



EUROPEAN
ENERGY



What We Heard: Gippsland Battery

Community Feedback and Project Responses

23 June 2026

EE Australia Pty Ltd

What We Heard

Gippsland Battery: Community Drop In sessions

European Energy Australia held two community drop-in session to provide an update on the project, following a suite of assessments completed as part of the Development Approval process.

Details of sessions:

Session 1

- Date: Tuesday 17th February 2026
- Time: 1.30pm – 6.30pm
- Location: Hazelwood North Public Hall (117 Church Road, Hazelwood North)

Session 2

- Date: Tuesday 23rd June 2026
- Time: 1.30pm – 4.30pm
- Location: Hazelwood North Public Hall (117 Church Road, Hazelwood North)

This location is approximately 1.5kms from the proposed project site.

Event	Number of attendees
Tuesday 23 rd June	24
Tuesday 17 th February	14

Across both sessions, community members had the opportunity to:

- Learn more about the proposed Gippsland Battery
- Speak directly with the project team and technical specialists
- Discuss the planning process and submitted technical studies
- Ask questions and provide feedback

We would like to thank everyone who attended and took the time to speak with us at both drop-in sessions.

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

Overall sentiment

Community sentiment was mixed but constructive.

Many attendees expressed support for renewable energy and recognised the importance of new energy infrastructure in the Latrobe Valley. Others raised questions about project impacts, safety, and how Gippsland Battery fits within the broader transformation occurring across the region.

Of note, attendees consistently expressed appreciation for the opportunity to meet directly with the project team and encouraged ongoing, transparent engagement.

Key Themes We Heard

UNDERSTANDING THE BIGGER PICTURE

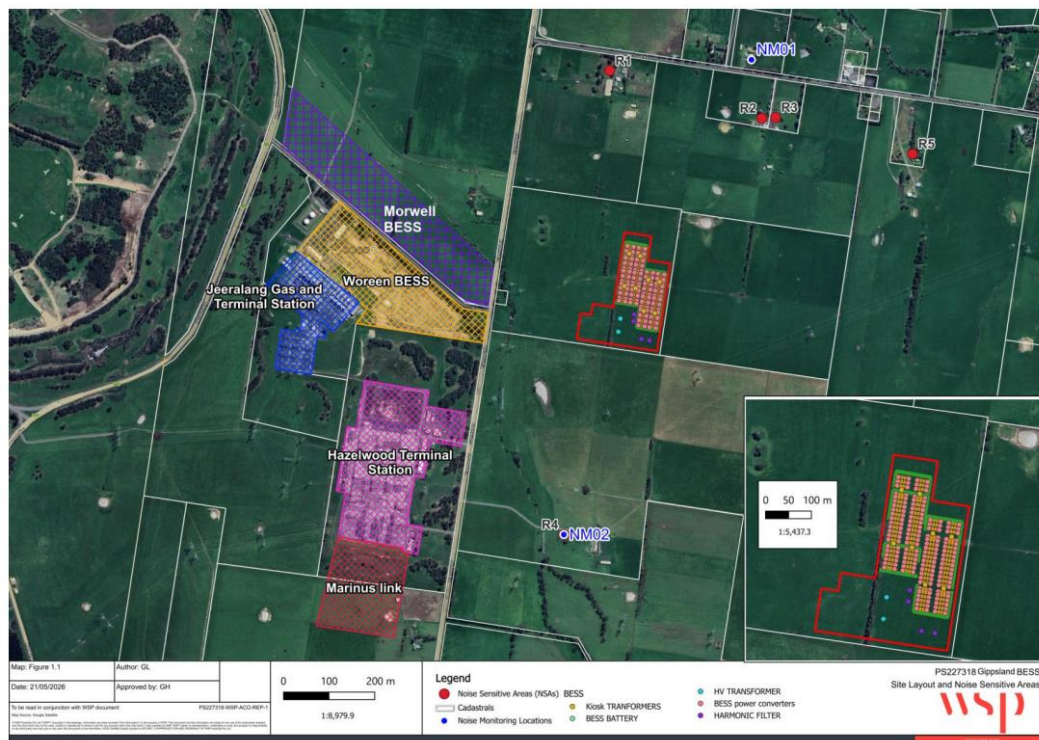
Community members wanted to better understand:

- How Gippsland Battery fits alongside other proposed renewable energy projects
- The cumulative impacts of multiple developments
- How battery storage works
- Where the battery charges from
- The long-term legacy for the Latrobe Valley

OUR RESPONSE

We'll continue to provide clear, accessible information about the role of battery storage, the electricity system and the broader energy transition.

As part of the planning process, the Gippsland Battery has been assessed alongside other committed developments in the region. For example, our Noise Impact Assessment considered cumulative noise from nearby projects that had been identified at the time the application was prepared. These technical assessments can be updated if requested by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), Council or other agencies, or voluntarily by European Energy as the project progresses and additional information becomes available. A snip of the surrounding projects is included below.



Many people also asked how a battery works and where it gets its electricity from.

Unlike a power station, a battery doesn't generate electricity, it stores it. It charges from the electricity grid when there is plenty of electricity available and demand is lower, then releases that stored electricity back into the grid when demand is higher. In this way, it acts much like a reservoir, storing energy when it is abundant and supplying it when it is needed most.

The electricity used to charge the battery comes from the National Electricity Market and reflects whatever generators are supplying the grid at that time. Increasingly, this includes renewable sources such as solar and wind, alongside hydro and other forms of generation. As more renewable energy comes online across Victoria, batteries play an increasingly important role by storing electricity generated during periods of high renewable output and making it available later when demand increases.

For example, solar generation typically peaks around the middle of the day, while electricity demand is often highest in the late afternoon and evening. Battery storage helps bridge that gap by shifting electricity from when it is available to when it is needed most, improving the reliability and flexibility of the electricity system.

FIRE SAFETY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Fire safety remained one of the most common discussion topics, with the Hazelwood North Fire Brigade in attendance at the second drop-in session.

Community members asked about:

- Battery fires and thermal runaway
- Emergency response arrangements
- CFA involvement
- Firefighting water supply
- Runoff management
- Compliance with the latest fires safety standards

The Brigade also expressed an interest in continuing to work with the project team as the design progresses.

OUR RESPONSE

Fire safety has been a key design consideration from the outset. The project is being designed in accordance with CFA guidance and recognised international battery safety standards.

This is built into the Fire Safety Study and Risk Management Plan as submitted to CFA and Victorian Government.

We will continue working closely with local emergency services as detailed design progresses and incorporate site visits for live feedback.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Community members wanted to better understand:

- Noise and cumulative impacts
- Traffic during construction
- Bennetts Creek and stormwater management
- Vegetation screening
- Ecology and cultural heritage
- Grazing land and long-term rehabilitation

OUR RESPONSE

A comprehensive suite of technical assessments has informed the concept layout for planning purposes. Measures have been incorporated to minimise impacts during both construction and operation. These include the following studies:

- **Ecological assessment:** Assesses existing flora and fauna, habitat values and ecological communities to inform design & minimize environmental impacts.
- **Surface water assessment:** Evaluates catchment hydrology, flood behaviour and drainage to ensure the project manages stormwater appropriately.
- **Traffic impact assessment:** Assesses construction and operational traffic generation, access arrangements and potential impacts on the surrounding road network.

- **Noise impact assessment:** Predicts construction and operational noise and vibration levels to ensure compliance with relevant guidelines.
- **Landscape & visual impact assessment:** Assesses how the project fits within the landscape character and the potential visual impacts on surrounding areas.
- **Fire safety study and risk management plan:** Identifies and assesses risks, including fire risk, and outlines measures to protect people, property, and the environment.
- **Agricultural assessment:** Assesses the existing agricultural use, land capability and potential impacts on agricultural productivity and the region.
- **Cultural heritage management plan:** Identifies heritage values and outlines measures to avoid, minimize, and manage impacts on land.
- **Planning assessment:** Assesses the proposal against relevant planning policy and statutory requirements to support the planning permit application.

These documents will be publicly available through the Ministerial Planning website during the public exhibition period.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

Many attendees requested:

- Larger and clearer maps
- Easier access to technical report
- Plain-language information explaining technical studies
- More regular updates
- Greater transparency throughout the planning process

Suggestions also included QR codes linking to studies, local presentations, radio interviews, and a joint community information session

OUR RESPONSE

During the Public Exhibition period, all technical reports supporting the planning application will be available on our project website: <https://au.europeanenergy.com/gippsland-bess/>

We will continue to keep the community informed through regular newsletters and website updates. If you'd like to learn more about the project or discuss any of the technical studies, our project team is happy to answer questions and explain the findings in plain language.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Community members were interested in:

- Community benefits
- Local employment opportunities
- Supporting local suppliers
- Establishing a Community Reference Group
- Ongoing engagement with local organisations

OUR RESPONSE

We recognise the importance of ensuring local communities have opportunities to participate in the project as it progresses. Alongside continuing discussions about broader community benefits, we will work with local businesses, community organisations, Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation, Latrobe City Council and other stakeholders to identify opportunities that deliver lasting value to the region.

Ahead of construction, our procurement team will engage with local suppliers and provide information on how businesses can register their interest in working on the project. As standard practice on previous projects, European Energy Australia has:

- Built local supplier databases
- Hosted supplier information session prior to construction
- Encouraged contractors to consider local businesses and workforce opportunities wherever practical

We'll continue to keep the community informed as these initiatives progress and welcome ongoing conversations about how the project can best support Hazelwood North and the wider Latrobe Valley.

What Happens Next

Based on community feedback, we will

- Make our technical assessments and supporting information available on the project website during the Public Exhibition period.
- Continue providing plain-language information to help explain topics such as battery safety, noise, fire management, environmental protection and how battery storage works.
- Follow up on the commitments made during our community drop-in sessions, including providing requested maps and project information.
- Continue engaging with neighbours, GLaWAC, Latrobe City Council, emergency services, community groups and other stakeholders as the project progresses.
- Provide regular project updates through our website and newsletters.
- Continue listening to community feedback and, where appropriate, incorporate it into the ongoing development and detailed design of the project.

We appreciate everyone who has taken the time to meet with us, ask questions and share their perspectives. Community feedback continues to play an important role in shaping both the project and our approach to engagement.

If you'd like to stay informed or speak with the project team, please visit our project website or contact us directly. We're always happy to answer questions and discuss the project further.

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