

# Rothbury Battery Energy Storage System

Project Update #1  
May 2025



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

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

**In April, we engaged with stakeholders and the local community to share our plans for a BESS and understand how the project may affect you.**

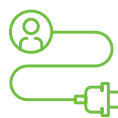
Thank you to everyone who visited us for a pop-up information session, landowner meeting or completed our online survey.

## We have heard that

- There is a high level of community interest and mixed sentiment about the project.
- There is support for projects that enable renewable energy and a BESS that is located next to existing energy infrastructure, not on agricultural land.
- However, there is concern about community safety, potential impacts to visual amenity, and local tourism.
- While there is some skepticism about the benefits of renewable energy, many stakeholders were interested in the benefits of improving grid stability and reliability.



Store **540MWh**  
of energy



Power **36,450**  
households a day



## Engagement to date

- We reached out to **34** landowners surrounding the site, holding **19** individual meetings to discuss the proposal.
- A community newsletter was sent to **117** properties surrounding the proposed BESS.
- Two pop-up information sessions were held, giving us the chance to speak with more than **40** local residents.
- **12** people have provided feedback via an online survey, which was open from 20 March to 30 April 2025.
- **450** people have viewed the project webpage, with **78** documents downloaded.
- We have met with Cessnock City Council, local MPs, and the Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association.

## How we will listen to your feed back

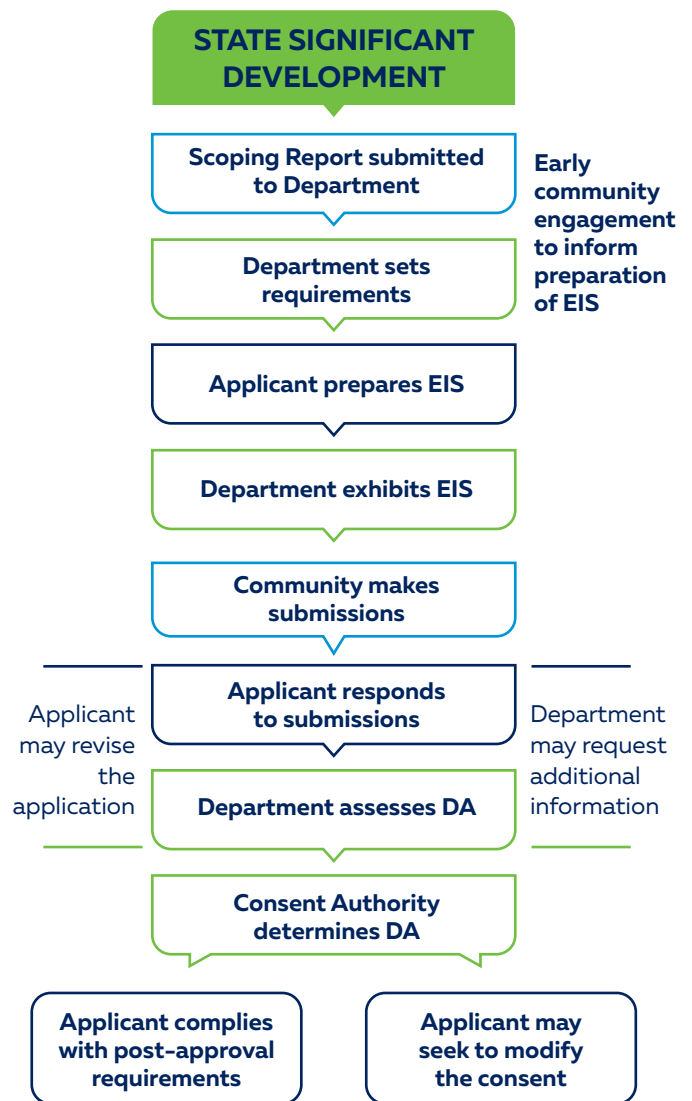
We are in the early planning phase for this project. Our technical studies are starting and will give us more information about the potential impacts on the environment and local community. We will also continue to engage with Cessnock City Council, our near neighbours and the local community in the coming months, as we progress our technical studies. Your feedback will be considered in the ongoing project development and design to help mitigate impacts.

We have heard there are concerns about fire risk and safety. 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. We will be working with fire authorities to complete a fire safety assessment, during the detailed design phase.

We're good neighbours and know the importance of working to mitigate and carefully manage impacts on surrounding businesses and the local community.

## Our commitment to community

Ausgrid is committed to engaging with our neighbours, stakeholders and local community. As a distribution network services provider, Ausgrid is responsible for the safe operation and maintenance of the electricity network in Sydney, Central Coast and the Hunter. We're proposing BESS projects, co-located at our substations, to enable more affordable electricity, improve grid stability and reduce the need for new transmission lines.



## Our next steps

We are following a State Significant Development Assessment (SSDA) pathway. We have submitted a Scoping Report to NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). This will be published on the Major Projects Planning Portal in the coming weeks.

You can access the Portal at <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects>

Next we will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We will continue to engage with stakeholders and local community, as we progress the EIS.

Once submitted, the EIS will be publicly exhibited for community feedback. DPHI will assess and determine the SSDA.



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



**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.