

Rothbury Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Community update #1
March 2025



Ausgrid is proposing a battery in Rothbury to add energy storage to the local electricity network.

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

This battery will store 540MWh of energy - that's enough to power over 36,450 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 Rothbury BESS are important to help keep our electricity supply stable.



Store **540MWh**
of energy



Power **36,450**
households a day



Rothbury BESS will be located next to the Ausgrid substation at 1309 Wine Country Drive, Rothbury. It is surrounded by rural lots. The nearest residential property is located more than 200m to the south.

What is a BESS?

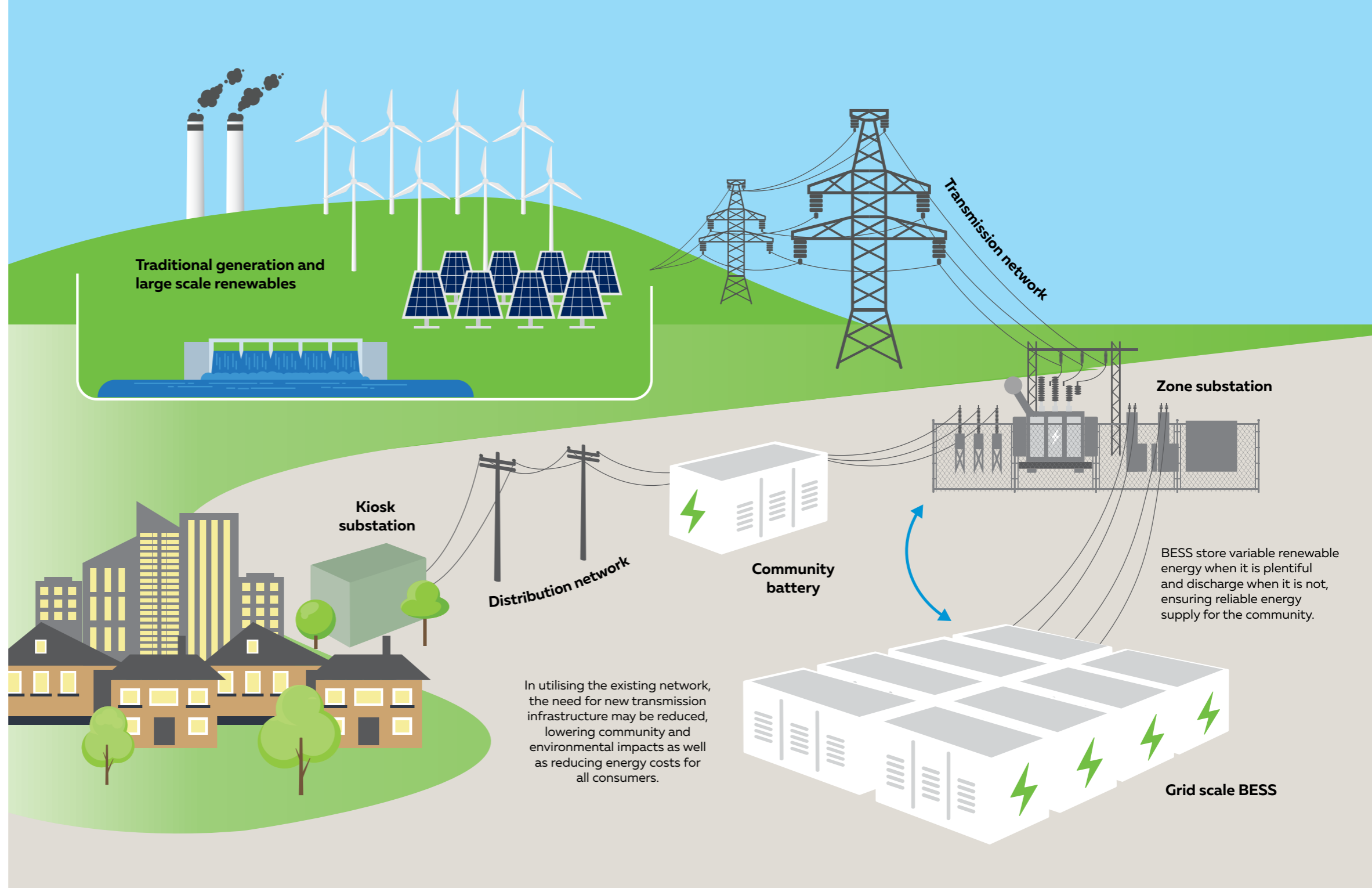
A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is a group of large rechargeable batteries, connected to form one very large battery. BESS collect energy, store it when there is a lot and then release it when there is high demand for electricity. These large batteries are critical to ensuring the reliability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

As we transition to new forms of energy, there is more variability in when energy is produced. This energy generation, such as solar and wind, doesn't always produce electricity at times that match when we use it. Energy storage matches energy generation and energy use.

BESS store extra electricity from both rooftop solar systems and large-scale generators. When electricity is in higher demand, such as when the sun goes down, BESS then feed it back into the network.

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.



Enabling more renewable energy



Reducing the need for new transmission lines



Local construction jobs



Improving grid stability and reliability



Enabling more affordable electricity

BESS support the clean energy transition and make the energy network more:



Reliable

BESS helps more renewable energy to come online by storing energy when there is more than we need and releasing it when it's required. This keeps the power supply steady, even when the sun isn't shining or the wind isn't blowing, providing a more resilient and reliable electricity network.



Affordable

BESS connected to Ausgrid's current network makes the most of existing infrastructure. It reduces the need for additional investment. This makes the cost of electricity cheaper over time than it would be without this investment.



Sustainable

BESS enable more renewable energy like wind and solar to connect to the energy network. By connecting to our existing substations, it avoids the need for new transmission lines, reducing the environmental and community impacts.

Planning and approval process

Ausgrid is proposing the BESS to be located next to the existing substation at 1309 Wine Country Drive, Rothbury. If approved, the project will be built and operated by a third party.

We are in the early planning stage. We are engaging with stakeholders and local community to help us better understand how the project might affect the environment and local residents.

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 project.

ONGOING COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

1 Autumn 2025

- Submit Scoping Report to NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Industry and request SEARS
- Prepare Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

2 Mid 2025

- Submit EIS to NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Industry
- EIS Exhibition

3 Late 2025

- Project determination


4 2026

- Start construction

Community Pop-Ups

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

 **Saturday 29 March, 10am - 12pm**
Cessnock Village Shopping Mall
1 Keene St, Cessnock NSW 2325

 **Saturday 05 April, 10am - 12pm**
Coles Huntlee
22 Empire St, Branxton NSW 2335

For more information and to register your interest, scan the QR code or visit: yoursay.ausgrid.com.au/rothburybess



To talk to the project team, please email: batteries@ausgrid.com.au

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/rothburybess



1800 574 044

Monday to Friday 9am to 4:30pm



batteries@ausgrid.com.au



Ausgrid BESS Project Team
GPO Box 487 Newcastle NSW 2300



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.