

Community Batteries

February 2024



Ausgrid will install a new community battery in North Epping, bringing the benefits of local energy storage to the community. Ausgrid will be installing the battery starting in March-April.

Community batteries are an innovative solution to help use more solar energy locally, allow more solar onto the local network, support wider renewable energy adoption and prepare for increasing electricity use from electric vehicle charging.

What are we doing?

In April last year, we asked for your feedback on a proposed site for a new community battery in North Epping. Overall, the community was very supportive of the proposal.

Since then, we have received funding from the Federal Government to install the community battery in North Epping. We then started the process of detailed planning for delivering the battery.

In November, we identified several concerns with the proposed location. We found that this original location at the intersection would require 25 metres of excavation and significant upgrades to the existing network requiring multiple outages to connect the battery. A new location along Beck Street approximately 40 metres from the original position met our conditions for a community battery. We asked the community for feedback on this location and it was generally supported.

You can find our community engagement report at <https://yoursay.ausgrid.com.au/sharedbatterynorthepping>.

Electric vehicle (EV) charging station

Ausgrid offered to install an EV charging station in addition to the community battery to further enable the local community's transition to renewable energy and net zero emissions.

We heard mixed views about an EV charger at Beck Street.

We will not be proceeding with an EV charging station at Beck Street.

We will continue to explore an alternative community offer within North Epping.

Statutory Notification

Ausgrid, as the designated network provider, can assess and determine certain activities for the purposes of electricity distribution. This responsibility comes with notification requirements.

Ausgrid will formally notify adjacent residents about the project in line with our statutory obligations. All responses received within 21 days will be considered.

Who is Ausgrid?

Ausgrid is the largest distributor of electricity on Australia's east coast, providing power to 1.8 million customers. We are responsible for the substations, powerlines, underground cables and power poles (the grid) that spans 22,275 square kilometres throughout Sydney, Central Coast, Newcastle and the Upper Hunter.

Right now, we are preparing the grid for a world where renewables play a major role in the power mix, with more and more households, businesses and communities locally generating, using, and sharing electricity.





During the day, excess solar is stored in the battery via the grid

Stored energy can be drawn from the grid during high energy periods or the evening



Communities can learn about the battery and how it operates daily

How community batteries work

Community batteries are connected to the local distribution network which services nearby residents and small businesses. The battery stores and distributes electricity from the local grid to share with the local community and wider energy system.

Contact Us

Ausgrid Community Battery Team

Call: 1800 995 674

Email: sharedbattery@ausgrid.com.au

For more information, visit our project page: <https://yoursay.ausgrid.com.au/sharedbatterynorthepping>

or scan the QR code.



Benefits of community batteries

Batteries are key to supporting the energy system as we rely on more renewable energy sources such as solar and wind. Community batteries in particular can further provide benefits in the local area they are connected to, allowing more rooftop solar and more electric devices such as electric vehicle chargers to be connected.

- A stronger grid will reduce the need to limit (curtail) solar exports and help customers maximise their solar investment.
- Helps share more solar within the local area, including with non-solar households.
- Creates a positive impact on wholesale electricity prices that could eventually flow through to reduced retail customer offers.
- Helps to regulate voltage on the network and improves network quality in the local area.
- Offers a flexible alternative to traditional poles and wires investment and helps lower network costs.

Timeline

- April 2023**
Community information session. Consultation opens.
- May 2023**
Consultation closes. Feedback incorporated into project plan.
- June 2023**
Project funding awarded.
- December 2023**
New position proposed for battery. EV charger announced. Consultation on position and EV charger opens.
- January 2024**
Consultation closes. Beck Street location confirmed for battery. Confirmed no EV charger on Beck Street.
- February 2024**
Ausgrid seeking alternatives for community offer. Ausgrid provides formal notification of battery construction to local residents.
- March-April 2024**
Construction starts on community battery.
- Mid-2024**
Battery operational.

We are here

