Community Batteries

January 2024

A new community battery will be installed in North Epping, bringing the benefits of local energy storage to the community. Ausgrid will be installing the battery starting in March.

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.

During our detailed planning, we identified a number of problems 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.

Electric vehicle charger

In addition to the North Epping community battery, Ausgrid is offering the North Epping community an Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station to further enable the local community's transition to renewable energy and net zero emissions.

We asked the community for their feedback on a proposed electric vehicle charger to be installed adjacent to the battery on Beck Street. We heard mixed views on the proposed electric vehicle charger and understand that we have more work to do.

We are now investigating alternative locations.

Power pole replacement

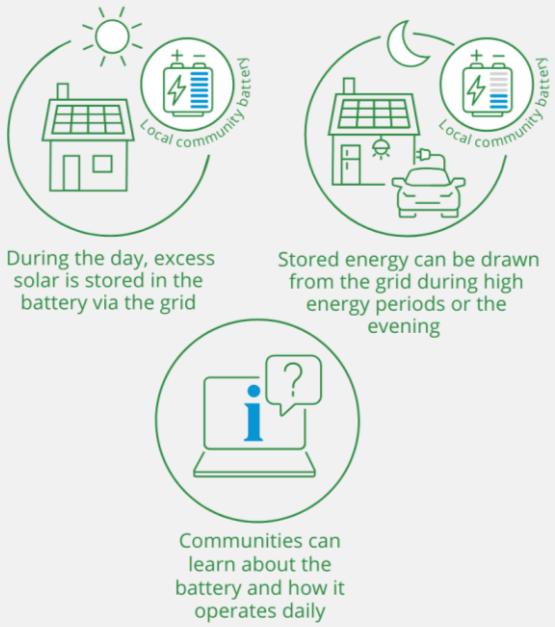
While our team were investigating potential sites for the battery, they noted that a power pole on Beck Street was no longer at the standard required.

This power pole will be replaced on 2 February 2024.

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.



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

Online:
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 invited to attend community information session. Consultation opens.

May 2023
Online consultation closed. Feedback incorporated in project plan.

June 2023
Project funding awarded.

December 2023
New location proposed for battery; EV charger announced. Consultation on new battery location and EV charger opens.

We are here

January 2024
Consultation closes. Beck Street location confirmed for battery. Ausgrid investigates new options for EV charger.

February 2024
Community updated on options for EV charger. Potential consultation on any new location.

March 2024
Construction to begin on battery.

Mid 2024
Battery operational. EV charger potentially installed at new location.