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Project fact sheet

Gnarwarre BESS

Overview

Leading Australian solar and battery developer, Fotowatio Renewable Ventures (FRV), is developing a utility-scale battery energy storage system (BESS), approximately 18 km west of Geelong.

The Gnarwarre BESS project will be operated by FRV and have a total anticipated discharge capacity of 250 megawatts (MW) and a storage capacity of 500 megawatt hours (MWh).

The project received planning permit approval in 2021. FRV aims to commence construction in late 2025 and begin operation in 2027.

Site and location

The project is located on private land located at distance from Gnarwarre Road and adjoining the Terang to Moorabool Transmission Line that runs overhead.

The project is well situated at a location extensively cleared of native vegetation and has historically been used for grazing.

The project will receive landscape screening to visually shield the project from surrounding viewpoints and from the road.

The project will ultimately connect to the transmission line through a switching yard.



The Gnarwarre BESS will use the latest in utility-scale battery technology for the storage and dispatch of electricity as needed. Battery units will be outfitted with the latest in safety and performance technology.

The project has been designed in accordance with Victorian planning laws and guidelines, with a focus on minimising impacts to the surrounding built and natural environments.

Visual appearance

The Gnarwarre BESS project will of batteries arranged in container-style units. The containers are painted in neutral tones to help blend with the surrounding environment.

The project will also consist of support structures such as transformers and

switching stations which are essential for connecting the project to the electricity grid.

Environment

FRV is committed to environmentally sensitive development and the protection of local flora and fauna.

The project's design and construction will be undertaken with appropriate buffer distances from existing waterways and native vegetation to ensure these features are protected and impacts the water flows are avoided.

Community value

Construction Gnarwarre BESS project will provide a substantial boost to the regional economy. It is expected the battery will create up to 50 new jobs during construction.

FRV is also committing to community funding during operation.

The solar farm will also contribute to the new, sustainable industry that is becoming established in the area, assisting in activating and growing a viable new local industry.

Project timeline

Construction is planned to commence in late 2025. The Gnarwarre BESS project is expected to be completed for testing in 2026.

Who is FRV?

FRV is a leading global developer of renewable energy solutions for a cleaner and more sustainable future. FRV is headquartered in Spain and has a local office in Sydney.

FRV has initiated and operates several large-scale solar farm developments across Australia (including Victoria) since 2010. This includes the Winton Solar Farm near Benalla.

Contact

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