



be big-T™

Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Project
Workforce & Accommodation



FACT SHEET — July 2023

About the Project

- The Big-T Pumped Hydro Energy Storage (PHES) Project is a proposed renewable energy project located at Lake Cressbrook, approximately 45km north-east of Toowoomba
- The Project has a planned generating capacity of 400 megawatts of hydroelectricity with 10 hours of storage duration at full output (4GWh total storage)
- With a funded cost of over \$1.65 billion, the Project will bring significant social and economic benefits to the Toowoomba and Somerset regions
- Approximately 250-500 jobs will be created during construction, and 15-30 ongoing jobs during operation.

Construction Workforce

Construction on the Big-T Project is expected to commence in 2024 with completion by 2028. The Project will create approximately 250-500 jobs during the construction phase, and approximately 15-30 ongoing jobs during operation.

The construction workforce is estimated to reach a peak of 500 workers, and current workforce studies indicate that 50% of the workforce will be drawn locally, and 50% drive-in drive-out (DIDO) or fly-in fly-out (FIFO).

The project requires construction of an upper reservoir on privately owned land, with underground turbines linked by tunnels to the Lake Cressbrook inlet point. The electrical connection is to be built partly underground and will connect to the Powerlink 275kV Tarong-Middle Ridge line via a switching station on Three Mile Road.

The Project provides significant local employment and procurement opportunities for local workers and suppliers/ businesses due to the civil construction required for the storage reservoir and tunnels.

Pumped hydro projects have a high percentage of local construction content, with around 75% of the construction budget utilised in onsite construction activities.



Proposed temporary camp location.

Temporary Accommodation Camp

To accommodate the construction workforce, a temporary accommodation camp is proposed to be established at **7572 New England Highway Crows Nest**, with access from Hirning Street (the existing caravan park access road) and approximately 900 metres from the entrance to the Project access road via Albert Street, off the New England Highway.

Bordering the Crows Nest Tourist and Caravan Park, the proposed temporary accommodation camp will feature:

- Temporary self-contained camp accommodation facilities for up to 200 workers
- Access to power and water from existing established services
- Onsite parking
- Septic grey water waste system.

Local community impacts

The establishment of the temporary accommodation camp aims to reduce car traffic through the Crows Nest township, by providing living options for nearly 50% of the expected peak workforce. To further reduce traffic, particularly on the New England Highway, the plan is to aggregate at the camp to transport workers to site.

It is anticipated there may be minor impacts on Albert Road and Three Mile Road due to construction traffic. This will be monitored during peak construction periods.

Situated 1.5km outside of Crows Nest's town centre, the proposed temporary accommodation camp is expected to have minimal impacts on town water and power due to existing established services already on site.

The accommodation facility aims to have additional services provided for the camp, meaning the community will maintain usual access to necessary facilities in Crows Nest, such as hairdressing and medical appointments. There will be opportunities for local businesses during the three-year construction phase to provide goods and services to the camp and to the construction sites.

As a key member of the project delivery team, we are working closely with Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC) to minimise community impacts where possible to provide positive outcomes for the local region.

We are aware of TRCs proposed Cressbrook Dam Wall Upgrade works that may also take place while Big-T is under construction. The Big-T Project team will proactively work with TRC to understand the additional accommodation pressures when these works commence, and how we can collaborate to achieve the best outcome for the community.

Contact Us

We are committed to keeping the community informed and welcome your questions, comments, and feedback. Please contact us at enquiries@bepower.com.au, visit our website at www.bepower.com.au or call our project hotline on 1800 853 280.