

Berkeley Vale Battery Energy Storage System

Community update #2
October 2025

Ausgrid is proposing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in Berkeley Vale to add energy storage to the local electricity network.

Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts and feedback with us in June 2025 as we introduced our plans for energy storage at our existing Ausgrid substation at 14 Apprentice drive, Berkeley Vale. Your feedback is helping to shape our project and will continue to inform the direction of this project.

Project update

We've now lodged our Scoping Report with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) and received the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for this project. The SEARs outline the requirements we must address in our planning application.

As we undertake the necessary technical studies, we are also engaging further with the community to ensure our plans reflect the feedback we've received.

This community update outlines some of the potential environmental and community considerations of the project and lets you know how you can learn more and provide your feedback.

This battery will store 300MWh of energy - enough to power over 20,250 Ausgrid households a day.

As we switch to renewable 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.

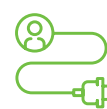
NSW needs six times more energy storage before 2030. Projects like the Berkeley Vale BESS are important to help keep our electricity supply stable.



The Berkeley Vale BESS will be located at 14 Apprentice Drive, Berkeley Vale. This site is surrounded by industrial buildings and consists of empty land covered in some vegetation. The BESS will be built on land owned by Ausgrid, close to an existing Ausgrid-owned substation.



Store up to
300MWh
of energy



Power
20,250
households a day



Understanding possible impacts

We are committed to ensuring the Berkeley Vale BESS considers the local community, with minimal impact to neighbours and the environment. Our technical assessments are designed to identify and address any potential impacts early on. We are completing technical assessments and will share the results as they are available.



Noise

A BESS uses fans to keep the batteries cool. These fans can create some noise depending on the weather and outside air temperature. We are preparing a Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment that will test how much noise the Berkeley Vale BESS will create. This assessment will also report on how we will manage noise during construction and how we will make sure noise stays within the accepted levels set out by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).



Traffic and transport

The project is located at the existing Ausgrid substation on Apprentice Drive. We understand managing traffic access during both construction and operation is important to the surrounding community and nearby businesses. Ausgrid is undertaking traffic studies and will develop a Traffic Impact Assessment to support all phases of the project. Careful access planning will help minimise impacts on our neighbours, as well as their customers, staff, and visitors.



Safety and hazards

We are preparing a hazard and bushfire hazard assessment. We are also working with fire safety authorities to make sure hazard management plans are in place.

Fires in a BESS are extremely rare. Each battery unit is designed with built-in safety systems, including monitoring technology that can automatically shut down the system if needed. In the unlikely event of a fire, it is typically small and contained to a single battery unit.



Local environment

The proposed site has some vegetation, with some trees and mostly weeds. We are proposing to retain vegetation, where possible. We chose this site for a BESS because there will be limited environmental impact. We anticipate no significant effects on local vegetation or wildlife. Ausgrid is working with environmental and planning authorities to manage impacts on drainage and land contamination onsite.

What is a BESS?

A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is a group of large rechargeable batteries, connected to form one very large battery. A BESS collects energy, stores it when there is a lot and then releases it when there is high demand for electricity. These large batteries are critical to ensuring the reliability of electricity supply for households and businesses.

By connecting a BESS to our existing substations, we are reducing the impact on communities and the environment, and decreasing the need to build more large transmission and distribution lines. This helps reduce costs and makes electricity more affordable.

Ausgrid is also connecting community batteries to our network infrastructure.

Community batteries are the same technology, at a smaller size, and help manage energy from rooftop solar, locally.



Enabling more renewable energy



Reducing the need for new transmission lines



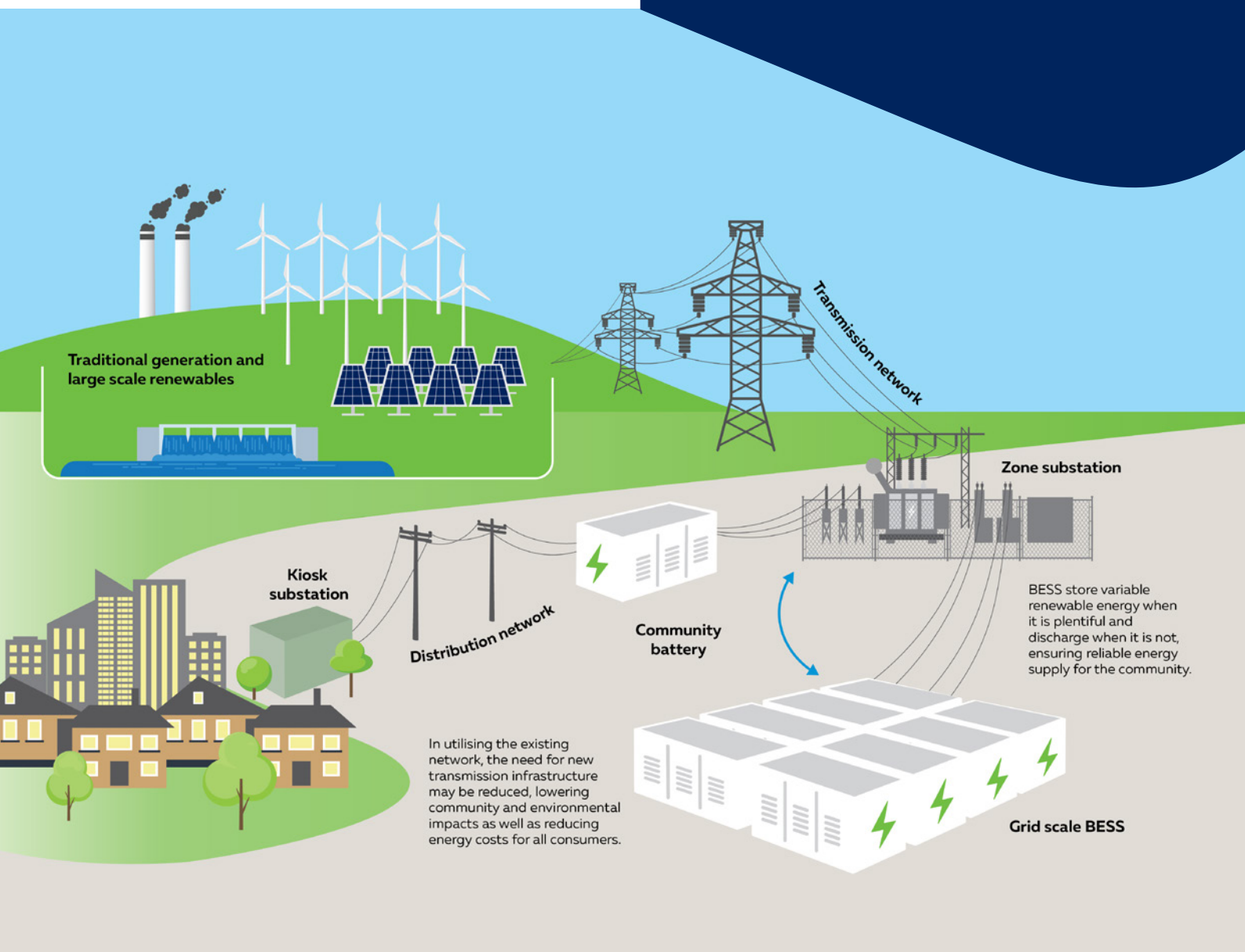
Local construction jobs



Improving grid stability and reliability



Enabling more affordable electricity



Planning process

The proposed Berkeley Vale BESS will be assessed as a State Significant Development under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (NSW) 1979*. An important step in this process is talking to the local community and seeking feedback. This helps us to better understand how this project may affect the environment and community and shape the project as we progress design.

We will report on this feedback, as well as the results of technical studies, in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) will place the EIS on public exhibition. Anyone will be able to read it and submit formal feedback directly to DPHI.

We are currently preparing our EIS and expect it will be on public exhibition in early 2026.

ONGOING COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

1 Mid 2025

- Submit Scoping Report to DPHI
- DPHI sets out what must be assessed in the project's EIS

2 Late 2025 - early 2026

- Prepare EIS, including technical studies
- Submit EIS to DPHI

We are here

3 Throughout 2026

- EIS exhibition
- DPHI assessment
- Project determination

4 2027

- Start construction

Get involved

We are holding a pop-up information session and invite you to come and speak with the team.



Thursday 13 November
3.30pm - 5.30pm

Chittaway Bay Shopping Centre
100 Chittaway Road,
Chittaway Bay

For more information scan the QR code or visit yoursay.ausgrid.com.au/berkeleyvalebess.

Tell us what you think

We want to hear from you and answer your questions. You can meet our project team at our upcoming information pop up or contact us on the details below.

Who is Ausgrid

Ausgrid is a distribution network service provider. We operate, maintain, repair and build the electricity network in Sydney, the Central Coast and the Hunter.

We distribute electricity to your home or business, maintain existing infrastructure, and invest in new technologies to make the network more sustainable, reliable and affordable. We also need to make sure the network is ready for our customers' future needs.

Find out more

We want to hear from local community members about our project and answer your questions.

Stay up-to-date by visiting our website:



yoursay.ausgrid.com.au/berkeleyvalebess



batteries@ausgrid.com.au



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.