

Homebush BESS

Understanding the environmental and social impacts



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

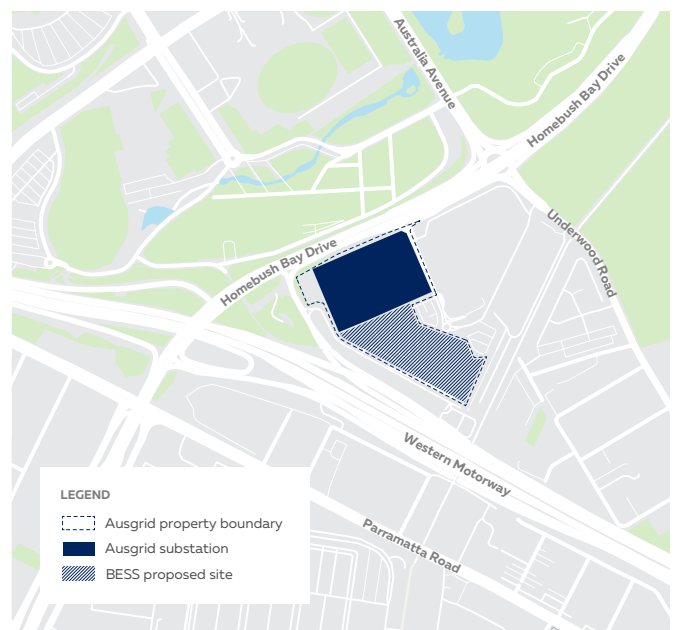
We're planning for the energy network of the future, now.

We have submitted a Scoping Report to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure to start the planning and assessment process for this project under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment (NSW) 1979 Act*.

Now we are focused on preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). An EIS considers the potential environmental, social and economic impacts of the BESS during its construction and operation. Our technical studies are under way. We are engaging during this early planning stage to understand our stakeholder and local community's concerns, priorities and interests so these can be considered as we shape the project.

This BESS will add energy storage to the local electricity network. It will store up to 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.



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. The nearest residential property is 140m to the south-east.

This factsheet outlines the potential impacts of the project and how community and stakeholders will be consulted.

Understanding the likely impacts



Noise

A BESS requires fans to keep the batteries cool. These fans create some noise depending on the weather and outside air temperature. These units operate within the accepted noise levels set by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

We are preparing a Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment. This will assess the amount of noise the proposed BESS may make, and how far it will travel during construction and operation. The assessment will also identify any appropriate noise barriers that may be needed to reduce how far the sound may travel.



Traffic and transport

Located near the intersections of three busy roads, Homebush Bay Drive, M4 Western Motorway and Parramatta Road, we know managing transport access to the site will be important. In particular, we know there are many logistics-based businesses nearby, as well as DFO Homebush, residential and visitor traffic.

We are proactively working with our immediate neighbours to find an access way that minimises traffic impacts. A Traffic Management Plan (TMP) will be developed in consultation with Transport for NSW and Strathfield Council to ensure that construction traffic is appropriately managed.



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 in a BESS is rare. In the unlikely event of a fire, most are very small and affect only one unit of the battery. This is a result of design and testing, automated safety systems,

as well as onsite and offsite firefighting equipment. Due to the BESS being placed next to an existing substation, Ausgrid already has firefighting equipment on site. We do not expect these facilities to increase safety risks beyond what is already present.

As part of the project's design, we are working with the relevant fire and safety authorities to ensure that appropriate hazard management plans are in place before the BESS is switched on. These hazard management plans will be tailored specifically to any potential risks associated with a BESS at Homebush. It will take into account the site's proximity to an urban area in the rare event of a battery fire.



Local environment

The potential impacts of BESS on the local environment and biodiversity will be assessed in detail as part of the project's EIS. This includes consideration for local bird and bat populations, stormwater and drainage, geotechnical and soil assessments.

As part of the planning process, Ausgrid is working with the relevant environmental and planning authorities to manage impacts on drainage and land contamination onsite. We are doing studies that include surveying local vegetation and wildlife and at this stage, we do not anticipate any significant impacts to local vegetation or wildlife.

Our commitment to community

Ausgrid works to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our customers. In proposing the addition of a BESS to our zone substation in Homebush, we're committed to engaging with our neighbours, stakeholders and local community to shape this project. We want to understand any concerns or ideas our stakeholders and community may have so we can consider these during the early planning stage. This helps us to better understand how a project may affect the environment and community and shape the project as we progress through its design.

Engaging with the community

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.