

## Microgrid Project Focusses on Energy Resilience

# **Early works commenced on the Mossman Gorge Microgrid**

The project team and community are celebrating a major project milestone with early construction works recently kicking off at the microgrid site. These early works included clearing the site and relocating the boulders for Mossman Gorge Cultural Centre, then boring with a vacuum truck to prepare for the microgrid earth mat – see Figures 1 and 2.



Fig 1 – Contractors use a vacuum truck to pothole the site.

The next stage of construction will be to install the microgrid foundations. This will involve establishing the slab, upon which the microgrid will sit, installing conduits and electrical cables to connect the microgrid to the surrounding overhead electricity network.

Civil works are scheduled to start in late November and take about six weeks to complete.



Fig 2 – Pot holes for the earth mat are complete and ready for the microgrid foundations to be constructed.

### **Engaging Community Activities**

#### **Energy Resilience Workshop**

We recently talked all things energy resilience at our community Energy Dreaming Experience – an interactive workshop that bought together voices from across the community, Council, local business, service providers, and residents.

There is no finer way to kick off the day than with a warm Welcome to Kuku Yalanji Country by Uncle Roy Gibson, on the banks of the Mossman River, helping to ground the participants in the rich cultural heritage and deep connection to Country.

We then explored what a resilient energy future could look like for Mossman and surrounding areas. Through collaborative discussions, and small group yarns, participants shared their aspirations and ideas, building a shared vision for a bright and sustainable, energy future.



The workshop wrapped up with participants then each made a small commitment towards realising their visions.

The energy in the room was inspiring! The ideas, stories and perspectives reminded us that energy resilience isn't just about infrastructure - it's about people, relationships, and respect for Country – see Figure 3.



Fig 3 – Participants shared ideas and stories, envisaging a more resilient energy future for the community.

#### **Mossman Gorge School Holiday Fun Day**

What do the school holidays, a group of energetic and engaged kids, experiments and activities all add up to? An energy charged school holiday program that's a whole lot of fun!

This special day brought together Ergon's **Safety Heroes and Energy Detectives programs** in a hands-on, super-cool learning experience, tailored just for the kids at Mossman Gorge.



We kicked off outside, where Mark took the kids on a journey to explore what energy is, where it comes from, how we use it and stay safe around it, and, how we can conserve it – especially when the microgrid is built. With learning through play and experimentation at the heart of the program, we:

- Generated energy using balloons
- Explored conductors and insulators
- Built simple circuits
- Played with solar-powered cars to see how shade affects their propulsion
- ♠ Built a microgrid to explain how saving energy helps keep it running longer - complete with white-painted roofs to reduce heat and ultimately energy demand!

After a picnic lunch and a game of touch footy down at the footy field, we wrapped up the day with some creative scratch art, to spark ideas for our upcoming **Street Art Project** – see Figure 4.

If you want to see some of the photos from our Energy Dreaming Workshop and the School Holiday Fun Day, check out the photo gallery at the end of this project update.



Fig 4 – Anastasia and Ernest show off their scratch art ideas for decorating the power poles.

# Bringing colour to community: Street Art project

We're excited to invite families to join us for a vibrant community activity at the footy field in Mossman Gorge - decorating the power poles with colourful designs inspired by the kids!

This creative initiative kicks off at **4:30pm on Monday**, **25th November**, right after Homework Club. Everyone is welcome to come along, grab a brush, and help transform the poles into joyful works of art.

Imagination, energy and heart have shaped the kids' scratch art designs that were created at our school holiday program. They have sparked some great ideas and we're bringing that same spirit to the Street Art project. Doin the Ergon team to celebrate community, creativity, connection, and colour and help brighten up the footy field!



Fig 5 – Kate and Mark priming the poles at the footy field, ready for the kids to decorate in our Street Art Project

### Another deadly prize pack to be won!

How would you like to be like Kate from the Mossman Gorge Cultural Centre, who was our first lucky prize winner, after completing our first short survey. Like Kate, the next winner will top up their emergency kit with a solar powered battery bank, a rechargeable emergency radio and torch, and a rechargeable fan.



Fig 3 - Kate - showcasing the resilience prize pack.

### 🞉 Survey open – enter now! 🎉

To go into the draw to win our next awesome prize pack, simply complete our short survey by scanning the QR code or pick up a hard copy survey from the BBN office, O'Hub, MGEJ or Douglas Community Centre. Terms and conditions apply.



### Keep up to date on the project

Want to know more about the Mossman Gorge Microgrid Project? You can visit our project webpage for more information. Or to have a yarn with our Senior Community



Engagement Advisor, Kate Austin, phone 1300 653 055 or email: NetworkProjectEngagement@energyq.com.au

### **Energy Dreaming Workshop and Kids School Holiday Fun - Photo Gallery**

















Ergon Energy Network acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live and work, and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters, and community. We pay respects to Elders past and present.







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