

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): Increased capacity & community benefits

October 2026

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**Learn more about the approved increase in storage capacity, what's changing, and what it means for the community.**

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) play an important role in modern energy networks. They store electricity when demand is low and feed it back into the grid when demand is high.

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### **Why has the Project's storage capacity increased?**

The change allows the Little River BESS to store more energy and supply electricity to the grid for longer when it is needed. It reflects advances in battery technology that allow more energy to be stored in the same or a similar amount of space.

### **What exactly is changing?**

The approved storage capacity of the Little River BESS Project is increasing from 700 MWh to 1,400 MWh. This means the Project will be able to store and supply more electricity than originally planned, without any increase to the Project footprint.

### **Does this mean the Project is getting bigger physically ?**

No, there is no change to the physical size of the Project layout. Newer battery systems can store more energy in the same or similar space, so capacity can increase without expanding the site. The number of battery containers will also decrease from 372 to 275.

### **Will the Project look different ?**

Most people are unlikely to notice a significant difference in how the Project looks. The size and layout of the 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.

### **Will the Project be louder?**

No increase in noise levels is expected. The battery will be able to operate for longer periods when needed, but detailed assessments show noise levels at nearby homes are expected to remain consistent with the original assessment and within all applicable noise standards. We will continue to work with regulators and technical specialists to ensure noise stays within approved limits for the life of the Project.

### **Will construction take longer or become more disruptive?**

No, we don't expect the change to significantly affect how the Project is built. Construction timeframes, workforce requirements and traffic movements are expected to stay broadly consistent with those assessed for the original Project.

We know construction can be disruptive. That's why we'll continue to deliver the Project in line with approved management plans, which are designed to minimise impacts on nearby residents. We will keep you informed throughout construction.

### **Why increase the capacity at all?**

Advances in battery technology mean more energy can be stored within the same project area. A battery with greater capacity can store more energy and supply it back to the grid when it's needed most, helping 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 also allows us to provide more value to local communities through increased funding for 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 recharge.

For example, the Little River BESS will have an output of 350 MW, meaning it can supply up to 350 MW of electricity at any given time. With a storage capacity of 1,400 MWh, it can provide that electricity for around four hours before needing to recharge.

### **How was this change assessed?**

The Victorian Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) assessed the proposed change under the same planning framework and approval conditions that applied to the original Project. It reviewed the technical studies and supporting information to confirm that the increased storage capacity would not alter the approved footprint or materially change the Project's impacts.

DTP approved the change, determining that it remains consistent with the Project originally approved in May 2025 and continues to comply with all relevant approval conditions.

### **Does the increased storage capacity create any greater fire or safety risk?**

The increase in storage capacity does not change the safety standards the Project is required to meet.

We remain committed to maintaining high standards of safety across the design, construction and operation of the Little River BESS. The Project will continue to comply with all applicable safety, planning and technical requirements, and all environmental and planning conditions attached to the original approval remain in place.

### **Why has the community benefit commitment increased to at least \$4.2 million?**

We believe that as the capability of the Project increases, the benefits provided to the local community should increase as well.

The existing \$1.5 million Community Benefit Fund will continue unchanged, and we are introducing a new \$1.5 million Flexible Support Fund to support local initiatives, partnerships and projects. We will also work with relevant First Nations groups on additional benefit sharing opportunities.

Together, these commitments form part of at least \$4.2 million in benefit sharing over the life of the Project, helping ensure the Little River community and broader region share in the benefits of the Project.

### **What is happening with the Community Benefit Fund?**

#### 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 and share information about the Fund, including funding priorities, eligibility criteria and how to apply.

#### Introducing the 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 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 funding available to support community initiatives.

### **What is the 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.

### **Who can I contact if I have questions or feedback?**

We understand you may have questions about these changes, and our team is always available to talk. 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](mailto:info@littleriverbess.com.au).