

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?

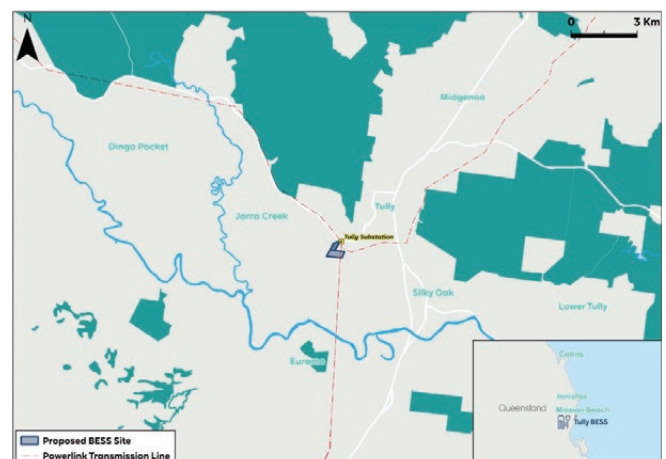
A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is a facility that stores electricity – often generated from renewable energy sources – in batteries for later use. It allows energy to be stored during periods of low demand and dispatched when demand is high, helping to balance supply and demand across the electricity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

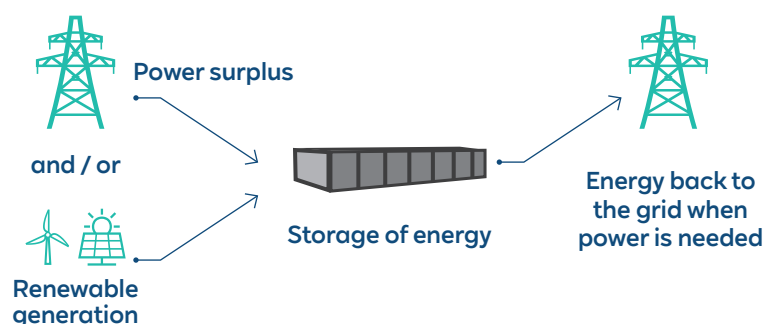
Developing a BESS in Australia involves detailed studies, risk assessments, and extensive community engagement. These are conducted before submitting a planning application in accordance with state-specific planning frameworks.

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.



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