

## 8.2. MM02 Cammeray Community Battery - Update

On 8 May 2023 Council considered a Mayoral Minute in relation to the proposed location of a community battery in Green Park, Cammeray.

Council and our community strongly support the roll out of renewable energy initiatives delivered through the Federal Government ARENA funding, including the current funding for community batteries.

The Community Strategic Plan and Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2030 recognise the need to transition to renewable energies to avoid catastrophic climate change. Council is committed to achieving net zero in Council operations and has adopted ambitious community targets to assist the community in significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

Support for the Cammeray community battery is, therefore, strong.

However, concerns were raised in relation to the proposed location of the community battery within Green Park, Cammeray and the impacts on precious public open space. Council, therefore resolved on 8 May 2023:

***THAT Council write to Ausgrid seeking:***

*(a) clarification as to whether the proposed works truly relate to a community battery or simply provide expanded capacity for the grid; and*

*(b) Urge them to locate any energy infrastructure, including the proposed "community battery", of in accordance with the recommendations from Council's strategic planners outlined above.*

Following that meeting, Ausgrid attended the Environmental Reference Group meeting held on 16 May 2023 and answered questions on the battery and heard submissions on the location of the battery. Indeed, one of the community members urged Ausgrid to consider locating the battery within existing infrastructure at Cammeray.

Ausgrid recently announced that the community battery will be provided within the existing substation on Metcalfe St Cammeray, and that interested residents had been informed.

This decision reflects real community consultation at work – Ausgrid listened to the submissions from the community and amended the proposal to address those concerns.

Ausgrid has also suggested that a working group is formed with metropolitan councils to develop a decision-making model to identify suitable locations for future community batteries.

Council welcomes the establishment of the working group and hopes that this model will allow stakeholder needs and concerns to be considered when working to find suitable locations.

Up front collaboration with communities and councils will ensure future community batteries can be rolled out with seamlessly with community support.

**I therefore recommend:**

**1. THAT** Council write to Ausgrid acknowledging their commitment to community consultation and welcoming both the location of the proposed community battery within the existing Metcalfe Street Ausgrid infrastructure and the establishment of the working group with local government.

**COUNCILLOR ZOË BAKER  
MAYOR**