

Wooreen Energy Storage System project fact sheet

Wooreen Energy Storage System (WESS) will be constructed on the traditional lands of the Brayakaulung people of the Gunaikurnai nation. EnergyAustralia respects and acknowledges their continued connection to Country, culture, and community.

Our commitment

EnergyAustralia plans to build an utility scale energy storage system that is capable of outputting 350 MW for 4 hours. Construction will commence in 2024 and will be in operation before the end of 2026.

The project will provide an economic boost for the Gippsland region, helping to secure Victoria's energy supply, enable more renewable energy to enter the electricity network and continuing the Latrobe Valley's proud history of powering industry and communities.

What do utility-scale batteries do?

Utility-scale batteries store low-cost electricity such as excess renewable energy. When demand for power is higher and there is less low-cost renewable energy available such as at night, the stored energy is available for use. This helps keep costs down for customers.

Battery storage can also help reduce the potential for blackouts when there is a supply imbalance.

They're a cost-effective way of integrating renewable energy and ensuring energy remains reliable and affordable.

Proposed location

EnergyAustralia presently operates the Jeeralang gas fired power station, located at Hazelwood North in the Latrobe Valley. Land next to Jeeralang has been selected as the preferred location for our Wooreen development, based on land availability and optimal connection to the grid.

Wooreen will use lithium ion batteries that are housed in containers that have a minimal visual impact. Lithium-ion battery technologies have no noticeable vibration, emissions, and emit minimal sound.

Planning Approval

In February 2023, EnergyAustralia received Planning Approval from the Victorian Government, to proceed with the Wooreen project.

A copy of this application, approval and associated documentation can be found on our website.

Next steps

EnergyAustralia sought expressions of interest from businesses to construct our new energy storage facility. Our future preferred contractor will help to maximise local participation within the Latrobe

Valley and broader Gippsland region by drawing on the local expertise of Neighbouring suppliers and construction workers.

The selected contractor is expected to be announced by mid-2024.

In the interim, EnergyAustralia will:

- Finalise our procurement process, undertake further inspections and prework on the Jeeralang site.
- Continue consultation with key stakeholders such as Latrobe City Council and the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) to ensure we have Traditional Owner input and respect Country and culture.
- Continue to engage with members of the immediate and surrounding community about the Wooreen project. We understand that any project we pursue must be good for the community and the environment.

This will include:

- project updates to residents
- attendance at local community events
- community information sessions.

Advantages

Reliability – stored energy can step in on cloudy or windless days when renewable energy generation is lower.

When demand for power rises, utility-scale batteries can discharge their stored power, helping to keep the lights on and keep energy prices lower for consumers.

Supports renewable energy – the future energy system requires projects that can quickly dispatch power and complement other energy forms, in particular renewables such as solar and wind.

Wooreen will store electricity at times when there is abundant renewable energy available. For example, during the middle of the day when surplus rooftop solar electricity is being generated, and then discharging that stored energy into the electricity grid at times when it is needed the most, typically in the early evening.

Fast response – the quick release of stored energy during periods of high demand helps maintain the energy supply and keeps costs down.



350 MW
Up to four hours¹



Li-Ion
battery storage



220 kV
Jeeralang
Terminal Station
Connection



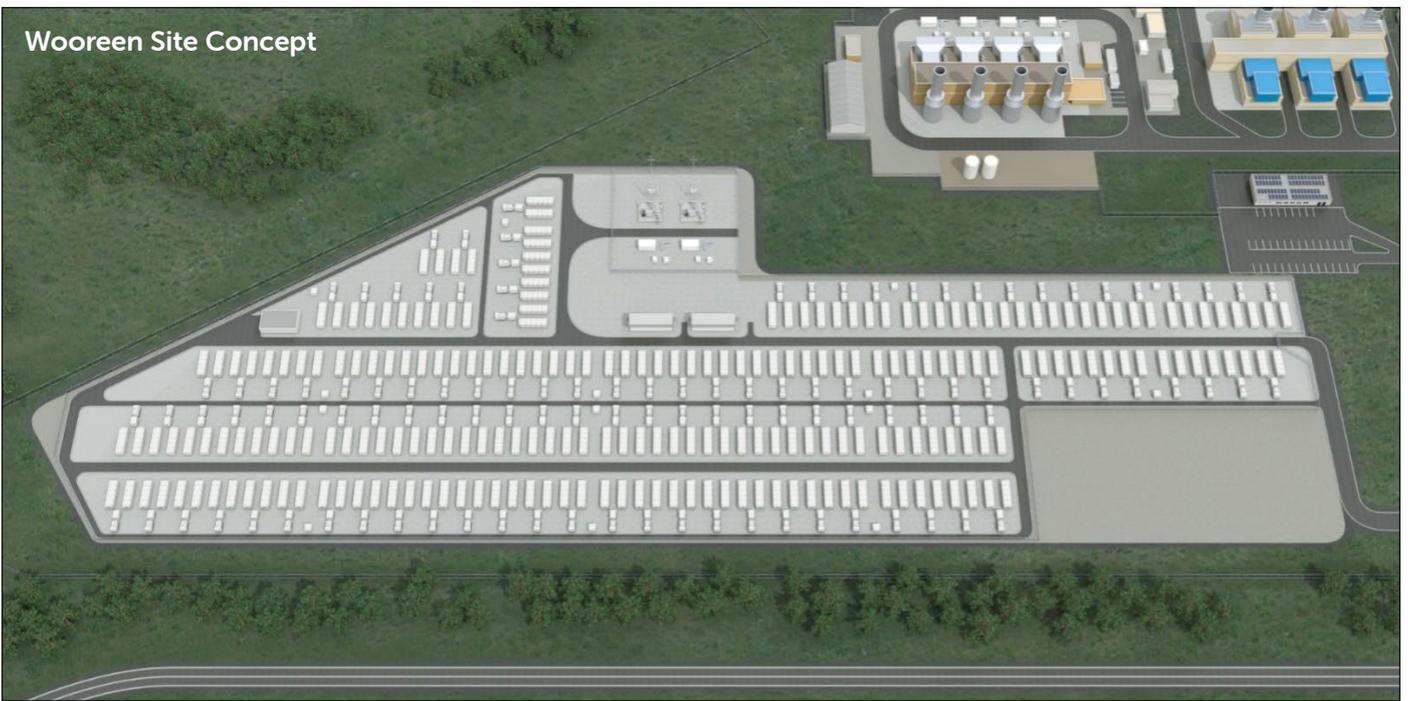
24-30
months
construction



80+
jobs during
construction

¹ Based on a 1,400MWh battery capacity

Wooreen Site Concept



Community Concerns

During our initial consultation with the community two areas of concern were raised by the community. These were:

Noise

When operational, large scale energy storage facilities emit low levels of noise.

Noise sources for the project during construction will be limited to the movement of equipment and people during daylight hours.

When in operation, Wooreen will emit some noise from its electrical equipment such as transformers, inverters, and fans during operation.

EnergyAustralia will undertake further noise assessments prior to construction.

Further information about the management of noise is detailed in our application document Appendix G – Noise Assessment available on the Wooreen website.

Fire

To reduce the occurrence and impact of grass fires, EnergyAustralia has proposed, in consultation with the CFA a number of fire management measures in our planning documentation.

These measures include due consideration to access and fire breaks, bushfire hazards, water access, fire protection systems, transmission infrastructure, facility specific requirements and facility maintenance and monitoring.

These are detailed in in the planning application document Appendix C - Bushfire Assessment plan available on the Wooreen website.

We would like to hear from you.

If you have a question, comment, or idea about this project, please reach out to the EnergyAustralia Wooreen Energy Storage System (WESS) Project team email: community.wooreen@energyaustralia.com.au or by telephoning **1800 574 947**

If you'd like to receive electronic updates, please follow our local Latrobe Valley Facebook Page,

EnergyAustralia Yallourn or email us and we will ensure you receive regular updates directly to your email inbox.

You can find project updates by visiting the EnergyAustralia Wooreen Energy Storage System (WESS) webpage via the QR Code on this page.



As an established and responsible energy assets operator, EnergyAustralia is a signatory to the Clean Energy Council's Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy.

EnergyAustralia has committed to adhere to the 10 major principles outlined in the charter, engaging respectfully with communities, being sensitive to environmental and cultural values and making a positive contribution to the region.