13/60 Maitland St
Narrabri NSW 2390
Email: sally@geni.energy
Ph: 0459944778
www.geni.energy

# Submission Guide – Stoney Creek BESS EIS

Geni.Energy supports responsible renewable energy developments in our region. Part of that role is to participate actively in the government assessment processes for project approvals. This is the opportunity to make constructive changes to the project and to show the local support (or opposition) to projects.

Below is a short submission guide to help you put in your own submission to the Stoney Creek Battery Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS is the document that the future conditions of consent are based on and it can be read here. It is currently on exhibition, meaning the public can make submissions in support or opposition of the project and closes 17/12/25. From there, the proponent (Enervest) will respond to submissions and move to the next stage of the assessment.

***We are encouraging you to read the EIS and make a considered and site specific submission that is UNIQUE to your viewpoint***. This will show the government and the proponent that we are an engaged community that are watching and participating in our region's renewable energy future.

**Project Overview**
This is a 1,000MWh battery consisting of 150 batteries each one in a 34 foot container spread over about 8ha, located on Stoney Creek road adjacent to the substations and near to the old cemetery. In recognition of the need for storage in the grid this battery has received at LTESA (Long Term Energy Service Agreement) which is a minimum pricing scheme from AEMO (Australian Energy Market Operator); this sets a floor price that AEMO will guarantee for the first 14 years of the battery life.

It will connect to the Transgrid line and substation across the road. This is a big line that services Sydney and the battery will charge up during the day when there is excess solar generation and provide electricity back to the grid at night, evening out the peaks and troughs in the grid.

The land to be used has been cleared and farmed for many years and it has no need for new transmission lines. Construction is expected to be 12-14 months, commissioning up to 8 months for a 25 year life span, when it may either be repowered or decommissioned. The construction phase will create 48 new FTE on-site jobs with 4 permanent roles ongoing for the operation of the battery.

The land was purchased from a local farming family by Enervest and the project was taken over by Energy Vault in March 2025. Energy Vault intends to own and operate Stoney Creek which will be their first in Australia, however they have a pipeline of approximately 3GW of battery projects across Europe, USA and Australia and also have others in China.

**Submissions Close 17/12/25**
To make a submission you must first have a Dept of Planning login then choose "make a submission" on the project page. (here)

Below we provide a few areas you could touch on in your submission.

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# SUBMISSION GUIDE

**Submission Points to Include**
***Firstly you must state that you support the project.***

**Some reasons for your support might include:**

- Battery Energy Storage is one of the cheapest and most flexible forms of firming, and reduces the need to build new gas peaking plants and therefore new gas fields and pipelines.
- This project requires no land clearing at all, avoiding negative biodiversity impacts and has a compact footprint.
- This project requires only a short new transmission line (340m) on the project land and across to the substation, avoiding the negative impacts experienced by people facing new transmission lines.
- This project will provide crucial support to the grid, smoothing out the peaks and troughs by providing 125MW of storage for 8 hour duration for excess solar, ultimately helping to reduce emissions from our electricity grid.
- The community benefits committed as part of the LTESA (Long Term Energy Service Agreement - essentially a federal floor price provided based on conditions) include $30,000 per annum community grants and a range of procurement, jobs and training commitments as well as commitments to First Nations services, businesses and workforce.
- It is a low bushfire risk site given its mostly surrounded by farm land and it adheres to the standards well, including a 20 meter Asset Protection Zone around the BESS equipment, which is larger than requirements.
- The project uses no groundwater and has a detention basin that collects runoff from the hard stand so it doesn't increase stormwater pressure for neighbouring areas.
- Narrabri and Boggabri have workforce accommodation available at the CIVEO, reducing risk of local housing pressure. However this should be closely watched due to cumulative impacts of a number of major project construction phases occurring at once.
- Because it stores excess solar that is currently being curtailed (limited) from solar farms it produces no ongoing GHG emissions. The battery will allow two and a half times more electricity to be provided to the grid than Wilga Park gas power station and will create no annual emissions.

**Some suggestions for improvement you could make include:**

- The community benefits listed in media (here) are a great start, however we would like to see these benefits expanded and clearly quantified in the EIS to ensure accountability.
- Any funding program should have input by a local committee, be open to the community, with transparency and annual reporting of expenditure.
- The EIS could go further in its commitments to First Nations, similar to the example of the Wellington BESS which has made a landmark arrangement with the Wiradjuri people, providing a 5% equity share in the battery.
- Further community benefits could include:
    - Education and engagement programs around the importance of storage and the need for the transition

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  - Exploring the idea of a co-located community energy project that allows for local governance and ownership models
  - Bolstering local training opportunities in renewable energy
  - Providing a local physical presence that can respond to queries and provide genuine engagement, avoiding consultation fatigue from “drop in” sessions.
  - Develop programs such as those delivered by Democracy Co to help work through conflict and consultation fatigue seen by the number of major developments currently under consideration in the region.
- The EIS Bushfire Assessment should include planning for worst case scenarios if a bushfire reaches the battery installation, how any smoke would disperse and how fire fighting water would be managed to avoid contamination of surrounding land and water.
- We would like to see a commitment for more communication on road closure, changed traffic conditions and oversize movements due to the increase in traffic during construction.
- The EIS should clarify that the battery will NOT provide backup power or direct grid benefits locally.