



Nimbin Central School

## Smart Energy Schools Pilot Project

November 2022

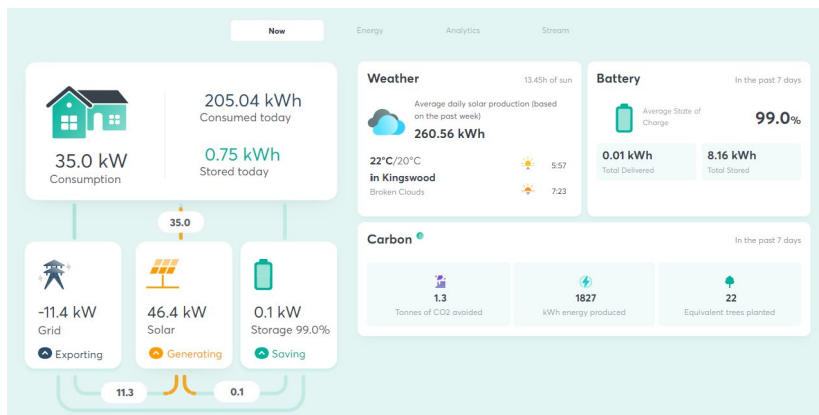
**Solar and battery energy storage systems and air conditioning units with smart controls have now been installed at 24 schools taking part in the first stage of the Smart Energy Schools Pilot project.**

About 1,900 solar panels have been installed at the schools and are connected to battery energy systems capable of storing 950 kilowatt hours of electricity.

The systems have been switched on and are working well, helping to reduce carbon emissions from the electricity supply by an average of 30 percent. They're also helping to reduce electricity cost by more than \$14,000 each month across the 24 schools.

The systems are set up to reduce demand from the schools' air conditioning units, under a trial to determine if solar, batteries and air conditioning with demand response controls are effective in reducing the impact of peak loads on the local electricity network.

So far, there hasn't been a need to control air conditioning via the smart control function.



Some of the schools will join a Virtual Power Plant (VPP) trial from early in the new year, along with seven schools with solar and battery systems installed as part of the Smart Batteries for Key Government buildings initiative.

The schools will also be able to access their own online energy portal during the first quarter of 2023.

Schools will receive access to an online energy portal early in 2023.

### For more information contact:

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Phone: 1300 482 651  
[www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au](http://www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au)

## **Work starts on solar and batteries in stage 2 schools**

Tenders have now been awarded and site inspections have started at the 29 schools taking part in the second stage of the Smart Energy Schools Pilot Project.

The site survey will help confirm the final designs and location of the solar and battery systems, in consultation with each school. The installation work at most schools will begin over the summer holiday period and continue into 2023.

Once the work is complete, the schools will then roll into the Virtual Power Plant Trial.

To understand how this trial works and see a complete list of the stage One and Stage two schools please visit [the project page on the School Infrastructure NSW website](#).

## **Expression of Interest in renewable energy in schools**

The last stage of the Smart Energy School Pilot Project involves an [Expression of Interest \(EOI\) process](#) to understand how businesses with expertise in renewable energy could finance, deliver and operate renewable energy solutions across all NSW public schools.

Proposals could include the installation of solar and battery systems on some or all schools, as well as other behind the meter energy solutions like management of electric vehicle charging and the operation of a VPP.

They could also include models – known as Power Purchase Agreements, where roof space is leased to a third party, which is then responsible for financing, installing and maintaining the renewable energy systems over their lifetime.

Proponents are being asked to submit non-binding proposals, which will then be shortlisted and considered for a final selection process, subject to a decision from the NSW Government.

## **About the Smart Energy Schools Pilot Project**

The Smart Energy Schools Pilot Project is testing the most cost-effective and efficient way to deploy renewable energy in NSW public schools.

Solar and battery energy storage systems are being installed at 60 schools under the program, most of which will be rolled into the VPP trial.

The project is also testing how the solar, battery and air conditioning with demand response controls can be used to reduce energy demand from air conditioning, maximise returns from sending energy to the grid; and to avoid the need for costly upgrades to electrical infrastructure.

For more information, please contact School Infrastructure NSW on the details below.

### **For more information contact:**

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