

## **Community Information Booklet**



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## NEOEN



## GLOBALLY

The company is headquartered in Paris, France, and has three Australian offices – in Sydney, Adelaide and Canberra.

We operate across renewable energy technologies including solar, wind and storage in Europe, the Americas, Africa, and Australia.

Neoen's total capacity in operation and under construction is currently over 4 GW and we are aiming for 10 GW by the end of 2025.





## LOCALLY

Neoen Australia began operations in 2012. Over the last nine years the company has initiated the development of more than 2GW of solar and wind projects through organic growth, local partnerships and strategic acquisitions.



Neoen produce clean electricity from renewable sources such as sunlight and wind using mature, tried and tested technologies. We are also leaders in energy storage.

## WORLD'S FIRST BIG BATTERY HORNSDALE POWER RESERVE





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FIRST STAGE TOOK LESS THAN SIX MONTHS TO BUILD

- 150MW Lithium-ion battery located next to Hornsdale Wind Farm
- Owned and operated by Neoen
- Installed and maintained by Tesla



- Provides grid stability services
- Saved SA energy consumers over \$150 million in its first two years
- Now testing grid scale inertia services in a world-first

**REDUCES RISK** 

OF BLACKOUT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA



## NEOEN

## DELIVERING CHEAPER ENERGY FOR INDUSTRY



# LAVERTON STEELWORKS

Laverton Steelworks have agreed to take power from Neoen's 128 MW Numurkah Solar Farm under a 15year deal. GFG Alliance's Executive Chairman said the deal would help lower energy costs at Laverton.



## **DEGRUSSA MINING** WESTERN AUSTRALIA

DeGrussa is the largest off-grid solar battery storage project in Australia. It powers a gold and copper mine in remote WA. Commissioned in June 2016, it provides a solar and storage solution to the majority of the mine's daytime electricity requirements, offsetting up to 20% of total diesel consumption annually.





# COLES AUSTRALIA-WIDE

Coles has signed an agreement that will source largescale generation certificates (LGCs) from Neoen's portfolio of renewables located across New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia. The deal will help Coles towards its target of 100% renewable energy by 2025.

## DELIVERING CHEAPER ENERGY TO RETAILERS





Providing energy output of 100 MW of the 150 MW solar farm for 12 years.





## **SIMPLY ENERGY** PARKES & GRIFFITH SOLAR FARM

Providing 100% of the energy output of the two solar farms for 13 years.







ACT Government HORNSDALE WIND FARM

Providing 100% of the energy output of the 309 MW wind farm for 20 years, powering ACT's transition to 100% renewables.





## WHAT DOES A BIG BATTERY LOOK LIKE?

## HORNSDALE

Our 150MW battery outside Jamestown, SA co-located with Hornsdale Wind Farm



Our 300MW battery near Geelong, Victoria that is almost at the end of construction



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## WHAT CAN A BIG

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## **Basic function**

When there is excess energy, the battery will charge. When there is high demand for energy, the battery will discharge.

## **Frequency support**

To maintain the stability of the system, the grid requires frequency control services. The battery injects electrical power into the network in response to frequency changes. The battery adds competition to these service markets which results in lower electricity prices for everyday consumers.

## **BATTERY DO?**

## OEN

## Inertia

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As with vehicle suspension on an uneven road, inertia services are essential for stabilising the grid. The advanced power inverters associated with a big battery can emulate the inertia services that are currently provided by an ageing fleet of fossil fuel power plants that are entering retirement. This service is currently being trialled at our Hornsdale Power Reserve.

### **Firming renewables**

Big batteries can store wind and solar energy, then release it when the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shining. The Blyth Battery aims to be an essential component in the stable transition to clean electricity.

### Transmission network support

Grid-scale batteries can provide dynamic millisecond responses so existing transmission lines can operate at full capacity. Like adding another lane to a freeway, the battery can unlock additional capacity on existing transmission networks – saving customers millions of dollars in expensive transmission line upgrades.



## FACTS & FIGURES

## **BLYTH BATTERY**



Up to 800MWh energy storage

yet to be contracted

Stores an industrial amount of energy, discharges quickly on demand


# Up to **60,000X**

more capacity than a household battery

## **BLYTH BATTERY'S TECHNOLOGY**

Battery packs are enclosed in custom designed, dust and waterproof 'cabinets' made of galvanised steel. Cabinet colour is white or light coloured to assist with heat management and each cabinet has its own internal thermal management system.



## CHOOSING THE SITE

#### 1) Good grid location

The Blyth Battery will be located approximately 7.5 km west of Blyth in South Australia's Mid-North region. It will connect into ElectraNet's existing 275 kV network.

#### 2) Proximity to substation

It will be located directly adjacent to the existing ElectraNet Blyth West Substation. The advantage of the close proximity to the substation is that electrical connection infrastructure is minimsed which increases the performance and minimises cost.

#### 3) Site history

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Studies of the proposed site location have found little to no presence of significant ecology systems, reducing potential impacts on the local environment.





## WE OWN & OPERATE OUR PROJECTS

## **Blyth Battery**

The Blyth Battery will be managed from Neoen's 24/7 Operational Control Centre in the Canberra, which currently operates our 12 existing projects across Australia. This office coordinates with local maintenance contractors for safe, effective and compliant operations.

## Neoen's Portfolio

Neoen develops renewable energy projects to own and operate them – not to on-sell them. With over 1GW of operating projects connected to Australia's National Electricity Market (NEM), our asset and operations team play an important role in managing our power plants.



Our Operational Control Centre oversees our interactions with the National Electricity Market: a wholesale electricity market which spans the eastern and south-eastern coast of Australia.

The market works as a pool or spot market, where power supply and demand are instantly matched via a centrally coordinated dispatch process overseen by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO).

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS





#### Community benefit fund

The funds would be allocated to local community projects through a competitive annual grants process.



#### **Educational resources**

Develop educational resources for local schools to support learning about renewables and our future energy system.



#### Local tourism

Develop a local tourism initiative centred on batteries or renewable energy



#### Tell us your ideas

To submit your ideas, please fill out our online survey: surveymonkey.com/r/ blythbattery





## ABOUT STORAGE

#### Q1. How long will it take to build the battery?

Construction of the Blyth Battery will take around 16 months.

#### Q2. How big will it be?

Once completed, the battery and associated infrastructure will cover up to 5 hectares of land. The battery cubicles are normally around 2.5 meters tall.

#### Q3. Where will it be located and why?

The Blyth Battery will be located 7.5 km west of Blyth and directly adjacent to ElectraNet's existing Blyth West Substation. This gives it an ideal connection point to the existing network.

The land is ideal because it is flat, in a rather isolated area and very close to the Substation.

The Blyth Battery will support in stabilising the grid and the increasing number of renewable projects in SA.

#### Q4. What technology is being used for the project?

The Blyth Battery will utilise Lithium-Ion batteries and associated equipment from leading manufacturers. These manufacturers are selected through a separate competitive tender process.

In principle, the facility will be an orderly arrangement of battery cabinets, inverters and control systems including electrical and data cabling. The battery packs are enclosed in custom designed, dust and waterproof 'cabinets' made of steel. The cabinet colour will be white, or light coloured to assist with heat management and each cabinet has its own internal thermal management system.

#### Q5. What is the life cycle of the Battery?

Current battery technology comes with an industryleading 20-year warranty. The batteries will still retain the majority of their capacity during this period and will be capable of operating beyond it depending on market conditions and other factors.

#### Q6. How does it work?

The Blyth Battery will store energy in times of high production and release energy in times of high demand, similar to how a battery on a home solar system works. It will also help to stabilise the grid in a few different ways – it has an emergency response mode to prevent blackouts and it can maintain voltage and frequency levels.

#### Q7. What are the benefits of battery energy storage?

In making the transition from fossil fuels to renewables, the ability to store and dispatch energy will play a key role. Pumped hydro is an example of longer-term storage that is suitable for storing energy and releasing it over days or weeks. However, pumped hydro has a relatively slow 'ramping' time and is less suitable for providing rapidresponse services to grid contingency events such as outages or heat waves (with high demand created by air-conditioning). Battery storage, such as lithium-ion technology, fills this key short-term response role.

These are some of the functions a grid-scale lithium-ion battery may be expected to perform:

- Network security services including Frequency Control Ancillary Services, and Network Loading Control Ancillary Services
- System Restart Ancillary Services
- Arbitrage (spot market trading)
- Peak shaving
- Block/load shifting
- Renewable firming and smoothing
- Virtual inertia

Many of these services have been provided by coal and gas generators in the past, but as their business models become unviable and they close down, battery energy storage can, and is, being used to deliver these critical services.

## ECONOMIC

#### **Q8.** Who will pay for it? The project will be privately financed by Neoen.

- **Q9.** How is the battery reducing costs for consumers? Blyth Battery can reduce costs for consumers in three ways:
  - 1. supporting more wind and solar, which are now the cheapest forms of power
  - 2. increasing competition in ancillary markets which lowers (or reduces) electricity prices.
  - 3. helping to avoid blackouts and the associated costs

#### Q10. Will local jobs be created?

It is expected the Blyth Battery will create a significant volume of construction jobs and a number of full-time ongoing positions.

We will also provide opportunities for local suppliers, businesses, schools, and community groups.

## LOCAL

#### Q11. I live nearby – what impact will this have on me? During construction, we expect some localised traffic, noise, and dust impacts. However, we will be managing these to minimise them as much as possible. Following installation, the battery will be visible at the site and will look like an enclosure of white containers.

Q12. How will construction impact the surrounding area? As with most projects of this size, there will be some impacts during construction. We will work with community, neighbours, and council to minimise these impacts.

#### Q13. How can I have my say on the project?

We will be working with the community throughout the project to understand local concerns and aspirations, and ensure we minimise any impacts. We encourage the community to provide feedback through completing the survey.





## SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT

#### Q14. What approvals are required for the project?

The project requires a planning consent from the State Planning Minister which will be sought through a Development Application process.

## Q15. Will the battery increase the risk of fire?

The Blyth Battery will meet all relevant standards for fire safety, and we are working with the local fire authority to ensure the project also meets their requirements.

## Q16. What happens to the batteries when they reach the end of their life?

We make a commitment that all above-ground infrastructure will be removed, and the site rehabilitated when the project ceases to operate. After removal, a large percentage of the material in the batteries will be reclaimed or recycled; over 60% of materials especially critical minerals will be recovered for re-use.

#### Q17. Are there any health risks?

The Blyth Battery is using similar technology to the batteries that are being increasingly installed in homes, just on a larger scale. There are no known health risks associated with properly maintained large-scale battery installations.

#### Q18. Is the project reducing air quality?

Monitoring of dust levels during construction is a basic requirement of each project. Dust generating activities are assessed during windy conditions and are stopped and rescheduled where adequate control of dust generation cannot be achieved.

Visual observation of machinery is undertaken during site inspections in addition to daily pre-start checks which ensure all machinery has appropriate emission control devices, is in good working order and is maintained correctly.









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