



Maldon Community Battery

Electricity distributor Powercor will install a community battery in Adair Street, Maldon, on Dja Dja Wurrung Country, as part of the Australian Government's Community Batteries for Household Solar program.

Once completed the Maldon Community Battery will soak up excess solar from nearby rooftops and share the benefits of cheap, clean, and local renewable energy with nearby customers.

The battery is being jointly funded by Powercor and the Australian Government.

What is a community (neighbourhood) battery?

A community battery acts like a large battery for your neighbourhood and connects directly to local powerlines.

During sunny days, solar panels on roofs often produce more electricity than homes can use immediately. This excess solar energy gets stored in the community battery instead of being wasted.

When the sun sets and customers need more power, the battery supplies this stored solar energy back to local homes.

People with solar panels and those without can benefit from the clean energy collected throughout the day.

Why are you installing one in Maldon?

Around 39% of residential customers in both the 3463 postcode and the Mount Alexander Shire have rooftop solar installed, above the network average of 28%.

The 100kW/290kWh Maldon Community Battery is designed to soak up excess rooftop solar generation and supply up to 50 nearby properties during peak periods for up to three hours.

How do you choose the location?

We investigated multiple sites in Maldon and identified Adair Street as the most suitable.

We selected this site based on feedback from neighbouring properties; the visual impact and benefits it would deliver for the local electricity network.

When choosing a site for a battery, we consider:

- Where a battery will provide both community and network benefits
- Places to safely connect to existing power lines
- Safe access for crews to operate and maintain the battery.
- Locations that that won't disrupt neighbours or community areas
- Ways to make the battery look visually appealing. This can include landscaping, artwork or screen

What will the battery look like?

The ground-mounted battery is about the size of a small car and will consist of four cubicles (three for the battery bank and one for the controls) on a concrete base. It measures approximately 3.6 metre long, 1.3 metre deep, and 2.5 metre high.

Batteries like this are designed to withstand high temperatures, corrosion, dust, insects and humidity. It has a secure, powder-coated metal exterior and will be finished with a commissioned artwork.

Artwork and community choice

Dja Dja Wurrung artist Daikota Nelson created two artwork concepts for the Maldon community battery, reflecting the area's strong cultural and environmental connections. Powercor has worked closely with Mount Alexander Shire Council to ensure the final design meets Maldon's heritage guidelines.

Community members were invited to view the designs and voted for Harmony Journey, and we thank everyone who participated in providing feedback.

Meaning

Harmony Journey is a visual depiction of interconnectedness, it illustrates how diverse elements can coexist and thrive in shared spaces.

The mural invites the community to contemplate the beauty of unity and collective growth through vibrant colours and dynamic everchanging forms. Each component depicts unique variants of voice, story and culture, contributing to a rich history that celebrates diversity and encourages sharing space.

Frequently asked questions

Will there be dust or noise?

Once operating the battery will not create dust and is almost silent, similar to an air conditioner.

The battery manufacturers build safety into the design of their infrastructure and test batteries to ensure any sound levels emitted meet all relevant guidelines and requirements set by the Victorian Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

During installation, there may be some dust or construction noise however our teams will minimise this as much as possible.

Why are there vehicle impact bollards around the battery?

Vehicle impact bollards have been installed to protect the community battery and the public. They are a safety requirement under VicRoads (Department of Transport and Planning) guidelines to reduce the risk of damage if a vehicle were to mount the kerb or leave the roadway.

The bollards help protect critical electrical infrastructure, improve pedestrian safety and support the long-term reliability of the site.

Will the battery be safe?

Yes. This battery will be built and operated in line with strict Australian standards, and our networks are monitored by 24/7 control rooms. Community batteries also emit very low electromagnetic fields (EMFs), well within national safety guidelines.

Will the battery provide back-up power during a power outage?

No. This battery will not provide back up during a power outage. If the local network goes down, the battery shuts off too. This is to stop electricity flowing back into a fault and creating a safety risk.

Will my power bills go down?

Your power bills are paid to your electricity retailer and include network and retail charges. We are partnering with an electricity retailer who will operate this battery, and developing a product that will pass savings on to customers.

Can I connect directly to the battery?

No. Community batteries connect to the shared local network, not individual homes.

What about my solar feed-in tariff?

Your solar feed-in tariff is set by your energy retailer, not by us, and isn't affected by the battery.

How long will the battery last?

Around 10–12 years. They're monitored and maintained by our crews and replaced or upgraded as needed.

What happens at the end of life?

Most components can be recycled or reused, with up to 95% of valuable materials recovered.

For project updates:

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