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## **AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST BATTERY ARRIVES IN BUNINYONG**

Australia's largest battery has arrived on Australian shores and will be connected to the grid in Buninyong in the coming weeks.

Housed in a standard 40 foot shipping container, the 2 megawatt battery is capable of providing approximately 3,000 customers with an hour of back-up power during a power outage and is expected to reduce outage time for Buninyong residents to less than 33 minutes a year.

"This \$8m investment will highlight the capabilities and value of using a battery storage system on a rural long feeder in Buninyong, south of Ballarat," said Tim Rourke, CEO of Powercor Australia.

"This project will allow us to determine if using the installation of grid-scale batteries on the network will successfully increase capacity temporarily during peak demand periods," he said.

Emerging technologies such as energy storage are increasingly taking centre stage and steadily becoming an important part of a smarter, more responsive grid.

A grid-scale battery installed on the right part of the network can help reduce stress on the network, improve reliability of supply and reduce maintenance costs.

This means being able to defer capital upgrades, ultimately lowering costs for customers.

"As an electricity distributor, we are constantly looking for our ways to allow our electricity networks to operate more flexibly and maintain reliability while ensuring that our customers still receive a low-cost distribution service. This project is one of many initiatives that demonstrate our commitment to building an evolving network," said Mr Rourke.

The 2 megawatt energy storage system was manufactured in South Korea and recently underwent a series of intensive Factory Acceptance Tests (FAT) in Chicago including attempts to put pressure on the system to crash it. The battery rose to the challenge, withstood the tests and has arrived in Australia after a 3-week journey from the USA.

Powercor expects to commence testing of the battery in Buninyong from April 2016 with the battery fully operational by mid-year.

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