



Bathurst Battery

Fact sheet



What is the Bathurst Battery?

AGL is in the early stages of investigating a grid-scale battery development in Eglinton, near Bathurst, New South Wales. The site under consideration is located 310 Eleven Mile Drive, with entry proposed to be along the Thomas Drive, approximately six kilometres northwest of the Bathurst town centre. At this location, the battery would connect to the existing 330 kV transmission line that traverses the site.

If approved, AGL would build, own, and operate the Bathurst Battery. The project would include battery modules, associated connection infrastructure, and any necessary road or access upgrades to support construction and ongoing operations.

How do grid-scale batteries work?

Grid-scale batteries, also known as Battery Energy Storage Systems, are a collection of smaller battery units that are wired together to make one large battery. A battery is typically charged during the day when there's ample renewable energy like wind and solar and then stores that electricity and discharges it later in the day when demand is high. Scan the QR code to watch how grid-scale batteries work.



Why is AGL developing batteries?

Batteries are part of our strategy to replace coal-fired power stations with more flexible energy storage. Batteries can respond quickly to address an energy shortfall, supply the grid, and stabilise it. As the amount of renewable energy increases, batteries are very important as they allow excess energy to be stored. Batteries are essential to building a more reliable and resilient energy system.

What technologies does AGL use for batteries, and what do they look like?

Battery technology is evolving rapidly. Currently AGL uses lithium iron phosphate batteries. We assess new battery types as they become available. Each battery project is made up of multiple battery units. These units are housed in custom-designed steel containers that protect against dust and water. The fire-resistant containers are light-coloured to reflect heat and to help keep temperatures stable. Inside each container is a thermal management system to maintain stable operating conditions. The full setup includes secure battery containers, inverters, transformers and other equipment to manage energy flow. There are also control rooms for monitoring and operations. Vegetation screening is used where needed to reduce visual impact.



Image: AGL's 250 MW grid-scale battery at Torrens Island South Australia

How does a grid-scale battery differ from a community battery?

Grid-scale batteries are large energy storage systems connected directly to the electricity grid. They help manage electricity across the whole network, supporting reliability and stability. These batteries can store large amounts of energy. Community batteries, by contrast, are smaller and typically placed within neighbourhoods. They store extra energy from rooftop solar panels. Their main role is to support local energy needs.

How long do batteries last, and what happens when they reach the end of their life?

AGL is planning for the battery to operate for 20 years, depending on use and local conditions. At end-of-life, batteries are decommissioned through a structured process involving disconnection, safe removal, and recycling or disposal of components. AGL follows strict environmental and safety protocols during decommissioning. In line with regulatory requirements, the site will also be rehabilitated. This may involve restoring vegetation, managing soil and water quality, and ensuring the site is safe and stable again.

Do grid-scale batteries increase bushfire risk and how is fire prevention handled?

While the risk of fire is low, we understand it may be a concern for local communities. AGL designs its battery systems with fire safety as a top priority. We work with fire safety experts and carry out detailed risk assessments to ensure we meet safety standards. Each battery unit is housed in a fire-resistant container designed to withstand high temperatures. Units are spaced apart to help prevent fire from spreading, and we use non-flammable materials and coolants to reduce the chance of ignition. Around each site, there's an Asset Protection Zone. This is a cleared and managed area that helps protect against bushfires. Every site also has a detailed emergency response plan that outlines how we respond in the unlikely event of a fire.

Do batteries have noise impacts on the local environment?

Most noise and vibration impacts happen during construction, due to earthworks, equipment installation and vehicle movements. Once operating, the battery makes low-level noise from its cooling fans. During the planning assessment process, AGL carries out an analysis of noise and vibration impacts. This includes measuring current background noise levels and assessing how the project might change the noise environment during both construction and operation. Noise levels can vary depending on location, terrain, weather and existing background noise. If predicted noise levels exceed the limits set by government policies AGL will introduce measures to reduce the impact, such as changing the layout or adding acoustic barriers.

Do batteries have the potential to pollute the local environment?

All battery projects must comply with regulatory requirements. We manage potential local impacts through detailed environmental management plans. These plans include practical steps to manage stormwater, securely store chemicals, and use fire suppression systems that do not contain harmful long-lasting substances. Battery systems are purpose-built to safely store and handle chemicals, and each site includes containment features such as bunding, spill trays, drainage systems and water capture mechanisms. These are designed to prevent leaks and ensure that, even in rare cases of a leak, liquids are safely contained and do not harm the surrounding environment.

How do local communities benefit from battery projects?

AGL is committed to ensuring that communities hosting our battery projects share in the benefits. We work closely with community members, Traditional Custodians and local councils to identify benefit sharing arrangements that reflect local priorities. Battery projects also bring local economic opportunities. These include jobs in construction, electrical and civil works, site maintenance, logistics and environmental management. Where possible, we prioritise local suppliers and contractors to support the local economy.

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