

Clements Gap BESS Project - FAQs

These FAQs are correct as at June 2021. FAQs for the Clements Gap BESS project will be reviewed and updated regularly to ensure their currency.

Q: Who is Pacific Hydro?

A: Founded in 1992, Pacific Hydro Australia is a leading owner, operator and developer of renewable energy assets. It operates a high quality, diversified portfolio of wind, hydro and solar assets with an installed capacity of 665 MW; it also has a development pipeline of substantial projects totalling over 1300 MW of potential capacity, as well as over 300 MW of energy storage solutions. It also has a growing electricity retail business, Tango Energy, with over 86,000 customers.

Q: Who owns Pacific Hydro?

A: Pacific Hydro was acquired by the State Power Investment Corporation (SPIC) in January 2016, after obtaining approval from the Australian Government's Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) and participating in a highly competitive international sale process.

SPIC is one of the top five power generation groups in China, with US\$154 Billion total assets and a total installed capacity that exceeds 131 GW. SPIC operates in the generation, coal, aluminium, logistics, finance, environmental protection, and high technology industries. SPIC has a presence in 36 countries and regions abroad, including Australia, Chile, Malta, Japan, Brazil, Turkey and Vietnam.

Q: What is the planning and approval process for the Clements Gap battery project?

A: Pacific Hydro is seeking support from the South Australian Government for the BESS to be classified as Crown Sponsored Public Infrastructure under Section 49 of the Development Act 1993. If government sponsorship is provided, Pacific Hydro will lodge a development application with the State Commission Assessment Panel (SCAP), which will assess the application on behalf of the Minister for Planning and provide him with a recommendation.

If the Minister approves the project, under this process there are no third-party appeal rights.

Q: What storage capacity will the battery have?

A: The battery will have 60MW of stored capacity for a maximum duration of 2 hours.

Q: What are the benefits to the local community?

A: Pacific Hydro has a strong track record of delivering lasting benefits to Clements Gap through the Clements Gap Wind Farm Sustainable Communities Fund.

The development of the Clements Gap battery will seek help to increase the dispatchable renewable energy source for the local community, helping to stabilise the South Australian grid and prevent load-shedding events.

Q: Where is the site for the battery facility?

A: The proposed site for the battery storage infrastructure will be next to the existing substation within the current boundaries of the Clements Gap Wind Farm.

Q: Why has this site been chosen?

A: The site has been selected for its ease of connectivity into the adjacent wind farm substation, allowing storage of energy generated by the Clements Gap Wind Farm without a requirement for additional powerlines.

Q: How long will the battery facility be there?

A: It is anticipated to have a lifespan between 25 and 45 years and is likely not to be dependant on the existing wind asset.

Q: What are the health impacts of largescale battery storage?

A: Pacific Hydro is a responsible organisation and we take our obligations to the community extremely seriously. With all our activities we are guided by statutory requirements and by advice from leading authorities such as peak bodies.

Battery storage is a safe, effective and sustainable form of energy storage. Batteries are not considered to present any health risks to neighbours or to the community at large.

Q: How big will the battery be?

A: The battery storage system will be comprised of a series of shipping (or similar) containers which will cover an approximate area of 8300m².

Q: How many containers will there be?

There will be between 20 and 30 containers for battery storage.

Q: What is the land currently being used for?

A: The proposed site is an unused area within the Clements Gap Wind Farm beside the wind farm substation

Q: Will trees need to be cut down?

A: There are minimal trees and vegetation that will need to be cleared to construct and operate the battery facility.

Q: How will visual impacts be managed?

A: If impacts are identified they can be managed by visual screening, such as vegetation (existing or new plantings).

Q: How will Pacific Hydro manage impacts from construction?

A: At Pacific Hydro we are committed to identifying potential construction impacts and managing them responsibly.

We aim to reduce the impact of our works on the community and the environment with:

- Standard construction hours and scheduling of work;
- Well-maintained equipment and plant;
- Monitoring and management of all construction activities, ensuring all standards and guidelines are met;
- Regular project updates for our neighbours and the community, including information on any changes to local traffic conditions; and
- Listening to feedback and suggestions on how local impacts might be reduced.

Q: Will this mean cheaper electricity for the local community?

A: The energy market, including energy pricing, is managed by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO). This means that, even if a large amount of electricity is being produced by a local energy source such as the Clements Gap Wind Farm, and stored within the battery facility, it doesn't necessarily mean that local communities will get access to cheaper electricity.

Q: Aren't batteries expensive and inefficient compared to other types of energy storage?

A: The advantage of battery storage is in its space efficiency and ability to be easily installed to renewable energy generators.

Q: Are there any other environmental impacts that need to be managed?

A: The project's Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will provide a comprehensive framework for managing all environmental issues associated with the project.

Q: How will you consult with the community?

A: We have developed a Community Engagement Plan based on:

- A commitment to clear, open and honest communication with all stakeholders;
- A tailored approach for each community we work in to ensure that it is responsive, relevant, innovative and contemporary;
- We will consistently seek to understand community values as well as risk from a community perspective through its engagement techniques and methodology;
- We will use learnings from all our projects to inform our future engagement activities as part of our commitment to continuous improvement; and
- We will consider communications required internally so that Pacific Hydro staff and others clearly understand our engagement approach and consider community when planning project activities.

In addition, we have a number of key documents including Pacific Hydro's Community Engagement Framework, Community Investment Guidelines and Community Charter. These documents have been developed to ensure that community engagement principles and methodologies can be applied consistently and in accordance with Pacific Hydro's company values and behaviours, which are the bedrock of our business.

Q: What other infrastructure is needed for the battery project?

A: At this stage the site will use existing wind farm infrastructure to connect to the generators and transmit into Australia's National Energy Market (NEM). Any details of any additional infrastructure will be shared with our neighbours as the development process progresses.

Q: How will we manage fire risks?

A: The proposed battery location has been previously cleared for its use in wind energy generation. The area has sufficient space to ensure the risk of bushfire to or from the development is very low and the risk of grass fires is also low.

The project specific EMP will include bushfire management measures to address potential fire risks during construction, operation and decommissioning. On-site staff will implement local Emergency Management protocols in the event of a fire in the area.

Q: What will the impact to local roads be?

A: It is anticipated that the increase in traffic volume during the construction of the project can be accommodated within the existing road network without adversely impacting existing infrastructure.

Q: Where will local workers be accommodated?

A: To the extent possible, workers will be sourced locally.

Q: What will happen to the land afterwards?

A: If the Development Application is successful, it is anticipated that the battery facility would have a lifespan of up to 20 years. Pacific Hydro has already made significant investment in the region, both in terms of infrastructure and local opportunities. Towards the end of the life of any permits granted, Pacific Hydro will seek input from all relevant stakeholders regarding management of the next phase for the established site. As technologies continue to evolve, it is anticipated that Pacific Hydro will also evolve but its preference is to take an intergenerational view that the site, if it remains suitable, would be re-powered.

Q: How long will construction take?

A: Once the project is approved, construction is likely to take 6-12 months, followed by commissioning.

Q: How big will the battery storage facility be?

A: The land that has been identified for the site is approximately 8300m².

Q: Will construction or operation of the battery need to use additional water?

A: Water will be required for personnel amenities during construction and operation and may be required for dust control and equipment cleaning during construction.

Q: Will this mean disruption to local power supply?

A: The connection of the battery and construction of the facility will not affect local power supply.

Q: Will there be economic opportunities for local people?

A: It is likely that all the skills and numbers of workers required to deliver the battery project may not be available locally or from proximity to the site. Pacific Hydro will work with its selected contractor to examine the potential for local employment and to identify areas where learning and upskilling can occur to maximise the possibility. Other possible indirect opportunities to create economic benefit from the project may include property rental, catering, coffee carts and other enterprises subject to council approval.