



Part of Energy Queensland

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[ergon.com.au](http://ergon.com.au)

6 December 2023

Faye Chapman  
PO Box 260  
**CANNONVALE QLD 4802**

Dear Faye,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding battery storage and the local capability of the electricity network.

Ergon Network is rolling out a number of battery initiatives state-wide as part of our Local Network Battery Plan. While we do not have immediate plans for a battery in the Whitsundays, we are only just at the initial stages of scaling up this plan and anticipate further funding to be directed to local energy storage in the future.

You can read more about our utility-scale network batteries online. The success of stage one of the plan – the installation of the large batteries in Townsville, Toowoomba, Yeppoon, Bundaberg, and Hervey Bay – has seen us move to stage two this year (with a further 12 batteries being connected at present, through into 2024, into the High Voltage electricity network state-wide).

We are also well advanced in connecting 30 pole top and five ground level batteries in the Ipswich Neighbourhood Battery Trial. This is a partnership between Ergon's sister company, Energex and Origin, which with a retail product offering will allow both local solar and non-solar households (including renters) to participate in the energy transformation.

The learnings from this trial will support the connection of community batteries through 2024 to the Low Voltage electricity network in 12 pilot communities identified for funding by the Australian Government's Community Batteries for Household Solar – Delivery of Election Commitments Stream 1 program. From here we will be targeting areas of the network, especially in western Queensland, where batteries can help reinforce the network to meet demand.

We are only in the investigation phase of how-to use storage to support resilience, with the Clairview and Stanage Microgrid Study one initiative you may be interested in.

Regarding your query about the network in the Whitsundays and its capability to handle increasing solar power exports, I can advise that we do not have any immediate concerns. This is something our planning and engineering teams will continue to monitor as the renewable energy landscape continues to transform.

As you may know, we are currently spending close to \$30 million on the Whitsundays network to bolster the region's electricity supply. This has involved an upgrade of the Cannonvale substation and the duplication of key sections of the 66kV underground cable network between the substation and Shute Harbour. The project is expected to be completed by late 2024.

We will keep the community informed of any updates or changes regarding community batteries and other renewable energy opportunities, as well as current and future network upgrades.

Again, thank you for your interest in renewable energy options for the region.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lorelei van Dalen', written in a cursive style.

Lorelei van Dalen  
**Senior Advisor Community Engagement**  
**Energy Queensland**