

FAQs

Krongart BESS

1. Who is TE H2?

TE H2 is a partnership between TotalEnergies and EREN Groupe (EREN) dedicated to developing largescale renewable energy projects, with a key focus on delivering affordable and reliable energy with fewer emissions. Our goal is to deliver more competitive, affordable, reliable and sustainable energy and achieve net zero with society, recognising the pivotal role in which competitive energy helps to create a sustainable economy.

2. What is a BESS?

BESS stands for Battery Energy Storage System, which is the battery technology that captures and holds energy, enabling it to be released as needed later.

3. What is the Krongart BESS?

The Krongart BESS will be an energy storage system with a capacity of 400 MW / 8 hour that will assist with managing energy flow across the electricity grid, reduce electricity price volatility and enhance grid reliability, whilst delivering affordable and reliable energy with fewer emissions.

4. What will the Krongart look like?

The Krongart BESS will primarily consist of standardised, modular units, each resembling a 6-metre-long and 3-metre-wide shipping container, painted in neutral colours to blend with the landscape. From a distance, the BESS will appear as a low-profile installation with rows of these container structures, arranged in an organised grid layout.

The site will also include a high-voltage substation, which is crucial for increasing the electricity voltage to transmission levels suitable for connection to the grid, small control buildings, workshops, offices and amenities as well as essential electrical infrastructure.

Security fencing will delineate the site. The Krongart BESS will be a well-maintained, purpose-built facility, with components designed to be robust and functional.

5. Where is the proposed project located?

The Krongart BESS is located on predominately cleared land approximately 10km southwest of Penola, 14km north of Kalangadoo, and 8km northwest of Krongart. Situated within the Wattle Range Council LGA, the project is also strategically positioned to connect into existing transmission lines which connect between South Australia and Victoria.

6. Why are you building the Krongart BESS?

TE H2 is committed to delivering affordable and reliable energy with fewer emissions – and energy storage is the most competitive source for providing energy stability and firming needs today. To assist in this objective, TE H2 is proposing to build the Krongart BESS to support grid stability and to help manage the energy flow across the network with a long-term objective to reduce electricity price volatility and to contribute to lower overall cost of energy.

7. What is TE H2's long term role in the development?

TE H2 aims to be involved in the long-term ownership of the project and will undertake all aspects of the project development and approvals, including extensive community engagement, construction and operation. As the potential long term owner operator of the project, TE H2 sees itself being part of the local community for the project lifetime of over 25 years and values genuine and long-lasting community engagement and relationships.

8. What are the planning and environmental approvals required for the Krongart BESS project?

TE H2 has submitted the Krongart BESS project through the South Australian *Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023* (HRE Act). TE H2 will also refer the project to the Federal Government for approval under the *Environmental Protection & Biodiversity Conservation* (EPBC) Act.

As the final design and construction for the Krongart BESS is refined, further permits and secondary approvals may be required. TE H2 will keep the local community, landowners, neighbours, and interested stakeholders updated as the project progresses through approvals.

9. What studies or assessments have been undertaken?

TE H2 has conducting feasibility and material constraints studies, alongside continued engagement with ElectraNet on the design of a new adjacent switching station to connect into the existing transmission lines.

TE H2 has completed a range of extensive field and environmental studies on the property using qualified third-party personnel. These surveys involved ecologists, cultural heritage experts and traditional owners, and geotechnical specialists. Studies and assessments completed include:

- Biodiversity, flora and fauna surveys
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
- Landscape and visual amenity
- Topographical and geotechnical surveys

- Surface water and groundwater
- Transport assessments
- Noise assessment

10. How will you protect culturally or historically significant areas?

The TE H2 team have undertaken a number of technical and site assessments to understand the culturally and historically significant areas within the project area. No cultural or historic sites have been identified to date within the project footprint.

TE H2 has been engaging with the Traditional Owners (Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation), and plan to undertake targeted surveys on the site and agree on a Cultural Heritage Management Plan to address any items or areas of significance that may be discovered during construction.

11. What are the environmental impacts?

The Krongart BESS project is not considered to have a high ecological impact. Further environmental studies will be undertaken to confirm the environmental impacts from the project site. However, construction of any development will carry some level of impacts and Krongart BESS is expected to generate impacts during construction such as visual, noise and traffic. These impacts will be mitigated and outstanding impacts managed through the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP).

12. How long will it take to build the Krongart BESS?

Construction of the Krongart BESS is anticipated to take approximately 18 to 24 months, commencing after all necessary approvals and the final investment decision are secured.

At this stage, construction is anticipated to commence in early-2028. Construction will involve initial civil works for access tracks and hardstands, followed by the delivery and construction of the plant over the remaining months and final energisation and commissioning activities.

13. How long will the BESS operate for?

The operational life of a BESS container/ unit is expected to be up to 25 years. By repowering units during the later stages of their life, the overall Project lifetime can be extended to 30+ years.

14. What happens at the end of the Krongart BESS operational life?

At the end of the BESS operational life cycle, the Krongart BESS project will either be replaced with newer technology or the site will be decommissioned. TE H2 will work closely with the landowners and local community to ensure early and ongoing engagement on any decommissioning or replacement plans well in advance.

Considering the continuing improvement in recycling technologies which increases the extent to which BESS can be recycled, TE H2 will maximise opportunities for recycling of any plant once decommissioned.

15. How many people will the Krongart BESS employ?

TE H2 aims to maximise benefits to the local economy by hiring local people and local suppliers where possible in its projects, as they know the land and have the skills coupled with an enthusiasm to get the job done. The Krongart BESS project is estimated to generate up to 150-200 jobs during construction, and 6-10 local jobs during the up to 25 years of operation. The proposed project will not only create direct employment opportunities during construction, but also through increased demand for local products, materials and services.

To submit your interested in providing goods or services, or in direct employment, visit the project website.

16. Does the Krongart BESS already have a contractor in place for construction?

A main contractor will be appointed closer to construction who will manage the procurement processes of employment and various contracts for goods and services.

17. How will you manage fire risk?

TE H2 will ensure that all battery systems used in

the Krongart BESS meet relevant Australian and international safety standards and have undergone rigorous testing to minimise the risk of fire starting and propagating. The battery containers include built-in fire risk mitigation features, such as thermal insulation, internal sensors, and fire-resistant construction. In the unlikely event of a fire within a unit, the system is designed to contain the fire within that unit and allow it to safely burn out without spreading to neighbouring containers.

The broader BESS site design includes safety measures such as minimum setbacks between containers and firebreaks along the site boundary to prevent fire from reaching adjacent properties. Water tanks and firefighting equipment will also be installed, to provide protection in the event of a bushfire approaching the site, in line with local fire authority requirements.

For more information, view the '*Managing Fire Risk*' factsheet.

18. Will the project have any risks to groundwater?

The Krongart BESS is not expected to impact groundwater during construction or operational activities. TE H2 will manage all groundwater and surface water in accordance with relevant local, State, and Federal requirements.

TE H2 will undertake groundwater investigations to ensure appropriate controls are in place if required during construction.

During operation of the BESS there are no requirements for access to or discharge into groundwater as a part of normal operations.

Additionally, the project site will be designed to minimise impacts to surface water run-off and a stormwater management plan will be developed. In the unlikely event of a fire, the BESS containers are designed to burn out within their enclosure, minimising risk of contaminated water run-off.

19. Will the BESS have any health impacts for the community?

No, there are no known health impacts from a BESS for the local community. A BESS uses researched, proven and safe technology to deliver energy to the grid. The Krongart BESS will be designed to comply

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with the Australian Government and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Health, Safety and Environmental (HSE) regulations. These regulations ensure that a BESS facility is safe for the community.

20. Will there be noise impacts during operation?

As a part of the approvals process, TE H2 has undertaken a detailed noise assessment to properly understand any noise impacts from the Krongart BESS. The major source of noise is expected to be from the cooling / air-conditioning units in the BESS containers. The Krongart BESS will be located away from homes, with four properties identified within a 1.5km radius of the project.

21. Will there be a community benefits program?

TE H2 will establish a Community Benefit Scheme for the project. The program will commence once the project is operational and may include sponsorships and grants for local groups or not for profit organisations, education providers, and training programs.

For more information, view the '*Community Benefits*' factsheet.

22. How will you engage with the local community?

TE H2 is committed to engaging meaningfully with the communities that we are proposing to build the Krongart BESS within. We will work closely with landowners, neighbours, community members, advocacy groups, and local council during all stages of the project. We are committed to providing timely and accurate information, listening to your feedback and explaining how it is being considered, and holding regular drop-in sessions in the community.

We will also provide multiple avenues for feedback including; digital engagement, in-person engagement and contact numbers / email addresses.

TE H2 will share information through drop-in sessions and one-on-one sessions with interested stakeholders and community members. If you are interested in learning more about the project and provide input, please contact TE H2 on **1800 762 849** or **krongartbess@te-h2.com**

23. How can I stay up to date on the project?

TE H2 will provide a range of avenues for people to stay up to date on the Krongart BESS project. These include:

- Project website
- Phone calls, emails and meetings with landowners, neighbours and directly impacted stakeholders
- Dedicated 1800 number
- Newsletters
- Factsheets
- Construction updates
- Meetings with key stakeholders, local Council, government agencies and community interest groups.

If you would like to stay up to date on engagement opportunities, sign up for our e-news at **www.krongartbess.com.au** or call us on **1800 762 849**