

Frequently asked questions



Artist impression – the outline (white, dotted) indicates the fencing around the battery. Please note this is not the actual location.

What is a community battery?

Community batteries are bigger than household batteries and smaller than utility scale batteries. They are typically located within a local community and provide benefits both for that community and for the wider electricity grid.

They store excess energy from the grid when renewable energy is abundant. They then make that energy available at night, during periods of high demand, or when the grid needs support.

Community batteries can:

- lower electricity bills
- support more households to install rooftop solar
- allow households who cannot install solar panels to enjoy renewable energy
- reduce pressure on the electricity grid
- absorb excess energy that might cause voltage spikes in the electricity grid
- lower emissions

Why was this site chosen?

- It meets technical suitability for battery installation
- It is close to low-income households that could benefit from the battery
- It has adequate space within the reserve with minimal disruption to community use
- Preserves the local environment and community spaces

What will the battery look like?

If the project goes ahead, the battery will consist of equipment located on two outdoor concrete slabs. One slab will be approximately 11.5 metres by 5.5 metres and will hold all battery equipment, and the other slab will be approximately 3 metres by 3 metres and hold a high voltage to low voltage transformer.

Council is working with the Government of South Australia to make sure any future battery installation meets expectations for visual impact, security, and maintenance.

Who will own and operate the battery?

All emPowering SA community batteries will be owned by the Government of South Australia and operated by energy retailer AGL as part of a virtual power plant (VPP).

AGL is responsible for all ongoing maintenance of the community battery equipment. This will include annual maintenance in line with manufacturer's recommendations, and remote monitoring at all times.

SA Power Networks is responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the high voltage to low voltage transformer.

Frequently asked questions (continued)

Is there any cost to Council?

No. The battery is jointly funded by the Government of South Australia, energy retailer AGL, and the Australian Government. The Australian Government support is via its \$200 million Community Batteries for Household Solar program, through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, as well as the Australian Renewable Energy Agency's Advancing Renewables Program.

Who will benefit from the battery?

The emPowering SA battery fleet will work together to deliver direct benefits over time to more than 10,000 South Australian government nominated households facing cost of living pressure.

These households will be able to access one of the lowest residential electricity rates in South Australia. On current figures, a typical household benefiting from emPowering SA could save up to \$575 off their annual electricity bill.

The City of Playford battery will contribute to this with a capacity sufficient to support benefits for between 600 – 650 houses. Eligible SA Housing Trust tenants in the City of Playford being among the first to be offered the opportunity to take up these places, once the battery is installed and operational.

There is no need for households to register their interest for emPowering SA. The South Australian government is following a detailed process to identify suitable homes to participate, and those households will receive information from the government to let them know their home has been shortlisted and how to join, once the battery in our area is operational.

emPowering SA also works in conjunction with the complementary project South Australia's Virtual Power Plant. Between these two programs, the South Australian government's intention is for every SA Housing Trust tenant in the state, including all in the City of Playford, to have access to renewable energy and cheaper energy bills.

Will it create noise or safety concerns?

Noise from the battery will be limited to small ventilation fans and is expected to be well below environmental noise requirements, and likely inaudible, at nearby homes. Similar batteries have been installed in residential areas across Australia without noise issues.

How long will the battery last?

The expected full life of the battery is 15 years. Closer to this point, SA Government will be in a position to work with Council to consider next options.

Is it safe and environmentally safe?

Yes. While community batteries are relatively new, the technology is proven and used nationwide from home batteries to grid-scale sites with no known environmental, health, or electromagnetic issues. There are no known contamination risks from installation.

Will the batteries interfere with radio and television signals?

No. Similar community batteries have been installed across Australia with no known interference.



For more information

Visit playford.engagementhub.com.au
or **emPowering SA | Energy & Mining**
www.empowering.sa.gov.au