

# Homebush Battery Energy Storage System

Community update #2  
November 2024



**Ausgrid is in the early planning stage for a battery in Homebush to add energy storage to the local electricity network.**

**We want to hear from the local community to help us better understand how the project might affect you.**

**We are proposing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) to be next to the existing Ausgrid substation at 10 Homebush Bay Drive, Homebush.**

We are preparing the Environmental Impact Statement and want to connect with the local community and answer any questions you might have. The feedback we get from this consultation will help shape the project.

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

**This battery will store 400MWh of energy – that’s enough to power over 27,000 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 Homebush BESS are important to help keep our electricity supply stable.



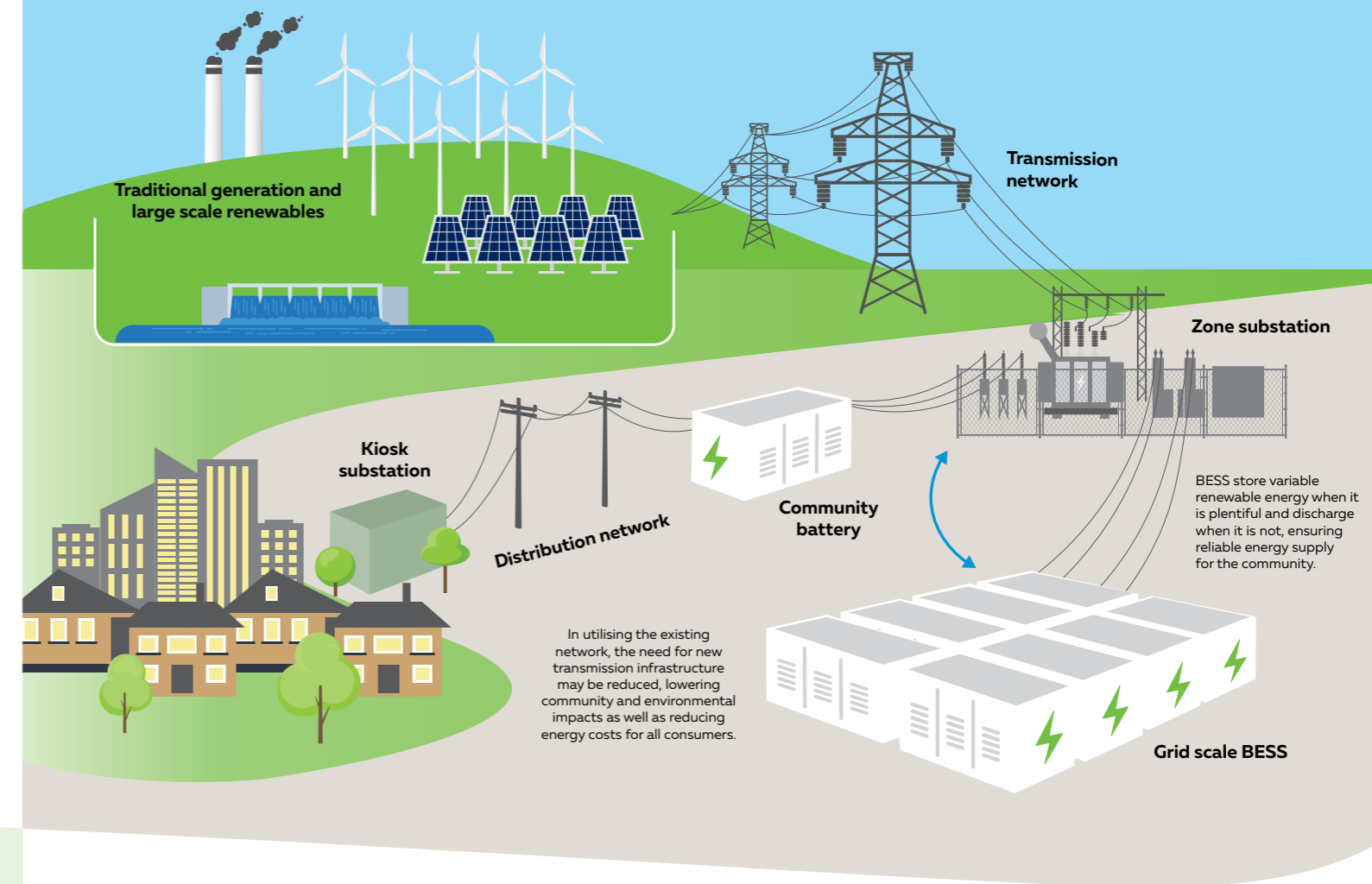
Homebush BESS will be located next to the Ausgrid substation at 10 Homebush Bay Drive, Homebush. It is surrounded by commercial and light industrial properties with the nearest residential property 140m to the south-east.

## Planning process

The Homebush BESS project will be assessed as a State Significant Development, under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (NSW) 1979*. An important step in the Homebush BESS project's State Significant Development Application (SSDA) is talking to stakeholders and the community about the project and seeking their feedback. This helps us to better understand how a project may affect the environment and community and shape the project as we progress design.

Ausgrid is now engaging with community and stakeholders. The results of these engagements will be reported on in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) will be placing the EIS on Public Exhibition, where anyone from the public will be able to view it and lodge formal feedback on the development application.

We are currently preparing an EIS and expect it will be on public exhibition in early 2025.



## Understanding the possible impacts

We want to understand the potential impacts on our project's neighbours and the local community. Our studies and management plans on the below impacts will be made available during the EIS Public Exhibition.



### Noise

A BESS requires fans to keep the batteries cool. These fans can create some noise depending on the weather and outside air temperature. We are currently preparing a Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment that will test how much noise is created by our units. 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 site is near the intersections of three busy roads, Homebush Bay Drive, M4 Western Motorway and Parramatta Road. We know managing transport access during construction and operation will be important. Ausgrid is preparing traffic studies and will create a Traffic Management Plan for both the construction and operation of the BESS. We know that managing access carefully is important for our neighbours and their customers, staff and visitors.



### Local environment

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



### Safety and hazards

At Ausgrid, we have high safety and reliability standards. If an idea or initiative doesn't meet these standards, it simply won't proceed. A fire from a BESS is rare. In the unlikely event of a fire, most are very small and affect only one unit of the battery. BESS are designed, tested and fitted with automatic safety systems to reduce the risk and impact of fire. Ausgrid is working with the relevant fire safety authorities to make sure that hazard management plans are in place before the batteries are switched on.

## What is a BESS?

A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is a group of large rechargeable batteries, connected to form one very large battery. BESS collect energy, store it when there is a lot and then release 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 BESS to our existing substations, we are reducing the impact on our communities and the environment, and decreasing the need to build more large transmission and distribution lines, which 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 roof top solar, locally.

## The benefits of BESS include:



**Enabling more renewable energy**



**Reducing the need for new transmission lines**



**Local construction jobs**



**Improving grid stability and reliability**



**Enabling more affordable electricity**

## Get involved

### Information sessions

We are holding a series of pop-up information sessions and invite you to come to them to learn more about the project.



**Thursday 21 November**  
**10am – 12pm**

Strathfield Library and Innovation Hub,  
65 Rochester Road, Homebush



**Tuesday 26 November**  
**7am – 9am**

Homebush Train Station,  
Loftus Crescent, Homebush



**Saturday 30 November**  
**9.30am – 11.30am**

Mason Park,  
Underwood Road, Homebush  
(near playground)

### Tell us what you think

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

You can meet our project team at an upcoming information session. You can also complete a survey to provide your feedback.



Survey is available at our project website at: [yoursay.ausgrid.com.au/homebushbess](https://yoursay.ausgrid.com.au/homebushbess)

Survey closes Sunday 8 December 2024.

## 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

There are many ways you can stay up to date with the project and have your say by visiting our project website at [yoursay.ausgrid.com.au/homebushbess](https://yoursay.ausgrid.com.au/homebushbess)

The website includes:

- upcoming community engagement opportunities
- project information, facts sheets, and newsletters
- recorded online presentations about the project, delivered by our Project Team.

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

**Register to stay up-to-date or contact our project team for more information.**



[yoursay.ausgrid.com.au/homebushbess](https://yoursay.ausgrid.com.au/homebushbess)



**1800 574 044**

Monday to Friday 9am to 4:30pm



[batteries@ausgrid.com.au](mailto:batteries@ausgrid.com.au)



Ausgrid BESS Project Team  
GPO Box 4009 Sydney NSW 2001



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.