Welcome to the first issue of the Playford Utility Battery Community Newsletter. These newsletters will keep you updated on the progress of our project, provide information on the opportunities to provide input to the project and to express your interest to help build the Playford Utility Battery.

SIMEC Energy Australia plan to undertake comprehensive community engagement activities to make sure the community is informed and this newsletter forms an important part of that engagement work.

The aim is for the Playford Utility Battery to be a positive and valued development for Port Augusta and the wider region.

What is the Playford Utility Battery Project?

The SIMEC Energy Australia (formerly SIMEC ZEN Energy) Playford Utility Battery Project is proposed on an 3Ha site on Port Patterson Road, approximately 8km SE of Port Augusta.

The proposed battery setup will be a collection of 40-ft containers housing a mix of batteries, transformers and AC/DC converter stations. Our initial estimates point to 55 containers being used in total.

There will be site amenities for operations staff, electrical control rooms and a small substation to enable connection into the grid at the Davenport Substation. The images below provide an indication of how the overall development may look.

Why we’re building the Battery

Once energised, the Playford Utility Battery will support the energy needs of SIMEC Energy Australia’s retail electricity customers, GFG’s Whyalla Primary Steel plant, and provide energy services to the National Electricity Market including:

- **Market arbitrage** - Charging the battery at times of high energy output from renewable sources in the region, including our nearby Cultana Solar Farm, and offset high energy prices to drive greater competition.
- **Frequency Control Ancillary Services (FCAS) -** Providing frequency support to the national electricity grid to help stabilise SA’s power supply.
- **Fast Frequency Response (FFR) -** Providing further frequency support to the National Electricity Grid, with response times typically quicker than traditional methods to further protect users of the National Electricity Grid.

Map showing the key areas of the Playford Utility Battery Project

3D model showing the proposed design of the Playford Utility Battery project
Project Update

Over the Christmas period, the team began engaging with the Port Augusta Council and local community members to understand how SIMEC Energy Australia can best develop the Playford Utility Battery Project to accommodate their needs. The team submitted the development application in February and expect approval in May. The team working to obtain all necessary relevant licences and approvals to allow construction to start in mid 2019.

The Playford Utility Battery project team were pleased to meet with local residents and businesses in February to hear your thoughts on the project.

We heard that the following issues are particularly important to the community:

- Maximising local employment opportunities
- Minimising road degradation and dust during construction
- Exploring other ways that the project can contribute to the local community

The first business information session was extremely productive and we have compiled a portfolio of the local capabilities on offer. We will now share this with our EPC contractor so they are aware of the local capabilities and can draw on them as appropriate. As we near construction, we will host further sessions with the community to continue this close engagement. Stay tuned to the project website for details.

Community Benefit Fund

SIMEC Energy Australia will be establishing a Community Benefit Fund to contribute to local Port Augusta community projects, charities, schools and individuals. We want to hear from you regarding this benefit fund and specifically how you would like it to be shared.

SIMEC Energy Australia is one of Australia’s leading renewable energy companies in the design and installation of solar energy and energy storage systems. SIMEC Energy Australia assists individuals, communities and businesses to lower energy costs, improve regional and state energy security, and to promote regional development. SIMEC Energy Australia is a part of the GFG Alliance.

The GFG Alliance is committed to investment in the Whyalla region through its companies Liberty Steel, SIMEC Mining and SIMEC Energy Australia.

GFG Alliance is an international group of companies founded, owned, and operated by the Gupta family. The Gupta Family Group is a global Alliance of four different businesses working together as one towards the delivery of a common industrial strategy.