

BESS

Planning and approvals process



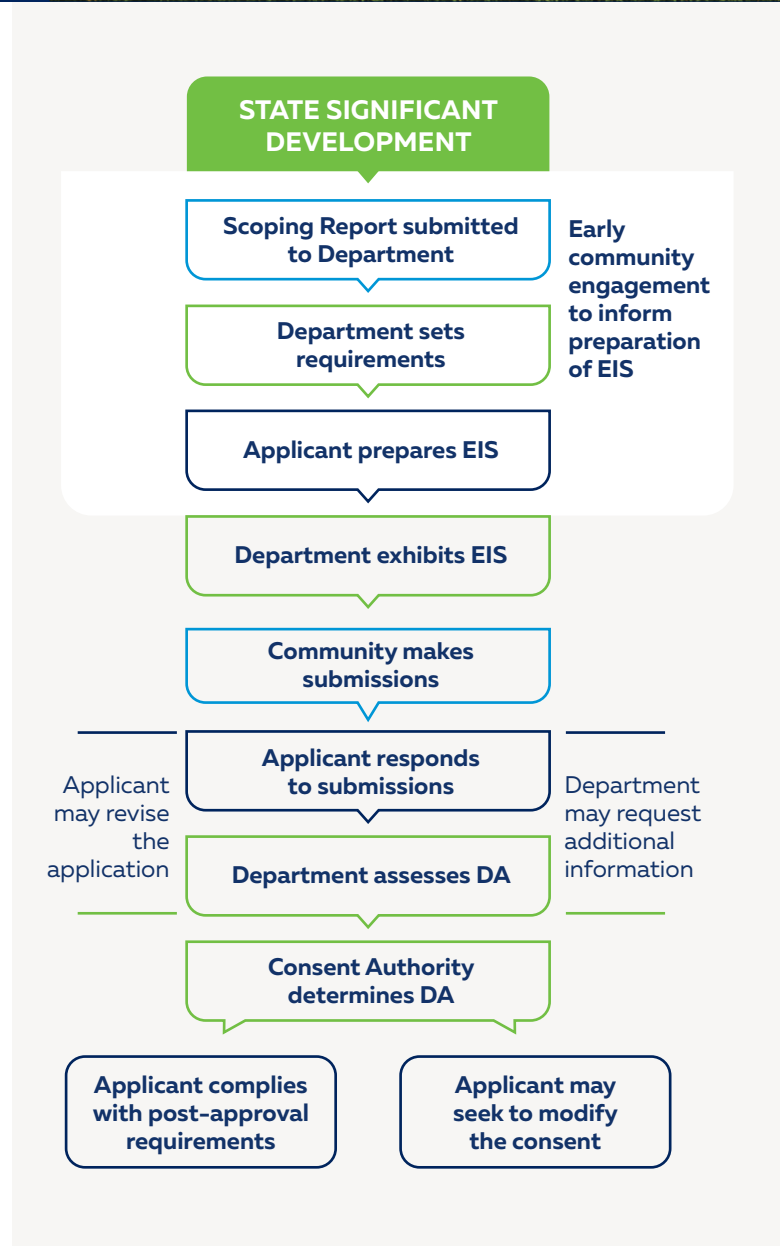
Ausgrid is proposing Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) across the Ausgrid network area, next to substations in Sydney, the Central Coast, Newcastle and Hunter region.

We're planning for the energy network of the future, now.

As we switch to renewable energy sources like solar and wind power, we need more energy storage to make sure we have power when the sun isn't shining and the wind isn't blowing. This will mean we can provide our customers with more sustainable, more reliable and more affordable power. NSW needs six times more energy storage before 2030.

These batteries will add energy storage to their local electricity networks. Our first two sites will store up to 400MWh of energy each – that's enough to power over 27,000 Ausgrid households a day.

Each BESS project will be assessed individually, as a State Significant Development, under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (NSW) 1979*. This is the formal planning approval pathway for major infrastructure developments valued at \$30 million and above. State Significant Development projects are assessed and approved by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).



This factsheet outlines the planning and approval process. It also explains how and when the community and stakeholders will be consulted.

State Significant Development assessment process

The State Significant Development assessment process starts with a Scoping Report, submitted by Ausgrid.

The Scoping Report describes:

- the scope and location of the BESS
- potential environmental and social matters that require further assessment
- how we plan to engage with community and stakeholders.

The Scoping Report for any State Significant Development Application (SSDA) is available to view on the [NSW Planning Portal](#). In response, DPHI will issue the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs).

The SEARs set out assessment requirements that need to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We will prepare an EIS, engaging with community and stakeholders as it is developed. Then we will submit this to DPHI for public exhibition and assessment.

Environmental Impact Statement

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a technical document that provides information on the development of the BESS and potential environmental impacts. It also outlines how these impacts can be appropriately mitigated.

The purpose of an EIS is to document the assessment of relevant environmental, social, and economic impacts of a project. It helps the community, councils, government agencies, and the decision makers to get a better understanding of a project and its impacts so they can make informed submissions or decisions on the merits of the project.

The EIS is placed on public exhibition by DPHI as part of the statutory planning process, providing the opportunity for stakeholders and the community to find out more about the project, ask questions and give feedback.

Engaging with the community

We're committed to engaging with our neighbours, stakeholders and local community to shape our projects. We want to understand any concerns or ideas our stakeholders and community may have so we can consider these during the early planning stage of the BESS Project. This helps us to better understand how a project may affect the environment and community and shape the project as we progress design.

As we prepare the EIS for a BESS project, we want to hear from the local community and stakeholders and answer any questions you might have. The feedback we get from this early consultation will help shape the project. We will share information about the project during this period – however as our technical studies will still be underway, we may not have all the answers yet.

Public exhibition period

DPHI publicly exhibits the SSDA and EIS for a period of at least 28 days. The public exhibition process provides an opportunity to review detailed documentation on the planning for the BESS Project and have your say through the formal submissions process.

If you would like to lodge feedback on the application for the BESS project, please follow the formal process managed by DPHI as outlined on their website.

Following submission of the State Significant Development Application, the Environmental Impact Statement for each Ausgrid BESS project will be available to view on the DPHI's major projects website at <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects>

Shaping the project together

As part of the project's assessment and approval as a State Significant Development, Ausgrid is consulting with stakeholders, the local community and our neighbours to:

- Inform those impacted or interested in the project
- Receive feedback on the proposed BESS project
- Understand the potential social, economic or environmental risks of the project
- Work with the community to mitigate potential impacts.

We want to hear from the local community and answer any questions you might have. The feedback we get from this early consultation will help shape the design of the project.



1800 574 044

Monday to Friday 9am to 4:30pm



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If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450** and ask them to call the project team on **1800 574 044**. The interpreter will then help you with translation.