

Little River BESS

Community Update: Increased capacity & community benefits

October 2026

An update from the Little River BESS project team

We'd like to share an important update on the Little River Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) that will see additional funding for the community and more energy capacity, without changing the footprint of the project.

Since the Project was approved in May 2025, it has progressed through a number of important stages. The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) has now approved a change to increase the Project's energy storage capacity from 700 MWh to 1,400 MWh.

The change means the battery can store more energy and supply electricity to the grid for longer when it's needed, while remaining within the approved Project footprint.

It also means more funding for the local community, including a new \$1.5 million Flexible Support Fund, and total benefit sharing commitments of \$4.2 million.

We are pleased to share more information about what is changing, what isn't changing, and what this means for the local community.

What's changing?

The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) has approved a change to the 350 MW Little River BESS Project, increasing its storage capacity from 700 MWh to 1,400 MWh. This changes the Project from a two-hour to a four-hour battery system, allowing it to store more energy when it's available and supply electricity to the grid for longer when needed.

Key changes include:

- Increasing the storage duration from two hours (700 MWh) to four hours (1,400 MWh).
- A reduction in the number of battery containers from 372 to 275.
- A reduction in the number of power conversion units, known as Medium Voltage Power Stations, from 124 to 110.
- Significantly more funding for community initiatives, including a new \$1.5 million Flexible Support Fund, while the existing \$1.5 million Community Benefit Fund continues unchanged.
- New funding opportunities to partner with relevant First Nations groups on how benefits are shared.

What isn't changing?

There are **no significant changes** to the Project's physical footprint or key assessed impacts.

In particular:

- The approved Project life, operating hours, and overall purpose **remain unchanged**.
- The Project's approved 350 MW power capacity is unchanged. This is how much electricity the battery can deliver at any one time.
- **No additional land will be disturbed**, and the **site footprint will not expand**.
- We will continue to **comply with all applicable noise standards**. The battery may run for longer periods when needed, but noise levels for nearby residents are expected to remain consistent with those assessed under the original approved design. Advances in battery technology help ensure the Project can deliver the additional storage capacity without increasing predicted noise levels.
- Traffic, construction, operational and other assessed impacts **remain consistent with the approved Project**.
- All environmental and planning conditions from the original approval continue to apply.

Getting more from every unit

Battery technology is improving quickly. Modern battery systems have a higher energy density (more storage per unit) and improvements in internal battery design mean more efficient use of space.

Supporting equipment, such as cooling and safety systems and inverters, are also becoming more compact and efficient.

This means that we can increase the amount of energy stored without doubling the physical infrastructure. In practice, you may not notice any difference in how the Project looks or operates.

Greater benefits for the community

This change also lets us deliver more for the local community through increased funding for community initiatives.

The existing \$1.5 million Community Benefit Fund will continue, with no change to the way it is managed or distributed.

In addition, we are introducing a new \$1.5 million Flexible Support Fund, giving us another way to support initiatives that create lasting benefits for the local community and region.

Continuing the Community Benefit Fund

The \$1.5 million Community Benefit Fund will continue to operate as planned.

The Fund will remain guided by the Community Reference Group (CRG), and we will continue to work closely with the CRG to identify local priorities and support initiatives that provide meaningful benefits to the community.

Community groups will be able to apply for funding from the start of construction, with annual funding rounds throughout the construction and operational phases of the Project.

We will continue to work with the CRG to share information about the Fund, including funding priorities, eligibility criteria and how to apply.

Introducing the \$1.5 million Flexible Support Fund

In addition to the Community Benefit Fund, we are introducing a new \$1.5 million Flexible Support Fund.

This Fund will back initiatives, partnerships and projects that deliver lasting benefit for the local community and region, and that go beyond the Project itself. We will work with the community and relevant First Nations groups to shape it around local priorities and aspirations. We will keep you updated as this work progresses.

Together, the existing Community Benefit Fund and the new Flexible Support Fund represent a significant increase in the funding available to support community initiatives.

Project timeline

Construction is expected to begin in June 2027, with the main construction period anticipated to take approximately 21 months followed by 6 months of commissioning. The BESS is expected to be operational in late 2029. We will keep the community informed as the Project progresses and these timeframes are confirmed.

Staying connected

We understand you may have questions about these changes, and our team is always available to talk.

We've also prepared answers to some Frequently Asked Questions about the increase in storage capacity, which you'll find on the next page.

To learn more about the Project, you can view the Project webpage [here](#). To get in touch with the Project team, email us at info@littleriverbess.com.au.