



Title → Minutes - Community Reference Group Meeting 2
 Purpose → CRG to make recommendations to the project team
 Date → 1/12/2021
 Location → Online – Zoom

Community Reference Group – Fitzroy North, Meeting 2

5-6pm, 1 December 2021

Agenda

Time	Details	Person	Aim
17:00	Welcome, introductions, and outline of aims/expectations of this meeting	TS	Welcome.
17:05	Review of progress of action items from Meeting 1 and update expected completion	TS	Report progress on action items.
17:12	Project update	CW	To provide the CRG with relevant project updates.
17:26	<p>CRG recommendations to the project team regarding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Location/placement 2. Visual elements/aesthetics 3. Elements relating to the battery itself <p>Note: CRG recommendations may be in the form of individual/diverse feedback, majority vote, or consensus.</p> <p>Note: CRG recommendations may be conditional on further information (such as land ownership on Michael St – which is being investigated), or indicate preferences for a particular approach to guide the project team’s decision-making moving forward.</p>	TS	CRG to provide recommendations (based on existing information) to the project team, so feedback can be integrated into decision-making in preparation for a planning application in mid-December 2021.
17:28	<p>1: Location/placement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is CRG’s preference for location? 	TS/CW	CRG to make a recommendation to the project team. This may be in the form of individual/diverse



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If Michael St is not an option, what is the preferred location on McKean St? ➤ What is the preferred angle/position of the battery unit itself (e.g. flush against a wall, or with the back of the unit facing the street etc.) <p>Note: In addition, the project team will also consider planning rules, safety guidelines and access requirements in the final placement of the battery.</p>		feedback, majority vote, or consensus.
17:38	<p>2: Visual elements/aesthetics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is CRG's preference for how the battery should look? ➤ Would CRG support engaging a local artist to paint/decorate the battery unit? ➤ Would the CRG support any other visual elements, such as vegetation or a screen? 	TS/CW	CRG to make a recommendation to the project team. This may be in the form of individual/diverse feedback, majority vote, or consensus.
17:48	<p>3: Other elements relating to the battery itself</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Are there any other elements that the CRG need to make recommendations on for the submission of the planning application? 	TS/CW	CRG to make a recommendation to the project team. This may be in the form of individual/diverse feedback, majority vote, or consensus.
17:59	Other business and conclude.	TS	

Key outcomes

- The CRG made three formal recommendations to the project team to progress the planning application.
- This included endorsement of
 - 1) location/placement of the battery; that it would be installed on the Michael St side with a gate, acoustic treatment, and potentially a 'lid' or wire mesh to stop people climbing over the units and for security;
 - 2) visual/aesthetic elements of the battery; they would like to setup a process with YEF and Council to engage a local artist to paint the battery/installation (which may also include the wall);



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- 3) other elements; that they support the project manager, Chris Wallin, to make decisions based on further advice from the installers/relevant professionals about the need and options for A) a 'lid' and B) CCTV.



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Minutes – CRG Meeting 2

1/12/21

Meeting commenced: 5pm

TS: Welcomed everyone, acknowledged the Wurrundjeri Woi Wurrung people as custodians of the land known as Yarra. Outlined aims of this meeting.

TS: Reviewed action items from Meeting 1. Updates to action items are reflected in the Action items register and summarised below:

Action 1: Completed. CW to present on sound impact in update.

Action 2: Completed. SG spoke w Coordinator Arts + Culture team at Yarra Council. The process may involve a meeting with the CRG, YEF and Council in early February 2022 to do a consultation with CRG and understand the CRG's preferences. These preferences could be for themes, styles, or colours, for example. SG could organise a Visual Arts Officer from Arts & Culture Team to present a range of options. After this initial meeting, it is imagined that YEF as battery owner in consultation with CRG, would draw up a brief for mural artists based on the consultation meeting. Council can also direct artists to the brief (the CRG may assist if they want). After taking EOIs, YEF, CRG and Council would shortlist artists and pay each artist a fee for a design preview. Then CRG, YEF and Council could select a winner based on agreed criteria. SG suggested a meeting with CRG in February 2022 (preferably second half of February). SG noted Council can assist with drawing up agreements with/for artists, and may also assist with any necessary permits or need for traffic management etc. of the site, depending on how it is installed.

Action 3: Completed. CW to explain in presentation.

Action 4: Completed. CW confirmed that the strip of land on McKean Street with the melaleuca trees is CitiPower land.

Action 5: Completed. CW to show in presentation.



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Action 6: Completed. Greg Hannan to address this when he joins.

5:10pm – Project update from CW

CW: The first major decision was battery selection, Pixii. The second major decision is for the aggregator, which would allow the battery to interface with the grid to trade on the electricity market. The battery will aggregate with a fleet of other batteries (because it is too small on its own). The last three months YEF has been analysing aggregator options and has selected a company which specialises in commercial & industrial work.

CW: A lot of work on the tariff structures has also been done since last meeting. It's very topical in the industry at the moment. Will be proposing to the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) about how the Local Use of System (LUOS) model could look and how it will integrate with the business model for this community battery in Fitzroy North.

CW: Noted in presentation will cover noise levels, land ownership, location, system dimensions, and feeder map.

CW: Showed a slide with a table of noise levels of varying dBa. Highlighted 40-70 dBa, the range that electrical appliances normally operate. The scale is logarithmic, for example 30dBa is 1/16th as 80dBa – it can be difficult to understand therefore the differences between 60 and 50, for example.

CW: Showed a slide with measurements from Pixii (battery manufacturer), taking measurements of the level of sound (dBa) at different distances from the battery unit. This has been done with a combination of different cabinets (different sizes of systems).

CW: Pixii did a simulation for the McKean/Michael Street environment, and modelled it at different distances. E.g. at 20m it's about 36dBa (about the same noise level as a 'quiet rural area' according to [charts](#)).



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CW: Showed some artist impressions of where the battery systems could sit, including the nook on Michael Street. Noted the small box on the side would be slightly bigger in reality compared to how it was depicted in the image.

CW: Also showed some artist impressions of where the battery could sit on McKean Street.

CW: Showed recommendation integrating all the feedback from CRG Meeting 1.

See final slide of the Powerpoint presentation.

CW: Explained that the battery units back would face outwards, and could be used by the local artist. It may be installed in continuation with the brick wall. This would also include a gate at the same height of the systems (with the concrete pad), at just over 2m high. The metering and marshalling board would be made the same size as the cabinets/panels, and have the same width so it looks consistent.

CW: The units facing the wall would also be designed to absorb sound from the battery units, abating noise further from the Pixii modelling. We anticipate that with the right cladding on the wall noise would barely be noticeable by people nearby the battery.

CF: Still concerned about people getting over the gate at that height, and getting into mischief behind. Did some measurements last weekend along Michael Street (along the 'black tagged wall'). Quite like what is proposed here, but still concerned that people can still get over gates and walls.

CW: We discussed this concern today in an earlier meeting, and suggested there could be barbed wire, placed in a way that is minimally visible from the street, to deter people from climbing over the units or the gate. This may also need to be discussed with the local artist.

CF: Noted there is already barbed wire along the CitiPower wall.

LB: If we did this way and wanted to add more batteries, where would they go in this arrangement?



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CW: If you would like, we can extend the slab for another unit to come in in the future, and we would run the ducts (conduits in the slab) so that at a later time if you want to add more storage, we can just add another panel and move the gate to the level of the additional panel without disturbing the rest of the installation.

RE: Looks good where you've drawn it. Have had discussions with others in the street, they are most worried about noise. The data suggests that's not likely to be a concern. Many of us have bedrooms facing the site and were concerned about the disturbance from noise.

CW: Measured the distance from the proposed location to the closest house is ~35m. Also measured to gate of RE house and it's about 40-45m, giving us confidence that noise is not going to be an issue with this installation design.

RE: Agrees, doesn't see noise based on this design as being an issue.

CW: We can get further advice and decide what type of noise cladding (or vegetation etc.) could be used in discussion with installers.

RE: Acoustic panels would add another benefit to those walking nearby.

CW: Agreed.

LB: It's quite dark under the melaleuca trees, and thinks it's better to celebrate and paint it and make it clear that it's a community initiative (supporting this proposed design option).

RW: Agreed.

JC: Thinks it's quite an innovative proposal, and isn't overly concerned of where it goes. But is concerned at losing as little grass and greenery as possible.

CW: Noted. Will now proceed with mechanical drawings of the community battery, and how it could be connected, showing additional details.

CF: Also supports this design option. Sees it as less obvious than around the corner on McKean St. Sees it as a good an option as we could possibly have.



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JC: In terms of passers-by there is more traffic and people which is good as a promotion for the green credentials of Council and the area, it's probably an optimum. But perhaps a missed opportunity to improve the quality of the land area on Michael St.

RW: Noted it is probably going to be hard to see from the McKean St side (RE agreed).

Greg Hannan, CitiPower, joined 5:34pm

GH: Introduced self, Head of Network Strategy & Non-Network Solutions. One of the first things has done since in this role is he has caught up with Chris and signed an MoU with YEF to pursue community batteries. Did not expect to be at this point so quickly, but was propelled by Victorian Government Neighbourhood Battery Initiative (NBI) grants and is excited about this model of community battery and front of meter storage. A great example of a community-led offering.

GH: Beyond this project, we are seeing strong enthusiasm for these kinds of projects. YEF is the leading community energy group on this, and have put themselves out in front. What impresses us about YEF is their engagement with community.

CW: Noted that we had to work with the electricity distributor to make this project a success. GH is looking for innovative ways to be in tune with the energy transition and bring more renewable energy into the grid. Have been working together since GH joined, and breaking new ground together in a great partnership.

GH: Very difficult working on these proposals because they're hypothetical and it can be difficult to talk with communities about hypothetical solutions, but now it's funded and we can talk about it publicly, that's where your feedback [CRG] and insights are helping us shape how the project will look. Really looking to use trials to show the way forward for future projects.

TS: Thanked GH for joining and highlighted the leading work GH and CitiPower have done with this project and others.



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CF: If we wanted an extra unit, regarding the concrete pad, would there be any room to have more than one unit go in?

CW: You can, but what it means is when you install the next unit you would plan for the fifth unit at that time. This is when you can access the conduits in the slab. In short, not a problem if the community wanted to add more units in retrospectively.

JC: Why not a wire mesh cage over the top (rather than barbed wire as a solution). Noted it could be a lid on top as well.

CW: Will look into this as an option and speak with those who do the installs to get further advice.

CF: Where the return wall comes, will the batteries be flush with that or jut out?

CW: There will be 100mm between each panel and we thought of leaving it like this until talking with the local artist. Also thought about making it uniform with a type of cladding, but thought it would be up to the artist.

CRG: Noted and happy with this.

JC: Clarified it could be wire mesh or other optimal lid to form a complete enclosure (doesn't necessarily have to be wire mesh).

CRG: Noted this as a good option to explore with the installers.

TS: Explained that we are seeking formal recommendations from the CRG on the three agenda items to allow the project team to progress planning application by mid-December 2021. Noted that recommendations from CRG at this meeting do not necessarily need to be made in consensus, they can be conditional pending further information, and they can also be represented as a diversity of views/perspectives.

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Item 1: Location/Placement of the community battery.

CRG endorsed the location, placement and position of the battery unit on a concrete slab as per the drawings/design CW presented (see final slide of the Powerpoint presentation). This also includes the expectation that YEF will:

1. Discuss with the installer their recommendations for a possible ‘lid’ (could be wire mesh or other optimal solution) to deter/prevent people climbing over the units, and
2. Discuss the need for CCTV, although the CRG didn’t think it was critical as the area has relatively busy traffic and is relatively well lit.
3. Review and decide on best options to install some acoustic treatment (this could be acoustic panels or vegetation etc. and is yet to be decided based on further professional advice) to minimise even further the noise from the battery units.

Proposed Location

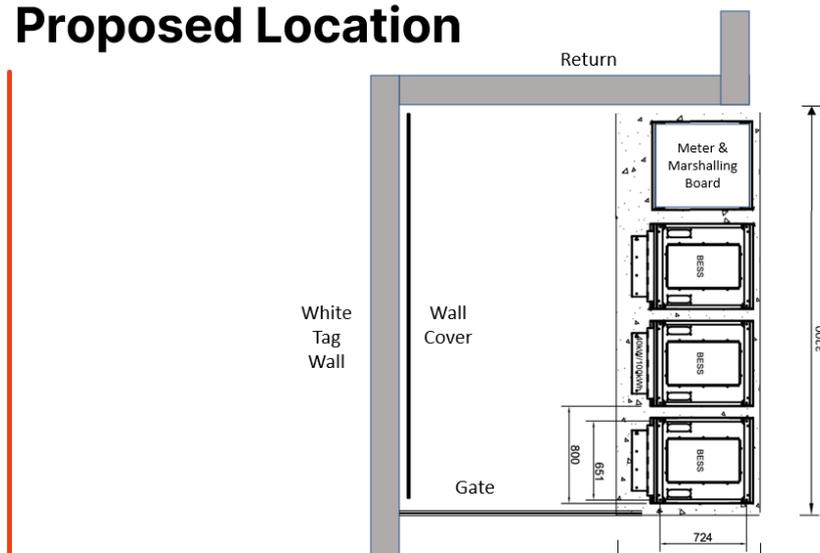


Figure 1: The proposed design presented at the meeting showing units facing towards the wall on Michael St. Having the units facing this way will provide a ‘canvas’ for a local artist, while also directing sound away from residential properties and the footpath. It is expected that a “Wall Cover” would also function as acoustic treatment to minimise any noise impact from the battery. A ‘lid’ or other solution will be investigated to deter/prevent the risk of people climbing over the gate or battery units.



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Item 2: Visual/aesthetic elements of the community battery.

CRG endorsed the proposal to engage a local artist to paint the battery facilitated through Yarra Council. The CRG will be invited to a meeting with Council in the second half of February 2022 to progress the next steps. Council will organise a visual arts officer at this consultation meeting. The steps outlined by SG are summarised as:

1. Consultation meeting with CRG, YEF and Council in February 2022;
2. Design an artist brief and advertise (Council can assist in this process);
3. Based on agreed criteria (with input from YEF, CRG and Council), shortlist some artists;
4. Pay a fee to shortlisted artists to submit formal proposals of their work;
5. A selection panel (TBC) would assess the submissions and select a successful artist;
6. Depending on the medium and needs of the artist, they may be given access to the battery hardware unit in advance of the installation (if that's feasible); otherwise there will be conditions and support provided to the artist if the artwork is to be completed *in situ*, with assistance from Council if any permits or traffic management etc. is required.

RW: Doesn't see CCTV as particularly necessary, Michael St is fairly busy. If someone was going to climb over they would likely be seen. If you're going to have CCTV it will only be good after the event and not preventative.

CF: Noted that it's quite well-lit in that area.

JC: Getting advice from the installers about dealing with protecting the battery, you could also get an opinion about whether it's worth getting a camera.

CW: Agreed.

CRG: Happy for Chris to note with installer re CCTV.



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Item 3: Other elements

CRG endorsed the recommendation that CW discuss with the installer and seek further advice about the option and need for CCTV, and make a decision based on this advice. The CRG noted that they did not see it as absolutely critical to install CCTV because the area has generally high foot/vehicle traffic and is relatively well-lit.

CW: We have planned for the unit to be delivered (somewhere) before it goes live, perhaps if we're engaging an artist maybe we should allow them to access the battery unit before it's installed. We might have the units by April. This will depend on how much time the artist needs to do their work.

CW: On 5th June 2022 (World Environment Day), would like to have a media event so people can see what we've created. Met Minister Lily D'Ambrosio last week and asked her to visit Michael St and cut the ribbon. She was very excited by the idea and it's an election year. CW hopes the event would help further celebrate the battery and inspire the community.

JC: Used to work in contemporary visual art and has experience working with artists. Noted that in June/winter it could be difficult or challenging for an artist – wise to give the artist extra time before the installation – noted weather can often get in the way at that time of year.

CW: Agreed – also noted that we can put up cover while the installation is being worked on if required.

SG: Another thing we can think about is if the art is painted after the installation in situ or if the painting takes place off site and then is installed pre-painted.

JC: Would depend on the medium used by the artist conceptually and practically.

CW: And if the artist wants to use the brick wall.

JC: Is that an issue from CitiPower's perspective?



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GH: Confirmed that painting the wall shouldn't be an issue from CitiPower's perspective.

SG: Noted staff at Council would be able to recommend anti-graffiti treatment of any artwork if needed. Would be great to agree to reconvene in February to discuss the mural and the artist and the process of commissioning.

SG: Reiterated that we would seek input from CRG on themes, colours, styles, what the mural could represent. Will organise to have a Council Visual Arts Officer and participate in that consultation. And YEF with CRG guided by Council to draw up a brief to artists. The arts team can recommend artists but CRG may know others, then the suggestion from the arts team was to shortlist and pay each artist a small fee to deliver a concept design. Based on criteria with CRG input we can select an artist. Also need to think about signage, e.g. would there be separate signage of what the battery is etc. or if it's part of the mural.

SG: Depending on the process (painting in or outdoors) we may need to think about permits and traffic management etc. First step is a conversation in February.

CW: The network feeder map, asked to clarify if the map could be shared with the CRG.

GH: Not something we regularly hand out, but for this project it should be reasonable to share it with JC.

JC: Wanted to go along McKean St, and it'd be good to let them know that have the circuit running to the back of some of the properties.

JC: Is the line supplying all their power needs?

CW: Yes.

JC: A few wants to talk to neighbours so they know they are included, others in the neighbourhood are unsure if they're included.

CW: Noted this map is sensitive material for CitiPower.



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GH: Happy for this map to be shared for this purpose.

TS: Can provide specific information about which properties are included and not; noted that it may not be clear from the map which has limited granularity.

ACTION: TS to put out options for meeting in last two weeks of February 2022 to discuss engaging an artist for the community battery.

TS: Thanked everyone for their input and closed the meeting.

Meeting closed 6:03pm



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CRG Recommendations

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1. Discuss with the installer their recommendations for a possible 'lid' (could be wire mesh or other optimal solution) to deter/prevent people climbing over the units, and
2. Discuss the need for CCTV, although the CRG didn't think it was critical as the area has relatively busy traffic and is relatively well lit.
3. Review and decide on best options to install some acoustic treatment (this could be acoustic panels or vegetation etc. and is yet to be decided based on further professional advice) to minimise even further the noise from the battery units.

Item 2: Visual/aesthetic elements of the community battery.

CRG endorsed the proposal to engage a local artist to paint the battery facilitated through Yarra Council. The CRG will be invited to a meeting with Council in the second half of February 2022 to progress the next steps. Council will organise a visual arts officer at this consultation meeting. The steps outlined by SG are summarised as:

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artwork is to be completed *in situ*, with assistance from Council if any permits or traffic management etc. is required.

Item 3: Other elements

CRG endorsed the recommendation that CW discuss with the installer and seek further advice about the option and need for CCTV, and make a decision based on this advice. The CRG noted that they did not see it as absolutely critical to install CCTV because the area has generally high foot/vehicle traffic and is relatively well-lit.

Key questions and issues register

Item	Details	Raised by	Response	Action required (Y/N)
1	None			

Action item register

Item	Details	Owner	Due	Status
1	Action (CW): To provide more information about the sound impact of the battery over further distances (e.g. 10m and 20m) to understand what 63dBa at 1m from the battery means in practice.	CW	1/12/21 (or as soon as possible)	Completed
2	Action (SG): To look into how Council could assist in facilitating a local artist to decorate/paint the battery.	SG	1/12/21 (or as soon as possible)	Completed
3	Action (CW): To find the battery specifications (dimensions) and provide to CRG.	CW	1/12/21 (or as soon as possible)	Completed



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4	Action (CW): To investigate whether the verge of property on McKean Street is CitiPower land or not.	CW	1/12/21 (or as soon as possible)	Completed
5	Action (CW): Do arrange for mock-ups for the McKean St side to see what the battery placement could look like.	CW	1/12/21 (or as soon as possible)	Completed
6	Action (CW): To ask CitiPower if the subnetwork map can be shared with CRG.	CW	1/12/21 (or as soon as possible)	Completed
7	Action (TS): To propose options for meeting with CRG in the second half of February 2022 to discuss engaging a local artist facilitated through Council.	TS	8/12/21	