

The Central BESS

Driving Queensland's shift towards clean energy.

Project snapshot

ACEnergy is developing the Central BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) Project near Bouldercombe in Queensland's Rockhampton Region.

The Project will deliver 500 MW of battery storage, marking an important milestone in delivering more affordable and reliable power for Queenslanders.

The Central BESS was approved in October 2025 with strong conditions that reflect community feedback and ensure the highest standards of safety, environmental care and visual integration.

Project benefits

Central BESS will support local employment opportunities, contribute to long-term investment in the region and deliver a Benefit Sharing Program for Project neighbours, the local community and First Nations groups.

At a glance

Capacity: **500 MW / 2,000 MWh**

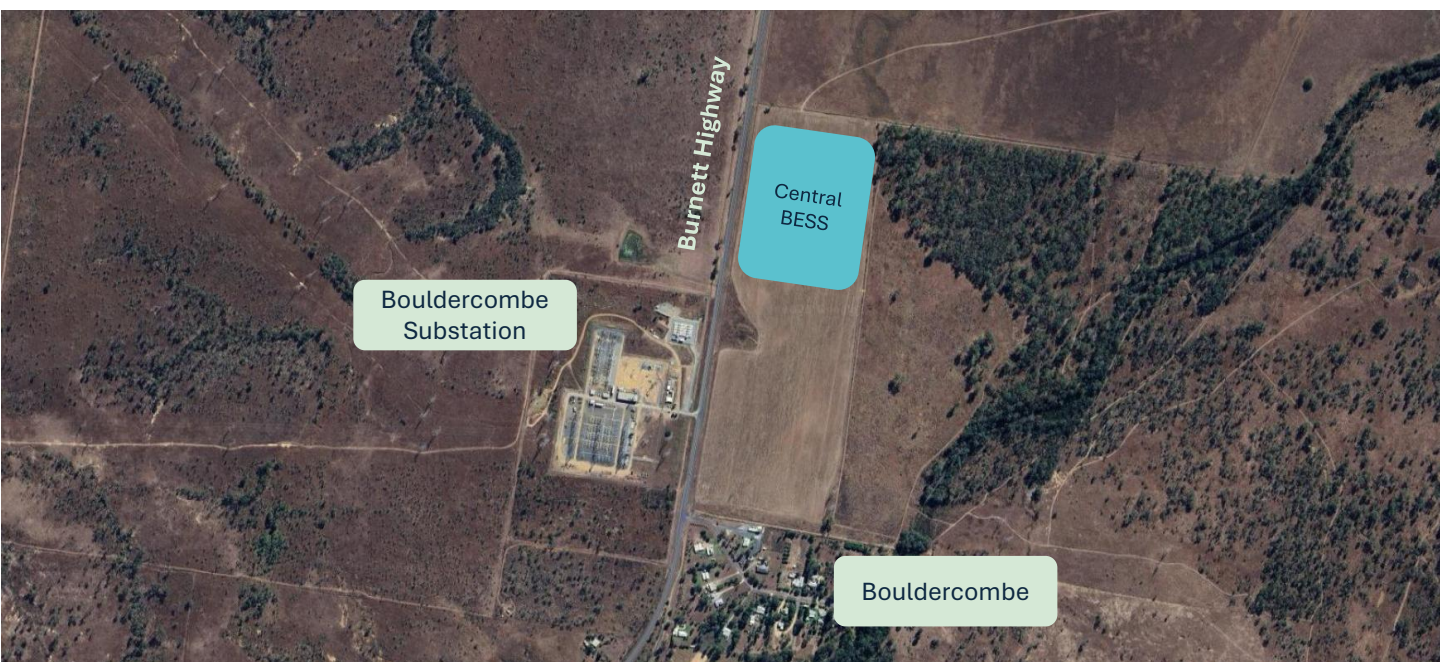
Land size: **10 hectares**

Location: **Bouldercombe (Rockhampton Region), Queensland**

Project timeline

Indicative

- 2023-2025**
Development and grid connection assessments and approvals
- Mid 2027- late 2028**
Construction & commissioning
- From 2029**
Operations & maintenance



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Central BESS project?

The Central BESS is a 500 MW Battery Energy Storage System Project located in Bouldercombe, Queensland. It will store energy during periods of low demand and feed it back into the grid at times of high demand, helping enhance grid stability and lowering power prices. The Central BESS will connect directly into the existing Bouldercombe Substation, reducing the need for significant new connection infrastructure. In addition to creating local investment opportunities, the Project will help strengthen the electricity network, place downward pressure on energy prices, and support a reliable energy future for the state.

What is the project timeline?

ACEnergy has been undertaking assessments required to meet statutory and regulatory requirements since securing the land in 2023. In late 2025, the Planning and Environment Court approved ACFlex's amended development application after. We expect construction to start in mid-2027, with the Project operational from 2029.

How will the project benefit local communities?

We are committed to building a positive legacy in the Rockhampton Region. The Project will create around 150 jobs at peak construction and three full-time roles once operational. It will also drive long-term investment in the region, and deliver more affordable, reliable power for Queenslanders.

ACEnergy will deliver benefit sharing funding for Project neighbours, the local community and First Nations groups over the life of the Project. This includes a \$3 million Community Benefit Fund to support local initiatives. We will work with the Community Reference Group to develop the Fund guidelines and help ensure funding reflects local community priorities.

What commitments guide the project?

The Project approval comes with strong conditions that reflect community feedback. Key community-focused commitments include:

- **Bushfire safety:** A dedicated 576,000-litre firefighting water tank, internal fire breaks, and perimeter fire trails designed for emergency access will be in place before operations begin.
- **Emergency preparedness:** We will work closely with the Queensland Fire Department and local fire authorities to develop and implement comprehensive emergency and fire safety plans.
- **Noise management:** We will select equipment with low noise emissions and construct noise walls, to meet noise standards, with a public post-construction noise assessment ensuring any further required actions are implemented.
- **Visual integration:** All battery containers will be finished in muted green tones and non-reflective materials to blend with the natural surroundings.
- **Vegetation buffering:** A wider and more varied vegetation buffer will be planted around the site to improve screening and support local biodiversity.
- **Site rehabilitation:** At the end of its operational life, the site will be fully decommissioned and rehabilitated to approved standards.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

You can reach out to our Project team at info@thecentralbess.com.au or 1800 548 589

About ACFlex

We are an Australian-owned clean energy developer specialising in utility-scale solar and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). With over 1.1 GW of capacity delivered and a further 2.7 GW in our pipeline, we are committed to advancing Australia's transition to a sustainable, low-emissions future.