

Yarrabah Microgrid Feasibility Study Newsletter

Issue 1 September 2020

Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of the Yarrabah Microgrid Feasibility Study Newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep stakeholders and the community up-to-date on the activities being undertaken by the project team.

Who is funding this project?

Funding for the Feasibility Study has been provided by the Federal government – the project commenced in July this year and will be completed in early 2022.



Figure 1 View over Yarrabah community

What is a microgrid?

A microgrid is a small electricity network incorporating local energy generation and energy storage technologies such as solar panels, wind turbines, energy-from-waste, biofuels, hydropower (river flow), batteries etc. that connects houses, business and community facilities. Microgrids can enable disconnection from the normal distribution grid if power supply is interrupted as a result of a cyclone or other “upstream” event on the powerline that supplies the Yarrabah community.

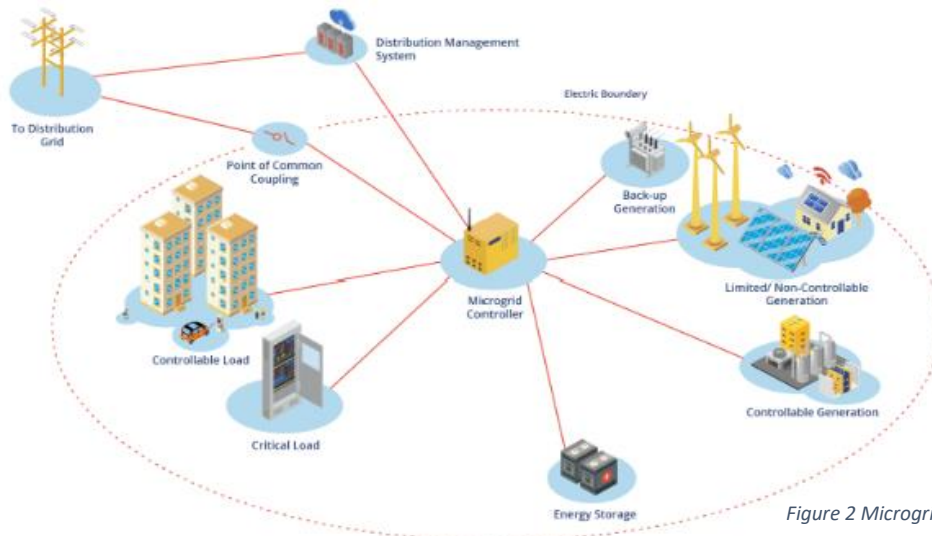


Figure 2 Microgrid schematic

What has the project team done so far?

The project team has met with more than 60 people in small groups to discuss the project scope and to enhance our understanding of community requirements and expectations.

Key community stakeholders that we have spoken to include Yarrabah Council and Registered Native Title Body Corporates (RNTBCs) as well as Energy Qld (Ergon), Dept of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, MSF Sugar, Cairns Hospital & Hinterland Health Service, Q-Build and the Department of Housing & Public Works.

Over coming weeks, we would like to start talking to more people at Yarrabah and we plan to do site visits with both the Gunggandji and Gunggandji Mandingalbay Yidinji Peoples RNTBCs.

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We have also started to review energy consumption at Yarrabah including current use of solar energy and how a microgrid may complement the Yarrabah Master Plan.

Who are EnergyConnect?

“EnergyConnect” is the brand name for the Yarrabah Microgrid Feasibility project which is being undertaken by a group of businesses led by local engineering consultancy Ener-G Management Group.

The other project partners are Planz Town Planning, The Missing Link Resource Coordinators, and ITP Renewables Australia.



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How do I find out more about the project?

The Project team will be regular visitors to the Community to hear your thoughts and ideas. Details of times and locations will be updated on the Council’s notice board and web page.

We are also setting up a website www.energy-connect.net.au or you can email us at projects@energy-connect.net.au