

We have further assessed and modelled predicted noise from the proposed Hazeldean BESS. This is in response to requests and questions Council raised during the Development Application process. This factsheet summarises this assessment and related management actions.

After reviewing the initial Noise Assessment submitted with the Development Application (DA), Council requested further assessments to ensure that the proposed Hazeldean Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) would not create adverse acoustic impacts on surrounding residences.

Council requested additional data and modelling, including some equipment location changes, more information on the current noise conditions at the site, clarification on potential noise from battery heating and cooling, and an analysis of different noise levels expected to be created by the battery at different times of day.

Council also asked for Enervest to provide more information about the timing and noise impacts of construction work.



What is a Noise Assessment?

This assessment examines the noise created by the project, how loudly that noise will be heard at nearby properties, and any impact that noise could have. A noise prediction model has been developed to forecast the noise levels of the project. The model examines both the construction and operational stages of the project and makes recommendations to minimise noise impacts from the battery.

Key takeaways

- The proposed Hazeldean BESS has been **Halved in size** following community feedback and further project design.
- Our additional noise assessment and modelling confirmed a reduced-size Hazeldean BESS **will fully comply with required noise levels and criteria** during construction, day-and-night time operation, and decommissioning.
- **BESS design:** Detailed design and resolution of the final layout and equipment will be undertaken to ensure that the predicted compliance with the relevant standards is achieved.
- **Ongoing monitoring:** At completion of construction, a comprehensive noise monitoring survey will be undertaken to confirm compliance with the EPP (Noise).

What's next

If the project is approved, we will implement the mitigation measures outlined in the assessment as the project progresses to ensure noise limits are adhered to. This will include:



Operational plans: Noise reduction measures will be part of the ongoing **Environmental Management Plan**.



Ongoing monitoring: Noise will also be monitored after the commencement of operation to ensure it remains at or below permitted levels.



Regulatory oversight: Noise and the actions we take to reduce it will comply with relevant guidelines and environmental regulations.

We appreciate your continued engagement and will keep the community informed as the project progresses.

Why was additional background noise monitoring undertaken?

The original Noise Assessment made conservative assumptions that the level of existing background noise would likely be low to very low.

As part of the additional noise assessment, existing noise levels were measured using unattended noise loggers over eight days, at three locations. The noise prediction model was updated using the noise data collected on the site.

The updated model was used to predict noise levels at nearby residences during battery operations. It determined the predicted levels to be the same as or lower than the original model.

Assessment outcomes

Construction and decommissioning: The report concludes that construction noise levels at nearby residences will stay within the required noise limits during construction.

Battery operation: The report concludes that noise from the battery will fall within the acceptable levels at nearby properties during both day and night periods.

What are we doing to reduce noise?



CONSTRUCTION AND DECOMMISSIONING

Communication: The project will communicate the proposed works schedule and anticipated noise levels with surrounding neighbours before construction starts. Contact numbers and avenues to speak to the project team will be readily available.

Compliance with Australian standards: The project will take reasonable and practicable steps to prevent or minimise noise impacts.

Standard construction hours: Construction work will occur within the standard construction hours of 6.30 am to 6.30 pm Monday to Saturday (*excluding public holidays*).

Selection of equipment: The lowest noise emitting plant and equipment that can be reasonably selected will be used.



OPERATION

Battery project design: As part of the post-approval design phase, the final layout and equipment selection will be incorporated into an updated noise model to make sure the noise complies with the relevant standards.

Ongoing monitoring: At completion of construction, a comprehensive noise monitoring survey will be undertaken to confirm the actual noise levels from the battery project, to confirm compliance with the relevant acoustic standards

Acoustic quality objectives: If appropriate, additional noise reduction measures will be designed and incorporated.

Further information

Please contact hazeldean@enervest.com.au for specific queries or to subscribe to project updates.

You can also visit our website at enervest.com.au/project/hazeldean-bess/