



EUROPEAN
ENERGY
AUSTRALIA

What We Heard

Bullyard Solar Farm and Battery

Community Feedback and Project Responses
February 2026



Bullyard PV and BESS: Community Drop In sessions

European Energy Australia held two community drop in sessions to provide an update on the solar farm, while introducing the battery energy storage system.

Details of sessions:

- Wednesday 4 February 2026
from 5 pm – 7 pm at the Gin Gin RSL,
37 Mildren Street, Gin Gin.
NUMBER OF ATTENDEES: 17
- Thursday 5 February 2026
from 9 am – 11:30 am at the
Gin Gin Community Centre, Gin Gin.
NUMBER OF ATTENDEES: 12

These locations are approximately 13kms from the project site.

These sessions were an opportunity to

- Share information about the proposed battery addition
- Discuss development approvals and construction plans
- Listen to community concerns and questions
- Understand how we can improve communication and engagement.

We would like to thank everyone who attended and took the time to speak with us.

This document summarises the key themes we heard and how we are responding.

Overall sentiment

Community views were mixed. Some community members expressed support for renewable energy and interest in local economic opportunities. Some members raised heightened concerns about safety, environmental impacts, traffic, and communication.

We acknowledge that some community members feel previous communication could have been clearer, and we are committed to improving this.

Key Themes We Heard

BATTERY SAFETY, FIRE RISK, AND RUNOFF

Community members raised questions about

- How battery fires would be contained
- Whether fire suppression systems use PFAS foams
- How runoff would be managed in heavy rainfall or flooding
- How the project would withstand extreme weather
- Whether the distributed battery design spreads risk.

Our Response

The battery system will be subject to detailed engineering, fire safety, stormwater and environmental assessments as part of the Development Application process for the battery.

Key points include:

- The battery system will meet Australian safety standards
- Fire management systems are built into each unit
- Stormwater controls are designed to prevent contamination of soil and waterways
- The project will be engineered for local wind and severe weather conditions
- Independent insurers will also require strict engineering and risk controls before providing coverage.

The distributed battery approach is used at other sites in Australia and internationally. It is designed to limit risk by separating units rather than concentrating infrastructure in one location.

Emergency management planning will include coordination with emergency services. We will provide more detailed, plain-language information on fire systems, runoff controls and extreme weather resilience as part of the formal application documentation.

EXTREME WEATHER (HAIL, WIND AND TORNADOES)

Community members referenced past severe weather events in the region and asked how the project would withstand similar events.

OUR RESPONSE

The solar panels and battery units will be designed and tested for severe weather conditions. Structural engineering assessments ensure compliance with Australian standards for wind and hail.

Insurance requirements add another layer of independent review to confirm the project is appropriately designed for regional conditions.

NOISE AND DUST

Some community members were concerned that:

- Distributed batteries could spread noise impacts
- Construction dust may affect nearby properties
- Roads such as Goondoon Road may experience impacts.

OUR RESPONSE

Noise modelling will be undertaken to ensure the project meets Queensland planning limits at surrounding properties.

Construction dust will be managed through standard measures such as:

- Road stabilisation solutions and dust suppressants
- Speed limits
- Progressive stabilisation of disturbed areas.

Traffic and road impacts will be assessed through a Traffic Impact Assessment.

TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY

Community members raised concerns about increased traffic at key intersections, including Goondoon Road and Norbrook Road.

OUR RESPONSE

Construction traffic will be temporary, co-ordinated and will be managed through an approved Traffic Management Plan.

A Traffic Impact Assessment will review vehicle numbers, routes and intersection safety. Mitigation measures will be implemented if required.

MAPPING AND SITE LAYOUT

We heard concerns that:

- Maps may not clearly show the full project extent
- Some properties were difficult to locate
- The layout may impact fauna movement, particularly near Splitters Creek.

OUR RESPONSE

Updated, clearer maps will be published as part of the Development Application. These will include broader area views to show surrounding roads and properties.

Environmental assessments consider waterways, habitat and wildlife movement, and mitigation measures will be implemented where required.

EMF AND HEALTH

Questions were raised about electromagnetic fields (EMF), including potential impacts on:

- Residents
- Livestock and wildlife
- People with pacemakers.

OUR RESPONSE

Solar farms and battery systems must comply with Australian safety standards for electromagnetic exposure.

EMF levels decrease rapidly with distance and are typically well below national safety limits at property boundaries. We will provide additional information referring to applicable safety standards.

PLANNING APPROVAL AND SCOPE

Community members asked whether battery storage was included in the existing solar farm approval.

OUR RESPONSE

The solar farm has received planning approval.

The proposed battery system requires a separate Development Application and approval process. This process includes technical assessments and community consultation.

We will ensure this distinction is clearly communicated in future materials.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

We sought advice on how and where engagement should occur.

- Suggestions to use local radio (Breeze FM and Gin Gin's Own 104.9), local newspapers (including Chitchat), and Facebook for updates
- A preference for clearer, site-specific imagery
- A preference for holding sessions in Bullyard, closer to the project site
- Suggestions to use the Bullyard Hall and local markets

- Requests for sessions to be held in Bucca or Bullyard rather than Gin Gin
- Concern that miscommunication led to an expectation of an earlier December 2025 community engagement session that wasn't met
- Some images in brochures and online were seen as not fully reflecting project scale.

OUR RESPONSE

- We acknowledge that communication has not always been as clear or consistent as it should have been.
- Venue selection considered availability, safety, capacity and logistical constraints. However, we recognize the importance of holding sessions as close as possible to the project site.
- We apologize for confusion created by changing hall bookings. We are working to rebuild communication pathways with the relevant locations and will prioritize early and direct communication (including phone and text) for future bookings.

We are committed to:

- Using local radio, newspapers and community channels more effectively
- Holding future sessions closer to the site where possible
- Improving clarity of maps and imagery
- Providing consistent and transparent updates.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND GRANTS

Community members asked about:

- Eligibility and criteria for small grants
- The structure and value of a future Community Benefit Agreement (CBA)
- How funding levels are determined
- Public exhibition of any future CBA.

OUR RESPONSE

A small grants program is currently available. Information and application forms are available on our website.

A formal Community Benefit Agreement will be developed as part of the Battery Development Application process in consultation with Bundaberg Regional Council.

There is no fixed mandatory rate in Queensland; however, around \$850 per megawatt is commonly referenced as an industry guideline. The final structure and value will be confirmed

through discussions with Council as part of the approvals process.

We welcome community ideas on how benefits could best be delivered locally.

LOCAL SUPPLIERS AND EMPLOYMENT

Community members expressed interest in:

- Prioritising local employment
- Supporting disadvantaged job seekers through pre-employment training
- Engaging local hospitality venues such as the Bucca Hotel
- Building local supplier opportunities.

OUR RESPONSE

- We recognize the importance of local participation
- Our procurement team will engage with local suppliers ahead of construction and provide information about how businesses can register interest
- We are committed to:
 - Building a local supplier database
 - Hosting a supplier information session prior to construction
 - Encouraging contractors to consider local workforce opportunities.

PROJECT NAMING

Some community members expressed confusion about the project name “Bullyard” given the location near Bucca and the impacts on residents of Bucca.

OUR RESPONSE

European Energy bought the project with the name “Bullyard Solar Farm”. We acknowledge this concern and will ensure naming is clear, with reference to the Bucca community in future communications.

POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH AMAZON

Community members asked whether the agreement with Amazon would result in cheaper electricity locally.

OUR RESPONSE

The electricity generated by the project enters the National Electricity Market. Retail electricity prices are determined by broader market conditions and retailer pricing structures.

While renewable energy supports long-term stability, a single agreement cannot directly determine local electricity prices.

INSURANCE AND LIABILITY

Questions were raised about who is responsible in the event of an incident, including extreme weather damage.

OUR RESPONSE

The project will hold comprehensive insurance during construction and operation, including public liability insurance.

Liability rests with the project owner / operator in accordance with Australian law. Neighboring landowners are not responsible for project-related incidents.

OPERATIONS AND STAFFING

Community members asked how the site would be operated.

OUR RESPONSE

Once operational, the facility will be largely automated and remotely monitored. Maintenance crews will attend site as required.

CURTAILMENT AND GRID MANAGEMENT

Community members asked whether the solar farm would experience curtailment and how the battery would assist.

OUR RESPONSE

Curtailment can occur across all generators in the electricity market during periods of network constraint.

The battery is designed to store excess energy and release it when demand is higher, helping manage output and reduce curtailment risk.

What Happens Next

Based on community feedback, we will

- Publish Frequently Asked Questions based on queries raised at the drop in sessions
- Publish clearer maps and technical information
- Provide additional detail on battery safety and runoff management
- Improve communications through local channels

- Engage more directly with local halls and community venues
- Provide regular website updates
- Continue consultation as the Development Application progresses.

We are committed to listening, improving our communication, and ensuring the community has clear and accurate information about the project.

If you would like to receive updates or speak with the project team directly, please contact us via the details on our website.

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