



Artist's impression

# Kangaroo Valley Battery

## Frequently Asked Questions



### Project Overview

#### **What is being proposed as part of the Kangaroo Valley Battery and where will it be located?**

AGL is seeking approval to build the Kangaroo Valley Battery - a utility scale battery project in Kangaroo Valley. The proposed battery would have an energy discharge capacity up to 350 MW, an energy storage capacity up to 1400 MWh at point of connection, and an installed energy storage capacity up to 1450 MWh. It would consist of battery modules, connection infrastructure, and road and access upgrades needed to support the project.

The proposed site is approximately 3 kilometres north-west of the Kangaroo Valley town centre, at 325 Bendeela Road, Kangaroo Valley.

#### **How was this site identified and why was it selected?**

Battery projects are typically located near existing transmission infrastructure to connect efficiently to the electricity network. This proposed site is close to the local Transgrid 330kV switching station, which has

capacity for electricity firming infrastructure and provides a strong connection point to the network. The site is also largely cleared, helping reduce the need for additional ground disturbance, has suitable landform for battery units and is partly screened by existing vegetation.

#### **Why has this size of battery been selected? Have different solutions been considered?**

Large-scale batteries help keep the electricity network reliable as more renewable energy is introduced. The batteries store energy when it's available and can send it back into the network as needed.

Smaller scale solutions, like community batteries, play a different role. The Kangaroo Valley Battery is designed for transmission-scale energy storage.

#### **What is the expected project timeline?**

If approved, construction is expected to start in 2028 and would take up to 18 months. The busiest construction period is expected to last about 4 to 5 months.

Once operational, the battery is expected to run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for up to 20 years.

## **What happens at the end of the project's life?**

At the end of its operating life, the battery will be decommissioned through a structured process. This would include safely disconnecting the battery, removing equipment, and recycling or disposing of components where required.

The land used for the battery and related infrastructure would be rehabilitated as required by the project consent conditions, made safe, clean, and stable, for its future use.

## **Batteries and Energy Network**

### **Where would the energy stored come from?**

The battery would store energy from the electricity network, which includes nearby generation sources. Where the stored energy comes from will depend upon supply and demand across the network, which changes throughout the day and night.

### **Does the stored energy directly supply Kangaroo Valley residents?**

The Kangaroo Valley Battery would connect to the high-voltage 330 kV transmission network, not the local distribution network that supplies homes and businesses in Kangaroo Valley. Therefore, it isn't possible to identify a specific amount of stored energy that will be delivered directly to Kangaroo Valley residents.

The battery is designed to support the broader electricity network, including the Kangaroo Valley region, by storing and dispatching electricity into the interconnected network. Its main role is to support reliability, energy security and the integration of renewable generation.

### **Would the project prevent or reduce power outages in Kangaroo Valley?**

The project would support the transmission network at a regional level. It is not designed to directly

strengthen the local distribution network that supplies Kangaroo Valley homes and businesses.

The project would not prevent residents or government from pursuing local solutions, such as a community battery.

## **Planning and Assessment**

### **Is the project already approved?**

No, the project is currently in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) preparation phase. This means the project will be assessed in line with regulatory planning requirements, before any decision is made.

### **What approvals are needed?**

The project is classified as a State Significant Development (SSD) under section 4.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

The EIS will include a range of studies to enable the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI), to assess the project and its potential impacts.

Once the EIS is submitted to the DPHI, it will be placed on public exhibition. This provides further opportunity for community members, agencies and other stakeholders to make formal submissions about the project.

AGL will then respond to the issues raised in submissions. This may include further assessments or investigations. DPHI will coordinate assessment of the SSD application. The Minister for Planning, being the consent authority, will then make a decision to either approve or refuse the application.

### **What studies are being prepared?**

A range of studies are being prepared to support the EIS, including:

- Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Biodiversity
- Bushfire
- Landscape and visual impact
- Land use conflict
- Contamination, soils and agriculture
- Noise and vibration

- Preliminary hazard analysis
- Social impact
- Traffic, transport and access
- Water and flooding

The findings will be published as part of the EIS.

## Where can I find project documents?

Project documents including the Scoping report, EIS and related technical specialist assessments, as they become available, are uploaded onto the NSW Major Projects Planning Portal at Kangaroo Valley Battery Energy Storage System:

[www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/kangaroo-valley-battery-energy-storage-system](http://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/kangaroo-valley-battery-energy-storage-system)).

You can also find project information on AGL's Kangaroo Valley Battery Project website (<https://www.agl.com.au/kvbattery>), or by contacting AGL ([aglcommunity@agl.com.au](mailto:aglcommunity@agl.com.au)).

## Who decides if the project gets approved?

DPHI will coordinate the assessment of the SSD application. The application will then be referred to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces for a decision.

## How do I make a submission?

Formal submissions can be made during the public exhibition of the EIS through the NSW Planning Portal

([www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/kangaroo-valley-battery-energy-storage-system](http://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/kangaroo-valley-battery-energy-storage-system)). The portal is managed by DPHI.

## Project Impacts

### Why is AGL proposing infrastructure of this scale in Kangaroo Valley

We understand that Kangaroo Valley is a valued rural community with important environmental, landscape and social qualities. We also recognise that some community members have concerns about the project, including traffic, visual impacts, bushfire risk, environmental impacts and the character of the valley.

These concerns are being considered through the planning process and are informing technical studies now underway. The EIS will include assessments of biodiversity, traffic and transport, noise visual impacts, bushfire risk and other potential effects.

The planning process will assess whether the project can be developed in a way that avoids, minimises and manages impacts. If approved, the project would help support electricity reliability, renewable energy integration and broader energy security objectives, while meeting regulatory requirements and environmental safeguards.

### Would the project increase the risk of bushfire?

Bushfire is an important consideration for the Kangaroo Valley community, particularly given the area's history of bushfires.

An independent bushfire assessment, prepared by accredited bushfire consultants, considered the potential bushfire risks associated with the project. The assessment concluded that, with the recommended mitigation measures in place, the operation of the Kangaroo Valley Battery is unlikely to alter the bushfire risk profile of the area.

The project has been designed to include a range of bushfire protection measures. These may include asset protection zones, vegetation setbacks, dedicated water supply for firefighting, suitable access for emergency vehicles and ongoing vegetation management. These measures are intended to help reduce bushfire risk and support the safe management of a bushfire in the vicinity of the site. They would be maintained throughout the life of the project.

Bushfire safety would remain an ongoing focus through regular maintenance, emergency planning, ongoing risk management, and continued coordination with emergency services.

If the project is approved, emergency management planning would be undertaken in consultation with the NSW Rural Fire Service and Fire and Rescue NSW prior to construction.

## What fire safety requirements must be met if the project is approved?

Project approval is one step in a broader process. If the project proceeds, the battery system would be subject to further fire safety requirements that are considered as the design is finalised and before construction and operation. These requirements are developed in consultation with the relevant authorities, including Fire and Rescue NSW, and are informed by the applicable guidelines and standards for large-scale battery energy storage systems.

Depending on the final design and the conditions of approval, these requirements may address matters such as:

- Site-specific fire safety assessment of potential fire scenarios and the measures needed to manage them.
- Testing and verification of battery systems consistent with applicable standards and guidelines.
- Site layout and separation between key items of infrastructure.
- Fire detection, monitoring and protection systems.
- Management of potential environmental impacts, including smoke, gases and firefighting water.
- Firefighting water supply and suitable site access to support emergency response.
- Emergency planning and response procedures developed in consultation with fire authorities.
- Ongoing management and review of fire safety over the life of the project.

The specific requirements would be confirmed through the assessment process and the conditions of approval. Together they are intended to support fire safety across the design, construction, operation, and ongoing management of the project.

## Would the project be noisy?

Noise and vibration may occur during construction, including from earthworks, battery assembly and vehicle movements. Once operating, the battery may produce a low level of operational noise, mainly from cooling fans.

A noise and vibration assessment is being prepared as part of the EIS. It will assess whether the project is likely to affect the local noise environment during construction and operation.

Mitigation measures would be put in place where required. AGL will keep the community informed.

## Would the project affect property values?

Property values are influenced by many factors, which makes it difficult to predict outcomes for individual properties. For more information, refer to the Clean Energy Council fact sheet. Landowners should obtain their own independent advice.



<https://cleanenergycouncil.org.au/getmedia/ad7ee6dc-1892-4b22-ba57-4cc33758afc4/renewable-energy-property-prices-and-insurance.pdf>

## Would the project increase my home insurance premiums?

For information, please refer to the Clean Energy Council fact sheet referred to above.

## How would waste be managed?

Waste from the project will be assessed as part of the EIS. This will include how waste can be avoided, reduced, reused or recycled, as well as how any remaining waste would be safely disposed of.

A waste management plan would be prepared before construction and would cover all phases of the project. Decommissioning is also addressed in relevant management plans, including how infrastructure and

materials would be dismantled and removed, and how the site would be rehabilitated.

Any non-recyclable components would be disposed of in line with the regulations and health and safety requirements in place at the time.

### **How would biodiversity be managed?**

A biodiversity assessment is being prepared as part of the EIS. It will identify threatened species and ecological values within the project site.

AGL is committed to avoiding and minimising biodiversity impacts where possible and would adopt any required mitigation measures.

### **What is the EPBC Act referral process and when is a decision expected?**

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act is Australia's national environmental law and helps protect important environmental values such as threatened species and ecological communities. AGL has submitted a referral for the proposed Kangaroo Valley Battery so the National EPA can determine whether the project is likely to have a significant impact on any matters protected under the EPBC Act.

Once the referral is validated, it will be published on the EPBC Public Portal and the community will have 10 business days to review the information and provide comments. The National EPA will consider the referral and any submissions received before deciding whether the project requires further assessment and approval under the EPBC Act. Subject to the regulator's assessment process and timeframes, a decision on whether further assessment under EPBC Act is required is expected later in 2026.

## **Community Benefits**

### **What benefits would Kangaroo Valley residents receive?**

While the battery would operate as part of the state and national electricity network, AGL recognises that host communities should share in the benefits of energy infrastructure.

In addition to local jobs and spending during construction, AGL is committed to establishing a community benefit-sharing program and community fund in consultation with Shoalhaven City Council and the community. Funding priorities would be shaped by local needs and community input.

The project is expected to create up to 150 jobs during construction and support local and regional spending, including through transport, accommodation, hospitality and other services.

Over the project's estimated life, more than \$4 million is expected to be made available through the community benefit-sharing program. AGL is also looking at other benefit-sharing initiatives, such as electric vehicle chargers and electricity discounts for nearby residents.

If you have an idea for a local program or project that could be supported, please share it through the QR Code below.



For more information:

Phone: 1800 039 600

Email: [AGLCommunity@agl.com.au](mailto:AGLCommunity@agl.com.au)