

QUEENSLAND TREASURY

Application for an Electricity Generation Authority

**Ulinda Park BESS
Information Paper**

April 2025

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Translating and interpreting assistance

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1. Background

Ulinda Park ProjectCo Pty Ltd (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 Under Treasurer being the chief executive of the department (Queensland Treasury) that administers the Act.

The application is for a proposed bidirectional Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) – the Ulinda Park BESS, located on 953/16 Mile Hall Road, Hopeland, approximately 31.8 km southwest of Chinchilla within the Western Downs Regional Council area of Queensland.

The generation authority, if issued, will authorise the operation of the BESS and its connection to the transmission network. The Ulinda Park BESS will have a maximum storage capacity of 155 megawatts (MW)/ 298 megawatt-hours (MWh), 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.

Subject to receipt of all necessary approvals (including this generation authority), the applicants anticipate the Ulinda Park BESS will be complete and operational by May 2025.

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 the formal application to the Regulator for a generation authority.

The applicant and operator, Ulinda Park ProjectCo Pty Ltd holds ownership and operating duties of Ulinda Park BESS.

Akaysha Energy Pty Ltd is the Asset Manager for the applicant and has a construction/asset Management Agreement where all business applications, development approvals, licences, approvals and advertising is managed for the BESS. Akaysha holds a Platform Service agreement with Fluence Energy and an operations and maintenance agreement with Quintas Energy who will provide asset management, 24/7 operations for the control room and trading room services for the applicant.

Akaysha is sponsored by the Global Renewable Power III Regional Holdings Ltd, a fund managed by American multinational investment company BlackRock Inc. BlackRock Inc acquired Akaysha Energy Pty Ltd in 2022 through its Climate Infrastructure business.

Akaysha is a Melbourne based battery developer whose mission is to lead the energy transition by designing and deploying large-scale battery storage systems. Akaysha has further projects underway and are in the process of managing the development of a BESS near Brendale, Wurdong Heights and Haly’s (Ellsmere) substations in Queensland.

The applicant has a long-term service agreement with Powin, builder of the BESS. Powin is an American based global storage integrator whose goal is to make clean, affordable and reliable energy more accessible. The applicant also has an operations and management agreement with Consolidated Power Projects Australia Pty Ltd to provide Balance of Plant HV (high voltage) and MV (medium voltage) maintenance services.

4. The proposed generating plant

The proposed generating plant will be known as the Ulinda Park BESS and located within the Western Downs Green Power Hub.

The location of the Ulinda Park Bess Lot 2 of RP117422, 953/16 Mile Hall Road, Hopeland Queensland. It will be located adjacent to the proposed Western Downs Solar Farm and in close proximity to the existing Western Downs BESS.

The Ulinda Park BESS will have a total installed capacity of 298 megawatt-hours (MWh) Powin lithium-ion batteries consisting of 52 x 1500 volts (V) / 3538 kilowatts (kW) Battery Stacks. The BESS will store energy in times of high production and release energy in times of high demand and will be capable of performing a range of network services to the Queensland grid, including firming renewables, providing frequency services and transmission network support.

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 Queensland transmission network via a new 275 kilovolts (kV) Feeder Bay at the Western Downs Substation.

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

5. Approvals for construction of the generating plant

A generation authority issued under the Act authorises its holder to operate the Ulinda Park Bess and connect 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 Ulinda Park Bess, this includes relevant environmental, cultural heritage and local government approvals.

All relevant development approvals from the Western Downs Regional Council have been obtained for Ulinda Park Bess. The initial development application was decided on the 28 June 2021 to establish a public utility (Solar Farm) as stage A solar farm, and stage B for a BESS site layout. A request for a minor change to an existing development approval to develop the BESS site layout as stage A was approved on the 20 December 2022.

The Ulinda Park Bess applicant is in the process of developing a Cultural Heritage Management Assessment with First Nations Traditional Owners, the Barungum people.

6. Submissions

Submissions are invited from interested persons in relation to the application for a generation authority from Ulinda Park ProjectCo Pty Ltd.

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 Queensland Treasury 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 Treasury and its contractors in reviewing and processing the applications.

All private personal and commercial-in-confidence information will be stored by Treasury, and in accordance with the relevant privacy legislation. Treasury's privacy statement can be found at: www.treasury.qld.gov.au/legal/privacy/.

If you have any questions or queries you can email Treasury's privacy unit at rtiadmin@treasury.qld.gov.au.

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

Mail

Attention: The Manager
Regulation
Energy Division
Queensland Treasury
PO Box 15456
CITY EAST QLD 4002
Phone: 13 43 87

Email

energy.regulation@epw.qld.gov.au

Closing date for submissions is 5pm on the 22 April 2025.