

# AUGUSTA BESS Newsletter

## GENERAL

#### Background

Augusta BESS Pty Ltd (Augusta BESS) has engaged GHD Pty Ltd (GHD) to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and a Statement of Environmental Objectives (SEO) for a 270 Megawatt (MW) / 540 Megawatt hours (MWh) Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Lot 15, Port Paterson Road, Port Paterson, South Australia 5700, lot size of 8.5 Ha, approximately 280 kilometres (km) north of Adelaide and 3 km southwest of Stirling North, referred to as the Augusta BESS.

#### Augusta BESS Pty Ltd and Trina Solar

Augusta BESS Pty Ltd (Augusta BESS) is a subsidiary of Trina Solar Energy Development Pte Ltd (Trina Solar).

Trina Solar is an internationally recognised leader in solar farm developments, known for its supply of PV modules with its own manufacturing divisions of solar modules, trackers, electrolysers, and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).

#### **Relevant Legislations and requirements**

Commonwealth:

- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- Native Title Act 1993

#### South Australia:

- Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023
- Environment Protection Act 1993
- Native Vegetation Act 1991
- Landscape South Australia Act 2019

- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972
- Nature Resources Management Act 2004
- Water Industry Act 2012
- Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016
- South Australian Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988
- Heritage Place Act 1993
- National Trust of South Australia Act 1955
- Road Traffic Act 1961
- Work Health and Safety Act 2012

#### **Project location**



The BESS will be connected to the ElectraNet network within the Davenport Substation, approximately 700 metres (m) southwest of the Augusta BESS site.

### **Planning and Design Code**

Planning and Design	Summary
Zone	Rural Living
Subzone	N/A
Overlay	Hazards (Bushfire – Regional) Hazards (Flooding – Evidence Required) Native Vegetation
General Developmen t Policies	Clearance from Overhead Powerlines Design Infrastructure and Renewable Energy Facilities Interface between Land Uses

#### **Rural Living Zone**

The Augusta BESS project, though not assessed under the PDI Act, aligns with existing renewable energy facilities in Port Paterson. It supports renewable generation with fast-dispatch energy and has minimal environmental impact. Its location near transmission lines and the Davenport Substation makes it a compatible land use.

#### Overlays

#### Hazards (Bushfire – Regional)

The Hazards (Bushfire – Regional) Overlay applies to most of SA' regional areas, aims to reduce bushfire risks to lives and assets in South Australia's regional areas. It requires development to consider bushfire threats, ensure emergency vehicle access, and avoid high-risk areas. The site itself is treeless, with low shrubland nearby and clear access from Port Paterson Road.

#### Hazards (Flooding – Evidence Required)

he Hazards (Flooding – Evidence Required) Overlay takes a precautionary approach to mitigate flood risks through proper siting and design. Development must minimize floodwater entry to prevent damage and disruptions. Site analysis by surface water



engineers will guide infrastructure placement to reduce flood impact.

#### Native Vegetation Overlay

The Native Vegetation Overlay aims to protect and restore native vegetation for biodiversity, habitat, and ecosystem benefits. Development should avoid or minimize vegetation clearance. An ecological assessment found no clearance issues, with further studies ensuring minimal impact on threatened species and habitats.

#### **Ecological Values**

A site visit and field survey were undertaken for the Project and a data report prepared by Ecosphere Ecological Solutions.

The Project area features sandy saline soils with predominantly low open chenopod shrubland, mainly Maireana pyramidata (Black Bluebush) and various saltbush species. Six vegetation associations were identified based on shrub density, flora diversity, and weed presence. Existing infrastructure includes access tracks, storage areas, and a truck depot, with the Davenport Substation nearby. No NPWSA reserves or heritage agreements exist within 5 km, though two SEB Areas are present but unrelated to the project.

#### Aboriginal heritage and Historic Heritage

Heritage Due Α Cultural Diligence Assessment (CHDDA) conducted in July 2024 found no registered Aboriginal sites in the Project area. However, the area is associated with sensitive landforms, and an archaeological and ethnographic survey will be undertaken to identify and avoid heritage Nukunu Wapma places. The Thura Corporation (NWTAC) and Aboriginal Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation have been identified as relevant Traditional Owners. An



Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment is pending, with ongoing consultation and agreement development with the Nukunu for a field assessment.

The CHDDA highlights the historical heritage of the Port Paterson area, noting early European activities like agricultural and livestock farming, but these were hindered by droughts. By 1900, the harsh climate made wheat farming unreliable. Port Paterson's boundaries were established in 1993 over land that had been privately subdivided. The area has since been mainly used for power stations, solar farms, and residential/conservation purposes. No recognized heritage places were identified at the project site in the SA Heritage Places Database.

#### **Native Title**

The Augusta BESS project is in the Nukunu Area 2 native title claim, where native title has been extinguished. The Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation (KAC) and Nukunu Wapma Thura Aboriginal Corporation

#### **Risk Assessment**

(NWTAC) may still have interests in the area. An agreement with NWTAC is being developed, with further heritage assessments pending.

Risk Hazard	Potential impacts	Key Management	Residual Risk Rating
Bushfire	vegetation loss, habitat disturbance, fauna harm, atmospheric pollution, infrastructure damage, land use disruption, health and safety risks to workers and the public.	Fire safety measures include checking fire danger ratings, avoiding activities near vegetation on high-risk days, conducting fire risk assessments, and monitoring CFS alerts. Compliance with the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 is required, along with permits for hot works. Smoking is restricted, emergency assembly points are marked, and fire suppression equipment, training, and an emergency response plan must be in place. Open fires are prohibited.	Low
Battery Fire	environmental damage, pollution, fire risk, and safety hazards for people and infrastructure.	The Battery Management System (BMS) monitors voltage, temperature, and charge levels, detecting faults and triggering alarms. A SCADA system provides remote monitoring. In emergencies, the system can be shut down locally or remotely, isolating battery strings. The battery units have an IP55 rating, protecting against dust and water ingress to ensure safe operation.	Low
Storage and disposal of domestic waste produced onsite	soil, surface, and groundwater contamination, vegetation damage, wildlife exposure to contaminants, scavenger	Provision must be made for segregation of waste streams and recycling. Waste material must be contained on site in appropriate receptacles and in accordance with regulatory requirements.	Negligible

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Risk Hazard	Potential impacts	Key Management	Residual Risk Rating
	attraction, and litter affecting visual amenity		
Improper disposal of waste	soil and water contamination, vegetation damage, wildlife exposure to contaminants, scavenger attraction, and littering.	Appropriate methods of characterisation, tracking and disposal for wastes generated on site must be selected in accordance with EPA guidelines, including: Current criteria for the classification of waste – including Industrial and Commercial Waste (Listed) and Waste Soil <b>2010</b> Schedule 1 of the <i>Environment Protection Act 1993</i> Solid Waste disposal Information sheet 2009	Low
Fuel or chemical spills and leaks from storage or refueling.	Localized contamination of soil, groundwater, and watercourses can expose livestock and wildlife to harmful pollutants.	Follow proper chemical and fuel storage procedures, manage spills with drip capture systems, and refuel only in designated areas. Ensure personnel are trained in refuelling and spill cleanup, and provide spill kits. Maintain chemical registers with up-to-date SDS documentation.	Low
Excavations and vehicle movement	Dust emissions	Dust emissions from construction and operations are minor, but measures will be taken to minimize them. These include flexible vehicle speed limits, covering loads during transport, and using dust suppression techniques like water carts and sprays.	Negligible
Vegetation disturbance by machinery	Loss of biodiversity and ecological value due to unauthorized clearing of native vegetation and habitat.	The Native Vegetation Regulation 12(34) allows vegetation clearance for infrastructure construction or expansion if the Minister deems it in the public interest.	Low
Fire	Loss of vegetation and habitat Disturbance, injury or death of fauna	The project will comply with the Port Augusta City Council Hazards overlay and Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005. Fire risks will be managed by restricting ignition sources, providing firefighting equipment, and having procedures for high-risk conditions. A hazard identification and response plan will be in place, and personnel will be trained in firefighting. The design includes firebreaks, internal roads, and water tanks.	Low
Injury to fauna from vehicle	Death or injury to native fauna	Driver awareness training for all personnel.Existing access roads and turn-arounds used.Drive at appropriate speed to avoid undue disturbance	Low
Vehicle soil disturbance	Introduction or Spread of declared weeds and pests	Machinery and equipment will be inspected for soil and organic matter before being unloaded. Vehicles will be cleaned regularly to prevent the spread of weeds, pests, and diseases, and will stay on designated roads and tracks.To re	Low
Increase traffic	Damage to road infrastructure during consturction	Traffic management measures will be implemented on Port Paterson Road during construction to mitigate impact, as outlined in the Construction Traffic Management Plan.	Negligible
	Increase congestion on Pt Paterson Road	Construction traffic will increase on Port Paterson Road, necessitating traffic management measures, including a speed limit reduction, to mitigate impact.	Low
	Increase congestion on Augusta Hwy	Construction will increase traffic on Augusta Highway by 4%, which is minimal and can be accommodated without impacting road capacity. No management measures are required.	Negligible
	Impact to Pt Paterson Rd and Augusta Hwy in operation	Operational traffic will be minimal, with just one trip in and out during peak hours, causing negligible impact. No management measures are needed.	Negligible
Site access	Inaccessible to vehicles	Swept path assessments show the access design accommodates 26m B-double trucks, with hardstand areas suggested for turning. No upgrades are needed at the Augusta Highway and Port Paterson Road intersection.	Negligible
	Spread mud and dust	A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) should be prepared to manage mud, dust, and include measures like washdowns and rumble grids.	Low

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Risk Hazard	Potential impacts	Key Management	Residual Risk Rating
BESS operations noise	Excessive noise during day period	Mitigation includes enclosing the transformer, using reduced limit transformers, adding silencers, and assessing fan duties. Noise walls or embankments may be needed, and BESS charging will be de-rated during high temperatures to reduce noise.	Negligible
	Excessive noise during night period	Mitigation includes transformer enclosures, silencers, fan duty assessment, and potential noise walls. BESS charging will be derated during high temperatures to reduce noise.	Low
Excavation, stockpiles, structures, fencing,	Disturbance of surface water drainage patterns	Runoff control measures include diversion drains to redirect runoff, swales to manage and filter flows, detention ponds to store and release runoff slowly, and temporary drainage to manage flow during construction.	Low
Stormwater failure	Increased pollution in downstream water body	Maintenance activities include sweeping paved areas, cleaning gutters annually, inspecting the detention basin, and monthly stormwater inspections for the first year. Swales will need trimming, weed control, and seasonal inspections. An inspection agreement with the Council is recommended.	Negligible
Spills and runoff	Reduced surface water quality	Good housekeeping includes proper material storage, waste management, designated refuelling zones, and chemical storage away from drainage. Site planning focuses on phased construction, limiting soil disturbance, and stabilising entrances to prevent erosion and road contamination.	Low
Vegetation removal/ High rainfall	Erosion and sedimentation of land	Erosion control measures include silt fences, erosion blankets, sediment basins, and check dams to capture sediment and slow water flow.	Low
Battery fire	Contamination of surface water	Use sandbags to quickly contain contaminated flows in the detention basin and to localize the spread of contamination near the source.	Low
Surface water impacts	Regulatory non- compliance	Obtain necessary permits and prepare stormwater pollution prevention plans. Regularly inspect and maintain surface water management measures for effectiveness.	Low
Earthworks	Visual impacts	Minimize visual impact by locating infrastructure carefully, using screening plants, limiting earthworks, and reducing trench open times with more fauna exit structures.	Low
Site activities	Visual impacts	Maintain a high standard of 'housekeeping' to minimise visual impact at all stages of project	Negligible
Site waster	Visual amenity	Maintain high housekeeping standards by removing waste off-site and disposing of it at an EPA-licensed facility to minimize visual impact and pest attraction.	Negligible
Lighting	Visual impacts	External lighting will be low intensity, complying with AS 4282 2023, and designed to prevent upward spill and reflection.	Low
Decommissi on/ rehabilitatio n	Visual amenity	Post-decommissioning inspections will assess visual amenity. Minimize impact by limiting earthworks, quickly clearing and reinstating vegetation, and reducing trench open times with more frequent fauna exit structures.	Low

## **Further Information:**

If you're a member of the local community and have any questions, suggestions, or interest in the project, we encourage you to reach out to us via email:

Web: https://AugustaBESS.com.au/

Email: <u>AugustaBESS@trinasolar.com</u>