

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 craneage 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 Gulgnay 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.

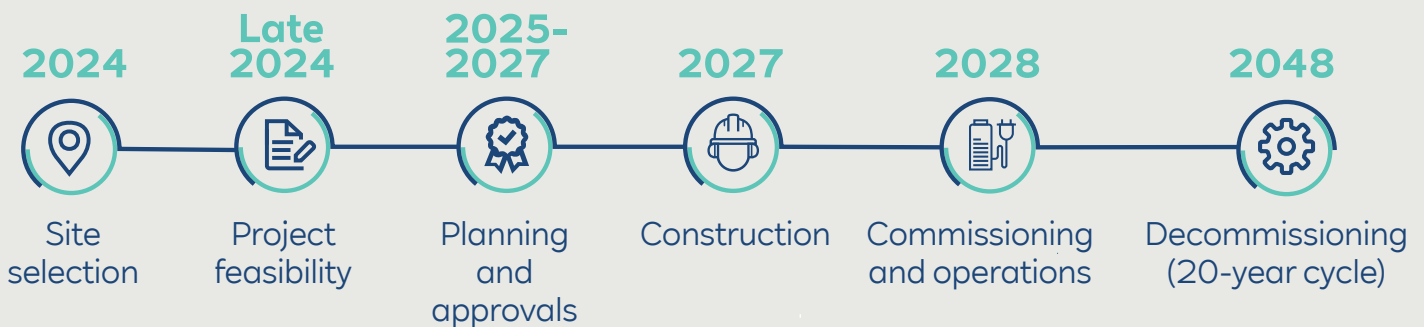
Sponsorship fund now open

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

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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.