

## Mount Doran Battery

# Frequently Asked Questions

Elaine Terminal Station

## Question 1: Will the battery catch fire?

**Answer:** There are no foreseeable risks with the battery during normal operations due to the many safeguards used in the design of the battery facility and the safety features of the equipment.

Iberdrola Australia will use batteries that have passed the highest level of safety certification and hazard mitigation (e.g. UL 9540A, NFPA 855) and are designed to be one of the safest battery storage products of its kind. In the unlikely scenario that a fire was to occur, this certification provides assurances that the fire event would be contained. What that means is, it would not spread to the whole site—only a very limited number of equipment cells would be impacted.

Some of the control measures for fire proposed to be used by the Mount Doran battery include:

1. **Battery container is rated IP66**, this rating classifies the sealing effectiveness provided by electrical enclosures. IP66 provides assurance that the enclosure could withstand high water pressure and is **UL 9540A certified** to ensure fires do not spread within the battery.
2. **Monitoring system:** each battery container has several monitoring systems to ensure 24/7 surveillance of issues. If one system fails, there are backup systems designed for robust management.
3. **Separation distances:** the battery has container separation distances to reduce the risk of battery fire spread between battery units.
4. **Bushfire Asset Protection Zones:** in accordance with our bushfire expert recommendations, Asset Protection Zones will be incorporated. These ensure that if a bushfire is in the local region, it has a low risk of reaching the battery. The [Bushfire Management Plan included in our Planning Application](#) includes more information about this.
5. **Fire self-suppression system:** in the event of a fire, **no water** is to be put on the battery. The units are designed with fire prevention and containment measures to limit fire spread and allow the system to safely burn out without needing to be put out externally with water.

Iberdrola Australia identifies that the key risk of a fire event is someone mistakenly using water to put out a fire. We proactively work with the communities and local emergency responders to keep them informed on the system, its design and what to do in a fire.

Iberdrola Australia has briefed the Elaine Country Fire Authority (CFA) for the area and will continue to work closely with them including detailed meetings at the facility and working together on our emergency response plan.

## Question 2: Will a battery fire emit toxic fumes?

**Answer:** Fire events associated with a battery are extremely rare. The batteries being proposed have unit technology design that manages any unlikely event with limited environmental and community health impacts.

As with any utility infrastructure in Victoria, any gases released in a battery fire would be similar to those of a typical structure fire: hydrogen, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and methane.

Any hazardous material kept on site during construction or operation will be stored in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency guidelines to minimise the risk of hazardous material leaving the site.

In the unlikely event of a fire, only trace amounts of acid gases are released. These gases, such as hydrogen fluoride, come from burning plastics, not battery cells. The concentrations are small enough that they are quickly diluted upon contact with the air, meaning there is no negative impact to air quality in the surrounding area.

## Question 3: Is water used for battery fires?

**Answer:** No water is to be put on the battery modules in the event of a fire. To ensure this, Iberdrola Australia has briefed the Elaine CFA and will continue to work with the CFA on the project's emergency response plans both during construction and operations.

The design of the battery makes it difficult for water to come in contact with the enclosed battery cells. Although the risk of fire for any energy infrastructure is never zero, safety is Iberdrola Australia's top priority. We will continuously review, test and update our Emergency Response Plan requirements and procedures ahead of industry standards. Part of this continual assessment will involve robust assessment of the Asset Protection Zone and integration into the Emergency Response Plan.





#### Question 4: Will bushfires destroy the battery?

**Answer:** Bushfire is a risk to any asset and Iberdrola Australia is acutely aware of the bushfire potential in regional Victoria. A Bushfire Risk Assessment has been prepared for the Mount Doran Battery which details the assessment of bushfire risk. This assessment considers the amount and type of vegetation and associated fuel loads.

The report recommends the project implements a Fire Break which is an area around the facility that remains cleared of vegetation for the life of the asset. The project has included these recommendations to ensure the safety of the battery, the community and the environment.

#### Question 5: What about the water stored on site for firefighting, as part of the Bushfire Management Plan?

**Answer:** As per the Bushfire Risk Assessment that has been prepared for the Mount Doran Battery project, there is a requirement to build a 280 kL static water storage tank for the Operations & Maintenance of the facility.

#### Question 6: Will there be significant vegetation impacts?

**Answer:** The project is situated on predominantly cleared land which includes spoil from the nearby Elaine Terminal Station construction. The location of the Mount Doran Battery has been selected in an area free of vegetation to minimise impacts on the environment.

The project has undertaken several ecological surveys and the results are detailed in the Planning Permit application which is available on the [Victorian Department of Transport and Planning website](#).

No threatened flora species listed under either the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act) or *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* are likely to be impacted. No FFG Act Protected flora species are expected to be cleared.



Elaine Terminal Station



Elaine Terminal Station



## Question 7: Who will use the power in the battery?

**Answer:** The proposed Mount Doran Battery is designed for 2 hours of duration capacity at peak output and can operate for longer at lower outputs. The battery will be grid connected at the Elaine Terminal Station (located next to the proposed battery), see map below.

At the Elaine Terminal Station, the power is distributed into the Victorian energy network where it is used by Victorians. The battery also helps to stabilise the network so it can react quickly to outages elsewhere.



## Question 8: Is there a process for decommissioning the battery?

**Answer:** As the battery operator, Iberdrola Australia is responsible for decommissioning the battery. We need to prepare a Decommissioning Plan that is in accordance with the planning requirements.

The lifespan of a battery is currently 20 years. We expect many research and technological improvements in that time, to ensure we look at processes that support achieving 100% recyclability and designing out waste using recycling inputs.

## Join our Mailing List

If you would like to join our mailing list and receive updates on the project please email the Project Team at [mountdoranbattery@iberdrola.com.au](mailto:mountdoranbattery@iberdrola.com.au).



## Question 9: Will there be community benefits to Elaine?

**Answer:** Iberdrola Australia sponsors community projects that aim to make a positive difference in the areas such as education, fire and police departments, sports clubs, art festivals and youth programs.

We aim to foster lasting relationships with community organisations by funding local initiatives and local not-for-profit organisations. Visit [Community Funds and Sponsorships](https://www.iberdrola.com.au/for-communities/community-funds-and-sponsorships) (<https://www.iberdrola.com.au/for-communities/community-funds-and-sponsorships>) for more information on application guidelines.

During construction of the battery, there will be community benefits grants and sponsorship opportunities for grass roots and local organisations.

It would be great to hear from any Mount Doran and Elaine community and environmental groups who are interested in future community benefits. Please email the Project Team on [mountdoranbattery@iberdrola.com.au](mailto:mountdoranbattery@iberdrola.com.au) or call the Stakeholder Manager on 0417 543 502.

## For more information

Iberdrola Australia's [2023 Sustainability Report](https://www.iberdrola.com.au/assets/07-ESG-Reports/Iberdrola-Australia-Sustainability-Reports/2023-Sustainability-Report.pdf) (<https://www.iberdrola.com.au/assets/07-ESG-Reports/Iberdrola-Australia-Sustainability-Reports/2023-Sustainability-Report.pdf>) focuses on the following key areas: our people, our planet, our communities including First Nations communities, customers, supply chain and our regulators. The 2023 Sustainability Report outlines specific initiatives and targets to boost our positive impacts, and how we are currently tracking against these targets.

Another very informative and useful source of knowledge is the [Clean Energy Council](https://cleanenergycouncil.org.au/) (<https://cleanenergycouncil.org.au/>). The Clean Energy Council has factsheets, reports and submissions to government that addresses many aspects of the renewable energy transition.

If you would like to contact someone from the proposed Mount Doran Battery Project Team, you can email [mountdoranbattery@iberdrola.com.au](mailto:mountdoranbattery@iberdrola.com.au) or call the Stakeholder Manager on 0417 543 502.

## Contact Us

If you have any questions about the project, feedback, or would like to share your local knowledge, we are available via the contact information below.



Visit our website:  
[www.iberdrola.com.au](http://www.iberdrola.com.au)



Email the Project Team:  
[mountdoranbattery@iberdrola.com.au](mailto:mountdoranbattery@iberdrola.com.au)



Call the Stakeholder Manager:  
0417 543 502

## Acknowledgement of Country

Iberdrola Australia respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Wadawurrung Country and their enduring connection to their ancestral lands and waters. We pay our respects to the Traditional Owners who have gone before, who are living today and who are yet to be born. We honour the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their living experiences, and their enduring connection with Country to which they belong.



Iberdrola  
Australia