

# Community Newsletter 1 – June 2018

## West Pittwater Energy Reliability Project



Home Energy Audit at Colin Beashel Marine

### Project need

Ausgrid is exploring options to improve reliability to the West Pittwater and Scotland Island areas as a result of two major outages involving the submarine cables which supply these areas. In addition to these two major outages, reliability has been compromised by storms and vegetation impacting the overhead network. Since 2015, there have been a total of seven outages on Scotland Island and West Pittwater that were caused by issues unrelated to the submarine cables. In addition to the comprehensive solution being developed, Ausgrid is also implementing operational improvements to reduce the duration and impact of future outages for residents.

### Progressing the solution at West Pittwater

Thank you for your support and input to date as we continue to progress the West Pittwater Energy Reliability Project. Ausgrid has completed its preliminary planning work around the project and we are now in the process of developing a final solution to present to your community. At present, we are undertaking two activities:

- Consulting leading technology providers in the energy market via an Expression of Interest (EoI) to assist with developing the final solution.
- Establishing a Community Focus Group to ensure we incorporate community feedback into the solution that is presented to your community.

The final West Pittwater solution will require broad community support for it to be of value to both residents and Ausgrid.

Ausgrid is planning to have a detailed solution ready to present to the community in late 2018. Once a viable solution which is supported by the community is reached, we aim to implement it in the first half of 2019.

### Consulting the energy market

The unique environment at West Pittwater has prompted Ausgrid to look at a range of possible options beyond traditional network solutions. Options include the adoption of alternate technologies that better allow Ausgrid to improve reliability within the environmental constraints faced in this part of the network.

In May, Ausgrid released an Expression of Interest (EoI) targeting 45 leading energy providers requesting proposals addressing the specific energy challenges faced at West Pittwater. A preferred solution will be determined in late June, with market participants then asked to develop a detailed submission from which a preferred supplier will be selected. Community feedback will be taken into consideration throughout this decision making process.

### Join our Community Focus Group

Following the evaluation of the initial EoI submissions, we would like to consult further with the community through small focus groups. The objective is to have the community indicate likely questions or concerns with the options presented, allowing Ausgrid to ultimately provide a solution that the broader community will adopt.

We anticipate that the focus groups will meet 2-3 times during the development process of a final solution. We hope that the groups will provide a representative cross section of West Pittwater residents. The aim is for the community to have input into the final solution - how it will be financed, what it looks like and delivery.

If you are interested in being part of our focus groups, please register via the Ausgrid West Pittwater page or directly through <https://bit.ly/2t0mTZx>. We will continue to keep the entire community updated as we progress, however, if you have any questions or queries please contact us anytime via the details over the page.

## Key dates



## Ausgrid in your area

Expect to see Ausgrid crews inspecting and working on the overhead network in the coming weeks. Ausgrid has a targeted asset replacement program in high risk bushfire areas, including Scotland Island and West Pittwater. Before the commencement of the next bushfire season (September 2018), Ausgrid has identified electrical assets that require replacement.

In conjunction with our own asset replacement, Ausgrid and its contractors will be working with the community to ensure privately owned assets also comply with bushfire standards. Weather permitting, we expect the program to be completed by early August. Residents at West Pittwater will be notified in advance of us starting in your area.

## Home Energy Audits

The information collected from the home energy audits undertaken earlier this year, has been highly valuable in informing the market of the energy usage and household characteristics of homes at West Pittwater. A summary report for the community was developed based on the individual household audits and was given to the market as part of the EoI. Thank you again to all residents and businesses who participated in the audits. If you would like to read the summary report, you can do so on the Ausgrid website at [www.ausgrid.com.au/westpittwater](http://www.ausgrid.com.au/westpittwater).

Individual home audit reports will be sent to everyone who participated in the audits later this year. We have purposely asked the auditor to hold off issuing the reports until we have a final solution. This is to ensure any household energy saving initiatives that may be considered as part of this final solution are not invested in by households or businesses at their own expense without consideration of all technologies that may be utilised.



Proposed solutions for West Pittwater and Scotland Island

## Contacting us

You are welcome to contact us with any enquiries you may have.

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