

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Learn more about the approved increase in storage capacity, what is changing and what it means for the community

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) play an important role in modern energy networks by storing electricity when demand is low and discharging it into the grid when demand is high.

What exactly is changing?

The approved storage capacity of the Central BESS Project is increasing. This means the Project will be able to store and dispatch more electricity than originally planned, without any increase to the Project's footprint.

Does this mean the Project is getting bigger physically?

No, there is no change to the physical size of the Project layout. Advances in battery technology mean newer systems can store more energy within the same or a similar space. This allows capacity to increase without expanding the overall site.

How will the Project change visually?

Most people are unlikely to notice a significant difference in how the Project looks. The size and layout of visible infrastructure will remain broadly consistent with the approved project, and the landscaping measures proposed as part of the original design will still be implemented to help screen views of the facility.

Will the Project generate more noise?

No increase in noise levels is expected. While the Project will be capable of operating for longer periods when needed, detailed assessments show noise levels at nearby homes are expected to remain consistent with those assessed under the original approved design and within all applicable noise standards. We will continue to work with regulators and technical specialists to ensure noise limits remain within approved limits throughout the life of the Project.

Will construction take longer or become more disruptive?

No, the approved change is not expected to significantly change how the Project is built. Construction timeframes, workforce requirements and traffic movements are anticipated to remain broadly consistent with those assessed for the original Project.

We understand that construction activity can be disruptive, which is why the Project will continue to be delivered in accordance with approved management plans designed to minimise impacts on nearby residents. We will continue to provide updates and keep the community informed throughout the construction phase.

Why increase the capacity at all?

The increase in capacity reflects advances in battery technology that allow more energy to be stored within the same project area. A battery with a greater capacity can store more renewable energy and supply it back to the grid when it's needed most, helping to improve electricity reliability and support local homes and businesses.

Importantly, these benefits can be delivered without expanding the Project footprint or significantly increasing impacts. The increased capacity will also enable the Project to provide greater value to local communities and Queenslanders through increased funding for neighbours and community initiatives.

What is the difference between MW and MWh?

MW (megawatt) measures how much electricity a battery can deliver at any one time. It's the battery's power output. MWh (megawatt-hour) measures how much energy a battery can store. It describes how long the battery can continue supplying electricity before it needs to be recharged.

For example, the Central BESS will have an output of 500 MW, meaning it can supply up to 500 MW of electricity at any given time. With a storage capacity of 2,000 MWh, it can provide that electricity for around four hours before needing to be recharged.

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How was this change assessed?

Rockhampton Regional Council assessed the proposed change under the same planning framework and approval conditions that applied to the original Project. As part of this process, Council reviewed the technical studies and supporting information to confirm that the increased storage capacity would not alter the Project's approved footprint or materially change its impacts.

In June 2026, Council approved the proposed change, determining that it remained consistent with the Project approved by the Planning and Environment Court in October 2025 and continued to comply with all relevant approval conditions.

Why wasn't I consulted?

We understand that community members may have questions about why they weren't consulted on this change. The approved change increases the Project's storage capacity using advances in battery technology, while remaining within the approved Project footprint and maintaining impacts consistent with those assessed for the original project.

As a result, the change was assessed by Rockhampton Regional Council under the same planning framework as the original project and did not require a separate public consultation process. Even so, we will continue to keep the community informed and provide opportunities to ask questions as the Project progresses.

What is happening with the Community Benefit Fund?

We have increased the Project's Community Benefit Fund from \$1.5 million to \$3 million. This will create more opportunities to invest in initiatives that matter most to the local community. The expanded Fund will provide greater support for community-led projects, local partnerships, and programs that deliver lasting benefits across the region.

The way the Fund is managed and distributed will remain the same. Community groups will be able to apply for funding from the start of construction, with annual funding rounds continuing throughout both the construction and operational phases of the Project.

Who decides how the Community Benefit Fund is used?

The Community Benefit Fund will be guided by input from the Community Reference Group (CRG), which brings together local perspectives and helps ensure funding reflects community priorities.

The CRG is helping to shape the Fund Guidelines, including how funding applications will be assessed. Once finalised, the Guidelines will provide a clear and transparent framework to guide applicants and support funding decisions to ensure the Fund delivers meaningful, long-term benefits for the local community.

What does this mean for the Neighbour Benefit Program?

We will also deliver greater value to those living closest to the Project. We are increasing payments under the Neighbour Benefit Program so that our closest neighbours share directly in the benefits of the Project.

We have informed eligible neighbours about the updated Program and will continue to work closely with them to support their participation and answer any questions as the Program progresses.

We are also updating the Neighbour Benefit Agreement to provide greater clarity around how enquiries, complaints and concerns will be managed, including defined response timeframes. Once the Agreement is finalised, we will share it with you for review before signing.