

Wandoan South BESS

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Summary

Wandoan South BESS (WBESS) forms part of the approved Wandoan South Project and is located adjacent to Wandoan South Solar 1 (WSS 1). The Project is a 100 MW/ 150MWh grid-scale battery and commenced commercial operations on 24 August 2022. The Project is situated approximately 21 kilometers south-west of Wandoan, Queensland. Environmental impacts, land-use suitability and social risks were assessed as part of the original development approval issued in 2017 by Western Downs Regional Council.

Human Rights

Australia has comprehensive labour and human rights laws, supported by national and state legislation, standards, and codes of practice. Australia is also committed to the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and promotes their adoption across business and government.

Vena Energy's Code of Conduct commits to adhering to the internationally recognised human rights that are articulated in the International Labour Organisation (ILO) core conventions set out in the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Biodiversity

The Project is located on a site that has been modified by historical agricultural use. Ecological assessments were completed in 2017, these assessments identified limited ecological significance within the site, with project design avoiding higher-value ecological areas. Significant impacts to State or National environmental values are considered unlikely due to established avoidance and management measures. A project-specific Management Plan has been implemented to guide ongoing site operations.

Climate Change

By providing up to 150 MWh of energy storage, the WBESS enhances grid stability by storing excess generation and dispatching power during periods of high demands, improving system reliability and contributing to a more resilient and sustainable energy system.

Cultural Heritage

The Iman People #4 are the traditional owner group recognised across the WBESS site. A Cultural Heritage Management Agreement has been executed between Vena Energy Services and the relevant party on behalf of the Iman People Native Title Holders.

Representatives from the Iman People #4 participated in cultural heritage surveys that informed project design, site practices, and established pre-construction measures to protect cultural heritage. Ongoing protection of cultural heritage will continue throughout operations through agreed procedures and promotion of the Iman People #4 cultural values.

Stakeholder Engagement

A Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed for WBESS, identifying key stakeholders, engagement approaches, and the protocols for feedback and evaluation mechanisms. It emphasises transparent, proactive and inclusive communication through employment, procurement, and community benefit initiatives.

Vena Energy maintains project-specific contact channels, including an email address and a toll-free 1800 number, providing multiple avenues for the community to engage and provide feedback.

Decommissioning

Vena Energy will be responsible for site management from construction through to the end of the project's life. A Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan will be developed at the time of decommissioning for the Project.

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