Bawley Point and Kioloa Community Microgrid news update

August 2025

In this update:

Hi everyone,

We know it has been a while since we last posted to the community Facebook page about the microgrid, and we apologise for the information gap. We understand many of you are keen to know more, particularly about how the system behaves during extreme weather events.

The Bawley Point and Kioloa community microgrid is still evolving, and your feedback continues to help shape how it develops.

To support better understanding and collaboration, we'll be holding a face-to-face **community information session soon on Sunday 21 September at 11am** in Kioloa Bawley Point Community Centre. This will be a chance to ask questions and speak directly with the people working on automation and battery integration. Whether you've got a suggestion or just want to better understand what's happening behind the scenes, we encourage you to come along.

For more information, please email: yoursay@endeavourenergy.com.au

Best regards,

The Endeavour Energy Team

Bawley Point and Kioloa Community Microgrid news

What happened on 1 July

At around 9pm on Tuesday 1 July, gale force winds hit the South Coast, cutting power to more than 14,000 customers across the South Coast, Southern Highlands and Blue Mountains. In Bawley Point, Kioloa, and Termeil, more than 1,100 homes lost power.

We received reports from residents of:

- A tree over mains on Willinga Park Road
- Fallen powerlines nearby

Given the serious safety risks that these powerlines may have been live, we made the decision not to activate the microgrid or the grid-connected battery until field crews could verify the area was safe.

Why the microgrid didn't activate automatically

Although the grid connected battery is operational, it still requires manual control from our control room team. In a major storm with widespread damage, manually re-energising parts of the grid without physical inspection could endanger lives or property.

We know it was frustrating that the grid connected battery didn't provide backup when power was lost, but safety must always come first. Once crews cleared the hazards and confirmed conditions were safe, the battery was activated at 7:50am on Wednesday 2 July, and power was restored to nearly all homes by 8:45pm.

Repair work & response

Crews were onsite by mid-morning Wednesday. Priorities included:

- Restoring service to a critical communications tower
- Removing a large tree on Willinga Park Road
- Completing grid repairs caused by the extreme winds

This was not your average storm. The damage was widespread and a total of 30,000 customers across our network lost power. Our deepest thanks go to the crews who worked long hours in brutal conditions to restore power safely and to the community for your patience and support.

What's working well

The grid-connected battery is actively managing voltage levels, which is helping reduce constraints for customers with existing solar systems and enabling more renewable energy - particularly solar - to be integrated into the local grid. The communication between the grid connected battery, the control system (DERMS), and over 80 home batteries is working well, providing a solid technical foundation for a more reliable and resilient local network

At the same time, it's important to remember that while the community microgrid is delivering more reliable service, it does not eliminate the possibility of outages, especially during extreme weather events. The microgrid has already reduced the frequency and duration of some outages, but it won't prevent all of them. When an unexpected outage does occur, restoration time depends on the location and nature of the fault. For example, if a fault is located south of the grid battery, the entire line must be safely de-energised until our crews can inspect and resolve the issue.

In these cases, safety remains the top priority, and while response may take a little longer, the aim is to minimise your time without power as much as possible.

What still needs to be done

The microgrid is in its final commissioning phase. This is the last stage before the system becomes fully automated. It involves ensuring all components, from the battery to the control systems, are working together reliably under real-world conditions.

During earlier testing engineers identified an issue with the grid connected battery inverter that prevented full use of the battery. The supplier is actively developing a fix. Once resolved, this will enable the microgrid to 'self-start' meaning power could return within minutes of a local outage without the need for crews to attend. However, it's important to re-iterate that if a fault occurs anywhere south of the battery's location, our teams will still need to manually locate and repair the issue before power can safely be restored.

The microgrid is a significant 'first' for both Endeavour Energy and the local community. While we've already seen real benefits, particularly around power quality, we're looking forward to seeing even greater performance once commissioning is complete.

What's next:

We're taking steps to resolve the outstanding issues and provide information on our timeline to do that.

- **Community info session – Sunday 21 September at 11am** at the Kioloa Bawley Point Community Centre. Please email **yoursay@endeavourenergy.com.au** if you'd like to attend as we will be offering a light lunch afterwards.
- **Planned outage** – for final commissioning including automation testing.
- **Quarterly microgrid updates.**

We know the microgrid is a significant investment - for the community and Endeavour Energy. Your input is helping us improve it at every step and we're committed to making this long-term partnership a success.

If you would like to get in touch with us in the meantime, please email us at **yoursay@endeavourenergy.com.au**