

Month of major milestones as battery system takes shape

September brings several major milestones for our New England Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project.

Activity levels at the site are stepping up, as the BESS substation reaches completion and the pad is prepared for the arrival of the first battery modules during the next few weeks. Construction of the initial batch of 28 battery modules is

complete and they will soon begin their road trip from Brisbane to Uralla.

The modules, each the size of a large shipping container, will be trucked to site in late September and October.



Concrete evidence of project's solid progress

Concrete has been poured for the first section of the BESS foundation slab, after several weeks spent preparing the 22,500 square metre pad.

The slab will be poured in 12 sections over the next ?? weeks, using a special fibre-infused concrete mix designed to bear the weight of the battery modules, that will each weigh 56 tonnes.

While work was underway with the foundation, a Fire Safety Study for New England BESS has been approved by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

The study was developed in consultation with Fire and Rescue NSW and has also been approved by the peak fire safety organisation.

EPEC flicks the switch to energise BESS substation

A new substation for the New England Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) was energised last week - marking a major milestone for the project.

Construction and testing of the substation, which will connect the BESS to the national electricity grid, was completed last month by contractor EPEC. That was followed by a lengthy commissioning process, before the switch was flicked last Friday to begin the flow of power into the substation - known

as energisation. The 200MW two-hour battery storage system will be charged when there is excess energy in the grid and discharged back into the grid when energy is needed. Grid forming technology built into the BESS will also provide stability to the grid, by controlling the grid's voltage and frequency.

The BESS is expected to be complete and commissioned in 2026.

Community updates

Thank you to all the community organisations that applied for our 2025 Social Investment Program Round 2 grants.

The successful applicants will be announced in early October, with a total of \$75,000 to be distributed in Round 2 to projects and activities creating a more vibrant and robust Uralla community.

Affordable housing

We are attending today's (15 September) community information session being held by Uralla Shire Council to discuss the Hill Street Affordable Housing Project. ACEN Australia is a proud supporter of the project, which aims to provide accessible housing for essential workers, older residents and other locals needing affordable homes. See council's article in today's Wordsworth for more details about the session.

We're moving office

We're preparing to move into a new Uralla office in Bridge Street. Watch this space for further updates.