

Managing visual amenity at Rutherglen Battery

1 What the Queensland planning rules require

Under Queensland's Planning Regulation 2017, a **battery storage facility is assessed against State Code 27**. Performance outcome PO22 requires the project to be sited and designed to:

- Minimise visual impacts on nearby homes and dwellings (sensitive receptors)
- Protect the landscape values and scenic amenity of the surrounding area, and provide screening and buffering to nearby dwellings to the greatest extent feasible.



Artist render of the 22.8 ha footprint within the 1,277 ha property

2 What the assessment found

-  **15 dwellings assessed.** Hilly land and existing vegetation screen the battery from almost all residences.
-  **Only three could have any view**, and each is limited: the homestead on the project property; worker accommodation 2.3 km West of the site, likely fully screened; and an unoccupied dwelling to the north.
-  **Public views only from Red Hill Road** — a quiet unsealed road, about 50 vehicle trips a day. The battery is set back around 400m and screened by roadside vegetation.
-  **Slightly raised above the 1-in-500-year flood level** for safety and reliability. Views stay limited to intermittent glimpses.
-  **Edinburgh Mountains views protected.** The battery sits low in the landscape and is not expected to significantly interrupt views of the broader landscape.
-  **No impact on views from Eurimbula National Park.** Walking tracks and camping areas are screened by land and vegetation.



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3 How visual impacts will be managed

- Careful siting.** The 22.8 ha footprint sits centrally within the 1,277 ha property, well back from the road and alongside the existing transmission lines.
- Vegetated grass berms 2.7 m high** along the northern and western sides will screen the battery from Red Hill Road.
- Berms built early.** Constructed before the battery is operational, so planting has time to establish. Formed from soil moved during site levelling.

4 Indicative artist renders — with and without the proposed screening berm

The assessment concludes that, with the grass berm in place, no further visual screening or mitigation works are necessary, and that the proposal protects the values and scenic amenity of the surrounding landscape to the greatest extent feasible.

Location A — view from Red Hill Road (indicative photomontage)



Location B — view from Red Hill Road (indicative photomontage)

