



Case Study: Gnarwarre Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Site Facilities

 **CLIENT**
Samsung C&T

 **LOCATION**
Gnarwarre, VIC

 **SIZE**
32 modules + 21 Coverflex

 **HIRE DURATION**
22 months

Project Overview

The Gnarwarre BESS project in Victoria required the rapid, turnkey deployment of all construction site facilities for the main contractor, Samsung C&T. With a 22-month project duration, the core objective was to provide a comprehensive solution that minimised the client's need for their own labour, offering a compelling alternative price point and scope compared to competitive bids for new buildings.

Scope of Delivery

Ausco delivered a fully customised and operational site, encompassing a total of 32 modules for site offices and amenities, complemented by 21 Coverflex structures for versatile shelter. The fit-out was extensive, featuring split-system air conditioning, kitchen and lunchroom sets, furniture packs for Health and Safety representatives, and induction room kits. The turnkey approach included full plumbing services - water tanks, pumps, and waste management - as well as essential site utilities like generators, battery solutions, and the installation of Starlink for remote connectivity.

Solution

- 14 x Mixed Use Complex modules
- 10 x Office Complex modules
- 3 x Client Office Complex modules
- 1 x First Aid Room
- 1 x M/F Toilet ECO Upgrade
- 1 x Female Ablution ECO Upgrade
- 1 x Male Toilet
- 1 x Ambulant/Disabled Toilet
- 1 x Guard House
- 21 x Coverflex Modular Walkway
- Split-system air con upgrades
- Office & meeting room furniture packs
- Lunchroom & kitchen appliances
- Water & waste tanks + pump out services
- Custom steps & ramps
- Generators & batteries
- Starlink connectivity
- Delivery & installation

Navigating Complexity and Constraints

The project was characterised by intense time pressures, requiring a highly efficient delivery process. The site location itself - a remote farm outside Geelong - presented unique logistical and safety challenges. Site access was challenging, necessitating careful risk management due to the lack of nearby support and services.

Furthermore, the team navigated significant regulatory hurdles, including an EPA overlay that restricted night lighting, resulting in a completely dark site after 6pm. This environmental constraint eliminated the use of carpark lights and necessitated operational adjustments.

Solution and Key to Success

Success hinged on collaborative planning and operational efficiency. The internal Ausco team, including Mitch and Claudiu, ensured the layout and design provided an efficient user experience. The operations team effectively managed the custom specifications and lead times, allowing the construction team to execute brilliantly on-site. The use of Coverflex was driven purely by the need for speed, enabling swift site setup.

When working with Tier 1 contractors with the highest of standards, like Samsung C&T, Ausco worked tirelessly in pre-award, preparation and planning, and execution to ensure the solution met the standards and requirements of the client. It is the benefit of using a large and mature site solutions provider such as Ausco that they have the internal capability and resources to deliver for time-sensitive and important infrastructure development found in the renewable energy sector.

