



Application for an Electricity Generation Authority

Bouldercombe Battery Project Co Pty Ltd
Information Paper
May 2023



Queensland
Government

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1. Background

Bouldercombe Battery Project Co Pty Ltd (ACN 646 696 960) as trustee for Bouldercombe Battery Project Trust (ABN 22 186 148 303) (the applicant) has applied to the Regulator for a generation authority under section 179 of the *Electricity Act 1994* (the Act). Under the Act, the Regulator is the Director-General of the Department of Energy and Public Works (the department), being the chief executive of the department that administers the Act.

The application is for a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) – the Bouldercombe Battery Project, located approximately 4.5 kilometres northeast of Bouldercombe, within the Rockhampton Regional Council local government area of Queensland.

The generation authority, if issued, will authorise the operation of the BESS and its connection to the transmission network. The BESS will take electricity from the grid in periods of low demand and feed back into the grid at periods of high demand, as well as continuously providing Frequency Control and Ancillary Services (FCAS) to the National Electricity Market.

The BESS will have a total nameplate rating of 67.2 megawatts (MW) (40 x 1.68 MVA Tesla Megapacks).

Subject to receipt of all necessary approvals (including this generation authority), the applicant anticipates the BESS will be complete and operational in the third quarter of 2023.

2. Consideration of an Application

Section 180 of the Act provides that the Regulator may issue a generation authority only if satisfied:

- (a) the applicant will operate the generating plant stated in the application;
- (b) the generating plant will be able to provide electricity of a quality suitable for the transmission grid or supply network stated in the application;
- (c) the applicant is a suitable person to be a generation entity;
- (d) the owner or proposed owner of the generating plant (whether or not the applicant) is a suitable person to be the owner; and
- (e) the applicant meets the additional criteria prescribed under a regulation.
(Note that no additional criteria are prescribed by regulation.)

In deciding whether the applicant is a suitable person to be a generation entity, or the owner or proposed owner of the generating plant (whether or not the applicant) is a suitable person to be the owner, the Act states the Regulator may consider:

- (a) the person's previous commercial and other dealings and the standard of honesty and integrity shown in the dealings;
- (b) any failure by the person to perform commercial or statutory obligations and the reasons for the failure;
- (c) the person's criminal history;
- (d) if the person is a corporation – the matters mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (c) for persons who are shareholders, directors or holders of other interests in the corporation;
- (e) for the applicant – the applicant's competence to be the operator; and
- (f) additional matters prescribed by regulation.
(Note that no additional matters are prescribed by regulation.)

Further, the Act provides that, in deciding whether to issue the generation authority, the Regulator must consider:

- (a) the objects of the Act;
- (b) relevant government policies about environmental and energy issues and the likely environmental effects of building and operating the generating plant; and
- (c) additional matters prescribed under a regulation.
(Note that no additional matters are prescribed by regulation.)

Section 179A of the Act also stipulates that, before issuing a generation authority, the Regulator must invite interested persons to make submissions about the application for the authority and the Regulator must consider the submissions made.

3. The applicant

The information set out in sections 3 to 5 of this Information Paper was provided by the applicant as part of its formal application to the Regulator for a generation authority.

The applicant will be the operator and the owner throughout the 20-year operational lifetime of the BESS.

The applicant is a wholly owned subsidiary of Genex (Storage) Pty Ltd, who together with Genex (Kidston Hydro) Pty Ltd form the Genex Power Limited group.

Genex Power Limited is an ASX-listed company focused on developing a portfolio of renewable energy generation and storage projects across Australia.

The applicant has an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract with Consolidated Power Projects Pty Ltd to build the BESS.

Consolidated Power Projects Pty Ltd was incorporated in Australia in 1996 and is an entity of Quanta Services Australia Pty Ltd, who perform energy infrastructure construction throughout Australia.

4. The proposed generating plant

The proposed generating plant will be known as the Bouldercombe Battery Project.

The BESS will be located approximately 4.5 kilometres northeast of Bouldercombe, within the Rockhampton Regional Council local government area. The BESS is located on Lot 1 (RP610887 access track) and Lot 3 RP611829 (site of BPP) 52949 Burnett Highway, Bouldercombe, Queensland 4702.

The BESS will have a total nameplate rating of 67.2 MW consisting of 40 x 1.68 MVA Tesla megapacks. The BESS has a maximum rated capacity of 50 MW when discharging (i.e. supplying energy to the network) and a corresponding 50 MW of load when recharging (i.e. consuming energy from the network).

The applicant has a Connection and Access Agreement in place with Powerlink for the provision of transmission services. The BESS will be connected to the transmission network via Powerlink's existing 275 kilovolt (kV)/135 kV Bouldercombe substation.

The applicant is in the process of seeking generator registration with the Australia Energy Market Operator (AEMO).

5. Approvals for construction of the generating plant

A generation authority issued under the Act authorises its holder to operate the BESS and connect it to the transmission grid or supply network.

It should be noted that a generation authority does not authorise or approve the construction of the generating plant and, indeed, that is not a matter within the jurisdiction of the Act or the Regulator. Section 26(2) of the Act states:

‘a generation authority does not relieve its holder or anyone else from complying with laws applying to the development, building, operation or maintenance of generating plant’.

The proponent of the project has the responsibility to obtain all approvals necessary for construction and ongoing operation of the BESS, including relevant environmental and local government approvals.

All relevant development approvals have been obtained by the proponent. The Department of Environment and Science (Queensland) has approved a Species management program (SMP) for tampering with animal breeding places (Low risk of impacts) made pursuant to section 335 of the *Nature Conservation (Animals) Regulation 2020*.

6. Submissions

Submissions are invited from interested persons in relation to the application for a generation authority from Bouldercombe Battery Project Co Pty Ltd as trustee for Bouldercombe Battery Project Trust.

In particular, the Regulator is interested in matters that may impact on the suitability of the applicant to be a generation entity, as well as the other issues the Regulator must consider under the Act.

Please note that private personal and commercial-in-confidence information contained within a submission may be provided to a third party for the purpose of consideration of the application. In the case where the Regulator provides an opportunity for an applicant to respond to matters raised in a submission, the private personal information and commercial-in-confidence information of the person making the submission will not be provided to the applicant. The State of Queensland through the Department of Energy and Public Works has taken steps to ensure the appropriate treatment of such information by departmental staff and contractors. By submitting a submission, you agree that your submission will be used by the Department and its contractors in reviewing and processing the applications.

All private personal and commercial-in-confidence information will be stored at the office of the Department, and in accordance with the relevant privacy legislation.

The Department’s privacy statement can be found at:
<https://www.epw.qld.gov.au/about/information-privacy>.

If you have any questions or queries you can email the Department’s privacy unit at RTI-Privacy@epw.qld.gov.au.

Submissions must be made in writing, and sent by email or mail to:

Mail

Attention: The Manager
Generation and Storage
Department of Energy and Public Works
PO Box 15456
CITY EAST QLD 4002
Phone: 13 43 87

Email

energy.regulation@epw.qld.gov.au

Closing date for submissions is 5.00pm on 12 June 2023.