

# KIEWA VALLEY BESS

## NEWSLETTER 3.0



<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Kiewa Valley BESS</b>
<b>Project Owner</b>	<b>Trina Solar</b>

### GENERAL

#### Background

Kiewa Valley BESS Nominee Pty Ltd has engaged leading planning consultancy NGH Pty Ltd (**NGH**) to prepare a Development Application package for a 500 megawatt (**MW**) / 1,000 megawatt hours (**MWh**) Battery Energy Storage System (**BESS**) in northeast Victoria, The subject site is located at 1452 Yackandandah-Dederang Road, Dederang also referred to as Lot 1 of title document TP323868Q.

#### Latest Update

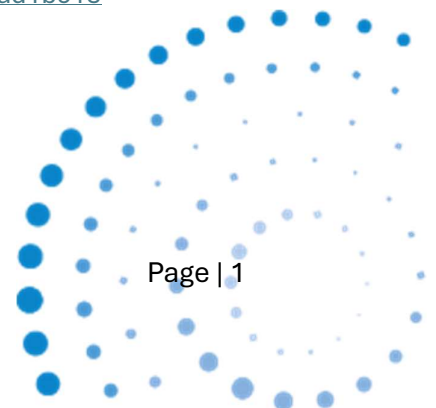
We are pleased to share an update on the planning progress for the proposed Kiewa Valley BESS. As part of our commitment to transparency and engagement, this newsletter outlines the key findings and conclusions from our recent planning assessment.

Trina Solar lodged a planning permit application with the Minister for Planning on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

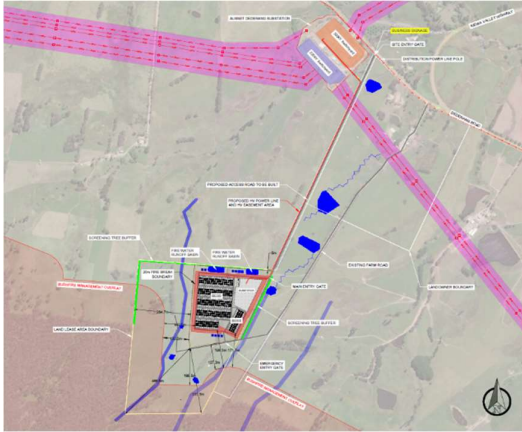
Public notice of the Kiewa Valley BESS application for a planning permit was published on 4<sup>th</sup> April and is currently being undertaken in accordance with the direction of the Department of Transport and Planning.

We encourage interested parties to review the planning permit. This consultation period provides an opportunity to share perspectives with the responsible authority to inform their assessment. If you have any questions following your review of the documentation or as part of the preparation of a submission, or if you have feedback on the Project unrelated to the planning process, please feel free to contact us.

The Application (PA2403346) may also be viewed online at <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/planning-approvals/ministerial-permits-register/ministerial-permits/a253705a-04a3-ef11-8a69-000d3ad1b913>



## Project location



The Project includes a proposal for a utility scale BESS located in the subject site, with connection via a high voltage power easement to connect to the existing Dederang substation via the 330 kilovolt (kV) bay. (\*A larger map is included at Annexure 1)

## Planning Consideration

### A Responsible and Strategic Use of Land

The proposed development is located within a Farming Zone (FZ), where utility infrastructure such as battery storage this BESS is a permitted land use.

Importantly, the Kiewa Valley BESS has been designed to coexist harmoniously with the surrounding agricultural land, avoiding disruption to ongoing farming activities. A significant portion of the site will remain available for continued agricultural use or regeneration, ensuring that the rural character of the area is respected and preserved.

The Kiewa Valley BESS is located nearby to proximity to existing major transmission infrastructure in the Dederang district,

meaning no additional burden on public services or infrastructure is anticipated. This careful site selection aligns with both local and state planning policies, which support rural economic diversification and responsible energy development.

## Fire Risk

Although the project is not located in a designated Bushfire Management Overlay, bushfire risk has been carefully assessed. The development will include appropriate bushfire mitigation measures, such as access for emergency vehicles, fuel reduction zones, and design specifications to ensure safety for both infrastructure and surrounding land.

A Risk Management Plan (RMP) has been prepared by Fire Risk Consultants. This RMP includes a Fire Safety Study.

The RMP has been prepared in accordance with the Country Fire Authority's *Design Guidelines and Model Requirements for Renewable Energy Facilities 2023*.

Like all electrical equipment, batteries require careful design and management to mitigate fire risks effectively. BESS projects incorporate multiple safety mechanisms to **prevent** fires, including:

- **Battery Management System (BMS):** Monitors and regulates battery cells to ensure they operate within safe limits.
- **Gas Detection System:** Automatically shuts down power to affected battery racks if an issue is detected.
- **Fire Suppression System:** Activates in the event of a fire,

releasing a suppression agent to contain it.

- **Fire-Resistant Enclosures:** Battery cells are housed in enclosures designed to prevent fire from spreading to adjacent containers or infrastructure.

The final design of the Kiewa Valley BESS will comply with all relevant technical standards to minimise fire risks, including thermal runaway protection and fire preparedness for both the BESS and surrounding areas. Fire **mitigation** measures will include:

- **Strategic Setbacks & Separation Distances:** Ensuring adequate firebreak clearances from equipment, spacing between BESS units, and access to a dedicated firefighting water supply.
- **Optimised Access & Egress Design:** Incorporating appropriate access tracks, perimeter roads, dual access points, and passing bays to facilitate emergency response.
- **Comprehensive Risk Management Plans:** Establishing clear fire prevention and response protocols within agreed emergency and risk management plans.

These measures collectively enhance safety and resilience, ensuring effective fire risk management for the Kiewa Valley BESS.

## Noise Impact

The Kiewa Valley BESS will be designed to operate well within applicable Environment Protection Authority (EPA) noise limits, maintaining rural amenity and minimising disturbance to nearby residents.

The noise criteria for this assessment are in accordance with the EPA Noise Protocol and apply to the cumulative noise from all sources including the existing Dederang Terminal Station and the proposed nearby Dederang BESS project:

- Day (Monday to Saturday, except public holidays, 7am to 6pm): 45 dB(A)
- Evening (Monday to Saturday 6pm to 10pm, Sunday and Public Holidays 7am to 10pm): 39 dB(A)
- Night (10pm to 7am the following day): 34 dB(A)

The Kiewa Valley BESS will be designed and operated to meet the EPA noise criteria at all times.

## Environment

The site for the Kiewa Valley BESS was selected to avoid areas of ecological significance, and the project footprint has been carefully minimised to reduce disturbance to native vegetation and wildlife.

Additionally, construction and operational activities will follow strict environmental management protocols to ensure soil, air, and water quality are safeguarded throughout the project lifecycle. This commitment reflects our broader goal of delivering clean energy infrastructure in a manner that respects and preserves the unique environmental values of the Alpine region.

The extent of non-planted native vegetation across the proposed project area is 2,079 hectares (ha). Over 90% of that native vegetation will be retained.

Through sensitive design of the Kiewa Valley BESS, only a small area (0.216 ha) of will be

impacted, made up of one patch and two scattered trees. Suitable offsets will be achieved.

### **Traffic**

A Traffic Impact Assessment has been completed for the project. Access to the site is afforded from Dederang Road for all construction and staff movements.

The traffic assessment was undertaken to evaluate the potential impacts during the construction and operational phases of the project. The assessment confirms that existing road infrastructure is sufficient to support the anticipated vehicle movements, with only a modest increase in traffic expected during peak construction activities. All access points have been designed to ensure safety and efficiency for both project-related and local traffic. Once operational, the Kiewa Valley BESS facility will generate minimal traffic. This ensures the ongoing safety and amenity of nearby road users and residents is preserved.

### **Agricultural Land**

The project has been carefully planned to protect the integrity of agricultural land. It occupies only a portion of the site, with no significant long-term degradation, and offers flexibility for future agricultural reuse. The infrastructure does not inhibit broader agricultural operations within the area.

The main area of the land is used for farming cattle. At the upper limit of the potential stocking rate, the diversion of the small area to a BESS would result in the reduction of carrying capacity of approximately 13 breeding cows.

This is a negligible loss of beef production when compared to the current Victorian cattle numbers of 3.6 million head. (*Source: Meat and Livestock Australia*).

The proposal will not have an unreasonable impact on the agricultural capability of the land.

### **Sustainable Water Management**

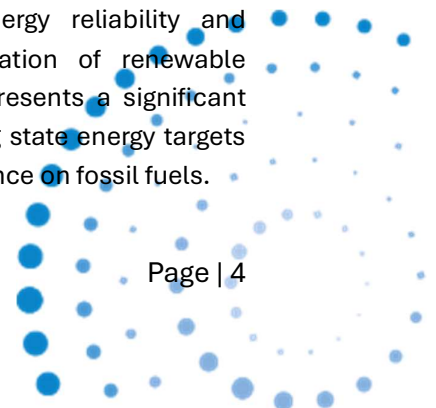
The project will incorporate a best-practice stormwater management system. This includes on-site water capture and treatment measures that protect local waterways and ensure compliance with integrated water management principles.

The Project will be designed to manage and treat stormwater run-off. This will be achieved via two bioretention basins located with the two proposed retarding basins. This arrangement achieves required outcomes for both water quality and retardation of developed flow back to the existing 1% AEP rate.

The Project will be required to have a sufficient static water supply for firefighting purposes and a way to prevent fire water run-off entering the downstream waterways. This will be achieved by two stand-alone basins which will be isolated during firefighting practices.

### **Strengthening Victoria's Energy Network**

The Kiewa Valley BESS project will play a key role in improving energy reliability and supporting the integration of renewable energy sources. It represents a significant step towards achieving state energy targets and reducing dependence on fossil fuels.



The Victorian Government is developing Renewable Energy Zones (**REZs**) across the state. REZs are areas of abundant renewable energy resources, the full development of which can ensure the timely and cost-effective delivery of secure and clean energy for Victoria.

Kiewa Valley BESS is located in the Ovens Murray REZ, which is one of the six REZs the Victorian Government has committed to developing. With necessary upgrades to the electricity grid, the Kiewa Valley BESS will help deliver clean, reliable, and affordable energy.

### **Diversifying the Local Economy**

The Kiewa Valley BESS introduces modern, sustainable infrastructure to the region, contributing to economic diversification without disrupting traditional land uses. During construction and operation, the project will also bring job creation and local procurement opportunities to the community.

### **Respect for Cultural Heritage**

Although the Kiewa Valley BESS is not located within an area of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity as defined by current regulations, the project team is proactively in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

This approach reflects our commitment to respectful engagement and cultural awareness. Additionally, no historic heritage constraints apply to the site, and the project is fully compliant with all applicable heritage legislation.

### **Responsible Decommissioning**

The Kiewa Valley BESS will have an operational life of approximately 20 years.

The project has been designed with the full lifecycle in mind, including a clear and responsible decommissioning strategy. At the end of its operational life, the facility will be fully dismantled, and the site restored as close as possible to its original condition. All infrastructure will be removed, and materials will be recycled or disposed of in accordance with best environmental practices and regulatory requirements. This approach ensures that the project not only supports the transition to clean energy today but also leaves a positive legacy for future generations.

### **Community Benefit Fund**

As part of our commitment to supporting the local community, the Kiewa Valley BESS will establish a Community Benefit Fund to provide direct, long-term benefits to residents in the surrounding area.

The fund will support initiatives that align with local priorities, such as education, environmental stewardship, health and wellbeing, and community infrastructure. The structure of the fund is being developed in consultation with community stakeholders to ensure transparency, fairness, and meaningful impact. This is part of our broader vision to ensure the project not only delivers energy infrastructure, but also leaves a positive and lasting contribution to the region.

## Key Questions from the Community

During our recent information sessions and direct discussions with local residents, we received valuable questions about the Kiewa Valley BESS. Many of these focused on safety, environmental impact, noise levels, and long-term land use. We appreciate the community's engagement and would like to address some of the most frequently asked questions below:

### Is Trina planning to expand and request more land for developing solar or wind projects?

Trina has no intention to expand the Kiewa Valley BESS into a hybrid project (solar or wind). The current proposed project site is more than adequate to support the planned BESS development, and there are no plans to request additional land for this purpose.

### How will potential impacts on livestock and pasture land be addressed?

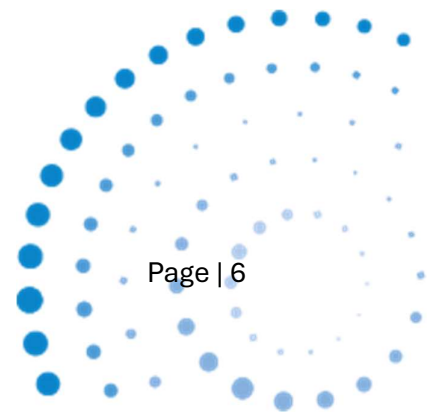
The land currently supports a small number of cattle for grazing. The project footprint covers approximately 12 hectares, which is a minimal portion of the total grazing land in Victoria. The remaining area can potentially continue to be used for grazing.

### How will Trina ensure that the land is restored to its original condition after the project's lifespan?

To ensure the land is restored after the project's lifecycle the key activities will include:

- **Infrastructure Removal:** All aboveground and underground electrical infrastructure, including transformers, inverters, and cables, will be removed and recycled by approved facilities.
- **Site Clearing and Building Demolition:** Operational buildings, site offices, and other structures will be dismantled, with materials recycled or disposed of responsibly.
- **Land Restoration:** Native vegetation will be re-established through seeding and propagation, ensuring the site returns to its pre-development state.

Additional measures, including sediment and erosion control and hazardous material management, are also outlined in the plan to ensure comprehensive site rehabilitation. We understand that these concerns are important to the community, and our project team is committed to addressing them with clear and transparent information.

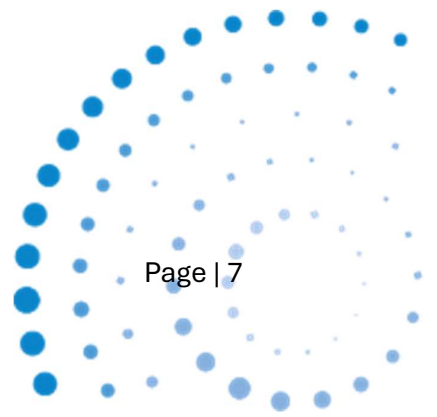


## Further Information:

We remain committed to keeping the community informed and involved throughout every stage of this project. If you're a member of the local community and have any questions, suggestions, or interest in the project, we encourage you to reach out to us via email:

**Web:** <https://kiewavalleybess.com.au/>

**Email:** [KiewaValleyBESS@trinasolar.com](mailto:KiewaValleyBESS@trinasolar.com)



# Annexure 1 Project Layout

