




# Talbingo Battery Technical assessment and frequently asked questions

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ACE Power is proposing to develop a battery energy storage system (BESS) near Talbingo New South Wales as part of its commitment to help Australia transition to a clean energy future.

The Talbingo Battery is considered to be a State Significant Development (SSD), and will be subject to rigorous assessments outlined by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). The Talbingo Battery is currently compiling an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as part of this assessment process.



### What is an EIS?

An EIS is the most detailed assessment that a project can go through in NSW. It provides information on the economic, environmental and social impacts of a project and helps community and government make informed submissions and decisions about the project. The preparation and exhibition of an EIS involves extensive consultation to ensure that community and stakeholder views are considered throughout the process.

## What phase is the project up to?

In 2024, ACE Power commenced engagement with the community and key stakeholders to complete the initial stages of the NSW SSD planning applications, called a Scoping Report. The Project submitted a Scoping Report in November 2024 and received Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) on December 19th, 2024. SEARs are issued in response to a Scoping Report and list the information and detailed specialist assessments that need to be undertaken in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) phase of the development application.

ACE Power is currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) based on SEARs. The Project anticipates the EIS will be completed by mid-2025.

In the development and exhibition of the EIS, we will gather feedback and input from the community to inform the project design. We're listening to feedback from neighbours and the local community to help shape the project, minimise impacts and address local needs.

## What's involved?

Specialists will undertake technical assessments and field studies to prepare reports that will be included in the projects' EIS. Technical studies involve field work, desktop research, data analysis and the use of models to make predictions about the site and its future use.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is proposed?

The Talbingo Battery is a 4-hour, 450-Megawatt (MW) Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), proposed to be constructed immediately adjacent to the existing Transgrid 330kV Lower Tumut Switching Station located 2.8km south of Talbingo township, NSW.

## Who is ACE Power?

ACE Power is an Australia company leading the way in major renewable energy development across the country with a number of projects in NSW. ACE Power works alongside local communities to develop projects that provide an overall positive impact to the community and the environment.

The ACE Power team have decades of industry expertise in developing, financing and delivering renewable energy projects. We are experts across the entire life cycle of renewable energy projects, accelerating the transition of Australia's electricity network with clean, reliable energy.

## What is a BESS?

A BESS is a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) that absorb energy from the energy network during times of high supply and release the energy in times of high demand, allowing energy to be made available when it's needed most.

## What does a BESS look like?

BESSs are shipping container-like modular systems that are configured based on site and capacity obligations. As technology improves, the systems are becoming increasingly efficient and more compact.

## 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 commences, it is expected to take approximately 18 months.

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

The operational life of the Project is expected to be approximately 35 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## How will construction traffic and road impacts be managed?

During the anticipated 18-month total construction period, regular construction vehicles would range from light vehicles to 26m B-Doubles. A small number of over mass and oversized vehicles would be required for transportation of large BESS infrastructure. Light vehicles would arrive during AM/PM peaks with heavy vehicle deliveries to be spaced out during the day. OSOM movements may occur over night to minimize traffic impacts.

## Will there be outages during construction?

There will be no outages expected during the construction phase.

## 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.

## 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.

Additionally, should the Project be approved, it would develop in-depth Fire Management Plans in accordance with relevant state and federal guidelines to address the management of potential fires during construction, operation, and decommissioning.

## 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 180 full time equivalent (FTE) construction jobs at peak construction, and up to 1-2 operation roles annually.

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