



The Beryl BESS Project Update

The proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) will store variable renewable energy generated in periods where supply exceeds demand, so that it can be dispatched at times of greater need.

Alongside new transmission, wind and solar power generation in the new Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone, the Beryl BESS (at 5 Holleys Lane, Gulgong) will unlock a firm supply of renewable power for up to 1.4 million

homes. It would also provide both voltage and reactive power support for the Beryl area.

Design, construction, testing, operation and maintenance will meet all NSW Government safety regulations and be developed in consultation with the NSW Rural Fire Service, Fire and Rescue NSW, Department of Planning & Environment, and the Mid-Western Regional Council.

Having your say

We invite stakeholders and the community to provide feedback on the Beryl BESS at every stage of the planning process.

Caring for our communities and the environment is a vital part of RAC's vision. We're committed to genuinely engaging with neighboring landowners, community and stakeholders to seek views and local knowledge that will be useful to inform our planning process.

Our project team recently visited nine nearby property owners to hear first-hand what's important to them and the wider community. RAC reviewed this feedback and has revised the initial location design to minimise potential noise or visual impacts for our nearby neighbors.

If you missed our recent visit, please contact us to book an online personal briefing or send your comments or questions to: berylbess@ratchaustrialia.com

The Beryl Bess Scoping Report has been submitted to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) for assessment. You can view the report on the NSW Government's Major Projects: (<https://pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects>).

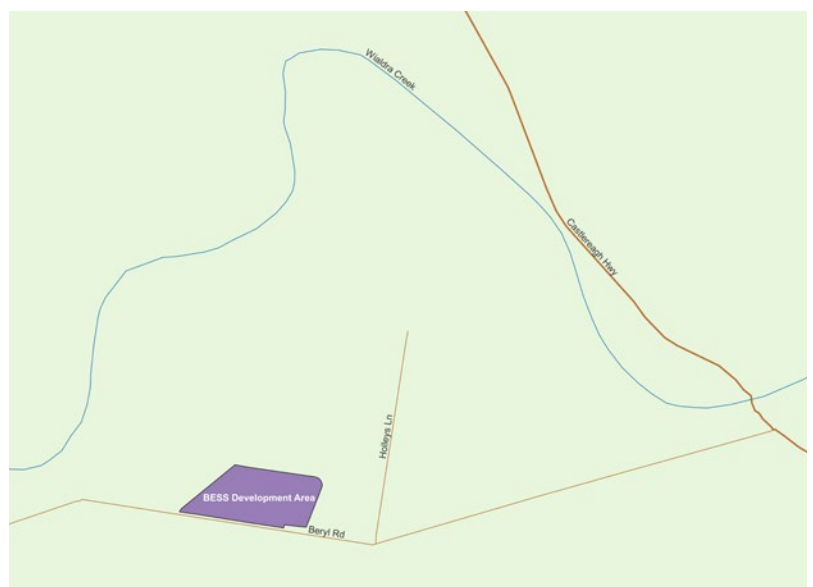
DPE will review the Scoping Report and issue requirements for matters to be covered in our Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). As part of the EIS' development process, we will also be seeking further feedback from the community. You will also be able to make formal submissions on the EIS to which we will respond (see FAQs below for more information).

What we've heard so far and what we're doing

Neighbouring landowners told us about their priorities and questions about the project. Most notably we heard about the importance of visual amenity, reducing potential noise and traffic during construction as much as possible, as well as proposing adjustments to the location of the BESS facility within the project area.

Key outcomes resulting directly from your feedback include:

- updating the design to the furthest set-back distance possible from neighbouring landowners, by moving the site closer to Beryl Road to minimise potential amenity impacts such as visual or noise
- vegetation screening and planting where feasible in the Project area to reduce potential visual amenity impacts and potential construction noise
- additional areas of avoidance or protection within the Project area that would result in reduced potential for biodiversity and heritage impacts.



Site area of the proposed Beryl BESS



Your FAQs

What is the project's planning assessment?

Stakeholders and the community will be invited to provide feedback on the Beryl BESS at key stages of the planning process.

The indicative planning timeline and community consultation periods include:

- August 2023 – [Scoping report](#) published on NSW Major Projects website
- Late 2023 / Early 2024 – Meet with the community and key stakeholders, to share information and gather feedback that will inform the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Mid 2024 – EIS published
- Mid 2024 – Receipt of formal submissions by stakeholders and the community
- Mid / Late 2024 – Response to Submissions Report published, sharing responses to submissions from the community and stakeholders
- Late 2024 – Anticipated project approval
- Early 2025 – Construction underway

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

Why is a BESS being considered for this location?

The location is within the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (CWO REZ), a 20,000 km² area connecting new renewable energy projects and electricity storage to deliver cheap, reliable, and clean electricity for homes and businesses in NSW. The CWO REZ is expected to unlock enough new network capacity to power to power 1.4 million homes by the mid-2020s.

The project is proposed to connect directly to Beryl 66kV/132kV substation which is directly across the road from the project site. The substation plays a major role in electricity supply and by incorporating a BESS it will increase electricity supply to the network and improve the system security by dispatching electricity instantaneously at times of high demand.

Beryl BESS will help to reduce the power loss in the transmission network with the ability to reduce curtailment from nearby renewable energy facilities in the CWO REZ by storing energy.

How will the community benefit?

RAC encourages all feedback on how we can support the local community's priorities and development, and where ever possible, we're committed to using local suppliers and contractors during construction and operation.

The BESS would also provide both voltage and reactive power support for the Beryl area, as well as wider NSW energy supply.

How long will it take to construct Beryl BESS?

The estimated construction period for Beryl BESS is 12 Months.

Where will the temporary construction workforce be housed?

RAC will develop an accommodation strategy during the EIS phase in consultation with Mid-Western Regional Council and other relevant stakeholders. This will include a cumulative assessment and analysis of the ability and feasibility of limiting use of existing tourism facilities, such as motels or hotels to accommodate the construction workforce.

What are the BESS water usage requirements – will it have its own storage tank?

Water is not required for the operation of the BESS facility, however throughout detailed

design of the facility we will review on-site water storage and other bush fire mitigation measures (such as non-combustible site surface material, bushfire break areas and firefighting infrastructure).

How would flood risks from Wialdra Creek be managed?

As part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), a full assessment will be undertaken of the historical and potential surface water, groundwater and flooding risks during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Project.

The assessment will also outline mitigation measures proposed to avoid or minimise potential impacts to water resources.

Will the BESS be noisy during operation?

The noise level from a BESS facility resembles a standard household air conditioning unit. Typical BESS noise levels are approximately 45dB at 200m from the facility, and lessens over distance.

Go to www.ratchaustralia.com/berylbess for more FAQs.

Contact us

A dedicated email address and a 24-hour phone line have been established to allow local people to contact the project team. Any enquiries should be directed to the details below.

Email: berylbess@ratchaustralia.com
Phone 24hr contact 1800 280 013
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BERYL
BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM