



MEDIA RELEASE

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Powering Our Future: Fully Funded Energy Storage Project to Begin in Blayney

Blayney Shire Council is taking a major step towards a cleaner, more resilient and cost-effective energy future, with the installation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at the CentrePoint Sport and Leisure Centre, fully funded through external investment.

The \$996,182 project will deliver a 1000kWh / 500kW BESS, enabling Council to store low-cost renewable energy from the grid during the day and use it onsite or export it back to the network during peak demand periods. CentrePoint currently incurs around \$150,000 per year in electricity costs, with prices rising alongside national energy trends.

The project has received \$500,000 in funding from Newmont Cadia through the Sustainability, Technology and Innovation pillars of the Cadia Community Partnership Program, and \$496,000 from the Australian Government under the Community Energy Upgrades Fund, meaning no financial contribution is required from Council.

Specialist energy modelling indicates the system could provide savings of up to \$200,000 a year. Conservatively, Council estimates annual cash savings will be around \$100,000.

The BESS has been designed to utilise existing electrical infrastructure at CentrePoint, requiring no new switchboard or substation upgrades. The system's size also exceeds CentrePoint's direct energy use, allowing Council to take advantage of renewable energy oversupply in the grid and increase local energy resilience.

Importantly, CentrePoint is recognised as a regional emergency facility, and the battery will ensure backup power is available during disasters, enhancing the Shire's preparedness and response capability.

Blayney Shire Mayor Bruce Reynolds said the project demonstrates Council's commitment to innovation and long-term financial sustainability.

"This is a smart investment in our future. It reduces costs for the community, cuts emissions and strengthens the resilience of an important community facility."

"We're grateful for the support from the Australian Government and Newmont, which has made this project possible without any cost to our ratepayers," Mayor Reynolds said.

"CentrePoint is a vital asset for our region, especially during emergencies. This project ensures it will continue to serve our community in the moments when it matters most."

"The project will be a lead case study for other Councils to considering undertaking similar projects," said Mayor Reynolds

Federal Member Andrew Gee said "CentrePoint is a much-loved community facility but uses a lot of power. By installing a \$1 million battery, the Council has come up with a clever and creative solution – having the flexibility to draw electricity from the energy grid during the daily low-peak period, which can be stored to power the centre at night.

"Power from solar panels can also be put into the grid at a time of maximum return for ratepayers as the need arises. It's going to bring major savings for ratepayers which is a terrific outcome.

"This is an innovative power and cost-saving model that other communities are sure to follow, and a great partnership between the Australian Government, Blayney Shire Council and Newmont," Mr Gee said.

Newmont Cadia General Manager Lori Douglas said "This project reflects Newmont Cadia's commitment to sustainability and innovation and, importantly, it's an investment in our community. Through the Cadia Community Partnership Program we've been able to support the delivery of a cost-effective energy future for Blayney Shire residents and deliver long-term environmental benefits to the region."

The Blayney Storage Project is expected to be completed by the end of 2026.

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Image: Blayney Shire Mayor Bruce Reynolds, Newmont Cadia Social Performance Lead Melissa O'Brien, Federal Member Andrew Gee, Blayney Shire Council General Manager Mark Dicker

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