

Project update

Ausgrid has started construction on the Merriwa Microgrid, installing innovative technology that contributes to a more responsive, resilient and reliable power supply.

Following extensive engagement with the community, the design of the microgrid was finalised early this year. Work has now started on upgrades to Ausgrid's Merriwa substation, which will include batteries, solar panels and a generator. When operational, these will provide power during outages to around 28 properties in Merriwa.

Unfortunately, due to a supply chain issue, the delivery of the microgrid has been delayed. We now expect it will be operational in late 2024.

Upcoming outages

Over the next few months, there will be a number of unavoidable outages in Merriwa. Most of these will be localised, but some will require broader outages. Several of these outages are due to vandalism and copper theft.

At this stage, we expect to complete these works between May and June, however this could change if we identify more vandalism. You will be informed of any planned outages that will affect your property through Ausgrid's usual practices.



Updated timeline

- November 2022**
Community focus groups in Merriwa.
- December 2022 - January 2023**
Energy audits conducted.
- March 2023**
Contract awarded for design and delivery.
- April 2023**
Community workshop outcomes report released.
- May - September 2023**
Microgrid design progress.
- October - December 2023**
Microgrid design finalised.
- January - March 2024**
Planning and procurement
- April - August 2024**
Construction. 
- September - November 2024**
Commissioning and completion.
- 2025 and beyond**
Potential future microgrids.

Copper theft

Due to recent theft of copper earthing bars from both the 33kV power line that connects Merriwa to the Ausgrid network and the 11kV power lines that link parts of the town, we need to perform repairs. This will require some planned outages. There may also be unplanned outages if we find any immediate safety risks.

Unfortunately, there has been an increase in copper theft across Ausgrid's network. Copper theft puts lives at risk, costs customers and disrupts the safe delivery of energy.

If you see disconnected wiring, cut cables or fallen powerlines always assume they are live, stay at least eight metres back and call Ausgrid on 13 13 88.

Ausgrid has reported all known copper theft incidents to the police. Anyone who may have any information is urged to contact Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.

What is a microgrid?

A microgrid is a small network of power generation, storage and control technologies that are designed to supply a small group of consumers with electricity while operating independently of the central grid.

A microgrid can operate autonomously, supplied by energy sources like solar generation, battery storage and diesel power, when power supply from the main grid is disrupted by extreme weather events or is otherwise unavailable.

A microgrid is designed to increase the reliability and resilience of the network and the community.

Find out more

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 Visit ausgrid.com.au/merriwa or scan the QR code .

