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Appendix E

Community Engagement Report

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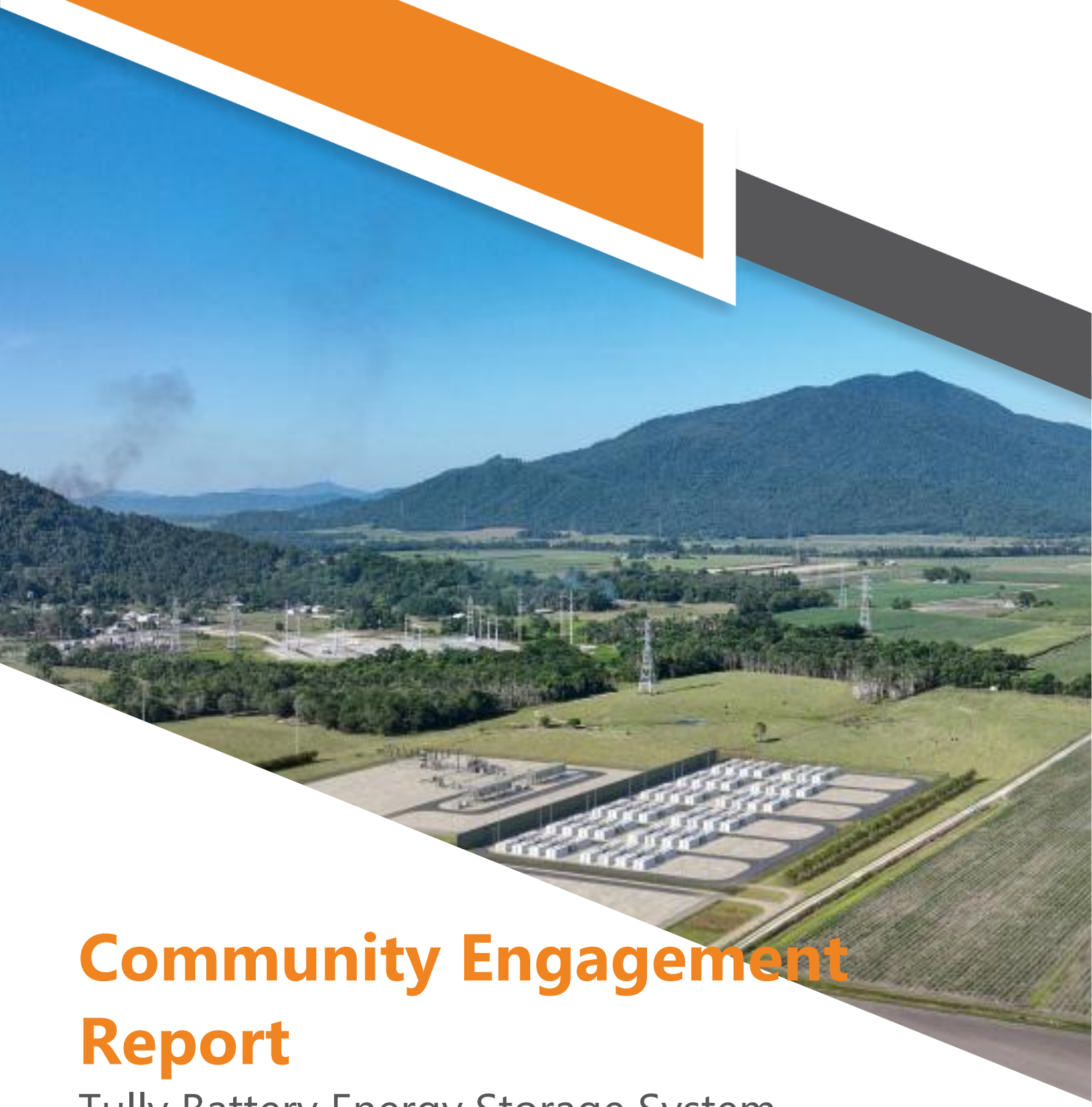

Community Engagement Report

Tully Battery Energy Storage System

Prepared for: RWE Tully Battery Pty Ltd

Date: 3/06/2026

Document information

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Reviewed by	S Walker

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			Name/position	Signature
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Prepared for:
RWE Tully Battery Pty Ltd

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Executive summary

RWE Tully Battery Pty Ltd proposes to construct and operate the Tully Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project (the Project) near the township of Tully in the Cassowary Coast Regional Council local government area (LGA). The Project will have a capacity of up to 200 megawatt (MW) for a duration of 4 hours and is the largest standalone BESS currently proposed for Far North Queensland.

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Project commenced in 2024 with RWE undertaking early consultation with landholders. Since that time RWE has also engaged with the Gulngay Kinjufile Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC as the prescribed body corporate who act as agents on behalf of the Gulngay People who are the Traditional Owners of the land where the Project is proposed, Cassowary Coast Regional Council, and the Tully community.

RWE's overarching approach to community and stakeholder engagement focuses on delivering best practice engagement that is founded on the principles of honesty, respect, adaptability, consistency and consideration. RWE applied multiple community engagement methods to engage with the community and key stakeholders. The engagement methods used evolved and were tailored over time in response to stakeholder feedback.

Community and stakeholder engagement has included face-to-face meetings, Project briefings, community drop-in sessions and hosting a stall at the Tully Show. Stakeholders are able to engage with RWE via phone and email and register on the Project's mailing list. The project has a dedicated complaints process and register, with further information on the project website (tullybess.com.au). Engagement with key stakeholders achieved the following outcomes:

- A letter of support from Cassowary Coast Regional Council for the Project to the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA) (Appendix E).
- A $3.45 million Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) with Cassowary Coast Regional Council, following completion of the Social Impact Assessment (SIA).
- A Cultural Heritage Agreement with Gulngay Kinjufile Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC on behalf of the Gulngay People
- General positive sentiment towards the Project from the Tully community.
- Identification of potential social impacts and benefits of the Project that informed the SIA.
- Identification of potential community benefit investment opportunities to inform the CBA.
- Establishment of a project office on the main street of Tully.
- Establishment of a $35,000 Community Sponsorship Fund during the development phase.

RWE's community and stakeholder engagement for the Project is ongoing and will continue throughout the life of the Project. Forward engagement activities will continue to seek feedback and build relationships with the Tully community by providing regular Project updates through existing Project communication channels and in meetings and briefings. RWE will also continue engaging with key stakeholders to enter into and implement agreements, where relevant.

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Abbreviations and acronyms

Abbreviation/acronym	Definition
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
BESS	Battery energy storage system
CBA	Community Benefit Agreement
CHA	Cultural Heritage Agreement
DA	Development Approval
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DTMR	Department of Transport and Main Roads
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth)
FNQ	Far North Queensland
GAC	Girringun Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC
GW	Gigawatt
km	Kilometres
LGA	Local government area
MP	Minister of Parliament
MW	Megawatt
Planning Act	*Planning Act 2016* (Qld)
RNTBC	Registered native title body corporate
RWE	RWE Tully Battery Pty Ltd
SARA	State Assessment and Referral Agency
SIA	Social impact assessment

1. Introduction

RWE Tully Battery Pty Ltd (RWE) proposes to construct and operate the Tully Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project (the Project) near the township of Tully in the Cassowary Coast Regional Council local government area (LGA). The Project will have a capacity of up to 200 megawatt (MW) for a duration of 4 hours and is the largest standalone BESS currently proposed for Far North Queensland (FNQ).

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Project commenced in 2024 with RWE undertaking early consultation with landholders, the Gulngay Kinjufile Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC as the prescribed body corporate who act on behalf of the Gulngay People who are the Traditional Owners of the land where the Project is proposed, Cassowary Coast Regional Council, and the Tully community. RWE's community and stakeholder engagement for the Project is ongoing.

This Community Engagement Report summarises the community and stakeholder engagement undertaken to date for the Project, highlights the key outcomes of engagement, and outlines the proposed forward engagement program.

1.1 About RWE

RWE Tully Battery Pty Ltd is part of RWE Renewables, one of the world's leading producers of renewable energy. RWE operates a global portfolio of approximately 24 gigawatts (GW) of wind, solar and battery storage projects, with a further 10.4 GW currently under construction.

RWE has been present in Australia since 2013. In 2018 RWE successfully delivered the 249 MW Limondale Solar Farm in New South Wales, and more recently Australia's first eight-hour BESS, also at Limondale.

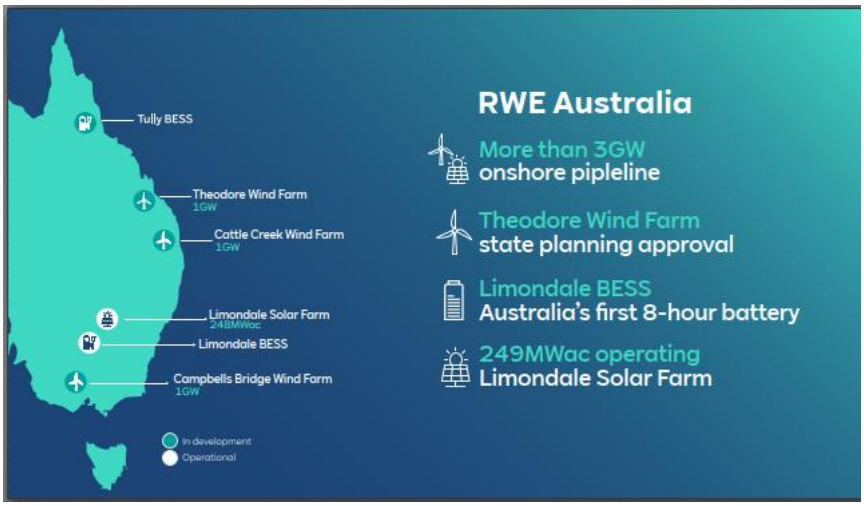
RWE's Australian team is supported by the broader expertise of RWE Renewables' global workforce across Europe, North America and the Asia Pacific region.

In Queensland, RWE is progressing several major projects. The Theodore Wind Farm, located near Biloela, received state government planning approval in 2025, and will comprise up to 170 wind turbines and an integrated Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), generating approximately 1 GW of renewable energy.

RWE is also advancing the Cattle Creek Wind Farm near Toowoomba, a 1 GW project that will include up to 135 wind turbines and an integrated BESS.

These investments demonstrate RWE's commitment to supporting Queensland's energy sector across northern, central and southern regions, while delivering local economic benefits, creating employment opportunities, and building long-term partnerships with regional communities.

Figure 1: RWE in Australia



1.2 Tully BESS Project

The Project Site is located approximately 4 km south-west of the township of Tully in FNQ, within the Cassowary Coast LGA (Figure 2).

The Project will have a capacity of up to 200 MW / 800 MWh for a duration of up to 4 hours and is proposed to take electricity from the grid in periods of low demand, and feed back into the grid at periods of high demand.

1.2.1 Project rationale and benefits

The Project seeks to support the growing need for grid-scale energy storage and is strategically located near the recently upgraded Powerlink 132kV Tully Substation, a key part of the region's high-voltage transmission network. The Project will develop a grid-firming battery which is an energy storage system that will actively regulate the power grid's voltage and frequency, providing network support and stability increasing the resilience of the grid in the locality.

The Project will improve reliability for the FNQ energy network, allowing the storage of excess energy to discharge back into the grid during peak demand times, power outages or to assist with grid balancing.

BESS developments further bolster the existing energy network through:

- Lower emissions – reducing reliance on fossil fuels, helping to decrease greenhouse gas emissions
- Decentralisation – enabling power to be stored and used closer to where it is needed, reducing the burden on long-distance transmission networks and improving energy reliability, especially within remote areas
- Affordability – improving efficiency and reducing peak load demand to contribute to more stable and affordable energy prices.
- Aligning with targets – the Federal government's energy targets aim have a 62–70% reduction in emissions below 2005 levels by 2035, and net zero emissions by 2050, this Project will support achieving these goals.

The Project site was carefully selected based on various technical, environmental and locational factors:

- The FNQ region has been identified by Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and Powerlink as experiencing reduced system strength, and the proposed BESS will support grid stability and reliability in the region.
- As the Project is strategically located adjacent to the Tully Substation, complementing the substation upgrades and improving network resilience. One of the few BESS's co-located near a distribution and transmission substation across the National Electricity Market, providing a unique opportunity to efficiently support the regional electricity network.
- The Project is located in a rural area currently used for cattle grazing and requires minimal vegetation clearing or habitat disturbance, with site access provided via a dedicated 4-kilometre bypass from the Bruce Highway.

The Project will generate up to 60 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs during construction. An operational team of up to 3 FTEs will operate the facility and conduct routine scheduled maintenance.

The Project is in the advanced stages of development, with planning and environmental studies now complete and stakeholder and community engagement ongoing. If approved, the Project is expected to commence construction in 2027 and be operational late 2028. The operational life of the BESS is about 20 years, as part of our project life cycle planning a determination will be made whether to:

- Extend the life of the existing infrastructure with increased maintenance, refurbishment and/or replacement of certain components, or
- Repower the Project with new infrastructure, or
- Decommission the infrastructure and rehabilitate the site.

Figure 2: Tully BESS Project location

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1.2.2 Project approvals history

A Development Application for the Project was submitted to Cassowary Coast Regional Council in September 2025. The Development Application was publicly notified from 7 to 28 November 2025. During that period, two properly made submissions were received. A decision on the Development Application was expected in January 2026.

On 12 December 2025, the Queensland Government introduced changes to the planning framework for BESS projects through the *Planning (Battery Storage Facilities) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025*. Under this new framework, BESS projects such as the Tully BESS are now assessed by State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA) in the Queensland Government, in accordance with State Code 27 – Battery Storage Facility Development. As a result of these changes, a new Development Application will be submitted to SARA to address the new requirements. This Community Engagement Report has been prepared to support the new Development Application.

On 2 December 2025, the Project was referred to the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act). The referral (EPBC 2025/10377) was publicly notified from 9 to 23 December 2025 and in January 2026, DCCEEW determined the Project is 'not a controlled action' under the EPBC Act.

2. Community and stakeholder profile

2.1 Tully and the Cassowary Coast

Tully is a small rural town and service centre with a population of about 2,400 people in 2021, servicing surrounding agricultural areas and smaller localities. The town is strategically located on the Bruce Highway and plays an important role in supporting the region's sugar cane, banana and horticultural industries, including the Tully Sugar Mill. Employment in the local area is closely linked to agriculture, transport, tourism and public services.

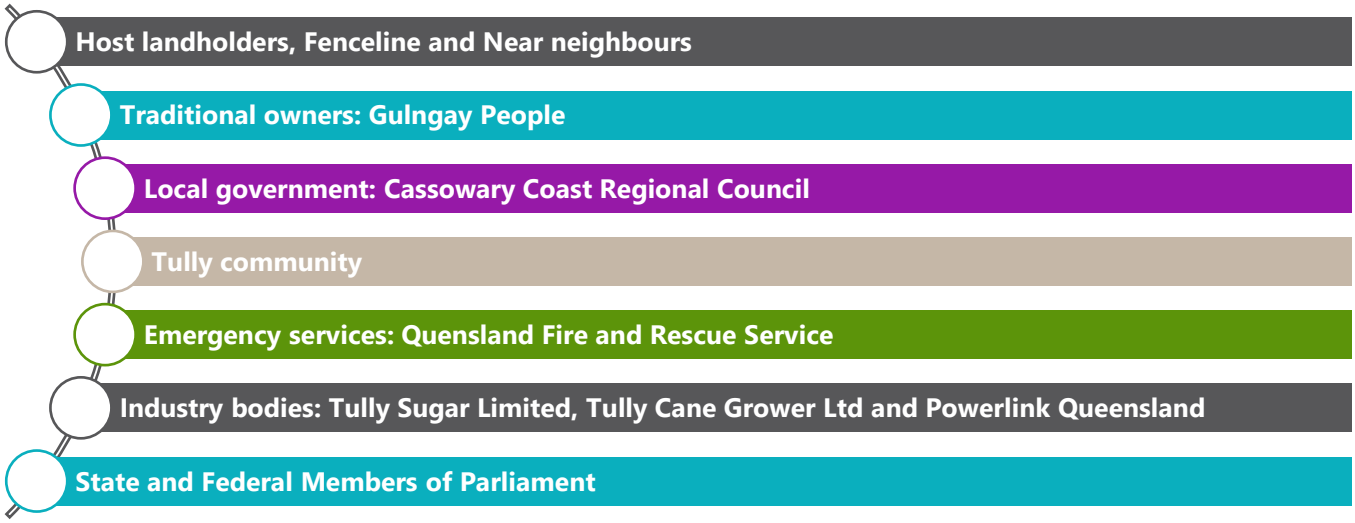
Tully has a strong local identity being the wettest place in Australia shaped by its agricultural heritage, tropical climate and natural surroundings, including the Tully River and nearby national parks.

The Cassowary Coast LGA encompasses a mix of coastal towns, rural settlements and hinterland communities. As at 2021, the region had a population of approximately 30,000 people, with key population centres including Innisfail, Tully, Mission Beach and Cardwell. The area is characterised by strong connections to agriculture, natural environments and small-town community networks, and is influenced by both seasonal industries and climatic conditions typical of tropical North Queensland.

Together, Tully and the Cassowary Coast communities embody a mix of agricultural heritage, environmental amenity and regional resilience, with local priorities focused on sustainable economic growth, infrastructure investment, and social wellbeing. This profile informs engagement planning to ensure activities are responsive to community context, aspirations and needs.

Key Project stakeholders are listed in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Key Project stakeholders



2.2 Traditional Owners

The Gulngay People are Traditional Owners of the land, waterways, and skies of where the Project is proposed. The respective prescribed body corporate is the Gulngay Kinjufile Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC who act as agents for the Gulngay People's native rights and interests.

The Girringun Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (GAC) supports the Gulngay People and Gulngay Kinjufile Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC in the administration and management of cultural heritage matters.

3. Stakeholder engagement

RWE understands the importance of working collaboratively with local communities in the Cassowary Coast LGA. RWE has taken a proactive and respectful approach to engagement with landholders, Traditional Owners, key stakeholders and the community to seek their feedback and input on the Project.

3.1 RWE's engagement principles

RWE's overarching approach to stakeholder engagement focuses on delivering best practice engagement that is founded on the principles of honesty, respect, adaptability, consistency and consideration. RWE's principles of engagement are:

- **Honesty** – RWE builds relationships with local communities based on trust, respect, and inclusion, by acting with integrity and honesty, engaging in genuine dialogue and relevant communication with all parties and ensuring we provide information as soon as RWE can.
- **Respect** – RWE respects the communities and stakeholders where their projects are based and understand they are passionate about their homes, communities and areas where they live, work and socialise. RWE also brings empathy and understanding to engagement.
- **Adaptability** – RWE's approach involves collaboration with communities and incorporates multiple methods of engagement that can adapt to stakeholders' particular needs. This fluid approach allows RWE to be inclusive by identifying and categorising stakeholders according to their requirements, which informs RWE's approach to each engagement. RWE can then provide multiple channels of engagement to make it easy for them to obtain project information and be involved.
- **Consistency** – RWE's engagement is ongoing and focuses on consistently keeping their stakeholders informed and engaged through all stages of the project lifecycle.
- **Consideration** – Consultation with communities and key stakeholders is always used to shape projects where possible. Feedback is key to ensuring projects are developed with a solid knowledge of the area, its residents and social fabric. RWE also ensures the benefits generated from the development are spread fairly within the community, by identifying the needs of the community and addressing them.

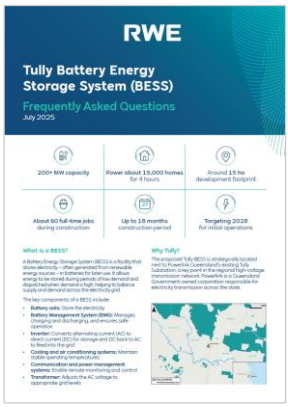
3.2 Summary of engagement to date

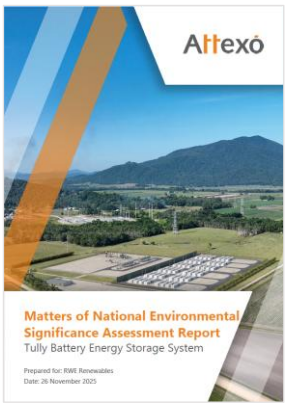
Community and stakeholder engagement for the Tully BESS Project commenced in 2024, with RWE undertaking early consultation with landholders. Since that time RWE has also engaged with Gulngay People, Cassowary Coast Regional Council, and the Tully community.

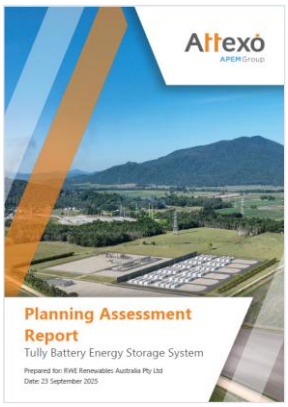
RWE applied multiple consultation methods to engage with the community and key stakeholders. The engagement methods used evolved over time in response to community and stakeholder's preferences.

The Tully BESS Project webpage was a key tool for sharing information about the Project with the community stakeholders. It was regularly updated throughout the Project development stage and includes links to Frequently Asked Questions, Project newsletter, EPBC referral documentation submitted to DCCEEW, and Development Application material submitted to Cassowary Coast Regional Council. Project newsletters and community engagement material prepare for the Project are included at Appendix D.

RWE also promoted public notification of the EPBC referral and Development Application on the Project webpage inviting comments on the material.







RWE also met with stakeholders in face-to-face meetings, Project briefings, community drop-in sessions and at the Tully Show. Every edition of the Tully BESS Project Newsletter was also direct mailed in the Tully community in the localities, of Tully township, Jarra Creek, Bulgun, Feluga, Lower Tully, and Silky Oak.

Stakeholders could also engage with RWE via phone and email, register on the Project's mailing list, and register complaints.

Stakeholder engagement activities undertaken by RWE on the Project to date (May 2026) include:

20 Face to face meetings and site visits with Gulngay People & GAC

6 Project briefings with Cassowary Coast Regional Council

50 Notifications delivered to nearby residents. RWE met with primary neighbours

510 Visitors to RWE's stand at the Tully Show in July 2025

15 Project notifications to Federal and State MPs

2 Project briefing with Queensland Fire and Rescue Service

4 Community drop-in sessions

2 x 2000 Project newsletter mailouts in the Tully area

0 complaints

Appendix A includes a summary of RWE's engagement activities.

3.2.1 Cassowary Coast Regional Council

RWE proactively engaged with Cassowary Coast Regional Council on the Project, commencing with a Project briefing and pre-lodgement meeting on the Development Application on 5 December 2024.

RWE developed and maintains a productive working relationship with Council throughout the Project development stage including through the changes to the regulatory framework (introduction of State Code 27) noted above in

Section 1.2.2, which came into effect prior to Council deciding on the Development Application. Their productive relationship is evidenced by Council providing a supporting letter to RWE on 19 January 2025 (Appendix E) and successfully negotiating a CBA.

Community Benefit Agreement

The CBA is a key mechanism for managing social impacts and enhancing positive social outcomes associated with the Project. It was informed by community and stakeholder engagement undertaken as part of the SIA process and reflects identified community values, priorities and potential impacts across the Project lifecycle.

The CBA provides a transparent and accountable framework for the delivery of community benefits, aligned with local needs and focused on the Tully community, which is most likely to directly experience social impacts from the Project.

On 19 May 2026, RWE and Cassowary Coast Regional Council executed the $3.45 million CBA. The CBA was co-designed between RWE and Cassowary Coast Regional Council and guided by the SIA.

At the heart of the agreement is the RWE Tully Community Fund, which will deliver:

- $125,000 per annum aligned with Council's community grants program
- $25,000 per annum to support a dedicated local Tully trainee position responsible for administering the fund.

For more information see Cassowary Coast Regional Council's website.[#]

[#]www.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au/Our-Council/Publications/Council-News/RWE-and-Cassowary-Coast-Regional-Council-sign-345-million-Community-Benefit-Agreement-for-tully-battery-project

3.2.2 Traditional Owners

Engagement with Traditional Owners commenced in April 2025, with RWE undertaking early consultation with the Gulngay Kinjufile Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC who represent the Gulngay People's native title rights and interests. Engagement has included consultation on cultural heritage requirements for the Project and agreement making, site visits for and cultural heritage surveys for early Project works.

RWE has been actively working with the Gulngay People and GAC, who support Gulngay Kinjufile Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC, and have executed a Cultural Heritage Agreement (CHA) with Gulngay Kinjufile Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC. This process was undertaken in a respectful and collaborative manner to ensure that cultural heritage values are identified, protected and appropriately managed.

Gulngay People have identified cultural heritage protection, on-Country monitoring, and participation in key Project milestones as priorities. These priorities have been reflected in the CHA to support cultural heritage monitoring during initial ground-disturbing activities, ensuring works are undertaken in a culturally appropriate manner and in accordance with agreed protocols.

Under the agreement, the Project team will continue to work closely with the Gulngay People to respect and protect cultural heritage, support local employment pathways, and create opportunities for community involvement. As an example of this partnership in action, recent geotechnical site investigations (November and December 2025) were completed under the oversight of the Gulngay People, in accordance with the CHA. This collaboration has helped to strengthen relationships and ensured all fieldwork was carried out with care, respect and cultural sensitivity.

Appendix B includes a summary of RWE's engagement activities with Traditional Owners to date.

3.2.3 Tully community

RWE delivered regular, accessible engagement with the Tully community throughout 2025 to May 2026 including:

- Project notifications posted to neighbours within 2.5 km of the Project area in Q2 and Q3 2025
- Meetings with neighbours in Q2 2025
- Project stall at the Tully Show on 25 and 26 July 2025

- Project newsletter mailouts to Tully residents and businesses in October 2025 and April 2026
- Inviting submissions on the Development Application in November 2025
- Community drop-in sessions held on 21 and 22 November 2025 and 23 and 24 April 2026
- Inviting submissions on the EPBC referral in December 2025.
- Tully BESS Project Office on the main street in Tully (Butler Steet) May 2026.

Community engagement indicated a positive sentiment towards the Project. Feedback received highlighted strong recognition of the Project's potential to improve local energy reliability and contribute to regional economic and community development.

Community members and stakeholders generally expressed support for the Project, citing a relatively limited Project footprint, creation of local job opportunities, and the broader contribution to enhancing the reliability of Queensland's electricity network. No significant opposition or concerns have been raised to date, and the overall response has been constructive and encouraging.

3.2.4 Social impact assessment

RWE engaged Attexo to prepare a SIA for the Project. Engagement for the SIA was undertaken as part of RWE's broader community engagement program to understand potential social impacts and ensure community views inform Project decisions and benefit outcomes.

Engagement for the SIA commenced with an SIA scoping meeting with the Cassowary Coast Regional Council on 20 November 2025. Follow up meetings with the Cassowary Coast Regional Council were held on 28 November 2025 and 16 January 2026 to discuss the local context and potential impacts and benefits with respect to local disaster management, and community and economic development.

A total of 15 community stakeholders were engaged across 12 individual and group meetings in-person and online via MS Teams. The following stakeholders participated in SIA engagement:

- Traditional Owners – Gulngay People
- Tully/Jarra Creek residents
- Tully Sugar and Canegrowers (peak body)
- Tully Motel and Plantations Restaurant
- Environmental groups including Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation (C4), Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC) and Terrain NRM.

Key feedback themes identified as part of the SIA include:

- Cane growing and Tully Sugar Mill are central to the Tully community
- Banana farmers use Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme workers and provide their accommodation
- Skills shortage
- Housing shortage
- Fire and contamination risks and management
- Community investment opportunities
- Construction traffic
- Energy reliability and interaction with current local generators
- Environmental impacts and management.

Appendix C includes a summary of feedback received during SIA engagement.

Community and stakeholder engagement for the SIA also identified several community investment opportunities that will be considered as part of implementing the CBA. Community investment opportunities included:

- Scholarships and bursaries for students completing TAFE programs and university courses in Innisfail at the Cassowary Coast University Centre
- Collaboration with other developers and service providers, e.g. DTMR, to repurpose temporary workforce camps as a permanent facility that could provide crisis accommodation or dedicated accommodation for non-resident workers in the region

- Promote tourism in Tully and surrounds such as Tully Sugar Mill tours
- Support relocation of the Australian Sugar Museum to Tully.

Stakeholders also identified the following programs and initiatives that could be supported through the CBA:

4. Forward engagement

RWE's forward engagement program will continue to build relationships with the Tully community by providing regular Project updates through existing Project communication channels and in meetings and briefings and delivering a community sponsorship program as described in the following sections. RWE will also continue engaging with key stakeholders to enter into and implement agreements, where relevant.

4.1 Priority engagement activities

The priority engagement activities for the Project in 2026 are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Forward engagement priorities 2026

Stakeholder group	Themes/Actions	Primary Engagement Method
Landholders	• Land tenure • Land access	• Face to face meetings • Phone calls
Gulngay People & Girringun Aboriginal Corporation RNTAC	• Cultural Heritage Agreement • Benefits Program	• Face to face meetings • Phone calls
Cassowary Coast Regional Council: • Mayor: Cr Teresa Millwood • Deputy Mayor: Cr Nicholas Pervan • Cr Chris Littlemore • Cr Ellen Jessop • Cr Trudy Tschui • Cr Jeffery Baines • Cr Renee McLeod • Council executive, planners and staff	• Development Application • Project Update •	• Face to face meetings • Phone calls • Workshops • Project Briefings • Formal correspondence
Primary Neighbours	• Consultation • Project Update	• Door knock – face to face • Project Newsletter
Fenceline Neighbours	• Consultation • Project Update	• Door knock – face to face • Project Newsletter
Near Neighbours – dwellings within a 5 km radius	• Consultation • Project Update	• Door knock – face to face • Project Newsletter
Wider Community: Residents of the local geographic area hosting the Project, as well as local interest groups not defined in any previous categories	• Consultation • Project Update	• Community drop in • Project Newsletter
Emergency services	• Collaboration Fire Management	• Face to face meetings • Phone calls • Workshops • Project Briefings • Formal correspondence

Stakeholder group	Themes/Actions	Primary Engagement Method
State and Federal Members of Parliament (MPs) • Federal Member for Kennedy – Hon Bob Katter MP • State Member for Hinchinbrook – Mr Wade Chiesa • State Member for Hill – Mr Shane Knuth	• Consultation • Project Update	• Face to face meetings • Phone calls • Workshops • Project Briefings • Formal correspondence
Powerlink Queensland	• Collaboration Transmission Connection	• Commercial in confidence
Tully Sugar Limited	• Consultation • Project Update	• Project Briefings • Formal correspondence • Project briefings • Formal correspondence
Tully Cane Growers Ltd	• Consultation • Project Update	• Face to face meetings • Phone calls • Workshops • Project Briefings • Formal correspondence
Local business	• Consultation • Project Update • Commercial	• Face to face meetings • Phone calls • Workshops • Project Briefings • Formal correspondence
Local stakeholder and community groups	• Consultation • Project Update	• Face to face meetings • Phone calls • Workshops • Project Briefings • Formal correspondence

4.2 Tully BESS Project Office

A dedicated community engagement office has been established in Tully on the main street (Butler Street).

The office will serve as a local hub where residents, businesses, and other stakeholders can obtain information about the Project and actively engage in the Project's development while learning about its potential community benefits including economic opportunities such as local procurement and employment.

4.3 Community sponsorship program – development phase

RWE has a community sponsorship program to support local social and community wellbeing. The program aims to ensure the Project contributes to the long-term wellbeing of the community and leaves a meaningful legacy beyond its role in the energy network.

The program focuses on providing funding and support for local schools, sporting clubs, cultural initiatives, and community events that strengthen connections and delivery positive outcomes for residents.

The sponsorship fund for 2026 is up to $35,000. The application form is available on the Project website. Applications are being accepted until 31 January 2027, or until funds are exhausted.

4.4 Traditional Owners

RWE's forward engagement with Traditional Owners will prioritise activities that support the protection of cultural heritage and deliver meaningful, long-term benefits for the Gulngay People. Engagement will be undertaken in accordance with the CHA, with a focus on cultural heritage monitoring during initial ground-disturbing works to ensure activities are conducted respectfully and in line with cultural protocols. Gulngay People will be engaged in planning, implementation, and ongoing monitoring to safeguard cultural heritage values throughout the project lifecycle.

In parallel, the project will work collaboratively with Traditional Owners to scope a Gulngay Benefits Program, designed to deliver outcomes that reflect Gulngay priorities and aspirations.

4.5 Other benefits for the community

In collaboration with key stakeholders and the Tully community, RWE committed in the SIA to continue to identify and deliver benefits to the Tully community including:

- Region-wide workforce and skills development plans and strategies with the Tully and District Chamber of Commerce and Cassowary Coast Regional Council's Economic Leadership Committee
- Promoting employment and training opportunities with the Project
- Engaging with Cassowary Coast Regional Council and short-term accommodation providers on appropriate accommodation solutions for the Project
- Exploring opportunities to partner with industry and/or other developers to use or repurpose existing temporary accommodation facilities
- Informing Tully and District Chamber of Commerce and local and First Nations-owned businesses about upcoming procurement opportunities.

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Appendix A

Community and stakeholder engagement register

Table A.1: Community and stakeholder engagement register

Stakeholder group	Engagement to Date	Feedback themes
Landholders	• Ongoing since 2024	• Commercial in confidence
Gulngay People, Gulngay Kinjufile Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC & Girringun Aboriginal Corporation RNTAC	• 20 face to face meetings in 2025 • Notification letter/CHA Letters – Q1, Q3, Q4 2025 • CH agreement signed - 20 November 2025	• Cultural and heritage monitoring • Minimise environment impacts
Cassowary Coast Regional Council: • Mayor: Cr Teresa Millwood • Deputy Mayor: Cr Nicholas Pervan • Cr Chris Littlemore • Cr Ellen Jessop • Cr Trudy Tschui • Cr Jeffery Baines • Cr Renee McLeod • Council executive, planners and staff	• 6 Council Project Briefings – 2024 & 2026 • Pre-lodgement meeting – Q4 2024 • Project Update – Q2 2025 • SIA meeting with Disaster Coordinator and Community Development and Advocacy officer – 28 November 2025 • CBA Workshop 1 – Jan 2026 • CBA Workshop 2 – Feb 2026	• Align with Council's mahogany glider policy. • Community safety – fire hazard management • Ensure alignment with planning scheme • Confirmation of local context
Primary Neighbours	• Door knocked and notification letter – Q2 2025	• Keep informed of Project progress
Fenceline Neighbours	• Notification letter and invitation to provide briefing and feedback – Q2 2025	• No feedback received to date
Near Neighbours – dwellings within a 1.5 km radius	• Distributed Project Newsletter to notify residents of project – Q3 2025	• No feedback received to date
Wider Community: Residents of the local geographic area hosting the Project, as well as local interest groups not defined in any previous categories	• Stand at Tully Show 25 – 26 July – more than 500 visitors • Project Newsletter Mail Out – Tully township and surrounding areas Q4 2025 and Q2 2026 • Community drop-in session within Tully town centre 21-22 November 2025 and 23-24 April 2026	• Energy reliability • Contribution to regional economic development
Emergency services	• Queensland Fire and Rescue meeting in Q3 2025 and Q2 2026	• Continue to engage on the Emergency Management Plan to align with local
State and Federal Members of Parliament (MPs)	• Introduction of Project - notification letter and invitation to provide briefing and feedback – Q2 2025 • 6 Project Update notifications	• Grateful for the regular project updates • Ensure meaningful community and stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder group	Engagement to Date	Feedback themes
	• 2 Project Briefings State Member for Member for Hinchinbrook Mr Wade Chiesa • Federal Member Kennedy Hon Bob Katter MP • Previous State Member for Member for Hinchinbrook Nick Dametto MP • Project update Q4 2025 and EPBC public notification referral • Federal Member Kennedy Hon Bob Katter MP • New State Member for Member for Hinchinbrook Mr Wade Chiesa • State Member for Hill – Shane Knuth	• Opportunities for local business • Minimise social impacts
Powerlink Queensland	• Ongoing since 2024	• Commercial in confidence
Public notification of development application	• Development application was publicly notified in accordance with the Planning Act – 7-28 November 2025	• Two submissions received
Tully Sugar Limited	• Meeting with RWE held 25 November 2025 • Responded via email (3 December 2025) to issues raised at 25 November meeting. • SIA meeting with Attexo held 8 December 2025 • 6 Project Update Notifications	• RWE community and stakeholder engagement undertaken • Power generation by Tully Sugar and interaction with proposed Tully BESS • Potential loss of Good Quality Agricultural land
Tully Cane Growers Ltd	• Meeting with RWE held 25 November 2025 • SIA meeting with Attexo held 1 December 2025 • 6 Project Update Notifications	• RWE community and stakeholder engagement undertaken • Power generation by Tully Sugar and interaction with proposed Tully BESS • Potential loss of Good Quality Agricultural land

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Appendix B

Traditional Owner engagement register

Table B.1: Summary of Traditional Owner engagement

Date	Traditional Owner stakeholder	Method of engagement	Theme	Details
April 2025	Gulngay people via Gulngay Kinjufile Aboriginal Corporation	Meeting	Project Introduction	• Initial engagement and introductory meeting. • Project overview. • Understanding of how Gulngay people wish to be engaged and communication protocols.
June 2025	Gulngay people via Gulngay Kinjufile Aboriginal Corporation	Meeting	Cultural Heritage Agreement	• Alignment with Gulngay people's governance approach to Cultural Heritage Agreement
July 2025	Gulngay people via Gulngay Kinjufile Aboriginal Corporation	Meeting	Cultural Heritage Agreement	• Consultation on Cultural Heritage Agreement.
9 & 31 October 2025	Gulngay people via Gulngay Kinjufile Aboriginal Corporation Representatives of Girringun Aboriginal Corporation RNTAC (GAC)	Meetings	Cultural Heritage Agreement	• Progress Cultural Heritage Agreement. • Discuss arrangements for geotechnical inspections and monitoring
18 November 2025	Gulngay people via Gulngay Kinjufile Aboriginal Corporation	Site	Site Walkover	• Site walkover for geotechnical survey
20 November 2025	Gulngay people via Gulngay Kinjufile Aboriginal Corporation Representatives of Girringun Aboriginal Corporation RNTAC (GAC)	Meeting	Cultural Heritage Agreement	• Formal signing of Cultural Heritage Agreement
21 November to 1 December 2025	Gulngay people via Gulngay Kinjufile Aboriginal Corporation	Site	Cultural and Heritage Monitoring	• Geotechnical survey
20 December 2025	Gulngay people via Gulngay Kinjufile Aboriginal Corporation	Meeting	Gulngay Benefits Program	• Scoping Gulngay Benefits Program

Date	Traditional Owner stakeholder	Method of engagement	Theme	Details
18 May 2026	Gulngay people via Gulngay Kinjufile Aboriginal Corporation	Meeting	Tully BESS Project Office	• Planning for Tully BESS Project Office
19 May 2026	Gulngay people via Gulngay Kinjufile Aboriginal Corporation	Meeting	Tully BESS Project Office	• Welcome to country

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Appendix C

SIA engagement feedback summary

Table C.1: SIA engagement feedback summary

Local context	Potential social impacts and benefits	Proposed management measures
Employment and industry		
• Main employment sources: Tully Mill, Cassowary Coast Regional Council, and banana farming and cane growing. • Local civil contractors are fully booked for 12+ months, indicating a busy construction sector. • Existing construction skills shortage means that businesses rely on tradespeople from Cairns and Townsville. • Tully has several quarries and concrete batching facilities near the Project site.	• Competition for workers. • Local and regional employment and procurement opportunities. • Construction may attract skilled workers to live in the region. • Potential impacts on other renewable energy generators in the area, e.g. Tully Sugar Mill and Kareeya Power Station. • Potential implications for development on neighbouring properties.	• Ongoing engagement with other renewable energy generators on Project operations.
Housing and accommodation		
• Rental market in Tully is very tight, with few vacancies. • Short-term accommodation is available. Occupancy is high during peak visitor seasons. • Tradies are key clients for some short-term accommodation providers. • Seasonal workers rent share houses in town or are accommodated on-farm. Banana plantation owners have purchased short-term accommodation in Tully to accommodate their workers. • Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) uses a temporary workforce camp for their workers who are upgrading Bruce Highway.	• Potential strain on local accommodation and rental markets from incoming workforce. • Opportunity to support local short-term accommodation providers.	• Accommodate construction workers on-site in a temporary camp. • Legacy long-term housing and accommodation solutions in partnership with other developers.

Local context	Potential social impacts and benefits	Proposed management measures
Health and community wellbeing		
• Health care and education are important, particularly for Elders and First Nations communities. • Ongoing challenges with youth support, drugs, and suicide, though rates are not as high as in some other communities. • Limited emergency services capacity in Tully due to skills shortage. Resources are drawn from other nearby centres, e.g. Cardwell and Innisfail. • Vegetation adjacent to the Project site is important for wetland health and landscape connectivity.	• Mixed views: Most community members are neutral or supportive, citing managed noise/visual impacts and potential benefits; others are sceptical about the need for the project, especially regarding electricity prices and system stability. • Concerns about the project's relevance to local needs and scepticism about its link to "climate stuff". • Concerned with potential environmental impacts related to high rainfall such as increases risks of erosion, drainage failure and contamination. • Potential noise impacts on nearby flying-fox roosts need to be checked through targeted mapping and surveys. • During construction, consider offering guided site inspections or periodic briefings for selected community representatives to build trust and counter misinformation.	• Erosion and sediment controls specific to wet tropics climate. • Ensure stormwater design prevents impacts on wetland hydrology and water quality. • Ongoing engagement with local disaster management and emergency services. • Community site inspections or briefings during construction.

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Appendix D

Project newsletters and community engagement material

Tully Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Frequently Asked Questions

July 2025

200+ MW capacity

Power about 15,000 homes for 4 hours

Around **15 ha** development footprint

About 60 full-time jobs during construction

Up to 18 months construction period

Targeting 2028 for initial operations

What is a BESS?

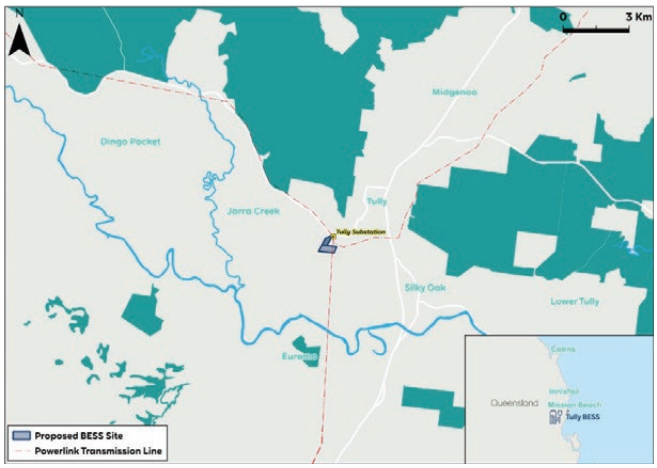
A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is a facility that stores electricity – often generated from renewable energy sources – in batteries for later use. It allows energy to be stored during periods of low demand and dispatched when demand is high, helping to balance supply and demand across the electricity grid.

The key components of a BESS include:

- **Battery cells:** Store the electricity
- **Battery Management System (BMS):** Manages charging and discharging, and ensures safe operation
- **Inverter:** Converts alternating current (AC) to direct current (DC) for storage and DC back to AC to feed into the grid
- **Cooling and air conditioning systems:** Maintain stable operating temperatures
- **Communication and power management systems:** Enable remote monitoring and control
- **Transformer:** Adjusts the AC voltage to appropriate grid levels

Why Tully?

The proposed Tully BESS is strategically located next to Powerlink Queensland's existing Tully Substation, a key point in the regional high-voltage transmission network. Powerlink is a Queensland Government-owned corporation responsible for electricity transmission across the state.



At what stage is the Tully BESS development?

The project is currently in the early development phase. Initial environmental assessments and community consultations are underway.

Who have you consulted to date?

Over the past year, we have engaged with:

- Host landholders
- The Traditional Owners, the Gulngay People
- Neighbouring residents
- Cassowary Coast Regional Council

A pre-lodgement meeting with Council has also been held to ensure alignment with local planning requirements.

At RWE, we are committed to respectful, proactive, and transparent stakeholder engagement. We welcome feedback at any stage of the project.

What happens during the planning and approvals stage?

We are preparing to submit a Development Application to Cassowary Coast Regional Council in 2025. In parallel, we are progressing our grid connection application with Powerlink Queensland.

A number of technical studies are underway including:

- Ecology and biodiversity
- Cultural heritage
- Traffic and noise impact
- Visual and landscape assessment
- Water and drainage management
- Health and safety

What happens during the construction phase?

Construction is expected to begin after securing all approvals, and may take up to 18 months.

Key stages include:

- **Site preparation:** Clearing, access roads, amenities, fencing
- **Civil works:** Foundations, stormwater systems
- **Equipment delivery:** Battery containers, inverters, etc., with traffic management
- **Electrical works:** Wiring and integration with Powerlink's Tully Substation
- **Testing and commissioning**

What happens during the operations phase?

The BESS will be monitored remotely 24/7 through the Battery Management System. A small local team will conduct scheduled maintenance including:

- Visual inspections of battery enclosures, transformers, and cabling
- Servicing of fire safety systems
- Software updates and remote diagnostics
- Vegetation management and upkeep of access roads and fencing

What happens during the decommissioning phase?

Decommissioning will involve safe dismantling and removal of all equipment after the system reaches the end of its operational life (typically about 20 years).

What are the benefits to the Tully community?

Economic and community benefits include:

- Boosts to local and regional businesses, including construction contractors, transport and logistics providers, hospitality and accommodation services, and local trades and vegetation services.
- Establishment of a community investment fund.
- Creation of up to 60 jobs during construction, and up to 3 ongoing roles during operations.
- Improved energy reliability, particularly during extreme weather or peak demand periods.

What do battery system sites look like?

Battery system sites look like substations. The sites include containers that house the components necessary for operation such as inverters, transformers, cooling and fire suppression systems, and switch rooms.

Watch a video on how a BESS is created:
www.rwe.com/en/our-energy/discover-renewables/battery-storage/

What is the history of BESS technology in Australia?

Australia's first large-scale battery, the Hornsdale Power Reserve, was built in South Australia in 2017. Today, additional battery systems are either operating, under construction or in development.

For more information visit:
https://reneweconomy.com.au/big-battery-storage-map-of-australia/

What's involved in developing a battery system?

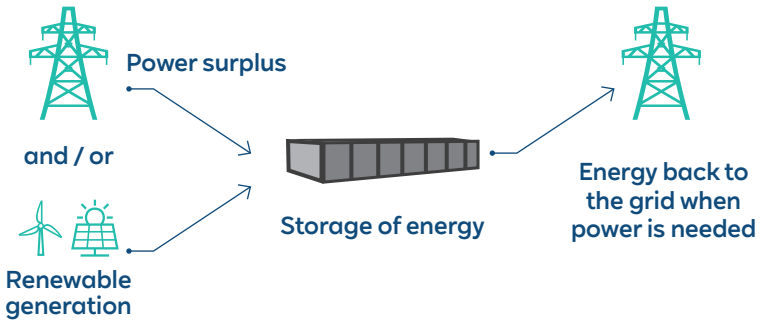
Developing a BESS in Australia involves detailed studies, risk assessments, and extensive community engagement. These are conducted before submitting a planning application in accordance with state-specific planning frameworks.

Does RWE have experience developing battery systems in Australia?

In addition to the proposed BESS at Tully, RWE is constructing a battery system at the existing Limondale Solar Farm near Balranald in New South Wales. It will be Australia's first eight-hour battery and will have an installed capacity of 50 megawatts (MW). Construction is well underway and is on track to be completed by the end of the year. For more information on these projects and more visit **au.rwe.com**. Internationally we have substantial experience, with projects in multiple countries.

Why are battery systems needed?

- **Grid stability:** Renewable energy sources like solar and wind are variable. Battery systems allow excess energy to be stored and released when needed - such as during peak demand or when the sun isn't shining or wind isn't blowing.
- **Lower emissions:** Battery systems reduce reliance on fossil fuels, helping to decrease greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Decentralisation:** BESS enables power to be generated and used closer to where it's needed, reducing the burden on long-distance transmission networks and improving energy reliability, especially in remote areas.
- **Affordability:** By improving efficiency and reducing peak load demand, BESS can contribute to more stable and affordable energy prices.



What is your waste management plan?

We follow a "prevent, reuse, recycle" approach to waste and waste minimisation strategies are considered from the early planning stage.

All waste will be managed and disposed of in accordance with regulatory requirements.

How do you manage potential fire risk?

The BMS continuously monitors the system and will automatically isolate battery modules or racks if unsafe conditions are detected.

A detailed Risk Management Plan, developed in collaboration with local fire authorities, outlines preventive measures and emergency response strategies.

How can I have my say?

We invite the community to participate in shaping the project through:

- Public drop-in sessions
- Online and written feedback surveys
- Formal public comment periods during the Development Application (DA) process
- Ongoing updates via newsletters and our project website

We encourage your input and welcome your questions.

Where can I find out more about BESS?

To find out more and view a video on battery energy storage systems, visit the RWE website:

www.rwe.com/en/our-energy/ discover-renewables/battery-storage/

RWE Renewables Australia respectfully acknowledges the Gulngay people, the Traditional Owners of the lands where the Tully BESS is proposed, and pay our respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Speak with us

We value your feedback and are committed to listening and responding to your questions and comments about the Tully BESS project. Please contact us or visit our website.

Join our mailing list

To subscribe to project updates and stay up to date, scan QR code or contact the team

T: 1800 311 915
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Tully Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Newsletter
Edition 1, October 2025

For Informational Purposes Only. All images and designs depicted herein are artist's conceptual renderings, which are based upon preliminary development plans, and are subject to change. All such materials are not to scale and are shown solely for illustrative purposes.

RWE Renewables Australia has submitted a Development Application (DA) to Cassowary Coast Regional Council (CCRC) for a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) near Tully. The proposed project is in the early stages of project development, with initial planning and environmental studies now complete and ongoing stakeholder and community engagement underway.

A BESS stores energy during periods of low demand and dispatches the energy during periods of peak demand and emergency events. The proposed Tully BESS is strategically located next to Powerlink Queensland's existing Tully Substation, which is a key node supplying power to North and Far North Queensland. The proposed Tully BESS would be a key piece of infrastructure in supporting energy storage development in regional Australia and would help make supply more secure for households and businesses, with less risk of faults and outages.

Over the past year we have proactively engaged with host landholders, CCRC, Traditional Owners and project neighbours to seek their views and input. We also attended the Tully Show 25-26 July 2025 to introduce the project to the wider community and seek their views. Feedback to date has been constructive and encouraging.

At RWE, we understand the importance of working collaboratively with local communities and will continue to take a proactive and respectful approach to stakeholder engagement. I have a personal connection to the area, having grown up on my parents' banana and sugarcane farm in Tully, and am especially committed to ensuring this project reflects local interests and priorities, and delivers long-term economic and employment benefits for the Tully community and the broader Far North Queensland region.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to reach out via our toll free number or email.

Best regards,

Bal Saini
Project Manager – Tully BESS

At a glance

- **Located** about 140km south of Cairns, near the township of Tully in the Cassowary Coast Regional Council
- Planned capacity of **200 megawatts** and **800 megawatt hours**
- About **188 battery units**
- Power about **15,000 homes** for 4 hours
- Development footprint is about **9 hectares**
- **In planning and approvals** – Development Application submitted to Cassowary Coast Regional Council
- Construction scheduled for **2027** with up to **18-month** construction period and operations expected in **2028**
- **60 full-time jobs** during construction and up to 3 **ongoing jobs** during operations

RWE Renewables Australia respectfully acknowledges the Gulngay people, the Traditional Owners of the lands where the Tully BESS is proposed, and pay our respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

An update on the Project's status

We are here

2024	Late-2024	2025–2026	2027	2028	2048
Site selection	Project feasibility	Planning and approvals	Construction	Commissioning and operations	Decommissioning (20-year lifecycle)

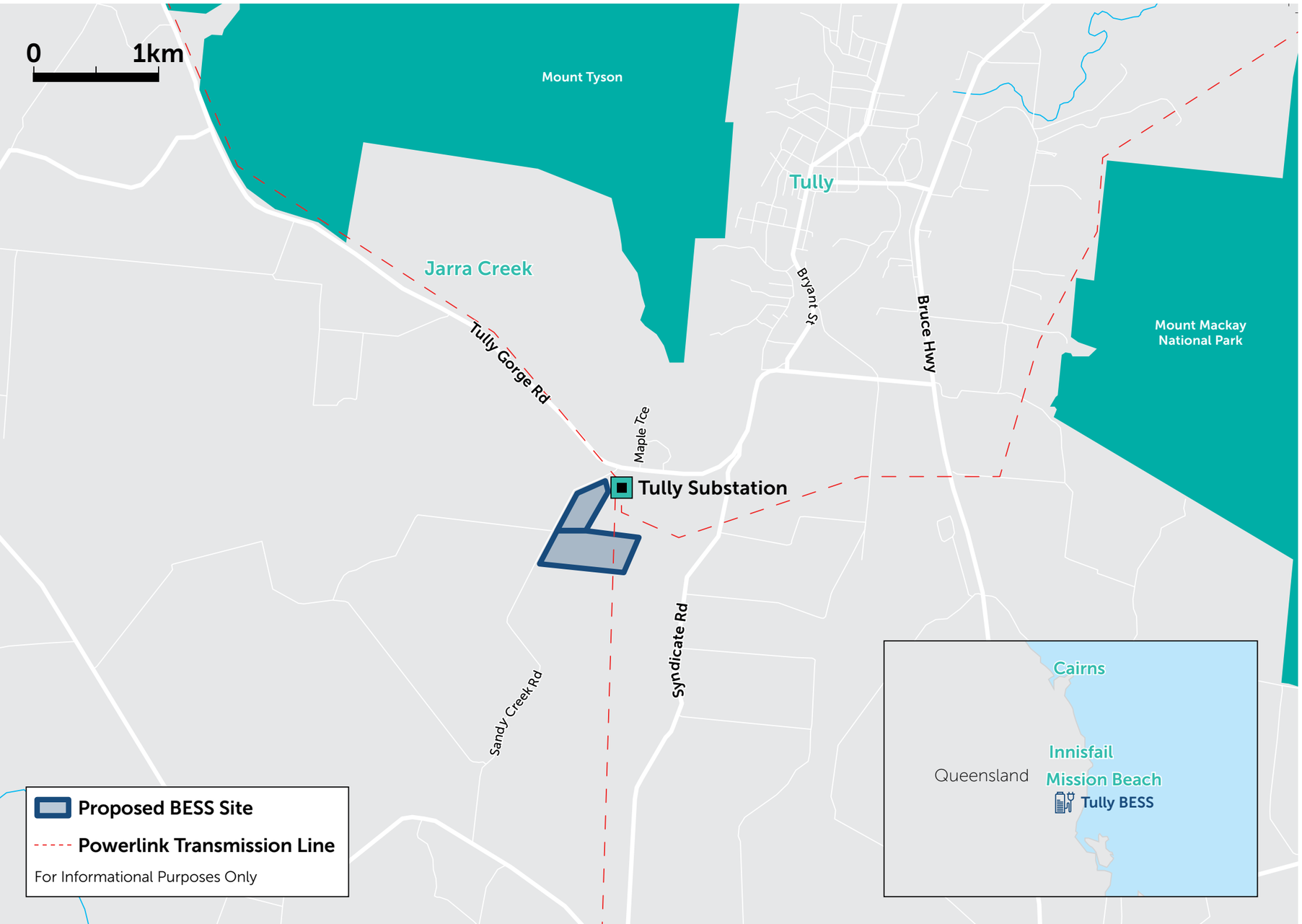
RWE has submitted the development application for the proposed Tully BESS to the CCRC. In parallel, we are progressing our grid connection application with Powerlink Queensland.

Developing a BESS involves detailed studies and risk assessments, in accordance with state-specific planning frameworks. Technical studies have now been completed.

These include:

- Ecology & biodiversity
- Cultural heritage
- Traffic & noise impact
- Visual & landscape assessment
- Water/drainage management
- Hazard Assessment
- Agricultural Land Assessment
- Erosion & Sediment Control

Construction is expected to begin once all necessary planning and environmental approvals have been secured. It typically takes place in stages, approximately 18 months, depending on weather, site conditions and transmission connections.



Construction activities:

1. **Site preparation**
   - Clearing and grading the site (with environmental controls in place)
   - Installing temporary amenities, fencing, and signage
   - Access roads
2. **Civil works**
   - Laying concrete pads or foundations for battery enclosures and equipment
   - Building stormwater drainage and erosion control systems
3. **Delivery of equipment**
   - Battery containers, inverters, transformers, and switchgear delivered by trucks
   - Traffic management plans will be in place for safety and reduced disruption
4. **Electrical installation**
   - Connecting inverters, cabling, control systems and transformers
   - Installing grid connection infrastructure to nearby substation
5. **Testing and commissioning**
   - Safety and performance testing of all systems

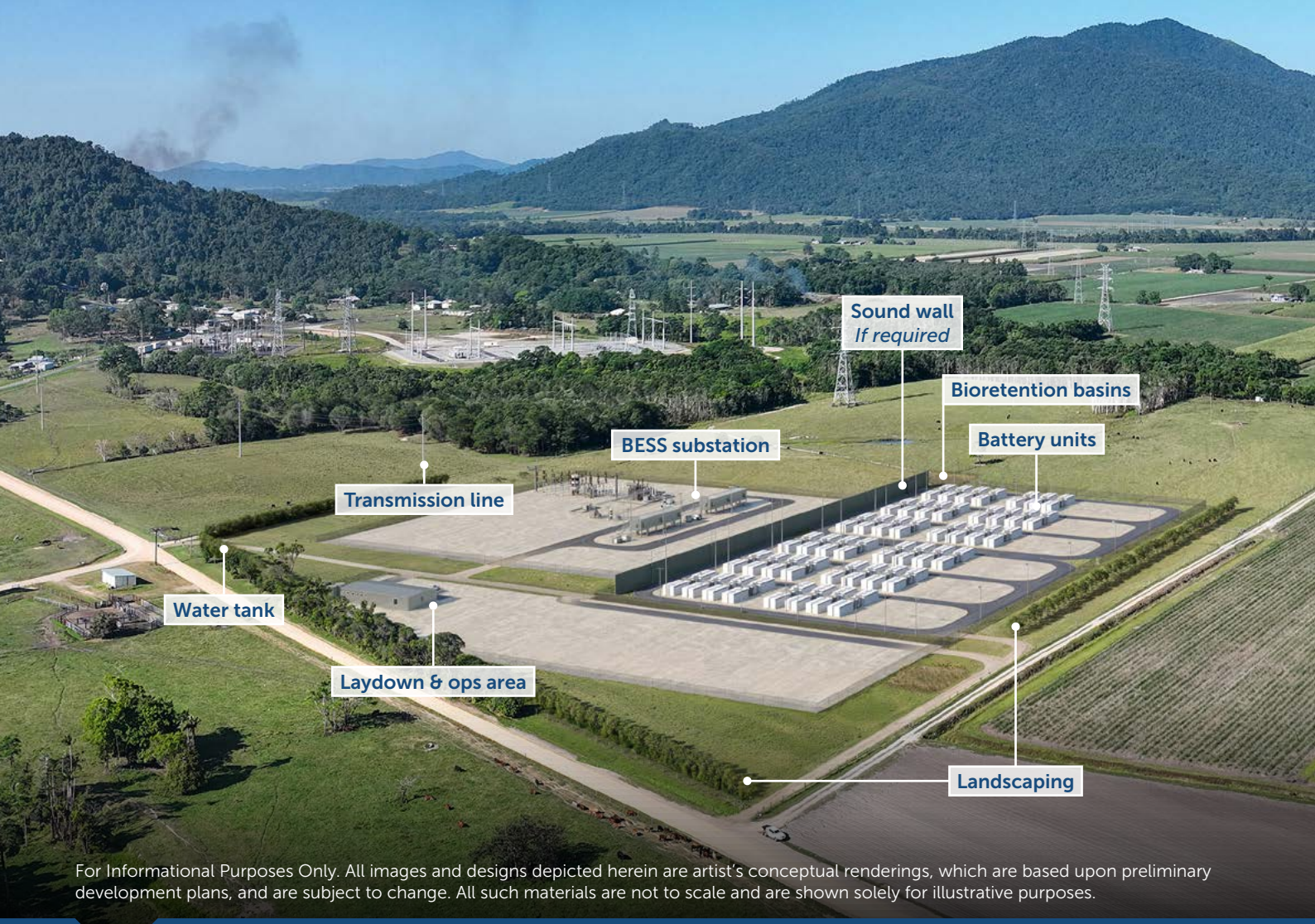
Operations activites

The BESS will be monitored remotely 24/7 through the Battery Management System. A small local team will conduct scheduled maintenance including:

- Visual inspections of battery enclosures, transformers, and cabling
- Servicing of fire safety systems
- Software updates and remote diagnostics
- Vegetation management and upkeep of access roads and fencing

Decommissioning activities

Decommissioning will involve safe dismantling and removal of all equipment after the system reaches the end of its operational life (typically about 20 years).



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Key components

Battery Management System (BMS)

Manages charging and discharging and ensures safe operation.

Cooling and air conditioning systems

Maintain stable operating temperatures.

Communication & power management systems

Enable remote monitoring and control.

~500 metre transmission line

Transports electricity to charge the battery and dispatch to Powerlink substation for delivery to consumers.

Where can I find out more about BESS?

To find out more and view a video on battery energy storage systems, visit the RWE website:

rwe.com/en/our-energy/discover-renewables/battery-storage

~188 battery units

Store the electricity.

Transformers

Adjusts the AC voltage to appropriate grid levels.

Inverters

Converts alternating current (AC) to direct current (DC) for storage and DC back to AC to feed into the grid.

Fire management

Technical studies conducted to date have found the risk of fire is low. Even so the Tully BESS is being designed with multiple layers of safety to ensure the highest level of protection for workers, neighbours, and the local community.

SITE DESIGN

- BESS units housed in fire-resistant containers
- BESS units are spaced apart to prevent fire spreading.
- Each container is fitted with venting systems to safely release pressure.
- The site includes buffer zones, fencing, and clear access for emergency services.
- Onsite 40,000-litre water tank

PREVENTION:

- Thermal management systems (cooling) keep batteries within safe operating temperatures
- The BMS continuously monitors the system and will automatically isolate battery modules or racks if unsafe conditions are detected
- Automatic shutdown systems isolate faulty cells or units quickly

CONSULTATION

Consultation has commenced with the Tully Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES). A detailed Fire Management and Emergency Response Plan will be developed in consultation with QFES.

A BESS fire is managed quite differently from a typical building or bushfire because of the way lithium-ion batteries behave – the safest approach is to let the battery burn out in a controlled way inside its container while keeping it contained and cooled.

Key priorities during the unlikely event of a BESS fire:

- Preventing spread (isolation, suppression, containment).
- Protecting responders (HazMat PPE, controlled cooling).
- Protecting the environment (bunding, runoff capture, licensed disposal).
- Protecting the community (safe exclusion zones, air monitoring, clear communication)

Noise management

The BESS will be quieter than most farm machinery or passing traffic. Noise levels will be monitored to ensure compliance with Queensland regulations.

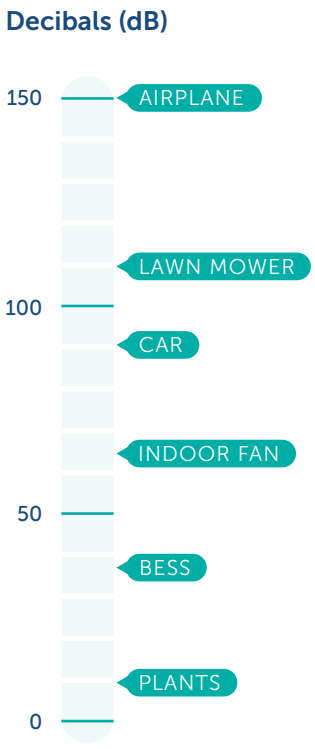
An independent acoustic assessment has evaluated the potential noise impacts associated with the project as part of our development application. The modelling was prepared by qualified acoustic consultants in accordance with the relevant regulations and Australian Standards. The assessment considers construction and operational phases, including worst-case scenarios, such as peak cooling demand, and compares predicted sound levels against applicable criteria at the nearest neighbors.

CHARACTERISTICS

- Normal operation: A low, steady sound mainly from fans and inverters that manage the power. It is similar to a household outdoor air-conditioner, around 37dB 600 meters from the BESS.
- Short-term variations: During high demand (when fans work harder), sound may be slightly noticeable, but still within regulated limits.

MANAGEMENT

- Design standards ensure the BESS complies with the relevant regulations.
- Setback distances ensure there is enough distance between equipment and nearby homes.
- Independent acoustic experts assess predicted noise levels before construction.
- If needed, structures such as fencing, landscaping or acoustic enclosures can be added



Engage!

Have your say

We invite the community to participate in shaping the project through:

- Community drop-in sessions
- Online and written feedback surveys
- Formal public comment periods during the Development Application (DA) process
- Ongoing updates via newsletters and our project website

We will continue to be proactive and guided by our values of honesty, respect, adaptability, consistency, and consideration. We are committed to maintaining open and transparent communication, ensuring stakeholders and the community are informed and can contribute their views. We aim to build strong, enduring relationships and deliver a project that aligns with community expectations and supports positive regional outcomes.

Community Benefits

The economic and community benefits of the proposed Tully BESS include:

- **Boosts to local and regional businesses**, including construction contractors, transport and logistics providers, hospitality/accommodation services, local trades and services
- Establishment of a **community benefit fund**
- Creation of up to **60 jobs** during construction, and up to **3 ongoing roles** during operations
- **Improved energy reliability**, particularly during extreme weather or peak demand periods

We are developing a community sponsorship program to support local social and community wellbeing. The program will focus on providing funding and support for local schools, sporting clubs, cultural initiatives, and community events that strengthen connections and deliver positive outcomes for residents. Through this initiative, we aim to ensure the project contributes to the long-term wellbeing of the community and leaves a meaningful legacy beyond its role in the energy network.

Join our mailing list

To subscribe to project updates and stay up to date, scan the QR code or contact the team

Find out more

1800 311 915

tullybess@rwe.com

au.rwe.com/projects/tully-bess

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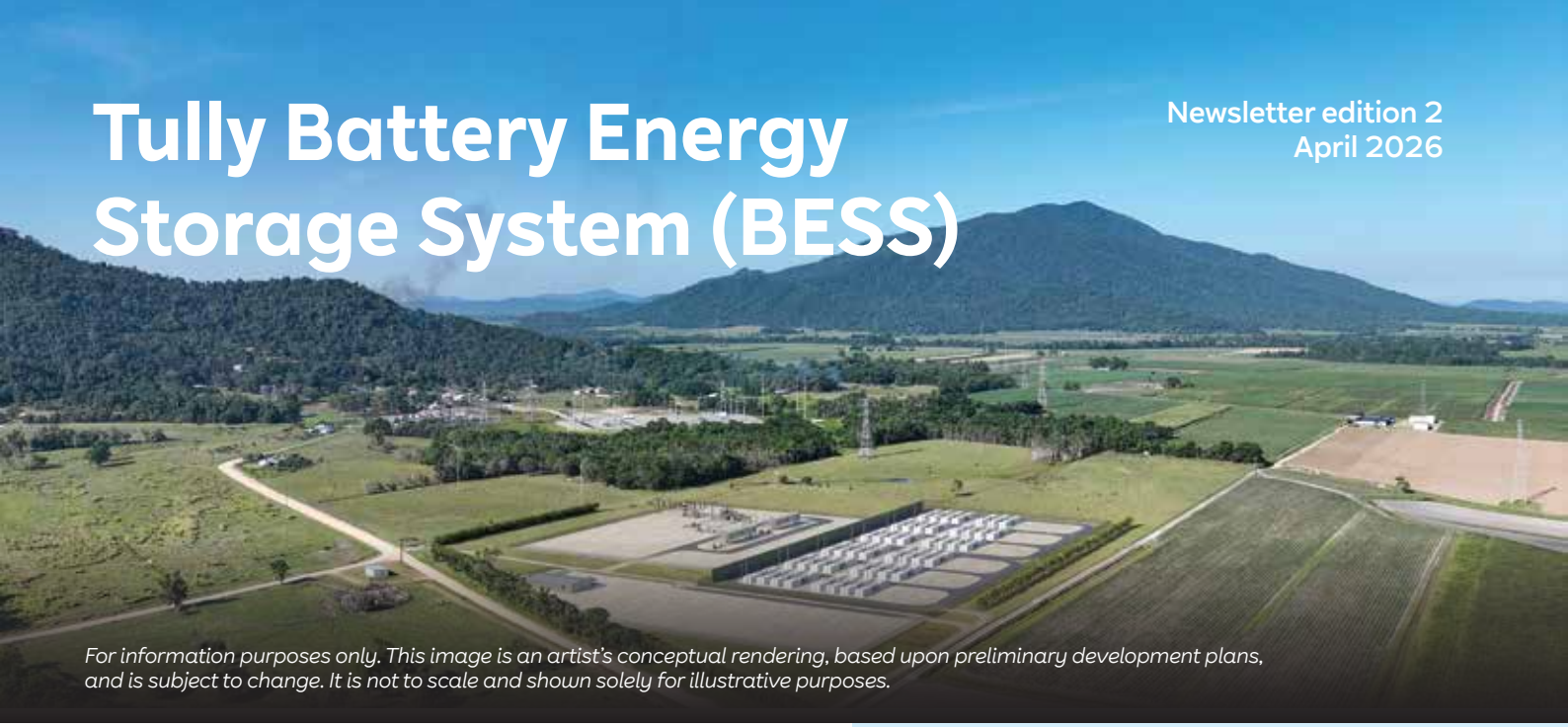
Tully Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Newsletter edition 2
April 2026



For information purposes only. This image is an artist's conceptual rendering, based upon preliminary development plans, and is subject to change. It is not to scale and shown solely for illustrative purposes.

The team has been busy making steady progress on the project, and we are pleased to share a few updates with you.

We are working with Cassowary Coast Regional Council on a Community Benefit Agreement, that will deliver practical, grassroots benefits for the Tully community throughout the project's lifetime.

We have launched the project's $35,000 Tully Sponsorship Development Fund. This is open to local community groups and organisations. Applications are open until January 2027. All the details are available at www.tullybess.com.au.

For local businesses, the Tully BESS ICN Gateway is now live at www.tully.icn.org.au. There are 28 different work packages available, from fencing through to cranage services, and we encourage local suppliers to get involved.

We have signed a Cultural Heritage Agreement with the Gulngay People, the Traditional Owners of the land on which the project is located. We are committed to working respectfully and collaboratively – our recent geotechnical site investigations were also carried out with oversight from Traditional Owners.

We have also taken a closer look at the project's potential economic impact. The assessment shows the project could contribute about $75 million to the local Cassowary Coast regional economy over the life of the project.

We are working through the planning process with both the Cassowary Coast Regional Council and the Queensland Government. And we would like your input as part of the Development Application process. We invite the local community to our next community drop-in sessions on Thursday 23 and Friday 24 April from 9am to 5pm at 3/24 Butler Street (near the Commonwealth Bank).

Bal Saini
Project Manager - Tully BESS

At a glance

Located about 140km south of Cairns, near the Tully Powerlink substation

Planned capacity of **200 megawatts - 4 hours duration**

About **188 battery units**

Power about **15,000 homes** for **4 hours**

Development footprint is about **9 hectares**

EPBC Referral decision no further assessment required

Planning permit – Development Application scheduled to be submitted Q2 2026

Construction scheduled for **2027** and operations in **2028**

60 jobs during construction and up to **3 ongoing jobs** during operations

Green light on EPBC & DA in progress

The Tully BESS project continues to move forward through the planning process, with some significant milestones achieved over recent months.

Federal environmental approval received
In early December 2025, the project team submitted a referral to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act). The referral was open for public comment from 9 to 23 December 2025.

In January 2026, DCCEEW determined that the Tully BESS is "Not a Controlled Action" under the EPBC Act — meaning the project does not require further federal environmental assessment or approval. This important outcome allows the project to continue progressing through state planning processes.

State Development Application update
The project's Development Application was submitted to the Cassowary Coast Regional Council in September 2025. In December 2025, the Queensland Government introduced new planning rules for battery storage projects.
Under the updated framework, projects like Tully BESS are now assessed by the State Assessment and Referral Agency in line with State Code 27 – Battery Storage Facility Development.

As a result, we will be submitting a new Development Application to SARA that meets these new planning requirements.

Community Benefit Agreement – for the local Tully community
Under the new planning framework, a Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) must be developed with the Cassowary Coast Regional Council.

The RWE Tully Project Team has been collaborating closely with Council since January 2026. A workshop was held in Tully in February, and the CBA is now well advanced and expected to be finalised soon.

Guided by the project's Social Impact Assessment, the agreement will provide grassroots benefits to the Tully community over the next 22 years, supporting long-term local initiatives and community development.

We'll share more details on the CBA once it's formally signed.

$75 million boost for Cassowary Coast

A recent independent Economic Impact Assessment prepared by Townsville-based Regional Economic Advisory shows that the Tully BESS will deliver major economic and community benefits for the Cassowary Coast region over its lifetime — supporting local jobs, investment, and energy reliability.

According to the assessment, the BESS will generate substantial local and regional economic impacts during construction, operations, and decommissioning.

Over its full life cycle, the project is projected to contribute:

- $75 million to the local economy (Cassowary Coast LGA)
- $140 million to the broader FNQ region
- $215 million to Queensland's economy as a whole

Construction of the BESS is projected to generate about 70 direct and indirect jobs across the Cassowary Coast, approximately 220 jobs regionally, and 420 across Queensland. The project will also provide direct and flow-on benefits to local industries, particularly in construction, engineering, equipment supply, transport, accommodation, and trade services.

Gulgnay agreement signed

The project has taken an important step forward with the formal signing of a Cultural Heritage Agreement with the Gulgnay people, the Traditional Owners of the land. The signing took place at the Girringun Art Centre in Cardwell, where the history and art of the Gulngay people – and their stories – are proudly shared.

This agreement follows more than a year of engagement with the Gulgnay people and the Girringun Aboriginal Corporation, who have provided valuable guidance and local insight throughout the planning process. The signing represents a major milestone for the project, ensuring that cultural heritage and traditional knowledge continue to shape how the project is planned and delivered.

Under the agreement, the project team will continue to work closely with the Gulgnay people to respect and protect cultural heritage, support local employment pathways, and create opportunities for community involvement.

As an example of this partnership in action, recent geotechnical site investigations were completed under the oversight of the Gulgnay people, in accordance with the new Cultural Heritage Agreement. This collaboration has helped to strengthen relationships and ensured all fieldwork was carried out with care, respect and cultural sensitivity.

This milestone is a positive step forward in building long-term partnerships with the Gulgnay people and demonstrates RWE's commitment to progressing the Tully BESS project in a way that honours the cultural significance of the area and supports local communities.

Local energy to charge Tully BESS

The proposed Tully BESS will be charged from a broad mix of local and regional power sources that supply Far North Queensland. This potentially includes nearby hydropower stations, bagasse cogeneration from sugar mills in the FNQ region, and wind farms that feed power into the regional network.

The system will also store energy generated from rooftop solar systems installed on homes, farms, and businesses across the Cassowary Coast. During the day, when solar generation is high, the Tully BESS can store surplus power for use during the evening or times of high demand, improving reliability across the local network.

While Far North Queensland increasingly meets its needs from northern generation, a portion of electricity still comes from natural gas and imported grid power from the south. Gas-fired peaking plants around Townsville and Mackay provide additional supply during periods of high consumption or low local generation. The region is also connected through Powerlink's transmission network, which allows electricity to flow north from coal and gas generation hubs in Central and Southern Queensland when required.

By drawing from this mix of hydro, solar, wind, gas, and grid-supplied energy, the Tully BESS will help maintain a stable and reliable power system for Tully and surrounding areas, supporting energy security across Far North Queensland.

Community drop-in sessions

We are hosting another round of drop-in sessions and it would be great to see you there:

Thursday 23 April & Friday 24 April
9:00am – 5:00pm
3/24 Butler Street (near the Commonwealth Bank)

There is no formal presentation—just drop in at a time that suits you. Whether you have questions, feedback, or simply want to learn more, the project team is here to help.

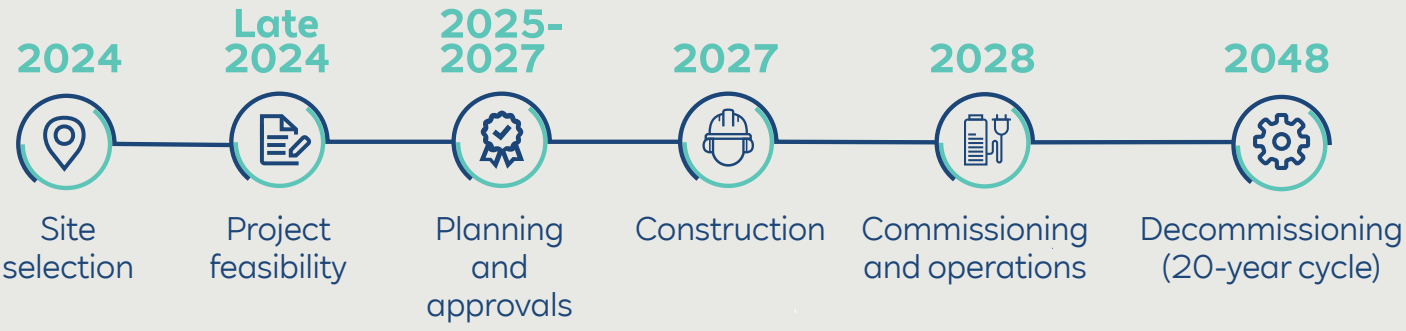
Sponsorship fund now open

The RWE Tully BESS Sponsorship Fund is now open, providing $35,000 to support local community groups.

We're inviting not-for-profit organisations to apply for funding including (but not limited to) sporting and recreational clubs, community groups and more. Whether your group is planning an event, supporting local participation, or delivering a project that benefits the wider community, we would love to hear from you.

The fund is open until 31 January 2027. To apply visit tullybess.com.au.

Project timeline



Project timeline is indicative only and subject to change based on planning approvals, grid connection requirements, procurement, and construction conditions.

Join our mailing list

To subscribe to project updates and stay up to date, scan the QR code or contact the team.

Find out more

1800 311 915
tullybess@rwe.com
tullybess.com.au

Tully BESS | RWE

RWE Renewables Australia respectfully acknowledges the Gulngay people, the Traditional Owners of the lands where the Tully BESS is proposed, and pay our respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Tully Battery Energy Storage System

Development Application update April 2026

RWE is progressing the Development Application for the Tully Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

In December 2025, the Queensland Government introduced changes to the planning framework for BESS projects through the Planning (Battery Storage Facilities) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025.

RWE had previously submitted a Development Application for the proposed Tully BESS to the Cassowary Coast Regional Council (CCRC) in September 2025.

The project will now be assessed by the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA) rather than CCRC, and addtional technical studies are now required.

Development Application (DA) timeline

RWE began preparing the Tully BESS DA in late 2024.

- **Early 2025:** Technical studies started in line with the Planning Act 2016 to support the DA.
- **September 2025:** DA and technical studies submitted to CCRC for assessment.
- **November 2025:** Social Impact Assessment (SIA) commenced following Queensland Government guidelines.
- **December 2025:** Queensland Government introduced the new Planning (Battery Storage Facilities) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, updating the planning framework for BESS projects.
- **January – April 2026:** Finalised the SIA, progressed 13 technical studies, and negotiating a Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) with CCRC.

New planning framework

Under the new planning framework, battery projects are assessed by the SARA under State Code 27 – Battery Storage Facility Development.

RWE is preparing a new DA for submission to SARA.

Progress under the updated requirements

The project team is working closely with CCRC, the Queensland Government, and specialist consultants to meet all updated requirements.

Additional technical studies being completed include:

- SIA (completed): Guides the Community Benefit Agreement with CCRC and RWE's community benefits program.
- Risk Management: Fire Safety Study, Risk Management Report, and Emergency Response Plan in consultation with the Queensland Fire Department.
- Natural Hazards Risk Assessment: Examines region-specific hazards such as flooding and cyclones.
- Noise and Vibration Assessment: Reviews potential effects during construction, operation, and decommissioning.
- Heavy Vehicle and OSOM Strategy: Identifies and assesses proposed haulage routes.
- Battery Recycling and Decommissioning Plans: Outlines recycling, decommissioning, and site restoration at the end of the project's life.

Next steps

RWE is working through the updated planning process with Queensland Government, CCRC, stakeholders and the community. We expect to submit the updated DA to SARA in the second quarter of 2026.

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Tully BESS | RWE

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APEM Group

Appendix E

Letter of support from Cassowary Coast Regional Council

ENQUIRIES TO: Planning Services Team on 4030 2238

Email: planning@ccrc.qld.gov.au

19 January 2026

RWE Renewables Australia
Attention: Mr Bal Saini
Suite 5, Level 9
350 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Via email: Bal.Saini@rwe.com

Dear Sir

Support for planning application to Queensland Government

Cassowary Coast Regional Council is pleased to provide this letter of support for the proposed Tully Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project, as submitted to the Queensland Government by RWE.

RWE has engaged positively with Council and the local community for the past 18 months on the project.

Council recognises the strategic importance of energy storage infrastructure in supporting Queensland's transition to a reliable, affordable, and low-emissions energy system. The proposed Tully BESS represents a significant opportunity to strengthen regional energy resilience, improve grid stability, and enable greater integration of renewable energy generation within Far North Queensland.

The Cassowary Coast region is uniquely positioned to contribute to the State's clean energy objectives. Investment in energy storage infrastructure such as the Tully BESS aligns with Council's commitment to sustainable development, climate resilience, and long-term economic diversification. The project is expected to deliver regional benefits including local employment opportunities, skills development, and increased investment confidence in the Tully area.

Council also acknowledges the project's potential to enhance energy security for the local community, particularly in a region exposed to extreme weather events. Battery storage infrastructure can play a critical role in supporting network reliability and recovery, contributing to improved outcomes for residents, businesses, and essential services.

Cassowary Coast Regional Council supports the progression of the Tully Battery Energy Storage System through the relevant Queensland Government assessment and approval processes. Council looks forward to continued engagement with the project proponent and State agencies to ensure the project delivers positive outcomes for the community and aligns with regional planning and environmental considerations.

If you have any queries, please contact Planning Services by E: planning@ccrc.qld.gov.au or Ph: (07) 4030 2238

Yours faithfully

Cr Teresa Millwood
MAYOR

Andrew Graffen (Jan 19, 2026 12:06:32 GMT+10)

Andrew Graffen
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Attexo

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