

Project update

171-tonne BESS transformer travels through Uralla

Uralla residents will enjoy a rare spectacle and insight to the clean energy transition when a 171-tonne energy transformer is trucked through the town on Sunday 13 April.

The transformer, a key component for the New England Solar Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), will travel along the main street aboard an 18-axle, 60m-long convoy on its way to the project site.

A total of three prime movers will be needed to pull and manoeuvre the transformer, which will weigh 261 tonnes when fully assembled at the New England Solar substation.

"Not only is it a very large and extremely heavy piece of technology. The transformer's arrival is a huge milestone in our project to develop the first utility-scale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in the New England REZ," according to EPEC Group Managing Director Michael Moczynski. EPEC has been contracted to design and build an expansion of the existing New England Solar precinct with a new BESS substation, which includes the transformer as a vital connection between the BESS project and the national energy grid.

"The spectacle of the transformer and its 60m-long convoy is sure to attract plenty of attention as it makes its way to its new home at New England Solar," Mr Moczynski said.

ACEN Australia, which owns and operates New England Solar, together with EPEC will hold a community event in Pioneer Park, in the Uralla main street, between 10am to noon to celebrate the transformer's passage through town.

"We're inviting community members to join us in Pioneer Park for a coffee or refreshment, while finding out more about the transformer: how it works, why it's so heavy and the role it will play at the project," he said.



The weight and size of the convoy will mean the journey will also be supersized, as it travels from Brisbane to Uralla.

The capacity of bridges and other road infrastructure will mean the convoy will travel through Goondiwindi, Moree, Tamworth and back up to Uralla through the Moonbi Range.

The 18-axle trailer has its own independent modular steering systems to assist with manoeuvrability.

At the same time, the driver and other crew members demonstrate incredible skill to pilot the convoy and its valuable cargo to the destination.

Quick facts



The transformer

- 171 tonnes while transported
- 261 tonnes fully assembled
- 10m long & 4m high

The convoy

- 60m long
- 18-axle trailer
- 3 connected prime movers to pull and turn trailer
- Trailer has own steering system to negotiate corners

The journey

- 1000km
- 7 days
- Arriving Sunday 13 April - Community event 10am-noon
- Route plan details each intersection and bend
- Brisbane ➡ Moree ➡ Tamworth ➡ Uralla for safest route



Keep an eye on the New England Solar Facebook page for updates about the transformer's arrival.

