

## Renew the Regions

# Energy storage in regional towns

## Frequently asked questions



### **What is the purpose of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) being installed?**

To safeguard the reliable supply of electricity to each community, we limit how much rooftop solar the electricity system can safely accommodate; this limit is called hosting capacity.

As hosting capacity is currently constrained in several regional towns within our service area, customers are unable to install rooftop solar systems to lower their energy bills.

A BESS will increase local hosting capacity allowing more customers to connect new or modify existing rooftop solar systems in impacted towns.

### **What towns will be getting a BESS?**

This project will deploy battery storage systems in the towns of Broome, Carnarvon, Exmouth, Gascoyne Junction, Marble Bar, Menzies, Wiluna, Yalgoo and Yungngora.

### **Why were these towns selected?**

All towns in Horizon Power's service area were reviewed and 9 towns were shortlisted for the installation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) based on their lack of available hosting capacity, the timeframe hosting capacity had been exhausted and customer demand to install solar PV.

### **Where will the BESS be located?**

The BESS will be located at the town power station.

### **What are the benefits to the community?**

The major benefit to the community is that after project completion, more customers will be able to connect new or modify existing solar systems and benefit from reduced energy bills.

Other benefits to the community include local spend in the community during the construction and testing period and opportunities for local installers to supply new solar systems once battery systems are in place.

### **When will customers be able to install a solar PV system in the impacted towns?**

Timeframes will be different for each town as the construction and installation timeframes for each town are different.

The community will be notified in advance as hosting capacity is expected to be released.

You can stay up to date with when solar becomes available by visiting [www.horizonpower.com.au/moresolar](http://www.horizonpower.com.au/moresolar).

### **Are the batteries safe?**

Yes, they are safe. The BESS have been designed to minimise any risk associated with fire, with inbuilt fire suppression systems.

They are also designed to meet the relevant regulations and Australian Standards associated with such assets.

### **Will the BESS reduce our power bills?**

Not directly. The tariffs paid by each town's customers are the same as those paid across the state under the Uniform Tariff Policy. This is much lower than the actual cost of generating, distributing and retailing electricity.

The State makes this possible by subsidising the price of electricity to ensure no customer in regional or remote Western Australia pays more than a customer in the Perth metropolitan area.

As a result of the project, more customers will be able to install rooftop solar systems to lower their energy bills.

### **Will having a BESS in the town prevent power outages?**

The BESS is being used to allow more customer solar to be installed and will provide power system stability with the increased solar systems.

However, the BESS are not designed or large enough to be able to prevent a power outage if all the power station generators go offline or if there is a fault on the power station feeders.

### **What battery technology is being used?**

There are several types of battery technologies, but the most used are Lithium-ion batteries, which are being used in our BESS.

### **How is hosting capacity allocated?**

We will offer a more equitable allocation of available solar hosting between residential and commercial customers.

The process will ensure hosting capacity is accessible to both residential and commercial customers and the distribution will be assessed on the requirements of each town.

### **Is there a waiting list for solar applications?**

No. Due to the high demand of rooftop solar, we process applications on a first come, first serve basis.

However, you can sign up to stay up to date with changes to solar capacity, products and trials in your area by visiting [www.horizonpower.com.au/moresolar](http://www.horizonpower.com.au/moresolar).

## **Project overview**

### **Location**

Kimberley, Pilbara, Gascoyne Mid West and Goldfields Esperance regions

### **Investment**

\$30.8 million

### **Key dates**

All nine BESS installed and commissioned by end of 2022

### **Key benefits**

- Increased network hosting capacity
- More customer opportunities to install solar

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