key concerns of the community
- Mitigation planning and monitoring for any potential impacts
- Identifying positive outcomes such as job creation, output, household income, and value-added to the local and state economy

Community engagement and benefit sharing

- **Consultation:** the project team has been undertaking early and active engagement with the local community, project neighbours, landholders, First Nations, council, and other stakeholders
- **Benefit sharing:** Community benefit initiatives are currently being developed in collaboration with Federation Council and key stakeholders

Headline concerns raised by the community to date

Noise and visual impact:

- Noise is mainly generated by the battery cooling fans, which operate intermittently when the system is discharging energy
- To reduce both noise and visual impacts, landscape screening such as walls, trees, and shrubs will be installed to create a sound buffer
- Early technical assessments indicate that noise levels will comply with NSW noise guidelines
- The landscape and visual impact assessment indicates that the proposed project can be undertaken without impacting the existing landscape character of the area and with minimal to no impact on nearby public or private viewing locations

Potential increased traffic, bushfire risk, and project decommissioning:

- A traffic management plan will be prepared by experts before construction to assess impacts on local roads, noting that traffic effects will mostly occur during construction
- A bushfire risk assessment will also be undertaken to ensure the battery poses no risk to the community
- Flow Power is responsible for decommissioning, with a decommissioning bond set aside in line with updated NSW Energy Guidelines to ensure sufficient funds are available to restore the site at the end of the project's life

Other technical assessments

- Aboriginal Heritage
- Biodiversity
- Land use and soils
- Water

2.3.7 Other Impacts Assessed Fact Sheet (Biodiversity and Flood Risk)

Other Impacts Assessed - Corowa Battery Energy Storage System





Biodiversity

Flow Power appointed NGH, an environmental consultancy to undertake Biodiversity Assessment Development Report to assess the impacts of the project on the local biodiversity.

Desktop study was used to provide the local context of the flora and fauna within the project site. Site survey for Sloane's Froglet was made in September 2025, and a survey for plant community types and targeted flora surveys for threatened species in September 2025 and in October 2025, and targeted surveys for threatened fauna in October 2025. These areas included the potential areas for project road upgrades.

Findings

- ✓ The Project Site is grazed land with both exotic vegetation and planted native vegetation
- ✓ No Sloane's Froglet calls heard within the project site
- ✓ No threatened flora within the project impact area
- ✓ No threatened fauna within the project impact area

Flood risks

Flow Power appointed Fyfe, an environmental consultancy to undertake a desktop flood assessment for the project to assess available flood-related information, identify potential flood risks and provide initial recommendations for project planning and development.

The study was based on publicly available flood study of the broader Murray River system, by WMA Water, for the Federation Council, dated October 2024. This study incorporated the townships of Corowa, Howlong, and Mulwala and included a flood model for the Murray River, as well as a local overland flow model for the Corowa Township. These models formed the basis for assessing flood risk at the project site.

Findings

- ✓ The flood study showed that the project site is not affected by the 1% annual exceedance probability Murray River flood event
- ✓ In local flooding conditions event by 1% annual exceedance probability, portions of the project site are subject to an overland flow from the external catchment areas to a depth of approximately 0.25m
- ✓ Although the site would have flood water during a 1% annual exceedance probability flood event, hydrological studies model that hazard level is still low, with flood hazard generally safe for people, vehicles and buildings during the flood event
- ✓ The existing Corowa Substation, located to the south-east of the project site is considered safe and free from flooding due to its elevated bench level

Recommendations

- ✓ Project site to be elevated to provide 500mm freeboard from flooding associated with the 1% annual exceedance probability storm event
- ✓ The recommended modelling is proposed to be undertaken after the EIS is submitted to allow a higher level of project design detail to be incorporated into the modelling exercise
- ✓ Key outputs of the modelling exercise would include:
 - Detailed design of flood mitigation infrastructure
 - Review of scour protection and erosion control measures
 - Climate change impacts will be included in the modelling to assess the impacts of increased rainfall intensity on the site at the associated catchment, and
 - Regional topography study to ensure that there is no adverse effect on displacement of floodwater elsewhere in the catchment

2.3.8 FAQs Fact Sheet

Corowa Battery Energy Storage System FAQs



1. What is the proposed scale of the Corowa Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)?

The Corowa BESS is a 100 MW / 200 MWh grid battery - stores enough energy to power all Federation Council's homes (~13,000 residents) for a day. The project site is approximately 6 ha. Of the 6 ha, the total project footprint will be between 2-3 ha. The estimated cost of construction is \$135 million.

2. Where will be the BESS located?

The proposed BESS site is located at 275 Whitehead Street. The project site will be situated behind the existing Corowa Substation and high voltage electricity transmission network.

3. Why has this location been selected?

The proposed site is ideal from an energy storage and distribution perspective, located beside the existing Corowa substation and high voltage transmission lines. This will likely reduce the potential impact on other features of the landscape by eliminating the need for additional transmission lines to connect the project to the grid.

4. Why is this project needed in the area?

Corowa and NSW more broadly need battery energy storage projects for several reasons, including storing renewable energy for reliability, supporting the grid in high-demand areas, and providing long-duration storage to smooth out supply. Specifically, there is a need for large-scale batteries like Corowa BESS to aid in managing the grid as more renewables come online. Corowa and surrounds have a range of solar energy generation coming from roof tops, commercial buildings, and the nearby Corowa solar farm that will benefit from greater energy storage options.

5. When will the BESS construction start/ finish?

The BESS construction is expected to start in 2027 and that construction will last approximately 18 months.

6. What are the expected project benefits to the local community?

Project benefits for locals include:

- ✓ The BESS project will store excess power from renewable sources like solar and wind and release it during peak demand or low generation periods
- ✓ The project will enhance local grid stability by responding to fluctuations in the network. In this way it helps contribute to affordable, reliable, sustainable energy delivered to communities and businesses within NSW
- ✓ Regional investment in the Corowa region, delivering financial benefits to local communities
- ✓ Installation of utility-scale batteries can postpone or replace costly power line upgrades that would ultimately be paid for by electricity customers. Community Benefit Initiatives will be developed in consultation with local stakeholders
- ✓ Benefits to the Corowa business community include the generation of local jobs, with approximately 70 jobs created during construction, and longer-term maintenance contracts, preferencing local workers and businesses

7. How will the local environment be protected?

Flow Power is currently going through the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure's State Significant Development approval process. This applies to projects over \$30 million, where detailed site feasibility studies take place and Independent technical assessments are undertaken to make sure the project meets all compliance requirements.

In June this year Flow Power submitted a scoping report which invites feedback from the relevant authorities to determine the detailed studies required. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is currently being developed and is expected to go to formal assessment by the Department by the end of the year.

Through the EIS process, independent technical assessments take place, including assessments on noise, traffic, Aboriginal heritage, landscape and visual, biodiversity, bushfire and hazards, land use and soils, water, and social and economic impact. From there, project approval is sought by the Department with considerations that the project meets environmental, cultural, and community standards. In conjunction with project approval, an additional approval is sought to connect to the grid by the local transmission or distribution network operator.

8. Who is Flow Power?

Flow Power has been reshaping power for Australian businesses since 1994, empowering large commercial and industrial customers with smarter ways to use electricity. Flow Power is proud to be one of Australia's fastest-growing electricity providers for residential and small businesses.

Flow Power is committed to listening to communities and delivering best possible projects outcomes in terms environmental and socio-economic aspects. Flow Power will be leading the Corowa BESS development and is actively engaging with the local community, project neighbours, landholders, First Nations, council, and other stakeholders.

9. Will the BESS be noisy?

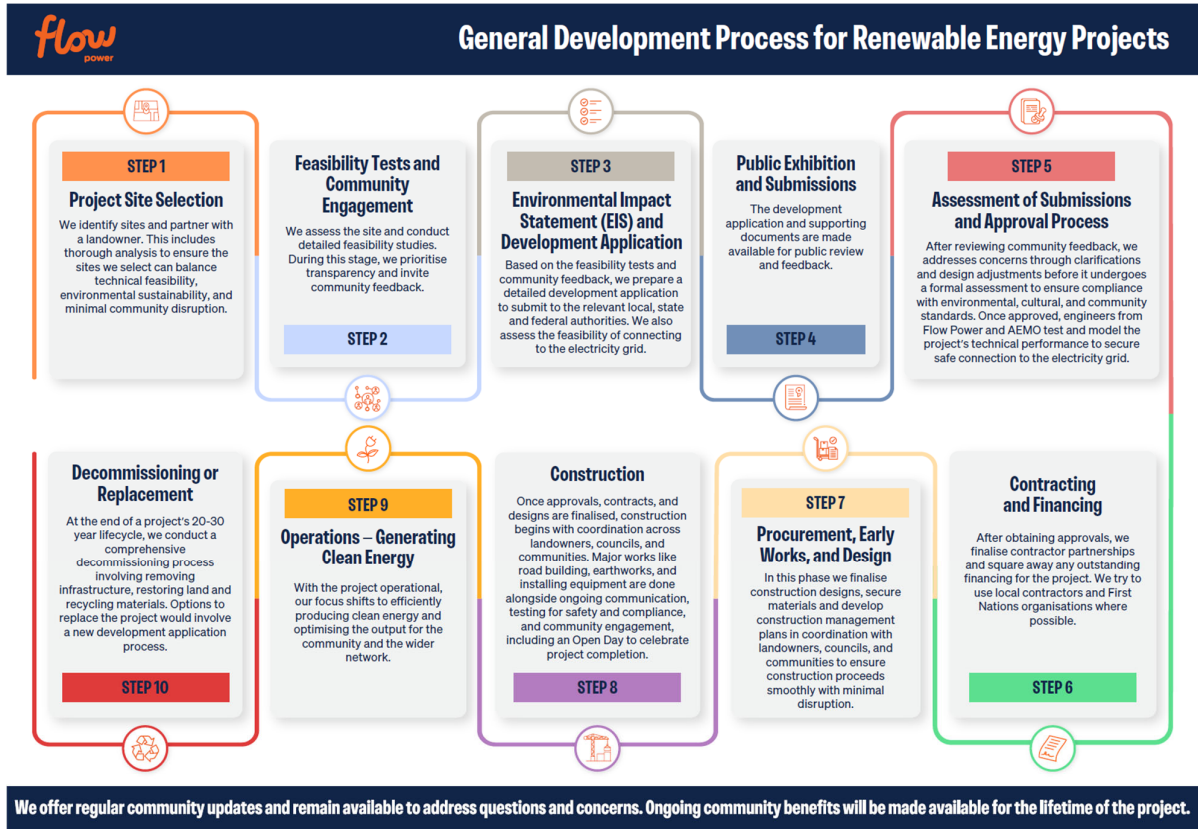
The predicted construction noise levels of the BESS comply with the construction Noise Management Level (NML) at all identified nearby residences.

10. Will the BESS affect the existing visual amenity?

The proposed project can be undertaken without impacting the existing landscape character of the area and with minimal to no impact on nearby public or private viewing locations.

2.3.9 Renewable Development General Process Infographic

This document took inspiration from the general project process shared with neighbours in May/June 2025.



2.4 Photos at TAFE NSW



3. Survey and Feedback Forms

These were distributed at both community days and made available during meetings.



FEEDBACK FORM COMMUNITY DAY

Question	Answer
Name	
Email	
Phone	
Preferred contact method (email or phone)?	
Tick those that apply: Community Member ☐ Supplier ☐ Contractor ☐ Local Business ☐ Other ☐	
If you are a supplier or contractor, what services would you like to provide? Where are you located?	
If you are a local business in the region, what's your business name?	
What are local services that the community relies on?	
What are some key things you would like to see improved in the community (if anything)?	
What potential benefits do you see from the Project to the community?	
What aspects of the project do you have concerns about?	
Do you know of any local suppliers that would want to work with us? Who are they and what are their services?	
What do you think about the proposed Project – (Oppose, Neutral, Support?)	
Is there a particular reason you oppose/are neutral/support?	

4. Project Information Distributed to Key Stakeholders

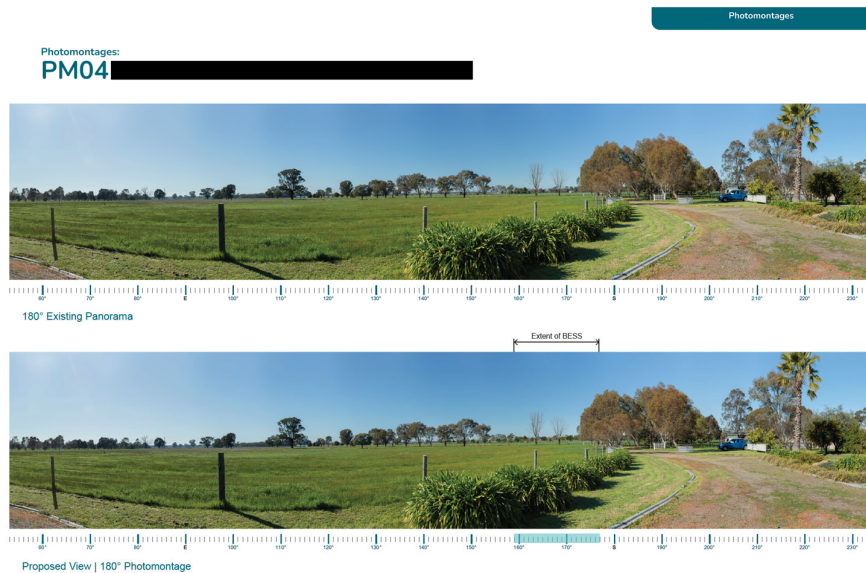
In addition to the fact sheets, invitations, and project processes, additional information was provided throughout the consultation process. The below is the updated landscaping plan and site design map. The design of the energy project and the landscaping plan were directly influenced and shaped by the discussions and feedback from close neighbours.

4.1 Updated Vegetation and Site Design Layout Documents



4.2 Photomontages

Visual Impact Assessments via Photomontages were performed on behalf of three direct neighbours. The results of the photomontages were sent via email. The results were discussed and reviewed in collaboration and consultation with each of the three households. Please see an example below:

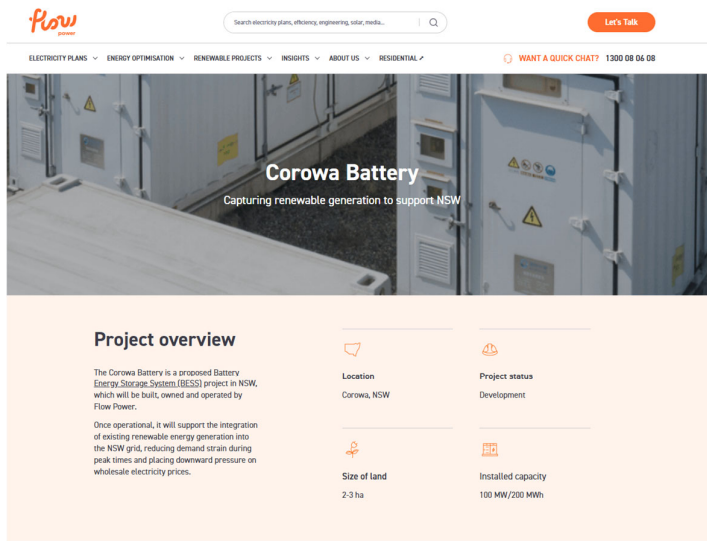


5. Website access

The Corowa website outlines details of the project, timelines, contact details, how to lodge a complaint or provide feedback, benefits of BESS projects and more.

<https://flowpower.com.au/corowa-battery/>

<https://flowpower.com.au/corowa-feedback-form/>



The screenshot shows the Flow Power website's 'Corowa Battery' project overview. The header includes the Flow Power logo, a search bar, and navigation links. The main content area features a large image of battery units with the text 'Corowa Battery' and 'Capturing renewable generation to support NSW'. Below this, a 'Project overview' section provides details about the project, its location, and its status.

Project overview

The Corowa Battery is a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in NSW, which will be built, owned and operated by Flow Power.

Once operational, it will support the integration of existing renewable energy generation into the NSW grid, reducing demand strain during peak times and placing downward pressure on wholesale electricity prices.

Location	Project status
Corowa, NSW	Development

Size of land	Installed capacity
2-3 ha	100 MW/200 MWh



About the land for the project

Corowa is located on Wiradjuri country. The Traditional Owners are the Bangerang people. The word Corowa is from the Wiradjuri language which means "rocky river crossing".

The Corowa Battery will be situated adjacent to the existing Corowa Substation and high voltage electricity transmission network. The project site has previously been cleared and is currently used for agricultural purposes, including cropping and grazing.

The total footprint of the Corowa Battery will be between 2-3 hectares.

Share your feedback about Corowa Battery

First name

Last name

Email

Phone

Preferred contact method

Tick those that apply

☐ Community member ☐ Supplier ☐ Contractor ☐ Local business ☐ Other

For suppliers or contractors, what services would you like to provide? Please include your location. Optional

Please provide your business' name if you are a local business in the region. Optional

Are there any local services the community relies on? Optional

6. Press Release & Media

Media Release from 10 November 2025 – read the full article at the website link below:

<https://flowpower.com.au/flow-power-announces-plans-for-state-significant-corowa-battery-project/>

Flow Power announces plans for State Significant Corowa Battery Project

November 10, 2025 . 3 min read time



Share



Proposed Corowa Battery to strengthen local grid stability and deliver community benefits to Federation Council area

Fast-growing renewable energy retailer and project developer, Flow Power, has announced plans for a State Significant Development (SSD) project in Corowa, NSW.

The proposed project is a 100 MW/200 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) that will enhance grid reliability, support renewable integration, and deliver long-term social and economic benefits to the local community.

The proposed Corowa Battery will be located at 275 Whitehead Street, behind the existing Corowa Substation, with a project footprint of approximately 2-3 hectares. Once operational, the battery will also provide essential services to the residents of off-peak hours to the Federation Council area.

Corowa Free Press article from 22 October 2025 – read the full article at the website link below:

<https://www.corowafreepress.com.au/news/135-million-battery-project-unveiled/>

NEWS

\$135 million battery project unveiled



By **Christine McKee**
Oct 22, 2025



Batteries similar to these are proposed at a \$135 million facility at Corowa to store solar energy.

A \$135 million, large-scale battery energy storage system (BESS) is proposed for Corowa, with construction expected to begin in 2027.