



15 December 2023

Arek Gulbenkoglu
General Manager
Australian Energy Regulator
GPO Box 3131
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Via email: AERresets2024-29@aer.gov.au

Dear Mr Gulbenkoglu

Submission on resilience elements of Ausgrid's revised 2024-2029 regulatory proposal

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on Ausgrid's revised 2024-2029 regulatory proposal.

The Central Coast is the third largest local government area in NSW, by population, and covers an area of 1,681 km². It is significantly exposed to natural disasters. I note that, along with Lake Macquarie and Port Stephens local government areas, the Central Coast experiences more average outage minutes than any other jurisdiction within the Ausgrid network. This exposure, combined with the relative disadvantage of many in the Central Coast, exacerbates our community's energy insecurity.

Central Coast Council has closely followed Ausgrid's engagement with local communities to identify investment that supports community energy resilience as well as reducing outage times. Council supports the co-design process that Ausgrid has brought to this engagement, and notes that the feedback from Central Coast communities is consistent with Council's understanding of key community concerns and priorities.

Council has also worked closely with Ausgrid to determine how investment within Ausgrid's remit can complement the work of others in the disaster resilience space. Council sees a key role for Ausgrid, not only to improve the reliability of the network, particularly in response to bushfire and heat hazards, but also to provide expert advice to local communities about how to build their capacity to address the increase in these hazards expected from climate change.



Should the Australian Energy Regulator approve Ausgrid's revised proposal, Central Coast Council and the Central Coast Local Emergency Management Committee look forward to working collaboratively with Ausgrid to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the impacts of natural disasters on our local energy distribution system.

Yours sincerely



Dr Alice Howe

Director Environment and Planning

Chair Local Emergency Management Committee

Our reference: D15987306

