

Does Hydrostor have an expected date that the A-CAES facility will be operational in Broken Hill?  
**Yes, the Silver City A-CAES facility is targeted to be operational in Q4 2028..**

In Transgrid's evidence at the hearing, we were told that the timeframe for the Silver City project is December 2028, but we note that the Project Assessment Conclusions Report referred to an expected commissioning date of 2025/26. Can you explain why there has been a delay?

**This was the estimate at the time of the filings for the Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission (RIT-T), which itself was concluded over an extended timeline, in addition to the requirements for regulatory clarity of the network support arrangements that are expected in Q2-2025. With this being a large-scale, first of its kind project, a large amount of work has been required to clear a range of barriers, including complex regulatory and network rules. With the project's development application recently approved and having worked closely with various regulators and key stakeholders, we are close to commencing construction and now look forward to getting boots on the ground later this year.**

At the hearing, witnesses for Hydrostor remarked that the Broken Hill electrical load rarely exceeded 50 megawatts. To clarify, is that referring to the peak demand for the entire Far West electricity network including those remote towns outside Broken Hill as around 50 megawatts?

**Yes, the 50MW figure we referenced reflects peak demand across the entire Far West electricity network, including Broken Hill and neighbouring remote communities, based on historical data.**

In a situation where the X2 line is down and the Silver City A-CAES has to be discharged to provide backup power:

- a. Is there any supply safety concerns regarding the operation of the Silver City A-CAES, e.g. it could overload the electricity system in the Far West region?  
**No, the system is specifically engineered to the requirements of the Transmission Network Service Provider safely discharge power within the capacity constraints of the Far West network.**
- b. Would the project be able to be recharged while it is currently supplying backup power?  
**Yes, the design of A-CAES specifically allows for simultaneous charging and discharging mode, which is important for managing fluctuations in renewable energy on the mini-grid while maintaining important grid services from the facility.**
- c. How long would it take to fully discharge and recharge the proposed A-CAES?  
**At its full 200MW output, the facility can discharge for 8 hours. However, given regional demand rarely exceeds 50MW, the facility when fully charged can operate for over 30 hours without needing to recharge. is the facility is contracted as approved through the regulatory process to always ensure availability of 250MWh of storage capacity at any point of service interruption, and the mini-grid is designed to leverage existing renewable resources to facilitate recharging without service disruption.**
- d. Is Hydrostor working with Tilt Renewables to ensure that those existing renewable energy generation projects in the Far West region can be utilised to recharge the A-CAES in order to provide a longer period of backup supply of energy if needed?  
**As the Transmission Network Service Provider is responsible for the mini-grid and the grid reliability, Transgrid manages the relationship with Tilt Renewables. While Hydrostor is not directly involved in those commercial arrangements, Tilt Renewables has publicly expressed support for the mini-grid solution, which anticipates the recharging of the A-CAES to provide longer periods of back-up supply. .**

How will the Silver City project be able to support the Far West grid when it is islanded, given other projects have been prevented from operating in islanded mode like the BESS?

**The limitations of operating the existing BESS in islanded mode have been well documented. Hydrostor is working closely with Transgrid and AEMO to establish the mini-grid-ready A-CAES solution specifically designed to function in islanded mode, making full use of the region's renewable energy assets.**