

Where is New Zealand's biggest planned battery energy storage system?

Image: Vector Energy Development approvals have been granted for New Zealand's biggest planned battery energy storage system (BESS) to date. The 100MW battery storage project is in development by electricity generator and retailer Meridian Energy at Ruakaka on New Zealand's North Island. The site is adjacent to Marsden Point, a former oil refinery.

Are PPAs a viable option in New Zealand?

There is certainly willingness in New Zealand from both energy developers and corporate buyers to explore using PPAs, but there are also some hurdles to overcome that we are seeing play out in the market.

How will a battery storage system benefit New Zealand?

The battery storage will help to reduce these events by smoothing the distribution of supply and demand," Knott said. The system will charge with cheap energy during off-peak hours and send it back to the grid at times of high demand. It will also enable more power generated on New Zealand's South Island to be utilised in the north.

How do PPAs work in New Zealand?

Costs are converted to NZ dollars. electricity, corporate buyers can use PPAs as an alternative risk management tool to hedge against movements in the electricity price. As New Zealand builds more variable renewable energy (VRE) generation such as weather driven solar and wind, electricity spot price volatility is expected to become more common.

Will Infratec build a new energy storage system in New Zealand?

Infratec general manager Nick Bibby said that the storage system is "the first of its scale to be built in New Zealand". As reported by Energy-Storage.news, the two companies completed their assessment of the project in late 2021, selecting a site in Huntly, a town in the Waikato District.

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The uptake of BESS in New Zealand is particularly important given that it can help to solve one of New Zealand's biggest energy challenges - meeting peak demand. In recent years, there have been ongoing concerns as to the reliability of New Zealand's energy supply following blackouts in 2021.

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Construction will commence in New Zealand on the country's biggest battery energy storage system (BESS)

project so far in July this year, with the 35MW system expected to be commissioned in December.

The NZ Battery Project was set up in 2020 to explore possible renewable energy storage solutions for when our hydro lakes run low for long periods. A pumped hydro scheme at Lake Onslow was one of the options being explored.

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