Energy Vault Announces Long-Term Community, Workforce and First Nations Commitments for Stoney Creek BESS

News
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Energy Vault has established a comprehensive suite of long-term commitments to the Narrabri region and broader New South Wales community as part of the **Stoney Creek Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)**. Delivered in collaboration with development partner Enervest, these commitments form a core component of the project's Social Licence framework and support enduring social, economic, and cultural outcomes throughout the life of the project.

The framework includes targeted initiatives across workforce development, local procurement, First Nations participation, and education pathways — embedding the project within the regional economy while ensuring long-term community benefit beyond construction.

Delivering Long-Term Community Value

Energy Vault will deliver two cornerstone community initiatives over a 14-year period:

- **Community Development Fund — $420,000**
- **Indigenous Services Support — $1,050,000**

These initiatives will be delivered in consultation with local councils, Traditional Owners, and community stakeholders, supporting programs focused on education, wellbeing, inclusion, and community resilience.

Education and Skills Development

Once operational, the project will partner with Narrabri TAFE to support training programs for up to 10 participants, with potential courses including:

- Diploma of Project Management
- Certificate IV in Work Health and Safety
- Diplomas in Conservation and Ecosystem Management, Horticulture Management, and Logistics

These programs are designed to strengthen local employment readiness and build long-term capability within the energy and infrastructure sectors.

Supporting Regional Industry Through Local Procurement

Energy Vault's procurement strategy prioritises local and regional suppliers to maximise economic participation and regional growth. Key commitments include:

- Approximately **$100 million** in local goods and services during development and construction
- Approximately **$26 million** in local operational and maintenance expenditure
- **100% Australian-sourced steel** for project construction activities

This approach supports job creation, strengthens domestic supply chains, and delivers sustained regional economic benefits.

Workforce Development and Inclusion

The project includes measurable workforce inclusion targets for the construction phase:

- 20% of the workforce to be learning workers
- 15% participation from underrepresented groups
- 20% of trade roles filled by apprentices

These commitments will be supported through training, mentoring, and career development pathways for local workers and students.

First Nations Participation and Engagement

Energy Vault is committed to meaningful and measurable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation, including:

- 1.5% of total project value directed to First Nations businesses
- 5% First Nations workforce participation
- $320,000 allocated to targeted training and employment initiatives

These commitments will be delivered in collaboration with local First Nations stakeholders, including engagement with the Narrabri Aboriginal Land Council and the Gomeroi community.

Project Partnership and Community Commitment

The Stoney Creek BESS is being developed with Enervest as development partner, with Energy Vault responsible for delivering long-term project outcomes and community commitments. Through this framework, Energy Vault aims to establish best-practice standards for community engagement in energy infrastructure development and ensure that regional communities are active participants in the project's long-term success.