

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 has committed to building a four-hour utility-scale battery of 350 MW capacity, which is scheduled to 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 carry on 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 and any need for load shedding 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's gas-fired Jeeralang power station, located at Hazelwood North in the Latrobe Valley, has been selected as the preferred location for our battery development, based on land availability and optimal connection to the grid.

Modern utility-scale batteries use purpose-built containers that can be positioned, and screened for minimal visual impact. Lithium-ion technologies have no noticeable vibration, emissions, and emit minimal sound.

Next steps

In September 2021, expressions of interest were sought from businesses that can engineer, procure and construct our new battery storage facility. Our future preferred contractor will help to maximise local participation within the Latrobe Valley and broader Gippsland region by drawing on the expertise of neighbouring suppliers and construction personnel.

The selected contractor is expected to be announced in the first quarter of 2023.

In the interim, EnergyAustralia will:

- continue undertaking feasibility studies that look at technical requirements and potential environmental impacts. We will continue consultation with Latrobe City Council and the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) to ensure we have Traditional Owner input and respect Country and culture
- progress planning and environmental investigations, with a planning application expected to be made to the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning in the second quarter of 2022
- embark on a comprehensive program of talking with and hearing from members of the local community about the Wooreen project. We understand that any project we pursue must be good for the community and the environment.

"Wooreen" is a Gunaikurnai language name meaning 'light'. EnergyAustralia was gifted this name by Aunty Doris Paton and the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation



350 MW
for four hours¹



Li-Ion
battery storage



220 kV
Jeeralang
Terminal Station
Connection

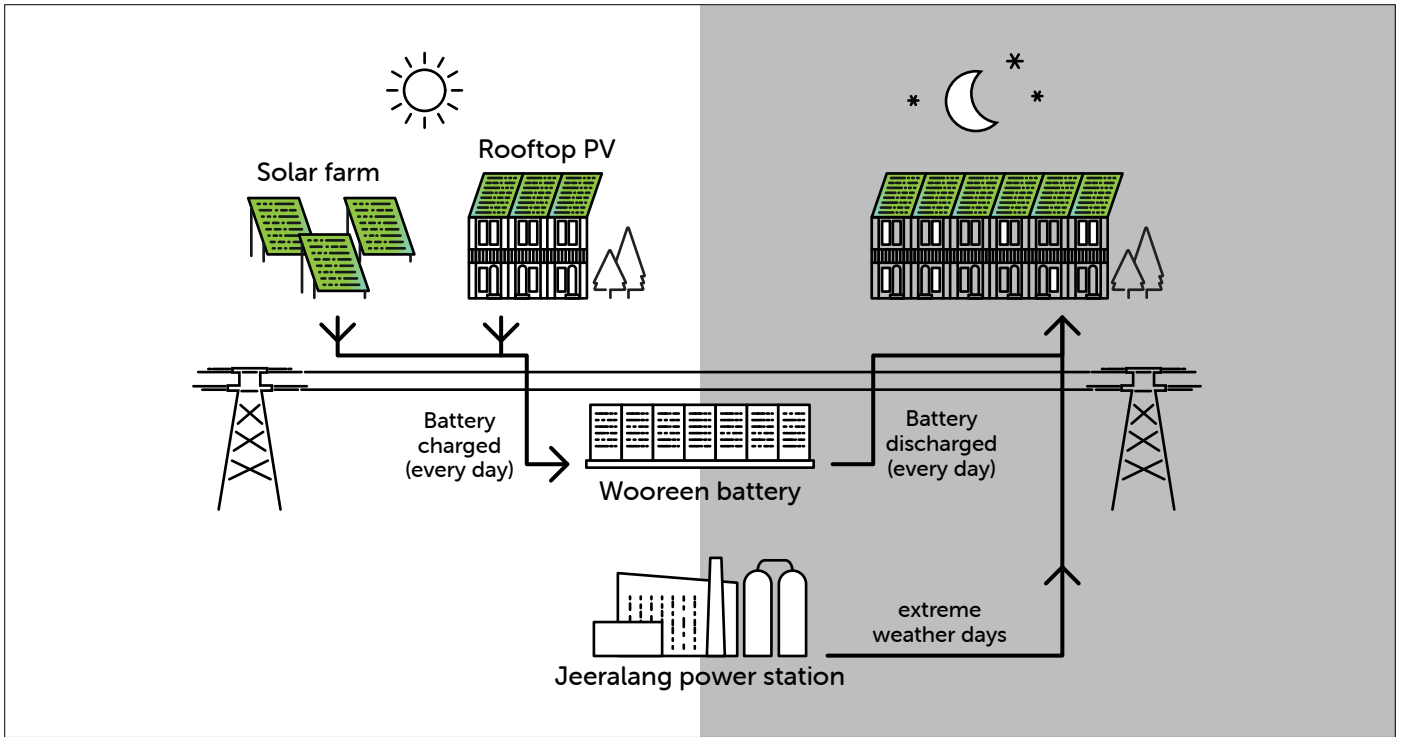


12-18
months
construction



80+
jobs during
construction

¹ Based on a 1,400MWh battery capacity



Advantages

Reliability – stored energy can step in on cloudy or windless days when renewables aren't available. When demand for power rises, utility-scale batteries can discharge their stored power, helping to keep the lights on.

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. By storing electricity at times when lots of renewable energy is being produced, battery storage allows more renewable energy into the system.

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



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.

Community Survey

The WESS Community Survey can also be found on the webpage.

Please take a moment to complete the survey. The results will be used by EnergyAustralia to ensure the WESS project delivers positive outcomes for the Latrobe Valley and broader communities.