Hume North BESS

Foresight

Factsheet 1: Proposed Development

Foresight is proposing to develop a new battery energy storage system (BESS) at Lake Hume Village, NSW.

Proposed BESS site at 32 Trout Farm Road

The proposed Hume North BESS would have a capacity of approximately 75 megawatts with up to two hours of storage (75MW/150 MWh), with a grid connection into Transgrid's Albury to Hume 132kV transmission line.

If the proposed development is approved, it would replace the approved 2020 Hume BESS development, which was of a smaller size (20 MW / 40 MWh) and subject to a number of environmental and grid constraints.

The proposed BESS would store renewable energy from the existing network in periods of high supply but low demand. The stored energy would then be released in periods of high demand.

If the proposed development is approved, construction is expected to begin in early 2025. The BESS would then be operational from late 2025.

We are consulting the community prior to submitting the State Significant Development Application to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

Contact us

1800 061 321 (Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm)

humebessenquiries@foresightgroupau.com

You can also find more information at:

gspenergy.com.au/hume-battery

About Foresight

Foresight is a global business with established local connections. It manages GSP Energy Pty Ltd, which owns and operates three hydro-electric power stations in NSW including the Hume Power Station.

Foresight's investment strategies are aligned to the key themes shaping societies and the planet for future generations - helping to create a resilient, decarbonised world and to deliver high quality jobs that will power tomorrow's economy.

Foresight wishes to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which the proposed Hume North BESS is located, the Wiradjuri Nation, and pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging.

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Factsheet 2: Key Features

Generation Capacity:

Up to 75 megawatts (MW) with two hours of storage (75 MW / 150 MWh).

Connection:

Direct 132kV connection to Transgrid's transmission line on the Albury to Hume Power Station line, located along the eastern boundary of the proposed site.

What is a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)?

BESS are large batteries housed in containers. They store renewable energy from the National Electricity Market in periods where supply exceeds demand, so that it can be dispatched at times of greater need. This functionality makes batteries pivotal in the transition to a more sustainable and resilient energy.

What is the advantage of a BESS?

The ability to time-shift the release of electricity offers a distinct advantage compared to other forms of renewable energy like solar or wind. It enhances overall energy efficiency, reducing reliance on fossil fuel powered plants that generally only run when there is a high demand for energy and are typically less efficient and more polluting.

Example of a BESS. Final design will be confirmed through the development approval process.

What would it look like?

The BESS compound would be made up of rows of battery enclosures, alongside a substation comprising a switchroom and control room. To reduce visual impact the BESS would be set back from nearby roads, with vegetation screening added if required. The enclosures would be light in colour to reduce heat absorption, with a painted steel finish.

Why in this location?

The proposed location provides direct access to the existing Transgrid transmission line, and would build on the history and technical capability of Lake Hume, which has supported the Hume Power Station since 1957. It contributes to the Riverina Murray region's objective to plan for integrated and resilient utility infrastructure, and its transition to net zero emissions by 2050[1]. And also supports Albury City Council's objectives to promote Albury as a place for industry and business, and to support clean and renewable energy initiatives[2].

What is its lifespan?

The proposed development has a target life of 20 years, which may be extended if feasible. If decommissioned, the site would be returned to its original state with all above-ground BESS infrastructure removed.

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1 Riverina Murray Regional Plan 2041; Objectives 11 and 13

2 Albury Community Strategic Plan 2017–2030; Outcomes 1.5 and 2.1.4

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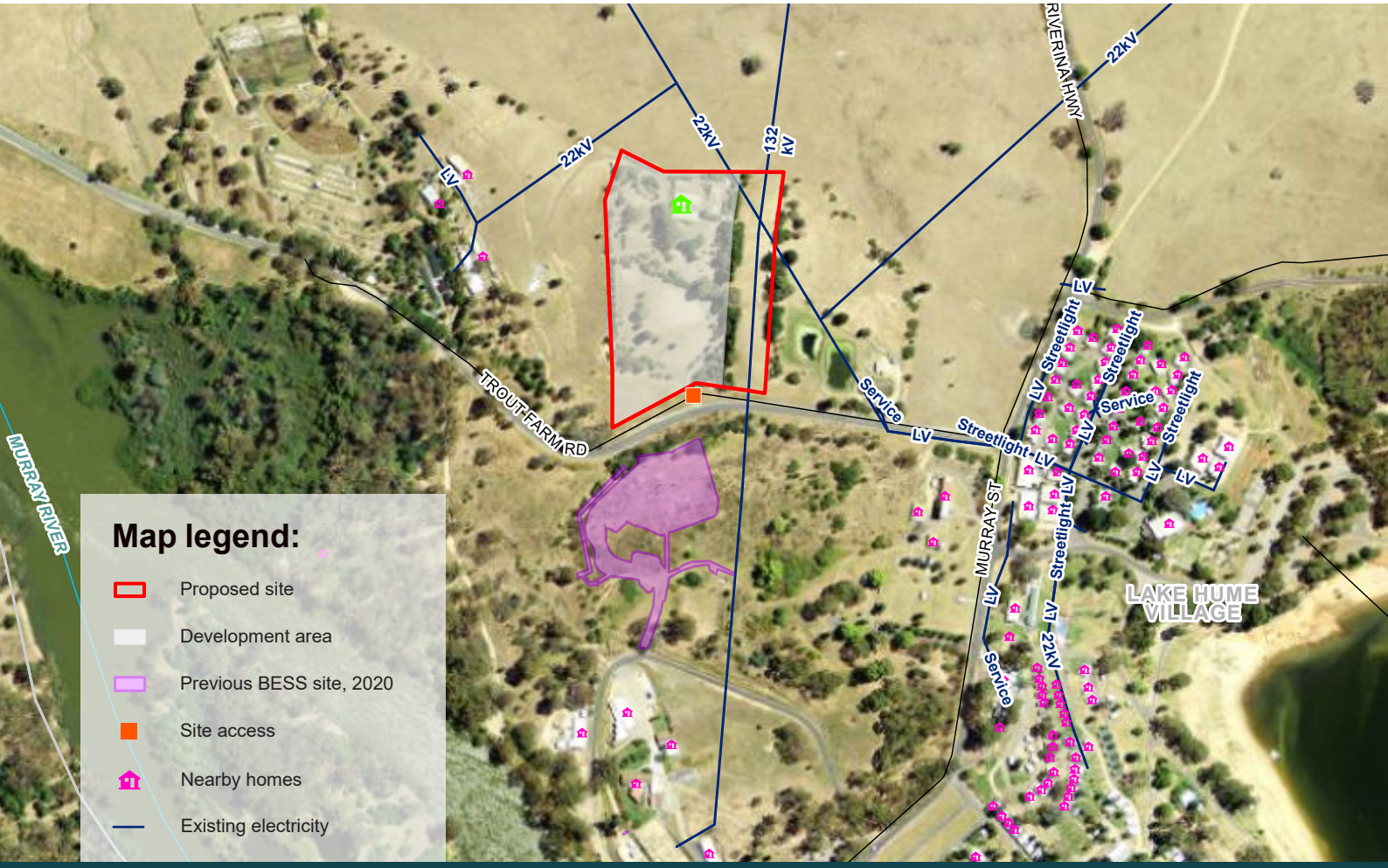
Factsheet 3: Proposed Site Location



Where:

32 Trout Farm Road, on the outskirts of Lake Hume Village, on land owned by Foresight. The proposed site sits between the Albury City Council wastewater treatment facility and the trout farm.

Size:

The site is approximately four hectares.

Current land use:

The current land use of the site is predominantly landscaping and planted vegetation. There is a single property located near the northern end of the proposed site.

Access to the site:

Site access would be via Riverina Highway, Murray Street and then Trout Farm Road. An internal access track is proposed to be created to transport equipment and materials to the proposed site during construction.

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Factsheet 4: Benefits

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, and the potential for real-time monitoring and control of supply and demand across the region.

Existing access track within the proposed site

Existing Transgrid transmission line in the proposed site

Key benefits of the proposed development location:

- Located on land owned by Foresight to minimise impacts to other public and private lands.
- Situated away from nearby homes and businesses, and close to existing industrial land uses.
- Existing access to the proposed site via the established road network.
- Direct access to the existing Transgrid transmission line.
- Minimal potential impacts to biodiversity and visual amenity.
- No impact on operation of the Hume Dam or Hume Hydro Power Station.

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Factsheet 5: Impacts

Environment Impact Statement

We are currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which will provide information on the economic, environmental, and social impacts of the proposed development.

The EIS is a key part of proposal's environmental assessment requirements. It helps the community, government agencies, and NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure to make informed submissions or decisions about the proposed development.

Detailed studies are currently underway to assess the potential impacts during construction, operation, and decommissioning upon:

- Aboriginal heritage
- Biodiversity
- Community and the local economy
- Existing land usage
- Hazards and risks
- Historical heritage
- Noise and vibration
- Traffic and transport
- Water and utilities
- Visual amenity

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

Once complete, the EIS will be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure as part of the State Significant Development Application.

Construction

Key facts about the construction process for the proposed development:

- Expected to last up to 12 months.
- All activities undertaken in accordance with NSW Government Guidelines.
- Works will be undertaken during standard day time construction hours (Monday to Friday, 7am – 6pm, Saturday 8am – 1pm, Sunday and Public Holidays – no work). Some activities, such as delivery of materials for safety reasons, may be undertaken outside of these times.
- Around 50 full-time workers during the busiest construction stage.
- 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 (temporarily increasing to 50 light and 10 heavy vehicles per day during the busiest construction stage).
- Temporary impacts such as dust and noise will be minimised as much as possible.

We will develop a communications plan as part of the application, which will outline how we will keep the community informed about the proposed development's progress and construction works.

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Factsheet 6: Biodiversity

Foresight has commissioned qualified ecologists to undertake an assessment of the biodiversity values and potential impacts of the proposed development, in accordance with NSW legalisation and guidelines.

The assessment included evaluation of the landscape features, native vegetation, threatened species and threatened ecological communities, and will be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure as part of the State Significant Development Application in mid-2024.

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.

A field survey undertaken in Spring 2023 recorded one Squirrel Glider using a nest box in the south-west of the proposed site, and two further Squirrel Glidders in a nest box located outside of the proposed site. These locations are identified on the map opposite.

Where possible, the design has sought to avoid impacts to native vegetation, remnant areas,large trees and potential habitat for Squirrel Glider including occupied nest boxes.

Design of the proposed development will further seek to avoid impacts to Squirrel Glider habitat and mitigate impacts through:

- Minimising the removal of targeted food plant species
- Retention of nest box in 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.

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Factsheet 7: Next Steps

Community feedback

Foresight is committed to listening to the views of the local community and other recreational users of Lake Hume Village and its surrounding areas. Engagement with the community began in May 2023 as part of the Scoping phase of the Project.

You can share your views by:

- **Completing a Feedback Form available at gspenergy.com.au/hume-battery**
- **Attending one of our upcoming Community Information Events, either in person or online**
- **Via phone or email.**

During the application process we will also consult with key stakeholders including Albury City Council, Wodonga Council, relevant NSW government departments, Transgrid, emergency services and environmental groups.

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Project timeline

Timings stated are indicative as of May 2024, and may be required to change during the planning application.

We plan to consult with the community and stakeholders both now, in May 2024, and when the EIS is published later in 2024.

Mid 2023

Engagement with neighbouring landowners

We are here

Early to mid 2024

Meet with the community and key stakeholders, to share information and gather feedback that will inform the proposed development's EIS

Mid 2024

Receipt of formal submissions by stakeholders and the community. The public exhibition will be managed by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Late 2024

Proposal decision provided by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Late 2025

Proposed development operational, subject to approvals

Late 2023

Scoping Report published on NSW Planning Portal[1]

Mid 2024

EIS submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure as part of the State Significant Development Application

Mid 2024

Response to Submissions Report published, sharing responses to submissions from the community and stakeholders

Early 2025

Construction, subject to approvals

1 https://pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/hume-north-battery-enegy-storage-system

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