

Community benefit agreement – a first for Iberdrola Australia and QLD council delivers up \$7.5 million

Iberdrola Australia has signed its first Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) under the Queensland Government's new legislative framework, introduced last year. The agreement is also a first for the Isaac Regional Council.

The CBA was negotiated with council for the proposed Burrenbring Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) located about eight km north of Nebo. The Burrenbring BESS is proposed to be up to 1000 MW / 2000 MWh and would have enough storage capacity to power 130,000 households in Central Queensland.

Paul Simshauser, Chief Executive Officer, Iberdrola Australia said, "This is our first agreement under the new code introduced in Queensland, and we're proud to have reached this important milestone that will invest up to \$7.5 million in the communities around Nebo and the wider Isaac region."

"The CBA was developed after extensive community and stakeholder engagement, a Social Impact Assessment and designed with community in mind to deliver long-term social and economic benefits," Mr. Simshauser said.

Isaac Regional Council Mayor Kelly Vea Vea said the agreement established a clear process for securing and delivering community benefits associated with the project.

"This agreement puts Council's Community Benefit Agreement framework into practice. It provides a clear and accountable way to turn good intentions into lasting outcomes, ensuring community priorities are considered, commitments are documented and benefits are delivered over the life of the project," Mayor Vea Vea said.

It will include \$350,000 for hard infrastructure and capital works in and around the town of Nebo, as well as a \$90,000 annual grant and community well-being initiative to support community groups, education initiatives, local events, and local health services.

"Iberdrola has shown a willingness to come to the table, listen and work with Council on the issues that matter to our communities," Mayor Vea Vea said.

"That is the kind of leadership we want to see from companies operating in Isaac, engaging early, investing in regional people and becoming part of the communities that support their projects.

Recently Iberdrola Australia co-funded, along with other a renewable energy developers, [a \\$750,000 upgrade of the Telstra communications tower at Broadsound](#) and announced [\\$75,000 of scholarships for Country Universities Centre](#) – Isaac to support regional and rural students.

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