

# Yarrabah Microgrid Feasibility Study Newsletter

Issue 2 November 2020

## Update of Activities: September - November

In the past 2 months our engagement has resulted in:

- 47 stakeholder engagement sessions
- 53 hours of engagement
- 134 stakeholders engaged
- 195 unique views (2 hrs watch time) of our Yarrabah Microgrid YouTube Channel
- 24 minutes of radio interview ABC Far North (106.7FM) and Bumma Bipperra (98.7FM)
- 15 energy audits
- 10 Pop-up information sessions YarriCino Café



Our main focus has been on talking to residents, community leaders and external stakeholders, to learn how electricity and other energy sources such as gas and solar is used in Yarrabah.

Jesse, Kim and Geoff are in Yarrabah most Tuesdays + Thursdays talking with residents about their ideas and suggestions for future electricity supply needs. Visit us at our pop-up stall near YarriCino on Tuesdays.

## Stakeholder feedback

From our engagement to date, the top 3 issues regarding energy in Yarrabah are:

1. cost
2. reliability
3. communication of outages – insufficient notice

Our Yarrabah stakeholders have also indicated that they feel the project should deliver a solution that:

- provides reliable energy for the needs and expectations of the community
- translates to a reduction in household energy bills i.e. energy affordability
- supports productivity i.e. reliable energy leads to reliable business operation and employment opportunities in areas including graphic design, web design, mechanical repairs, tourism, healthcare.



To build on the stakeholder feedback in the next few months we will:

- work with schools to see how absenteeism and power outages are linked. I.e. how many days of absenteeism are there after an outage.
- survey the businesses / CEOs to determine the impact of the outage per business.
- get data for microgrid solution modelling – on the number of persons in aged care, health care, rehabilitation care and staff ratios
- identify practical quick wins for the community in areas such as reducing energy consumption.
- Complete an audit of all the solar panels in Yarrabah – streetlights, government buildings, houses.

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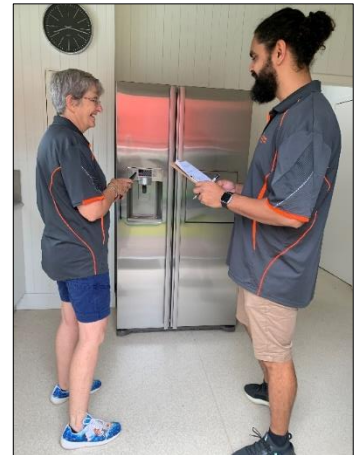


## Energy Audits

The Team is working with Council's Property Managers to undertake around 30 energy audits on houses and businesses in Yarrabah to help us understand how power is currently being used. This information will also help us to evaluate different microgrid options.

From the already completed energy audits, we have identified how residents and businesses could reduce their electricity costs. The audit is a systematic review of each room from the ceiling to the floor. We note everything that consumes electricity—that is everything that has a plug, a cord or is wired-in.

To understand current usage patterns and habits, we talk to people about how often they use appliances, what time of the day, what days of the week etc. We also ask for permission to review electricity account information so we can understand actual energy usage and identify any opportunities to reduce electricity consumption and save money on the electricity bill.



## Ergon Microgrid and Isolated Systems Test Facility



We were invited to tour the Ergon Microgrid and Isolated Systems Test Facility in Cairns. The research and development hub is the first large-scale facility of its kind in Queensland and features cutting-edge technology. The facility tests a range of energy solutions before they are deployed, enabling renewable energy and energy storage to form a greater part of microgrids for remote communities.

The EnergyConnect team is excited to work closely with Ergon and tap into technology that helps deliver affordable, reliable, sustainable and safe energy solutions to communities across Queensland.

## How do I find out more about the project?

- Drop in and see us at our pop-up stall near YarriCino (most Tuesdays 11am – 1pm).
- Visit [Councils facebook for regular updates www.facebook.com/yarrabah.qld.gov.au/](https://www.facebook.com/yarrabah.qld.gov.au/)
- Visit our YouTube channel to find out how microgrids can be a part of the Yarrabah Community. [www.energy-connect.net.au/our-youtube-channel](https://www.energy-connect.net.au/our-youtube-channel)
- Just give us a call and have a chat or send an e-mail.

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