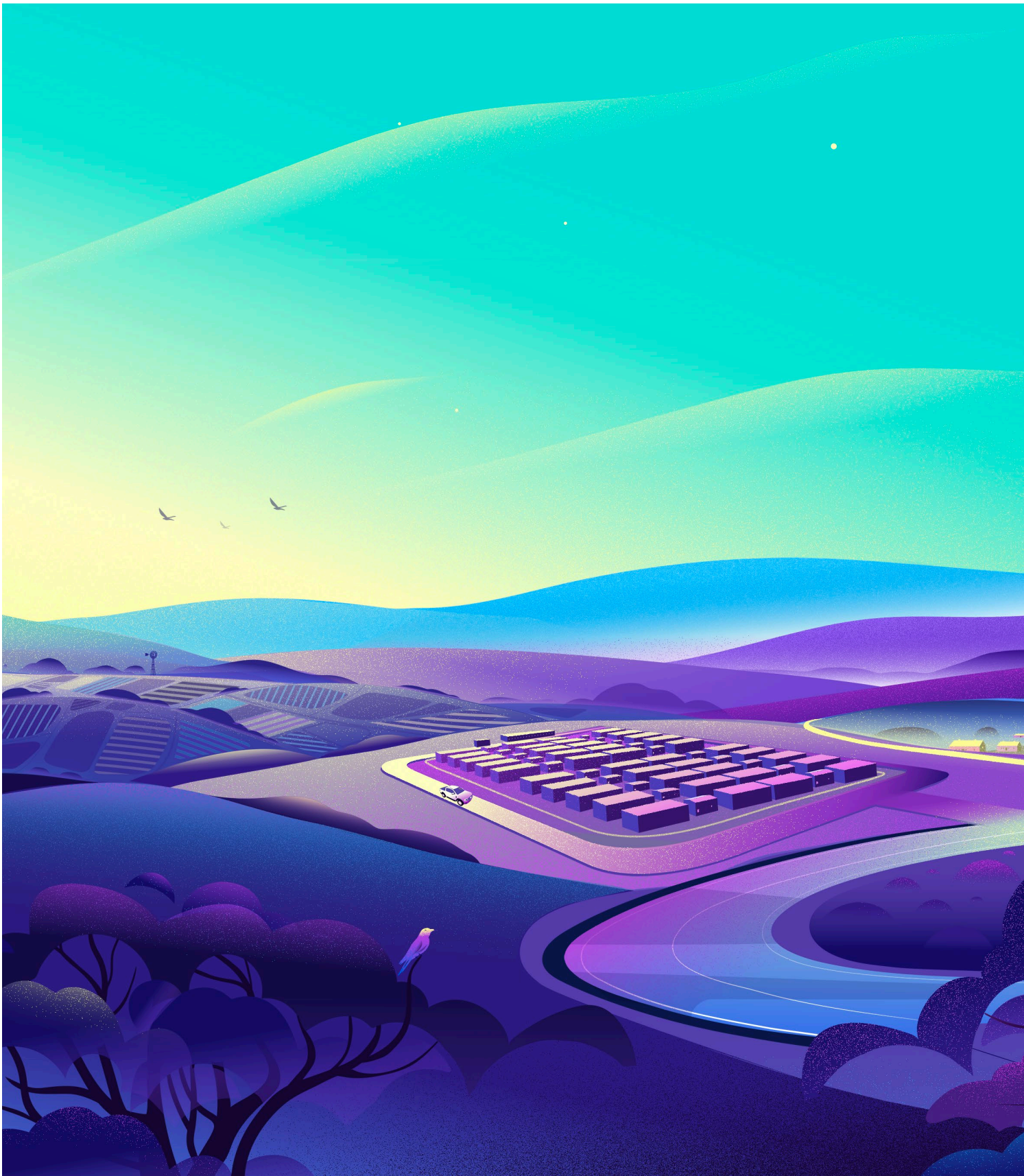
Consultation Summary

Kojonup Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

11 May 2026



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1. Introduction

Mint Renewables (the Proponent) strive to be active and caring neighbours, dedicated stewards of the environment, and create meaningful, lasting benefits for the broader community. The Proponent is committed to positive engagement practices and ongoing engagement throughout all stages of a project's life – from site selection through to decommissioning. The Proponent employs engagement approaches according to the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum (Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate and Empower).

1.1. Purpose of the Report

This report describes how the Proponent has consulted with community, neighbours, First Nations peoples and stakeholders about the proposed Kojonup Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (the Project). This report will accompany the planning permit application for the Project.

1.2. About the Project

The Proponent is proposing to develop a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) located 3 km north west of Kojonup next to the existing Kojonup Substation in the Great Southern region of Western Australia.

The Kojonup BESS could have an indicative capacity of up to 800MWh (e.g. 100MW x 8 hour system) and an indicative footprint of approximately 4 hectares. The final size of the Project will depend on planning and environmental considerations, grid requirements, the selected BESS model and feedback from stakeholders. The site will be accessed via Collie-Changerup Road and Tunney Road.

The Project will likely include:

- BESS units, inverters and transformers.
- Access roads in and out of the site, and upgrades to the site entrance.
- Underground cabling to connect the battery units, inverters and transformers.
- Onsite substation and underground powerlines/cable to connect the BESS to the existing Dederang Terminal
- Station.
- Permanent operations and maintenance facility, including car parking.
- Temporary site compound facilities for construction.
- Civil and structural works including laying of crushed rock.
- Water storage (including firefighting water supply and fire water runoff containment) and fire breaks.
- Landscaping to mitigate visual impacts.
- Security fencing and signage.

Additionally, works are likely required within the existing Kojonup Terminal Station site (e.g., high voltage electrical equipment installation and associated permanent and temporary buildings and works).

The site is proposed to be accessed via a new access point off Collie-Changerup Road (main access), with a new secondary access and egress proposed off Tunney Road (secondary access). During construction, the site will be accessed via both the main access and secondary access.

The final design of the Project will be determined once a BESS supplier has been selected and will be in accordance with commitments made within the development application.

1.3. Project Location

The Project Area is located approximately 3 km north west of Kojonup, next to the existing Kojonup Substation. Kojonup is a rural town in Western Australia's Great Southern region, 256 km south east of Perth and 160 km from Albany. It is located in state electorate of Roe and the Federal Division of O'Connor.

The Project Area is accessible from the north via Collie-Changerup Road or from the east via Tunney Road. The closest non-associated dwellings are approximately 700 metres from the Project infrastructure.

The Noongar people are the Traditional Owners and inhabitants of Kojonup.

The Project Area is within the Gnaala Karla Booja Indigenous Land Use Area (ILUA), administered by Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation (GKB AC), and the Wagyl Kaip & Southern Noongar ILUA, administered by Wagyl Kaip Southern Aboriginal Corporation (WKSN AC).

The surrounding area is made up of a combination of lifestyle blocks, and agricultural land. The Myrtle Benn Flora & Fauna Sanctuary is located 1.6 km north west of the Project.

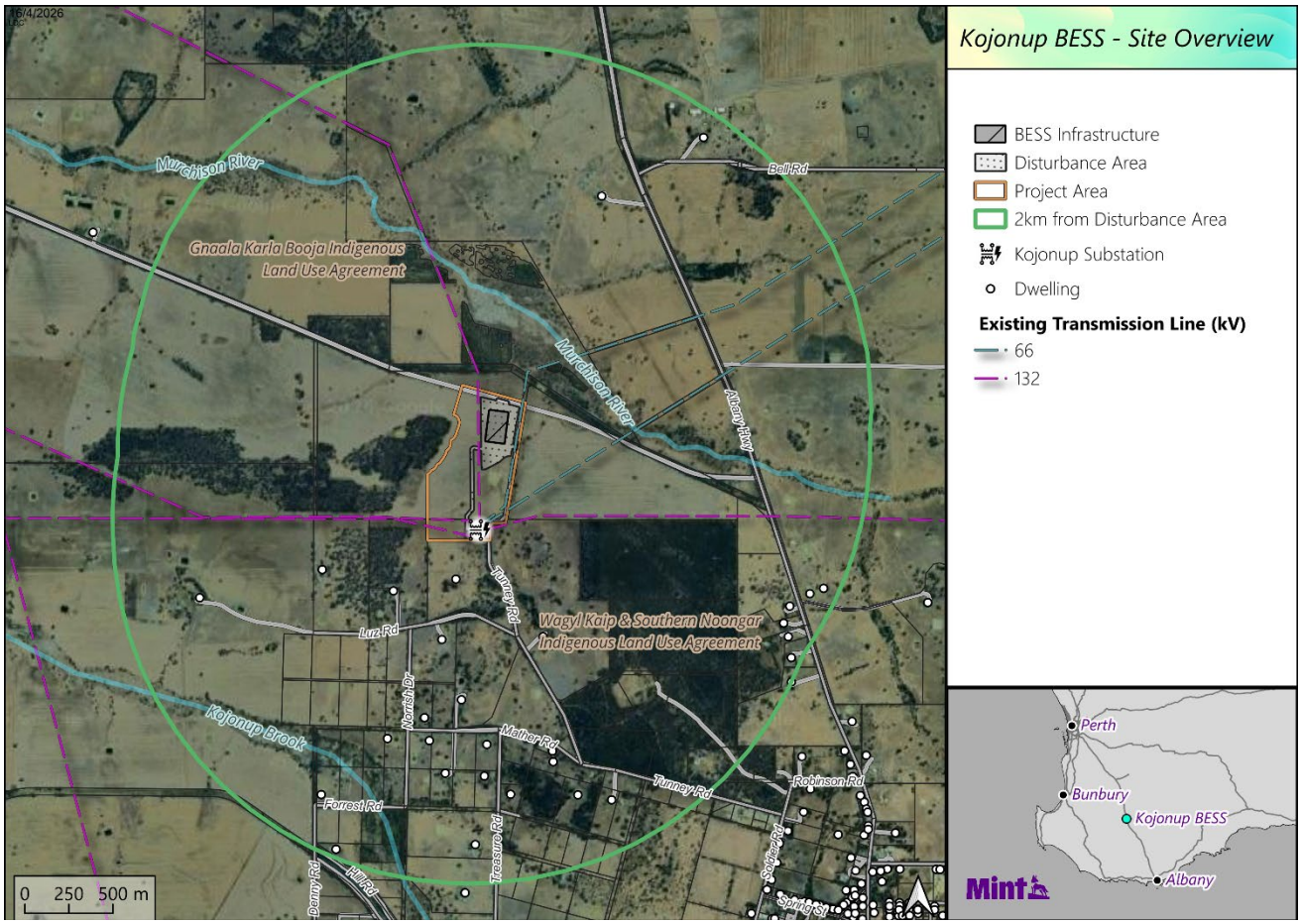


Figure 1: Site Overview

1.4. Community Context

Kojonup is a rural town in Western Australia's Great Southern region. The name "Kojonup" is derived from the Noongar word "Kodja," meaning stone axe, reflecting the area's Indigenous heritage. The Noongar people are the traditional owners and inhabitants of Kojonup.

The town's European history dates back to 1837 when surveyor Alfred Hillman, guided by local Aboriginal people, identified the freshwater spring that made Kojonup a vital stopover for travellers. By 1845, a military barracks was established as an outpost for the British Military; this building still stands today as part of the Kojonup Historical Society Pioneer Museum.

According to the 2021 Census, the Shire of Kojonup has a population of approximately 1,901 residents, with a median age of 45 years. The community is predominantly Australian born, with 87.7% born in Australia, and a significant portion identifying with English and Australian ancestry. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people comprise about 5.2% of the population, reflecting the area's rich Indigenous heritage. The local economy is largely driven by agriculture, particularly wool and grain production.

An analysis of the Shire of Kojonup's Strategic Community Plan (July 2023–June 2033) highlights key aspirations for the region: reversing population decline, sustaining essential services (education, health, retail, accommodation, and road maintenance) and strengthening economic development. The plan also emphasises cultural vitality through improved streetscapes, community events, arts, and heritage initiatives.

Telecommunications black spots, critical for bushfire communications, remain a priority for advocacy. The Shire has a strong volunteering culture, with 81% of residents giving time in some capacity. Separately, the region hosts more than 40 sporting and community clubs. Limited accommodation may constrain future project construction and should be factored into project planning. Together, these elements reflect deep community pride in local spirit, culture, and place.

2. Stakeholder Engagement Plan

The purpose of this Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan (the Plan) is to guide stakeholder engagement for the Kojonup BESS. It sets out how the Proponent will:

- establish channels for local conversations and information sharing with Traditional Owners, First Nations peoples, landholders and communities
- inform key stakeholders, neighbours and community about the proposed Project and opportunities for participation
- encourage participation and seek input at appropriate points in the development process, to identify potential issues or areas of concerns, obtain local insight, and gain feedback on measures to address concerns
- use and respond to public input to inform design.

Our approach to engagement aligns with the Proponents values, centred around being "Partners for Good", including:

- integrity in action
- a Mint team to depend on
- we care about what we do and how we do it.

The Plan is intended to be a 'live' document and will be updated where necessary throughout the life cycle of the Project, capturing activities undertaken to date and reviewing their effectiveness in achieving the objectives of the Plan.

The Proponent is a signatory to the Clean Energy Council's Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Developments (here).

2.1. IAP2 Spectrum of Engagement

The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) defines public participation as the involvement of those affected by a decision in the decision-making process. IAP2's core values of public participation include promoting sustainable decisions by recognising the interests of all decision-makers, actively facilitating the involvement of those

potentially affected by or interested in a decision, providing participants the information they need to participate in a meaningful way, and communicating to participants how their input affected the decision. (Source: IAP2 Federation)

The IAP2 Spectrum is a best practice and internationally recognised tool for planning public participation. It includes different levels of public participation, ranging from:

- **Inform** – to provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions
- **Consult** – to obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions
- **Involve** – to work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered
- **Collaborate** – to partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution
- **Empower** – to place final decision making in the heads of the public

2.2. Communications and Engagement Approach

The Proponent strives to be active and caring neighbours, dedicated stewards of the environment, and create meaningful, lasting benefits for the broader community. The Proponent know that engagement with key stakeholders, landholders, neighbours, First Nations peoples, communities, and local authorities, is important to the success of their projects.

The Proponent aims to be long-term members of the communities they invest in. There is a lot of uncertainty in development, and the Proponent believe in maintaining transparency with stakeholders as they navigate those uncertainties.

Project planning will involve complex decisions that require consideration of a broad range of issues. The Proponent will seek to build genuine, trust-based relationships with communities and stakeholders to enable constructive discussion and exploration of these complexities and achieve mutual understanding and beneficial outcomes.

3. Stakeholder Mapping

Table 1 below provides an overview of the stakeholders who were identified by the Project, level of IAP2 engagement, and method for engagement.

Table 1: Initial Stakeholder Identification

Stakeholder group	Stakeholder	Level of Engagement	Tools/channel
Neighbouring landholders	Neighbours and landholders adjoining or located near the site	Inform, consult	Door knocking Meetings Letter Newsletter Phone calls/emails
Community	Kojonup community	Inform, consult	Newsletter Phone calls/email Drop-in session Pop-up Social media
Council	Shire of Kojonup	Inform, consult	Meeting/briefings

Stakeholder group	Stakeholder	Level of Engagement	Tools/channel
			Phone/email Newsletters
Community interest groups	Rotary Club of Kojonup	Inform	Phone/email Newsletter Social media Drop-ins Pop-ups
	Community Resource Centre, Kojonup	Inform	
	Men's Shed	Inform	
	Mobrup Progress Association	Inform	
	Community Resource Centre, Katanning	Inform	
Media	Kojonup News	Inform	Advertisements
	The Great Southern Herald	Inform	
Emergency services	Kojonup Bushfire Association	Inform, consult	Phone call/emails Newsletter
	Kojonup Police	Inform	Phone call
Utility/Infrastructure	Water Corporation	Inform	Phone calls/emails Meetings
Government – Federal	Federal Member for O'Connor, Rick Wilson MP	Inform, consult	Letter Email/phone call
Government – State	State Member for Roe, Peter Rundle MP	Inform, consult	Letter Email/phone call
	Department of Energy and Economic Diversification (DEED) – Green Energy Major Projects	Inform, consult	Letter
	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER)	Inform, consult	Meeting/briefing
	Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA)	Inform, consult	Phone/email
	Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)	Inform, consult	Newsletter
	Environment Protection Authority of Western Australia (EPA)	Inform, consult	Letter

3.1. First Nations

Table 2: First Nations Corporations

First Nations	Level of Engagement	Tools /method of engagement
Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation (GKB AC)	Inform, consult, involve	Briefing On Country meetings Phone/email Newsletter Workshops Community events

Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation (WKSN AC)	Inform, consult, involve	Briefings On Country meetings Phone/email Newsletter Workshops Community events
First Nations peoples	Inform, consult	Newsletter Phone/email Advertising Social media Website Survey Drop-ins/pop-ups

4. Communications and Engagement Tools

Table 3 outlines the engagement tools used during this stage of consultation. Tools were selected to suit the stakeholders involved and the communication and engagement objectives for this phase of the Project.

Table 3: Communications and Engagement Tools

Tool/activity	Description and purpose	Engagement Level
Neighbour door knocking	Door knocking involves visiting neighbouring landholders to notify them about the Project, introduce the Project team, and provide initial information as part of the Project's launch. This approach supports early awareness, establishes a point of contact, and provides an opportunity for neighbours to ask questions and share initial feedback.	Inform, consult
Stakeholder meetings/briefings	Briefings and meetings provide information about the Project and updates at key milestones and offer an opportunity to seek feedback and targeted input on specific matters from stakeholders, groups and organisations with local or specialist knowledge.	Inform, consult, involve
Media	Proactive media outreach will be undertaken at key Project milestones to raise awareness of the Project, share accurate information, and support opportunities to respond to community questions and promote opportunities for input.	Inform
Project website	www.kojonupbess.com.au The dedicated Project webpage provides a central location for information about the Project.	Inform
Project phone line	1800 446 468 Community phone line used to receive community enquiries, answer questions and coordinate opportunities for sharing and exchanging information relating to the Project.	Inform, consult
Letters	Letters issued to stakeholders, agencies, MPs, community groups and government (as identified) to introduce the Project and offer briefings/follow up meetings.	Inform

Tool/activity	Description and purpose	Engagement Level
Printed and electronic newsletters	Newsletters provide Project updates, explain how the community can be involved, and support broader awareness of the Project. Print newsletters will also be sent to residents where requested and made available in local shops, libraries and other public spaces where possible. Regular newsletters will be distributed to subscribers.	Inform
Advertisements	Advertisements and information notices will be placed in local newspapers to raise awareness of the Project and promote opportunities for community engagement, such as drop-in information sessions and key consultation periods. Where appropriate, editorial coverage and interviews may also be used to support broader awareness and understanding of the Project across the region	Inform
Social media	Social media was used where appropriate, to share Project information and promote engagement opportunities in a way that reflects the local context. This may include posting in locally relevant Facebook groups and community pages to raise awareness of the Project and provide timely updates.	Inform
Information materials (flyers, fact sheets)	Project information materials will be made available online and provided directly to stakeholders during door knocks, drop-in sessions, meetings and briefings. Hard copy information packs will also be sent by post upon request and to stakeholders who have nominated to receive updates by mail. Materials will be updated regularly as the Project progresses through development.	Inform
Posters and signage	Posters and signs installed in community notice boards, will be used to share information with a local audience and raise awareness of the Project and opportunities to participate.	Inform
Maps and visuals	Maps and other visual aids, including diagrams, renders, photographs and illustrations, are used to explain the Project location, layout, key components, appearance and processes. An interactive map is available on the Project website to support understanding and enable stakeholders to explore the Project in a local context. These visuals support clear communication and informed feedback during consultation.	Inform, consult
Community drop-in Sessions	Drop-in information sessions held over multiple days to allow for attendance by interested community members and stakeholders. Sessions were advertised across several mediums to provide strong awareness of these opportunities for engagement.	Inform, consult, involve
Pop-ups	Pop-up sessions were held outside the local IGA to raise awareness of the Project and promote opportunities for community engagement.	Inform, consult
Survey	Online and hard-copy surveys and feedback forms were used to collect feedback on the Project from stakeholders and the wider community. The survey was available online, during door knocking and at drop-in sessions and helped identify key concerns as well as capture local knowledge of the area.	Consult
Goods and Services Register	Details of interested parties to be provided to contractors engaged (or selected as preferred). Available via the Project website.	Inform

5. First Nations Engagement

The Noongar people are the Traditional Owners (TOs) of the land on which the Project is located. The Project Area lies within the Gnaala Karla Booja Indigenous Land Use Area (ILUA), administered by Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation (GKB AC), as well as the Wagyl Kaip & Southern Noongar ILUA, administered by Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation (WKSN AC).

The Proponent takes a partnership approach to engaging with Traditional Owners (TOs), including the GKB AC, as well WKSN AC.

To support this commitment, The Proponent has looked for opportunities to embed First Nations Engagement into the broader engagement for the Project that will aim to:

- Deepen the Proponents understanding of Traditional Owners' and First Nations peoples' connection to the area and strengthen their collective cultural awareness.
- Understand the barriers and challenges First Nations Peoples may face in active participation and work collaboratively to address and mitigate them.
- Identify opportunities for Traditional Owners and First Nations peoples to participate in the development process, beyond compliance.
- Seek input on benefit sharing opportunities and initiatives that deliver meaningful, lasting impact for First Nations communities.

5.1. Consultation Undertaken to Date

Table 4 outlines the consultation undertaken to date with relevant Aboriginal Corporations.

Table 4: First Nations Consultation

First Nations	Timing	Outcome
Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation (GKB AC)	August 2025 – February 2026	• The Proponent provided a general introduction to the Project. • GKB AC confirmed the correct process for Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act. Advised also engaging with Wagyl Kapi Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation. • Requested further information on environmental impacts. • Feedback provided by GKB AC regarding First Nations employment strategies, social outcomes and benefit sharing. • The Proponent has lodged a Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement with GKB AC.
Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation (WKSN AC)	September 2025 – February 2026	• The Proponent provided a general introduction to the Project. • WKSN AC requested more information regarding likely water sources for the Project and depth of excavation works.

First Nations	Timing	Outcome
		• WKSN AC shared the Kojoup BESS community survey on the Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation Facebook page. • The Proponent has lodged a Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement with WKSN AC.

6. Consultation Undertaken to Date

Consultation undertaken to date for the proposed Kojonup BESS has included neighbour door knocking, pop-up sessions, community drop-in sessions, meetings with stakeholders, and an online community survey.

The Project's engagement program commenced publicly in September 2025. The Project notified nearby neighbours of the proposal by door knock, issued letters and offered one-on-one meetings. This activity was followed by establishing a dedicated website (www.kojonupbess.com.au), and two pop-ups located outside the Kojonup IGA, on Albany Highway. The first edition of the community newsletter was distributed during the pop-up, made available in the Kojonup Library, Australia Post - Kojonup LPO and the Kojonup Community Resource Centre, on the Project website and emailed to newsletter subscribers.

In late October 2025, the Project held three community drop-ins on Friday 24 and Saturday 25 October at the Kojonup RSL Hall. The drop-in sessions were advertised and promoted across a broad range of channels. In November, the Project undertook another round of neighbour outreach, offering one-on-one meetings and door knocked adjoining properties. The Project launched a community survey to gather local insights on the environment, heritage, water and bushfire history, traffic, communication, and benefit sharing opportunities. The survey remained open until early 2026.

Feedback received through these activities has informed an understanding of local values, sensitivities, concerns, and expectations relevant to the Project's design, assessment and management. A detailed summary of consultation is summarised in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Consultation Undertaken to Date

Timing	Activity / outcome	Stakeholder group
August 2025	Project introduction email. Introduced Project and sought to arrange an initial Project introduction meeting.	Shire of Kojonup
August 2025	Project introduction email. Introduced Project and sought to arrange an initial in-person Project introduction meeting/briefing.	Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation (GKB AC)
Early September 2025	Project briefing. Received feedback on engagement program, and likely community concerns relating to the development.	Shire of Kojonup
Mid September	Project introduction email. Introduced Project and sought to arrange an initial Project introduction meeting.	Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation (WKSN AC)
Mid September 2025	Project briefing. Received feedback regarding First Nations employment strategies, social outcomes and benefit sharing. Established ongoing communication and engagement preferences.	Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation (GKB AC)

Timing	Activity / outcome	Stakeholder group
Mid September 2025	Door knocking neighbours to introduce the Project, letters distributed and one-on-one meetings offered. Spoke directly with 9 neighbours, left letters with 6 neighbours offering follow up one-on-one meetings.	Neighbours
Mid September	Website (www.kojonupbess.com.au), dedicated email and phone line established	Community
Early October	Pop-up to support Project awareness. Pop-up x 2 at Kojonup IGA (3 – 6pm on 2 October and 9 – 12 pm on 3 October). Spoke with approximately 10 community members.	Community
Early October	Project introduction letter sent via email to MP.	Federal Member for O'Connor, Rick Wilson MP
Early October	Project introduction letter sent via email to MP.	State Member for Roe, Peter Rundle MP
10 October	Advertising drop-in sessions in Kojonup News.	Community (Kojonup locality)
Mid October	Emails to community groups introducing the Project and inviting to attend drop-in sessions.	Community group outreach: Kojonup Aboriginal Corporation Mobrup Progress Association Lions Club Rotary Club of Kojonup
23 October	Advertising drop-in sessions in the Great Southern Herald.	Community (Kojonup, Katanning locality)
24 October	Advertising drop-in sessions in Kojonup News.	Community (Kojonup locality)
Late October	Project briefing. WKSN AC requested more information regarding likely water sources for the Project and depth of excavation works. Provided feedback on opportunities to engage with First Nations peoples and benefit sharing opportunities.	Wagyl Kaip Southern Aboriginal Corporation
Late October 2025	Held three drop-in sessions on Friday 24 & Saturday 25 October. Spoke with approximately 11 community members over the course of the sessions.	Community
Late October 2025	Survey available on www.kojonupbess.com.au and during in-person sessions. Survey remained open from late October 2025 – February 2026. Received 6 submissions.	All stakeholders
Late November 2025	Neighbour one-on-one meetings/ door knocking. Met directly with 9 neighbours about Project, provided update and answered questions. Left collateral/notes with 5 neighbours.	Neighbours
Early December	Neighbour meeting. Met with Project neighbour to discuss impacts of Project.	Neighbour

Timing	Activity / outcome	Stakeholder group
Early January 2026	Outreach to Kojonup Bushfire Association to offer briefing/meeting with interested members.	Kojonup Bushfire Association
Early February	Neighbour meeting. Met with Project neighbour to discuss impacts of Project.	Neighbour
March 2026	Email to survey respondents. Sent follow up information to approximately 5 survey respondents.	Community
May 2026	Outreach to neighbours via letter, email and phone to provide Project update.	Neighbours

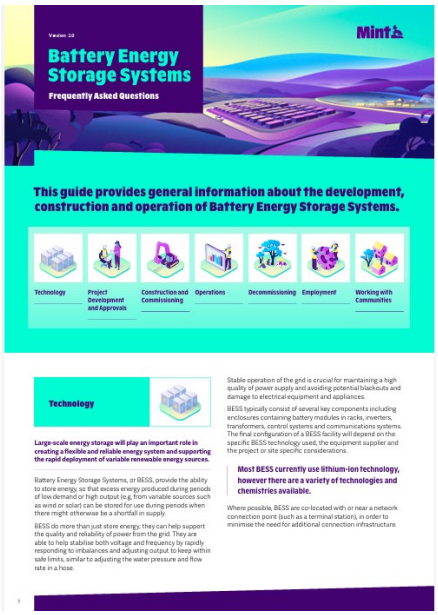
6.1. Examples of Project collateral

6.1.1. Newsletters

Kojonup BESS Newsletter - Edition 1

Kojonup BESS Newsletter - Edition 2

6.1.2. FAQs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Battery Energy Storage Systems

Frequently Asked Questions

This guide provides general information about the development, construction and operation of Battery Energy Storage Systems.

Technology | Project Development and Approvals | Construction and Commissioning | Operations | Decommissioning | Employment | Working with Communities

Technology

Large-scale energy storage will play an important role in creating a flexible and reliable energy system and supporting the rapid deployment of variable renewable energy sources.

Battery Energy Storage Systems, or BESS, provide the ability to store energy, so that excess energy produced during periods of low demand or high output (e.g. from variable sources such as wind or solar) can be stored for use during periods when there might otherwise be a shortfall in supply.

BESS do more than just store energy; they can help support the quality and reliability of power from the grid. They are able to help stabilise both voltage and frequency by rapidly responding to imbalances and adjusting output to keep within safe limits, similar to adjusting the water pressure and flow rate in a hose.

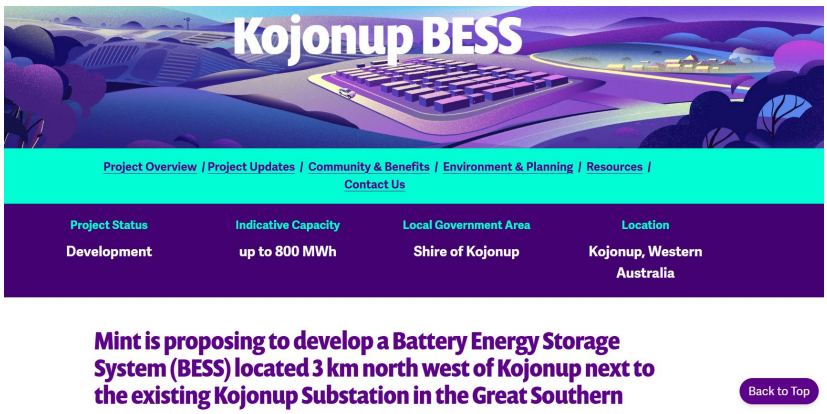
Stable operation of the grid is crucial for maintaining a high quality of power supply and avoiding potential blackouts and damage to electrical equipment and appliances.

BESS typically consist of several key components including enclosures containing battery modules in racks, inverters, transformers, control systems and communications systems. The final configuration of a BESS facility will depend on the specific BESS technology used, the equipment supplier and the project or site specific considerations.

Most BESS currently use lithium-ion technology, however there are a variety of technologies and chemistries available.

Where possible, BESS are co-located with or near a network connection point (such as a terminal station), in order to minimise the need for additional connection infrastructure.

6.1.3. Website


Kojonup BESS

Project Overview / Project Updates / Community & Benefits / Environment & Planning / Resources / Contact Us

Project Status	Indicative Capacity	Local Government Area	Location
Development	up to 800 MWh	Shire of Kojonup	Kojonup, Western Australia

Mint is proposing to develop a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) located 3 km north west of Kojonup next to the existing Kojonup Substation in the Great Southern

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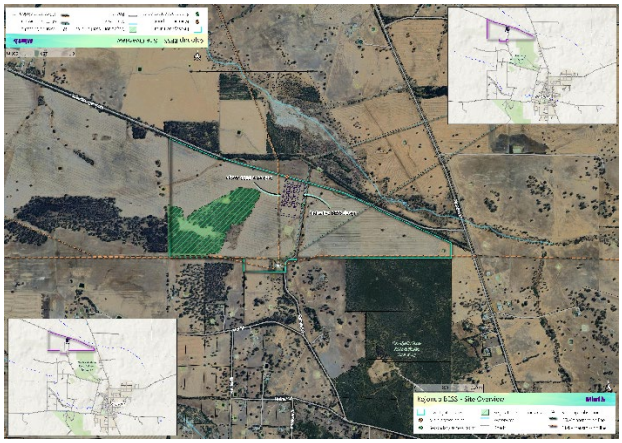
6.1.4. Maps and Visual Aids

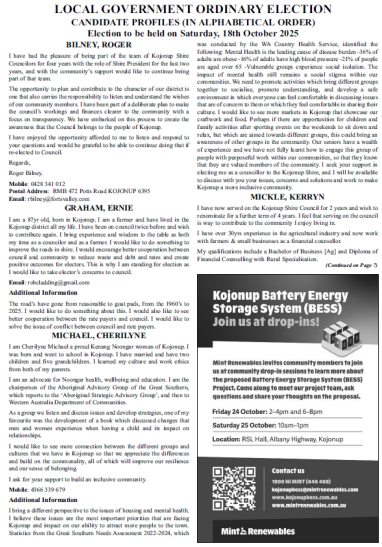


Indicative Project map shared at engagement sessions

Photomontage showing Project infrastructure and proposed landscaping, shown at engagement sessions

6.1.5. Advertising

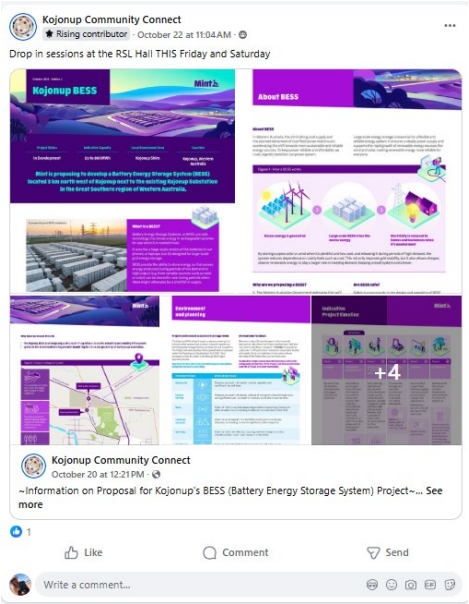
Flyer promoting drop-in sessions

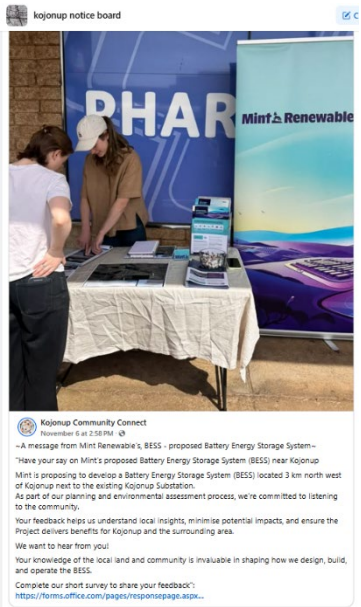


Advertisement in Kojonup News

Advertisement in the Great Southern Herald

6.1.6. Social Media





6.2. What We Heard

A summary of the Proponent has feedback received from the consultation undertaken to date is summarised in Table 6 below.

Table 6: What We Heard

Theme	What we heard
Bushfire risk, battery safety and emergency management	Bushfire risk emerged as the most prominent issue raised during consultation, particularly among nearby residents and those with experience of local fire events. Stakeholders raised concerns regarding: • the potential for a fire originating within the BESS • the potential for an external bushfire to impact the facility, given surrounding vegetation and historical fire activity • battery chemistry, fire suppression measures and emergency response planning • the proximity of the Project to Myrtle Benn reserve and the Kojonup town centre, including concerns about ember attack under adverse weather conditions. There was also a strong interest in clear, transparent communication about bushfire management measures and emergency response arrangements as the Project progresses.
Environmental values: biodiversity, waterways, wet areas and local species	Consultation identified strong community awareness of local environmental and ecological values. Key themes included: • the presence and movement of black cockatoo species within the broader area, including nearby reserves and properties with mature vegetation • the importance of waterways, creeks and seasonal drainage lines, including the presence of aquatic species such as gilgies and frogs • observations that parts of the local area become boggy during winter months. Stakeholders emphasised the importance of understanding local hydrological conditions and ensuring that construction and operation of the Project does not adversely affect surface water flows, water quality, or biodiversity values.

Theme	What we heard
Water, contamination and liability (construction and operations)	Through neighbour door knock discussions, specific questions were raised regarding potential contamination risks associated with the BESS. These included: • whether BESS could leak or fail and the potential implications for soil, surface water and groundwater • the risk of contaminants entering waterways and affecting livestock or aquatic species • responsibility and liability in the unlikely event of spill or contamination event. These discussions highlighted the importance of clearly explaining containment systems, spill prevention measures, stormwater management, and incident management procedures, as well as regulatory oversight and accountability frameworks that would apply to the Project.
Visual amenity, screening and light spill (including dark-sky considerations)	Visual impact and amenity were raised as matters of importance, particularly by nearby residents. Specific issues included: • potential changes to landscape character and views from private properties • concern about impacts on perceived property values • the extent and effectiveness of proposed landscape screening • the use of lighting at the facility, including the potential for light spill and impacts on night-time amenity. Some residents expressed particular sensitivity to night lighting due to the rural setting and low existing levels of light pollution. There was an expectation that lighting would be minimised, directional, and used only where necessary for safety and security purposes.
Noise and rural amenity	Noise was identified as a potential issue, particularly in relation to maintaining the quiet, rural character of the area. While some near neighbours indicated they did not expect to be impacted if the facility could not be heard at their properties, others emphasised the importance of compliance with noise regulations and appropriate assessment of potential impacts. Stakeholders expressed an expectation that noise impacts would be assessed through formal studies and communicated clearly to affected residents.
Traffic, road safety and seasonal movements	Consultation identified concerns related primarily to construction-phase traffic and road safety, including: • the use of local roads by heavy vehicles • interactions with agricultural traffic, particularly during harvest periods • use of narrow rural roads and the presence of school bus routes • the need to manage construction timing and traffic movements to minimise disruption and safety risks. Stakeholders emphasised the importance of advance notification, careful traffic management planning, and coordination with relevant authorities.
Construction workforce, housing and accommodation pressure	Housing availability and affordability were noted as broader community challenges. Concerns were raised that accommodation for a construction workforce could exacerbate existing pressures if not appropriately managed. While this issue was not raised exclusively by near neighbours, it formed part of the broader context in which the Project is being considered.
Community benefits, local priorities and preferred benefit-sharing mechanisms	There was strong interest in how benefits from the Project would be shared with the local community. Feedback highlighted preferences for: • a formalised and transparent community benefit mechanism, such as a community fund

Theme	What we heard
	• benefits that reflect local priorities, including road safety, community facilities, emergency services, youth services, health services, environmental initiatives, and local employment and training • long-term and equitable benefit sharing rather than short-term or ad hoc sponsorship. Support for local volunteer organisations and emergency services was consistently identified as important.
Decommissioning, lifespan and "legacy" concerns	Some stakeholders raised questions regarding the expected lifespan of the BESS and arrangements for decommissioning at the end of operations. These discussions reflected a broader desire for assurance that end-of-life responsibilities would be clearly defined, enforceable and planned from the outset, and that the Project would not leave a long-term legacy issue for landholders or the community.
Cumulative development context, transmission fatigue and community cohesion	Door knock discussions indicated some sensitivity to cumulative development pressures, particularly relating to previous or ongoing approaches regarding transmission lines and other energy projects in the region. Concerns were expressed that past developments have created division within the community, especially where impacts and benefits are perceived to be unevenly distributed.
Engagement preferences and expectations	Across consultation channels, stakeholders expressed a preference for: • ongoing access to Project information through newsletters, email updates and the Project website • opportunities for in-person engagement for nearby residents with specific concerns • transparency about how feedback is being considered and incorporated into project decision-making where possible.

6.3. Agency Engagement

The Proponent has been engaging with a range of agencies through the development of the Project. Table 7 below provides a summary of the engagement undertaken, and feedback received. Engagement will continue with these agencies.

Table 7: Agency Engagement

Agency	Timing	Topics discussed and feedback received
Shire of Kojonup	August 2025 – March 2026	• The Shire of Kojonup provided general direction in relation to the relevant assessment pathway and approvals for this Project's Development Application (DA). • The Shire of Kojonup suggested expectations likely aligned with LPP 10 (Wind Energy Policy). • Access and noise identified as key risks. The Shire of Kojonup concurred early consideration for these aspects, as well as stormwater management, decommissioning and community benefit planning. • The Shire of Kojonup stated proposed access seemed appropriate. • Suggested early circulation of application documents is welcomed by the Shire.
Department of Energy and	October 2025 –	• The Proponent provided general introduction to the Project.

Agency	Timing	Topics discussed and feedback received
Economic Diversification (DEED) – Green Energy Major Projects	December 2026	• DEED provided the proponent with relevant contact details for agency stakeholders. • DEED provided the proponent with advice regarding calculation of payment rates.
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER)	October 2025	• The Proponent provided a general introduction to the Project. • Required permits and licenses discussed. • DWER stated likely documents to be expected as conditions of consent (subject to approval being granted). • DWER confirmed a BESS is not a prescribed premise under Part V of the EP Act; no works approval or licence required.
Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA)	October 2025	• The Proponent provided a general introduction to the Project. • Discussion of new access points, with MRWA suggesting to minimise new access points on high-speed roads; preference for existing side-road access. • Discussion of Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) requirements. • MRWA suggested engagement with Heavy Vehicle Services regarding permitting. • MRWA stated Main Roads Driveway policy not mandatory but relevant for design guidance.
Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)	September – October 2025	• The Proponent provided a general introduction to the Project. • Relevant guidelines and legislation discussed. • Access options discussed, potential intersection design to address with MRWA's concerns. • Limited local firefighting capacity noted; emphasis on prevention and automated systems. • Water supply to be designed in accordance with AS 2419.1. • DFES encouraged documentation circulation and engagement with local fire brigades.
Department of Water, Environment and Regulation (DWER) / Environment Protection Authority of Western Australia (EPA)	February 2025	• Introduction to Mint Renewables. • Discussion of Project Portfolio. • Clarify referral requirements with the EPA

6.4. Project Contact Information

6.4.1. Email Address and 1800 Number

A dedicated Project email address (www.kojonupbess.com.au) was established for the community and other stakeholders to contact the Project team and provide an avenue for direct communication.

This email address was established in September 2025 and promoted through all private and public communications materials (e.g. personalised letters, newsletters, webpage, newspaper advertisements etc). Additionally, the Proponent's 1800 phone number (1800 HI MINT / 1800 446 468) was also promoted through these means.

6.5. Policies and Procedures

6.5.1. Complaints Handling

All complaints will be managed in accordance with the Proponents Complaints Handling Procedure, available on the Mint Renewables website (www.mintrenewables.com/esg).

This procedure outlines how the Proponent will receive and handle complaints and has been prepared in accordance with Australian Standard 10002:2022 – Guidelines for complaint management in organizations (AS 10002:2022).

Additionally, a Project specific Complaints Management Plan may be prepared prior to construction, in line with the Proponent Complaints Handling Procedure and to capture any other obligations or commitments.

All enquiries and complaints will be recorded in the Proponents Stakeholder Relationship Management System.

6.5.2. Privacy Policy

The Proponent is committed to protecting the privacy of all individuals by applicable privacy and data protection laws. The Proponents Privacy Policy (available on Mint Renewables website here: www.mintrenewables.com/esg) sets out their policy on collecting, holding, using and disclosing, or otherwise handling personal information.

All data collected from stakeholders (e.g. through engagement activities, Goods and Services Register, complaints etc.) will be collected, handled, stored/secured and shared in accordance with this policy.

7. Approach to Benefit Sharing

The Project will have inherent benefits through a boost to the local and regional economy and local businesses and jobs during construction and operations. The Proponent will also look to develop other ways to share the Project's benefits, informed by continued engagement with stakeholders, community and First Nations groups throughout the Project's development and pre-construction phases.

As an initial benefit sharing commitment, the Proponent has committed to contributing a minimum of $150 per MW per year in community benefits from the commencement of operations. This is intended as a starting point only and represents the minimum commitment. The final approach to benefits will be shaped by feedback from the community and a clear understanding of local priorities, Project constraints, and potential impacts.

In developing its approach, the Proponent intends to align with the recently released *Community Benefits Guideline for Large-scale Renewable Energy Projects in the South West Interconnected System*, issued by the Department of Energy and Economic Diversification. The Guideline provides a best-practice framework to support fair, transparent and locally led community benefit arrangements and will guide the development of benefit sharing principles, governance arrangements and engagement processes for the Project.

Under the Guideline, the Western Australian Government has set recommended community benefit contribution levels for large-scale renewable energy projects. The Proponents minimum commitment of $150 per megawatt per year is above the recommended minimum contribution level applicable under the Guideline for BESS projects, demonstrating the Proponents commitment to meaningful and proportionate benefit sharing with the host community.

Consistent with the Guideline, the Proponent will:

- engage with the local community, local government and relevant Traditional Owners to help identify local priorities for benefit sharing

- develop a Benefit Sharing Plan prior to construction, setting out how community benefits will be directed, governed and reported on
- ensure benefit arrangements are transparent, equitable and proportionate to the scale and impacts of the Project
- focus on benefits that deliver enduring social, economic and community outcomes for the region.

The Benefit Sharing Plan will be implemented during construction and operations. During the development phase, the Proponent will also consider ad hoc sponsorship of local initiatives and events, where appropriate.

Specifically, the Proponent plans to utilise benefit sharing to:

- ensure that the immediate community directly benefits from the presence of the Project in their community, including sharing benefits with local TOs and First Nations peoples
- contribute to broader public benefits and economic development that address the needs of the region
- build on strategic opportunities to drive local innovation
- create a legacy beyond the immediate benefits of the Project.

7.1. Employment, Goods and Services

The Proponent is committed to employing local people and buying local wherever possible. Goods and Services Registers are set up for each of the Proponents projects.

The purpose of the register is to provide an avenue for interested parties to register their interest in providing goods and services to the Project. While the Proponent will not undertake much of the procurement and hiring, the Goods and Services Register will be provided to the Proponents delivery partners and contractors (and their sub-contractors).

At the time of writing this report, 8 had signed up to the Goods and Services Register.

Additionally, the Proponent will work with these partners to develop a local content and employment strategy. This will include exploring opportunities to target First Nation peoples' participation in the Project, such as engaging with First Nations businesses and directly employing First Nations peoples. Where they have opted in, interested parties are added to the newsletter subscription so they can be kept up to date with the Project's progress.

7.1.1. Jobs

The Kojonup BESS Project will provide benefits through a boost to the local and regional economy, local businesses, and jobs during construction. Typical jobs created during construction are summarised below.

Table 8: Typical Jobs Created during construction

Electrical	Civil and mechanical	Substation
Electricians Trade Assistants	Civil Labourers Concreters Dump Truck Operators Excavator Operators Foremen / Supervisors Forklift & Telehandler Operators General Labourers Grader Operators Loader Operators Mechanical Fitters	Administration Staff Equipment Maintenance Technicians Crane Operators

	Roller Operators Trade Assistants Truck Drivers / Operators	

In addition to creating opportunities for local workers, the Project will bring benefits to other industries, including accommodation providers, cafés, and restaurants. The Proponent is committed to employing local people, sourcing locally wherever possible, and engaging local service providers.

8. Upcoming Consultation

The Proponent will continue to communicate and engage with key stakeholders, First Nations groups.

Table 9: Upcoming Consultation

Development phase	Communication and consultation Purpose	Activities
Development – Development Application public notice, assessment and outcome	• Share consultation report and/or explain how feedback has shaped the Project and likely to inform mitigation / management plans • Communicate the public exhibition/notice period for the development application and explain how to make a submission • Share the outcome of the development application. • Communicate Project next steps	• Newsletter (print and e-newsletter) • Stakeholder letters to MPs • Email/phone calls and emails to interested community groups • First Nations engagement with GKB AC and WKSN AC, including working to execute Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement and submitting Activity Notices as required • Formal public notice (as directed by the approval authority) • Outreach to neighbours and community via email, phone and letter • Pop-up during formal exhibition period of DA to answer questions and explain information in the DA • Local media outreach • Advertisements (print) • Key stakeholder briefings/meetings to discuss development application outcome