



# Merredin BESS Community Plan

December 2025



## Document Information

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### Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land, waters, and knowledge for the places where we gather collaborate and strengthen our communities. In our work, we recognise the importance of Country – as a place and how it maintains community, family, kin, lore and language. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

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## 1. Overview

### 1.1 Purpose

This plan outlines the comprehensive approach to actively engage with the local community and key stakeholders, with the aim of building trust and social acceptance throughout the development and construction of the Merredin BESS Project (MEB, the Project).

The plan will be implemented by Atmos Renewables (Atmos), its Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) partner GenusPlus. It includes an overview of the MEB project, identification of key stakeholders, understanding of the social context, guiding principles, objectives, planned activities, and methods for evaluation.

It is essential to review this plan alongside the Merredin BESS First Nations Engagement Plan, which details engagement with Traditional Owners and other Indigenous entities.

### 1.2 Project Description

The Merredin BESS (MEB) project is a new grid connected Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) rated at 100MW / 400MWh, (nameplate rating 145 MW), located immediately adjacent to Western Power Meredin Terminal (MRT), near Meredin, Western Australia 6415. MEB will connect into the South West Interconnected System (SWIS) at 132kV terminal station within the MRT. The facility will commence operation in Q1 2027.

MEB will be an active participant in the WEM and its operational philosophy includes at least one full charge and discharge cycle daily, acting as a load during periods of low demand and as a generator (discharging) during periods of high demand, as well as the provision of essential system services to the network.

## 2. Our Commitment, Capability and Principles

### 2.1 Our Commitment

Social licence for energy projects is crucial for the successful decarbonisation of Australia's economy. Landowners, neighbours, First Nations and local communities who are hosting proposed renewable energy projects must be meaningfully engaged to ensure a trusted and collaborative approach with mutual benefits. We acknowledge community engagement is not a 'tick-box' exercise but an ongoing responsibility from project inception to completed decommissioning.

Atmos and Genus are committed to building trust and understanding with local stakeholders through regular and transparent engagement leading to long-lasting benefits to the Merredin region and its population.

### 2.2 Our Capability

#### 2.2.1 Atmos Renewables

Atmos is a top 5 largest owner of operating renewable generation assets in Australia with a total gross capacity of over 1.9GW, enough to power around 475,000 Australian homes.

The business was established in 2020 and built through a number of transactions resulting in a diversified portfolio of 15 plants with locations in each state of the NEM.

Atmos is managed by a highly experienced management team, with support at the asset level from tier 1 O&M partners. Revenue is largely contracted under long-term agreements with investment grade counterparties.

Atmos is owned by the Global Diversified Infrastructure Fund ("GDIF"), which is managed by Igneo Infrastructure Partners, one of the largest dedicated global infrastructure managers.

Atmos brings together the full suite of development expertise and very strong financial capability, to ensure the project speedily reaches construction. Atmos complements this with our company strategy to be the asset owner for the whole of project life.

Atmos is managed by a growing, highly experienced team of renewable energy professionals, with offices in Sydney and Melbourne, Australia. We are committed to investing in clean technology that offsets carbon emissions in the Australian electricity markets and in a way that supports Australia's vibrant local communities and protects and enhances its biodiversity.

### 2.3 Long-term investment in projects and communities

Atmos oversees projects over the entire asset life. This ensures the team committed to developing and delivering the project is encouraged to build long-lasting and meaningful relationships with hosting communities rather than developing/constructing a project for a quick sell. The Project team has experience across Australia and has demonstrated ability to

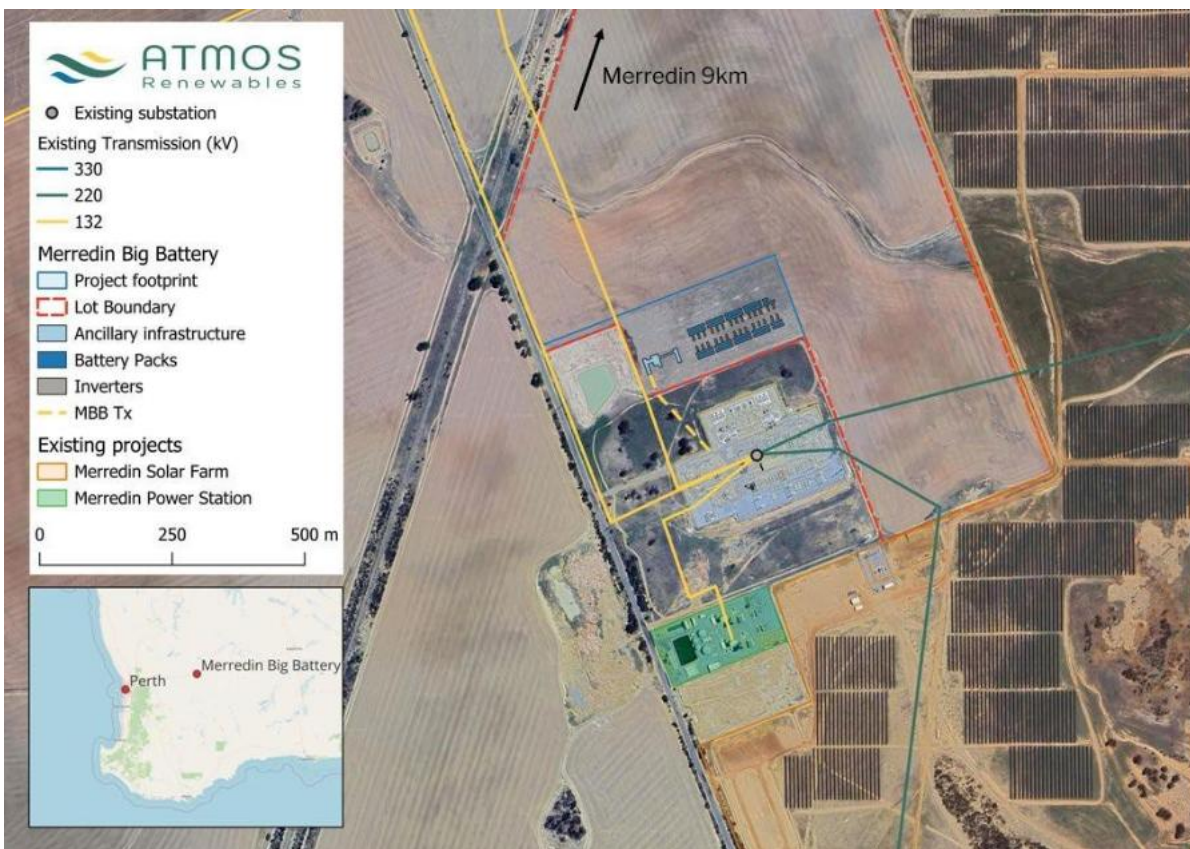
effectively engage with communities and local stakeholders to ensure the benefits of the project are shared.

### 3. Social and Environmental Context

#### 3.1 Geography and community statistics

##### 3.1.1 Geographic Area

The Project site is located on Robartson Road, Merredin, Western Australia, approximately 230 km east of Perth along the Great Eastern Freeway. The Project will connect directly into Western Power's existing Merredin substation at the Merredin 132kV termination station. As the facility is adjacent to Western Power's existing assets, there is no third-party owned land between the facility and the substation, hence no third-party easements are required to install and maintain the Line Route.



**Figure 1 Merredin Big Battery Location**

As indicated in Figure 1, the area surrounding the Project site hosts existing electricity infrastructure including the Merredin Solar Farm, Merredin Power Station and the Merredin substation. The MEB project complements this existing infrastructure ensuring there is minimal impact upon the community or neighbouring landowners.



## 4. Local Community

### 4.1 Engagement Approach

#### 4.1.1 Key Objectives

The aim of this plan is to ensure meaningful community and stakeholder engagement, with a commitment to fostering genuine relationships based on transparency, accessibility, and inclusivity. Within this framework, Atmos and Genus commit to:

- Prioritise engagement and participation of First Nations and local community members.
- Cultivate strong, mutually beneficial relationships with key stakeholders.
- Provide honest, clear, consistent, and timely information about the project to stakeholders, including opportunities for input and benefit-sharing.
- Proactively communicate the potential benefits and impacts of the project to stakeholders.
- Solicit stakeholder perspectives and expectations to effectively engage and address concerns.
- Conduct all consultation activities in a focused, inclusive, responsive, open, and timely manner.
- Promote the inclusion of First Nations, local people, and businesses in supply chain, procurement, and employment opportunities.
- Engage with local community and provide advance notice, including direct contact where required, to local businesses, residents and road users about any major construction activities that may impact stakeholders

#### 4.1.2 Key Outcomes

Ultimately, the Project team seeks community support and acceptance for the Merredin BESS project, aiming for the following outcomes:

- Key community stakeholders feel they have access to timely, transparent, and relevant information.
- Key stakeholders have opportunities to provide feedback, engage in dialogue, and receive adequate and prompt responses to their interests and concerns.
- Effective resolution of complaints in a timely and satisfactory manner.
- Early identification and mitigation of risks and potential impacts.
- Enhancement of local businesses, individuals, and Traditional Owners through employment, training, supply chain opportunities, and other community-identified participation avenues.
- Establishment of mutually rewarding and trusting relationships with landowners, First Nations people, and the local community.
- Awareness of the project benefits, timing and impacts



## 4.2 Benefit-Sharing

Atmos has developed MEB's shared benefit commitments in response to initial input from key local stakeholders on identified needs and will continue to evolve with further discussions. Shared benefits will play a crucial role in securing the project's social licence, ensuring equitable distribution of benefits among directly affected parties and the wider community over the project's lifespan.

The MEB Project team will collaborate closely with key community stakeholders to determine how these benefits can support social, environmental, economic, and cultural outcomes.

Key commitments include:

1. **The MEB Legacy Fund** – A total \$400,000 over the lifetime of the project (20 years). Funds will be allocated to different community initiatives including First Nations, subject to further consultation.
2. **The MEB Community Fund** – Community grants up to \$5,000 each for local initiatives (up to \$20k total) in 2024/5. From engagement with the Council and local community groups, Atmos and Nomad learnt that shorter term grants provided meaningful support for volunteer organisations.

## 5. Engagement activities

In keeping with best-practice, Atmos will undertake comprehensive engagement activities to ensure:

- All key stakeholders are identified and engaged appropriately
- All concerns or opportunities identified by stakeholders are recorded

Project stage	Engagement objective	Engagement activities	Target stakeholder
Site selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify local landholders within the potential project area</li> <li>• Introduce the project concept and obtain initial feedback about the prospect of a BESS development</li> <li>• Seek agreements regarding access for further project feasibility investigations</li> <li>• Identify cultural heritage values and land use considerations early</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phone calls</li> <li>• Face to face visits</li> <li>• Introductory letters</li> <li>• Gather contact details for future communication</li> <li>• Consult with Registered Parties (RAPs) and Traditional Owner groups</li> <li>• Cultural heritage assessments and site walks with Elders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential host landowners</li> <li>• Potential neighbouring landowners</li> <li>• Traditional Owner groups</li> <li>• Aboriginal Land Councils</li> <li>• Native Title holders</li> </ul>
Project feasibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage with landholders about the proposed project area</li> <li>• Introduce the BESS development process</li> <li>• Identify community values, potential constraints and opportunities in the project area and inform the design process</li> <li>• Identify and appropriately respond to community concerns</li> <li>• Ensure cultural heritage and community values inform project design</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face to face visits</li> <li>• One-on-one meetings and visual tools to help inform discussions</li> <li>• Email or letter updates</li> <li>• Workshop with Aboriginal stakeholders to identify opportunities for cultural recognition (e.g naming, art, landscaping)</li> <li>• Develop Cultural Heritage Management Plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential host landowners</li> <li>• Potential neighbouring landowners</li> <li>• Local Councils</li> <li>• Government-elected representatives</li> <li>• Traditional Owner groups</li> <li>• Aboriginal community organisations</li> </ul>
Planning and Approvals – (Scoping Phase, EIS Phase)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain communication channels for enquiries and information</li> <li>• Continue to proactively gather feedback to inform the project design</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As above for Project Feasibility phase, plus:</li> <li>• Establish and maintain Project website</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All stakeholder groups</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and appropriately respond to community concerns</li> <li>• Keep communications flowing to update the community</li> <li>• Collect data and insights and prepare the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Inform community of a formal opportunity to express their views on the proposed project</li> <li>• Include Aboriginal perspective in SIA and EIS</li> <li>• Educate community regarding outcomes of the EIS and technical studies Inform the community of the progress of the approvals process and outcomes</li> <li>• Educate community regarding the Project-specific benefit sharing process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Information Sessions</li> <li>• Community surveys</li> <li>• Project briefings for Local Councils and government agencies</li> <li>• Exploration of community partnerships</li> <li>• Dedicated sessions with Aboriginal stakeholders on cultural heritage and social impacts</li> </ul>	
Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce community concerns by open dialogue and continuing to acknowledge and respond to issues in a timely manner</li> <li>• Demonstrate commitment to the wellbeing of the community</li> <li>• Avoid, minimise, and remediate impacts</li> <li>• Create pathways for Aboriginal employment and procurement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As above for Project Feasibility phase, plus:</li> <li>• Maintain and update website</li> <li>• Complaints management mechanism</li> <li>• Community partnership</li> <li>• Cultural heritage monitors on site</li> <li>• Cultural Heritage tours</li> <li>• Commission Njaki Njaki art work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All stakeholder groups</li> <li>• Local Aboriginal businesses</li> <li>• Employment agencies</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

## 5.1 Communication Tools

A range of the communication tools and assets will support engagement before and during Project delivery:

- A dedicated Project and Community Fund webpage  
- [www.nomadenergy.com.au/merredin-big-battery](http://www.nomadenergy.com.au/merredin-big-battery).
- Dedicated email address – [community@atmosrenewables.com.au](mailto:community@atmosrenewables.com.au) – for locals and other interested parties to provide feedback and ask questions.
- Flyer to promote the Project and Community Fund
- Media ad in the local Phoenix Newspaper
- Social media posts via the Merredin Community Resource Centre Facebook page
- Drafting of email and letter templates for stakeholders.  
Creation of emails and briefings for the project team and contractors.
- Installation of signage in key locations to provide information about the project and contact details.

These tools and assets will support Atmos in maintaining transparent communication, fostering community engagement, and addressing stakeholder feedback throughout the project lifecycle.

## 5.2 Engagement during construction

Atmos will ensure that community is well informed on all relevant aspects of works including the provision of advance notification of works that are likely to cause disruption, annoyance or inconvenience.

We will prepare and distribute accurate and high-quality written works notification or advise of any largely noisy/disruptive works via notifications, neighbour drop-ins, phone calls or community updates. Information that will be provided to community (if applicable) includes;

- A description of the relevant works
- An accurate description of the anticipated disruptions
- The dates, times and duration of the relevant works and associated disruptions
- The expected impacts of the works
- The expected impact of the works on public spaces and access to public spaces
- Project contact details, including the Merredin 1800 number, social media and website.

### 5.3 Construction milestones and opportunities

Timing	Milestone	Communication	Opportunity
<b>August 2025</b>	Sod Turn	Email/phone calls, media release, video/photos, website update, social media	Major launch event with Traditional Owners, local council, and media. Highlight cultural recognition and renewable energy benefits.
<b>September 2025</b>	Early site works	Social media updates	Share progress photos, sustainability messaging, and safety commitments
<b>September 2025</b>	Establishment of site office, compounds and laydown area	Email to council/emergency services, newsletter update, timelapse setup	Promote local employment opportunities and FN business involvement.
<b>December 2025</b>	Contract award – success of Maarli Services for fire ring main trenching package	Social media, video/photos, newsletter	Showcase FN business success story and partnership benefits.
<b>March/April 2026</b>	Major equipment arrival	Email updates, photography, social media	Highlight technical innovation and project scale.
<b>April – June 2026</b>	BESS units arrive on site	Video/photos, media release, social media	Emphasise energy storage benefits and contribution to grid reliability.
<b>October 2026</b>	Energisation	Media release, community event, video/photo	Celebrate project energisation, community benefits, and sustainability outcomes.
<b>February 2027</b>	Commercial Operation	Media release, community event, video/photo	Celebrates project completion, key partnerships, community benefits

## **5.4 Construction impacts key messaging**

- Like any construction project, some noise, disruption and impact is inevitable, however the team at Atmos has worked hard to identify ways we can minimise disruptions to the local community. This includes keeping heavy machinery operation between the hours of 7am to 7pm (however in hotter months site times may vary), dust suppression, and temporarily reducing traffic speed along Robartson Rd.
- The project team will notify impacted stakeholders prior to the start of any disruptive construction activities. Personnel will be available to answer questions throughout the duration of construction
- If work is required outside normal hours, we will notify impacted stakeholders and community in advance
- Please visit <http://atmosrenewables.com.au/project/merredin-bess/> email, [community@atmosrenewables.com.au](mailto:community@atmosrenewables.com.au) or call 1800 548 559 if you have any questions regarding the project,

## 6. Complaints handling and record keeping

Atmos and Genus are committed to maintaining a fair, transparent and responsive complaints management approach across all project phases. Both organisations aim to resolve complaints promptly and identify and mitigate risks early. All enquiries are acknowledged within 24 hours, and the substance of the enquiry is responded to within 72 hours.

### 6.1 Guiding Principles

Atmos and Genus manage complaints in accordance with the following principles:

- Fairness: All members of the public, landholders, stakeholders and staff are treated with respect and courtesy.
- Transparency and Accessibility: Clear information is provided on how to lodge a complaint, what to expect and how it will be managed.
- Responsiveness: Complaints and enquiries are addressed quickly, courteously, fairly and within established timeframes.
- Privacy and Confidentiality: Complaint information is handled in line with relevant privacy legislation and organisational policies.
- Accountability: Both companies maintain robust processes for documenting and reviewing complaints to ensure continuous improvement and provide accountability to stakeholders, project owners and governing bodies.

### 6.2 Media Enquiries

Media enquiries are directed through a central contact number and email address.

Only approved and trained spokespeople respond to media representatives.

Responses are timely, factual and respectful of media deadlines and the news cycle.

### 6.3 Stakeholder Register and Tracking

Atmos and Genus maintain a centralised stakeholder register for the project to:

- record all enquiries and interactions
- track issues and concerns
- manage complaints and follow-up actions
- support continuous improvement in stakeholder engagement

### 6.4 Genus Complaints Procedure

Genus follows its corporate Customer Satisfaction and Complaints Procedure, which outlines the process for managing feedback and complaints from residents, site owners and stakeholders.

This procedure applies to all GenusPlus Group (GNP) parent and operating companies, including employees, contractors, labour hire personnel and visitors.

Genus maintains effective, proactive and clear communication during the tender, award, mobilisation and delivery phases of the project.

All correspondence is recorded in the relevant project folder. Where verbal commitments are made, a confirmation email is issued as good practice to ensure clarity and maintain an accurate project record.





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