

Hume North BESS

Community Information Session (Virtual)
Wednesday 22 May 2024, 6-7pm

Foresight

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the country throughout Australia where we work and live, recognising their continuous connection to the land, water, skies and culture.

We respect the spirits, ancestors and elders of the Wiradjuri Nation, the Traditional Owners of the land around Lake Hume Village.

What are the purposes of today's session?

- Be informed about Foresight's proposed Hume North BESS development, including the specification, location, benefits, impacts and timings.
- Understand how and when the community will be engaged, and how to participate, during Foresight's planning application to NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.
- Get answers to any questions you have.
- Share your initial feedback with Foresight.

How will the session work?

1. Presentation from Foresight (30 minutes).
 2. Question and Answer (Q&A) session (30 minutes).
- If you have a question during the presentation, please use the raise a hand feature in MS Teams, or submit your question(s) in chat function.
 - We will address questions, where we can, during the presentation. All remaining questions will be responded to during the Q&A.
 - A feedback form will be shared at the end of the session.
 - We understand that individuals may have strong opinions about the proposed development. We ask that all contributions are respectful towards the presenters, who will also be respectful to all participants in turn.
 - This presentation will be made available online, alongside the materials shared in the in-person session held on Wednesday 15 May.

Who are today's presenters?



Arash Zafari

Foresight

Portfolio Manager



Alex Park

Foresight

Senior Development
Manager



Melissa Laginha

Jacobs

Associate
Environmental
Scientist



David Gladwin

Jacobs

Associate
Stakeholder
Engagement &
Communications
Consultant

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Proposed development, location, key features and benefits

What is the proposed development?

- Foresight is proposing to develop a new battery energy storage system (BESS) at 32 Trout Farm Road, Lake Hume Village, NSW.
- If approved, it would replace the previously approved 2020 Hume BESS development (located immediately south) – which has both environmental and grid constraints.
- The proposed BESS would store renewable energy from the existing network in periods of high supply but low demand. The storage energy would then be released in periods of high demand.
- We are informing and consulting with the local community and other key stakeholders to inform the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed BESS.



Proposed BESS site at 32 Trout Farm Road.

Who are Foresight?

- Foresight is a global business with established local connections.
- We manage GSP Energy Pty Ltd, which owns and operates three hydro-electric power stations in NSW including the Hume Power Station.
- Our strategy is aligned to creating a resilient, decarbonised world and delivering the high-quality jobs that will power tomorrow's economy.

What is the proposed development's specification?



Generation capacity up to 75 megawatts with two hours of storage (75 MW / 150 MWh).



Direct 132kV connection to Transgrid's transmission line.



Comprised of large batteries housed in containers, alongside a substation containing a switch room and control room.



Enclosures light in colour, to reduce heat absorption.



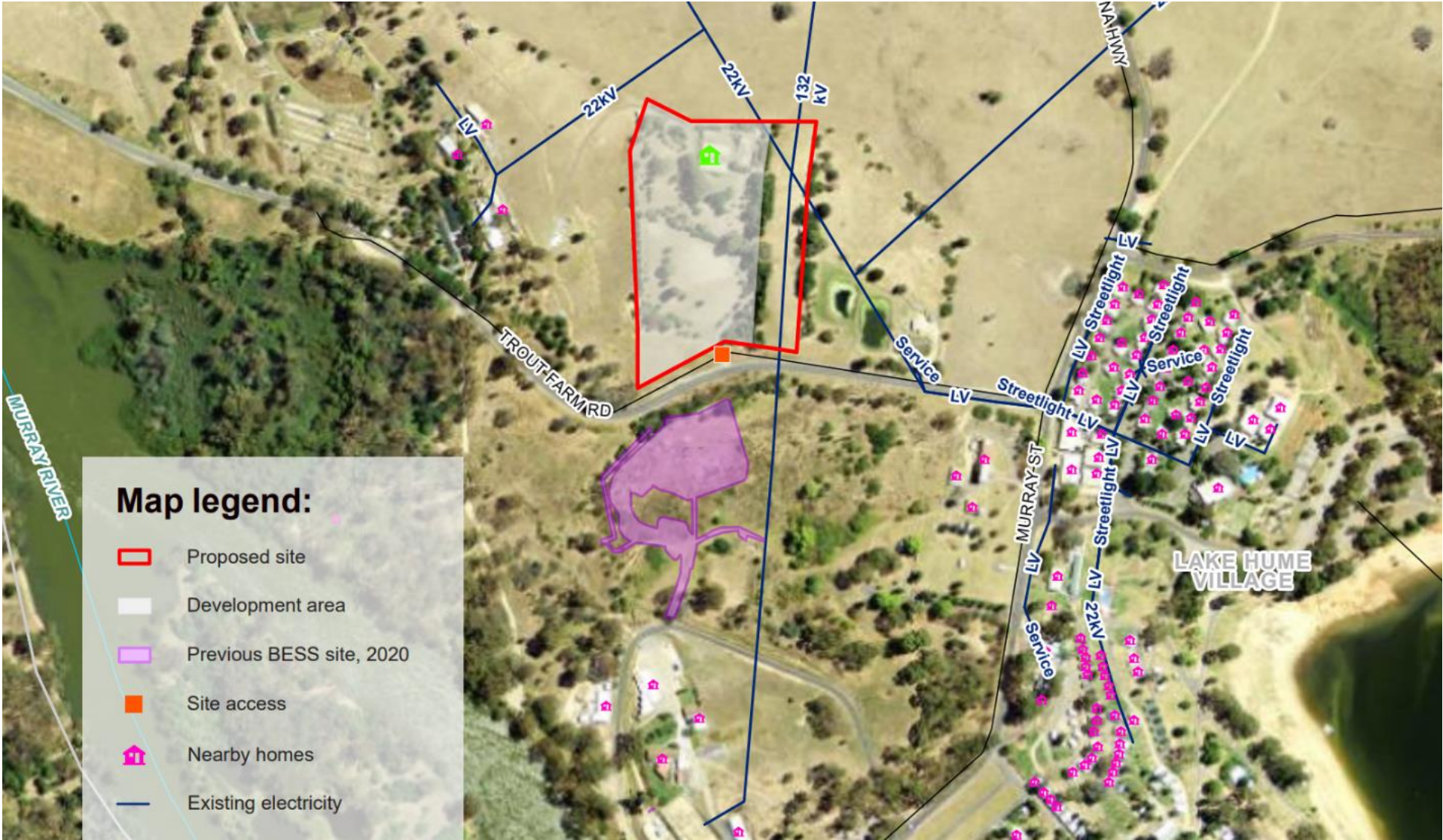
Target lifespan of 20 years. If decommissioning, proposed site returned to original state.



Example of a BESS. Design is not yet confirmed.

Where is the proposed site location?

- 32 Trout Farm Road, Lake Hume Village, NSW.
- Located on land already owned by Foresight.
- Approx four hectares.
- Direct access to the existing Transgrid transmission line.
- Site access via Trout Farm Road.



Key benefits of the proposed site location



Located on land owned by Foresight to minimise impacts elsewhere.



Direct access to the existing Transgrid transmission line.



Situated away from nearby homes and business, and close to existing industrial land use.



Minimal potential impacts to biodiversity and visual amenity.



Access via the established road network.



No impact on operation of the Hume Dam or Hume Hydro Power Station.

Key benefits of the proposed development



Helping secure Australia's energy future.



Creating local jobs during construction and operation.



Supporting the Albury and Riverina Murray economies.



Providing energy network stability, with real-time monitoring and control of supply and demand.



Minimising impacts to other public and private lands.

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Timings and potential impacts

What are the key timings*?

We are here



- Engagement with neighbouring landowners

- Scoping Report** published on NSW Planning Portal

- Meet with community and key stakeholders to inform the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- EIS submitted
- EIS Public Exhibition
- Receipt of formal submissions
- Response to Submissions Report prepared and exhibited

- Proposal decision

- Construction, subject to approvals

- Proposed development operational, subject to approvals

*Timings are indicative and may be required to change during the planning application.

**A Scoping Report (high-level overview document) was prepared in August 2023 as part of the application process for the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements for the proposed development, aligned to State Significant Development guidelines.

Environmental Impact Statement

- We are currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), to provide information on the economic, environmental and social impacts of the proposed development.
- Detailed studies are underway to assess potential impacts during construction, operation and decommissioning upon:
 - Aboriginal and historic heritage
 - Biodiversity
 - Community and the local economy
 - Existing land usage
 - Bushfire
 - Noise and vibration
 - Traffic and transport
 - Water and utilities
 - Visual amenity
 - Preliminary hazards including thermal runaway.
- Once prepared, the EIS will be submitted to NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure and placed on public exhibition for 28 days.

Biodiversity

- Foresight commissioned qualified ecologists to undertake an assessment of the biodiversity values and potential impacts of the proposed development, in accordance with NSW legislation and guidelines.
- The assessment, undertaken in Spring 2023, included evaluation of:
 - Landscape features
 - Native vegetation
 - Threatened species
 - Threatened ecological communities.
- The assessment will be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure as part of the State Significant Development Application in mid-2024.



An assessment of the proposed site's biodiversity values was undertaken by qualified ecologists in spring 2023.

Squirrel Glider impacts

- A local population of Squirrel Glider is known to occupy habitats along the Murray River, including within vegetation around the proposed site.
- Squirrel Glider were recorded using nest boxes inside and outside of the proposed site, during a field survey undertaken in Spring 2023.
- Where possible, the design of the proposed development will seek to avoid impacts to potential habitat for Squirrel Glider including occupied nest boxes through:
 - Minimising the removal of targeted food plant species.
 - Retention of the nest box in the south-western portion of the proposed site.
 - Avoiding light spill into Squirrel Glider habitat.
 - Replacing vegetation to the east and south of the proposed site.





Expected to last up to 12 months.



All activities undertaken in line with NSW Government Guidelines.



Majority of works undertaken during standard daytime construction hours.*



Around 50 full-time workers at the busiest stage.



Community to be kept informed about all construction works.



Workforce to be sourced locally, wherever possible.



Accommodation for non-local construction staff to be sourced through existing local short-term accommodation.



Around 15 light and five heavy vehicles moving in the vicinity of the site per day.**



Dust and noise will be minimised as much as possible.

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Community and stakeholder engagement

Community and stakeholder engagement

- Foresight is committed to informing and consulting the local community and other recreational users of Lake Hume Village and its surrounding areas.
- Engagement with community and stakeholders began in May 2023 during the scoping phase of the proposed development.
- We will inform and consult with the community and recreational users of Lake Hume Village both now (May 2024), and when the EIS is published later in 2024.
- All feedback shared in the two community information sessions is being recorded and will inform the EIS.
- During the application we will also consult with Albury City Council, Wodonga Council, relevant NSW Government departments, Transgrid, emergency services and environmental groups.



Community Information Session in Lake Hume Village held on Wednesday 15 May 2024.

When, and how, can I provide feedback?

When can I provide feedback?

- Now (May 2024) to inform the EIS.
- Later in 2024 during the Public Exhibition of the EIS.

How do I share my initial feedback?

- Complete a Community Feedback Form: <https://forms.office.com/r/9fQXNut2YE>
- Call **1800 061 321** (Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm).
- Email humbessenquiries@foresightgroupau.com

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Questions and Answers

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Thank you

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 gspenergy.com.au/hume-battery