Yabulu South BESS

Frequently Asked Questions

May 2026

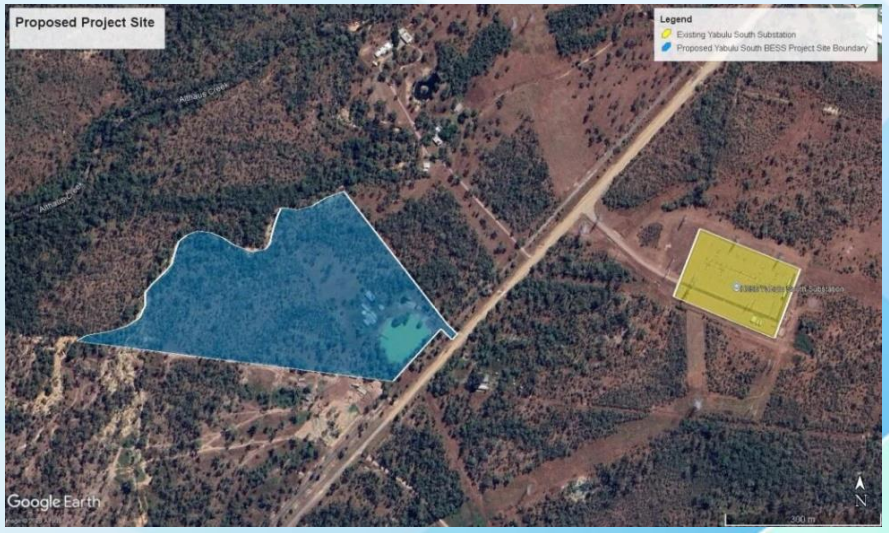
GENERAL

Is this project related to the other solar or battery project in the area?

The Yabulu South Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is a standalone project located at 582 Mill Road, Black River, approximately 25 km west of Townsville.

The site is located close to Powerlink's Yabulu South Terminal Station, with the nearest boundary around 40 meters away. The project is proposed to connect to the substation via an underground 132 kV cable of approximately 760 meters.

We are aware of other proposed or planned energy projects in the broader area. However, each project is developed and operated independently, with separate proponents, approvals and timelines.



How long will the project operate for?

The project is expected to operate for around 20 years.

Depending on future energy needs and network conditions, the project may be extended for a further 20 to 40 years. Any potential extension would be subject to the conditions of Development Approval.

Who decides on the approval, and where is the project up to now?

In Queensland, large battery storage projects like the Yabulu South BESS are assessed by the State Government, with the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA) acting on behalf of the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning.

Before submitting a development application, key studies and agreement such as the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and a proposed Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) are being prepared.

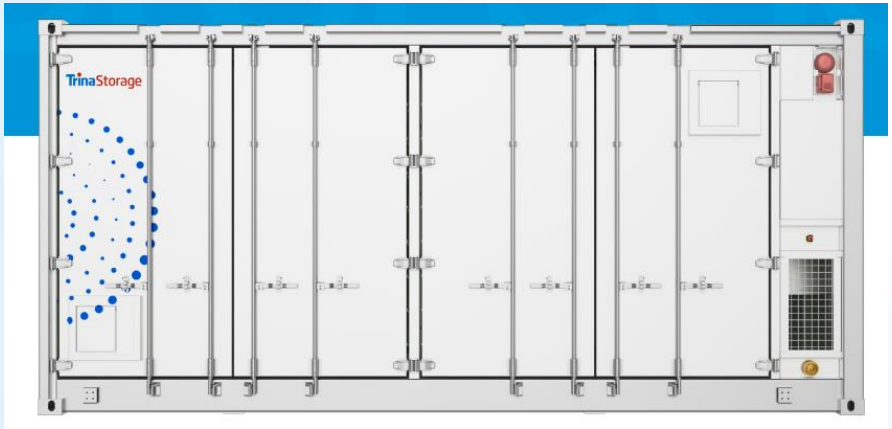
The project is currently in the early planning phase, and the SIA is being drafted. Once ready, it will be shared with Townsville City Council and other relevant stakeholders as part of the overall assessment process.

TECHNICAL & ENGINEERING

What type of batteries will be used, and how big is the project?

The project is proposed to use Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) batteries, a widely used technology for large-scale energy storage due to its strong safety record, reliability and efficiency.

The system will have a capacity of up to 200 MW / 800 MWh. This means it can store and supply electricity to the grid when needed. The project is expected to include up to 288 battery container units on site.



Does the battery project generate electricity, and how does it work?

A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) does not generate electricity. Instead, it stores electricity from the grid or other sources and releases it back to the grid when needed.

It typically charges when demand is lower or when there is more energy available, and discharges during periods of higher demand. In addition, it helps support the stability and reliability of the electricity grid by providing fast-response services.

Will the project supply electricity directly to nearby homes or businesses?

The project will not supply electricity directly to nearby homes or businesses.

It will connect to the high-voltage electricity grid and operate within the broader electricity market. While the electricity is not supplied directly, the project provides several benefits to the local area, including:

- Supporting a more reliable electricity supply by reducing the risk of outages
- Helping manage peak demand, which can ease pressure on the grid
- Enabling more renewable energy to be used, improving overall system efficiency

The project helps strengthen the electricity network that nearby homes and businesses rely on every day.

SOCIAL & COMMUNITY

Which communities are being considered in the study, and how was this area chosen?

The study focuses on the project site and nearby areas within approximately 2.5 kilometres, where people are most likely to experience any direct impacts. This includes nearby communities such as Black River, Yabulu, Bluewater and Bluewater Park.

The City of Townsville is also included as a broader study area, as it is expected to support the project by providing services, accommodation and workforce during construction and operation.

This approach ensures both local and regional perspectives are considered.

Will the project provide any benefits to the local community?

In line with ECM_28207343_v2_Renewable Energy Community Benefit Agreement Policy, large battery projects are expected to enter into a Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) with Council.

For battery storage projects, Council provides a guideline of around $150 per megawatt-hour. The exact structure, timing and use of these contributions will be discussed and agreed with Council.

These benefits are intended to support the local community over the life of the project, including potential funding for local initiatives, services or community priorities identified in consultation with Council.

TRADITIONAL OWNERS & WORK OPPORTUNITIES

Will Traditional Owner groups be involved in the project, and are they being engaged?

We are committed to engaging with Traditional Owner groups throughout the project.

During the later development phase, Traditional Owner groups will be consulted, and specialist consultants can potentially be engaged to undertake cultural heritage or relevant assessments.

As the project progresses, we will continue to explore opportunities to work together, including potential involvement during procurement, construction and operations. This may include opportunities in areas such as civil works, electrical works and other project-related activities.

We will continue to work respectfully and collaboratively with Traditional Owner groups as the project develops.

How many workers will be on site, and will there be local job opportunities?

During construction, the workforce is expected to peak at around 90 people, with average numbers to be confirmed closer to the construction phase. Once operational, the project is expected to require around 10 personnel.

We aim to create opportunities for local workers where possible, including working with local training organisations such as TAFE and engaging with Traditional Owner groups.

Typical roles on a project like this may include electricians, civil workers, plant operators, site supervisors, high-voltage technicians, and commissioning specialists.

ENVIRONMENTAL & DECOMMISSIONING

What will happen to the site once the project finishes?

At the end of the project's life, the site will be decommissioned and the land rehabilitated, with the aim of returning it to its previous use.

A detailed decommissioning and rehabilitation plan will be prepared as part of the development application, outlining how equipment will be removed and the land restored. This plan will be reviewed and approved by the relevant authorities.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you're a member of the local community and have any questions, suggestions, or would like to share your views on the project, please feel free to contact us via email.

You can also scan the QR code below to complete a short online survey and provide your feedback.

Web: https://YabuluSouthBESS.com.au/

Email: YabuluSouthBESS@trinasolar.com

SCAN ME