



COMMUNITY ENERGY for Venus Bay?

Community Resilience and Reliable Energy Feasibility Study at Venus Bay

let's talk about the possibilities of community owned energy!



Keep up to date with planned community consultations via the timeline on the back. For more information scan the QR code or head to: vbcc.org.au/communityenergy

Co-designing our Future

Over the next 10 months full- and part-time residents, business operators, community organisations and visitors of Venus Bay and District are invited on a **journey** to build on the strength and **resilience that exists already** in our community.

The Venus Bay Community Resilience and Reliable Energy Study (Community Energy Study) will strengthen our resilience as we lead conversations and inform design of a reliable energy supply that can support our needs when mains power is unavailable.

There are four public workshops planned from October 2022 through to June 2023. These workshops are one of the main opportunities for local people to share their ideas, listen to others, hear from, question and inform expert advisers who will help design an energy system that is reliable, affordable and supports our resilience.

By June 2023 we'll have a **Plan** for how we can fund and build the best energy options for Venus Bay.

Besides the workshops, everyone is invited to contribute through surveys, information sessions, street stalls, popping into the Community Centre for a chat or submitting comments via email/website. The more voices that are heard, the stronger our plan will be.

All these opportunities are shaped by principles and practices of **Codesign**. Codesign is different from your usual consultation process. It's an approach to designing with, not for, people. Codesign elevates the voices and knowledge of people with lived experience. For the Venus Bay Community Energy Study, codesign means everyone's input is equally valued for informing, researching, decision-making, and ultimately in designing a bespoke community energy system to meet our needs.

Sparking Ideas

Challenging events, such as the fire that cut off Venus Bay last New Year's Eve, several unscheduled power outages, and recent flooding that cut roads and isolated our towns – require us to be resilient.

In preparing for **Community Workshop #1 on Saturday Oct 1st** let's all think about our resilience and what we need when these events happen.

We've heard a range of ideas in the past 12 months, and from people who recently attended the Study launch. Here is a sample of what local people are saying: **What excites me is how we can support each other; can we share our excess energy? I'm excited about doing blue sky thinking, exploring what is possible; it's a great time in renewables to think big; I'd like to hear about other community energy projects; I want to know more about our energy consumption and the best options to meet it with renewables; I hope the project can help people keep the lights on and help us feel safe; I hope we can get past energy loss or grid breakdown during times of emergency; communication is the biggest thing – keeping informed and knowing what is happening in times of emergency.**

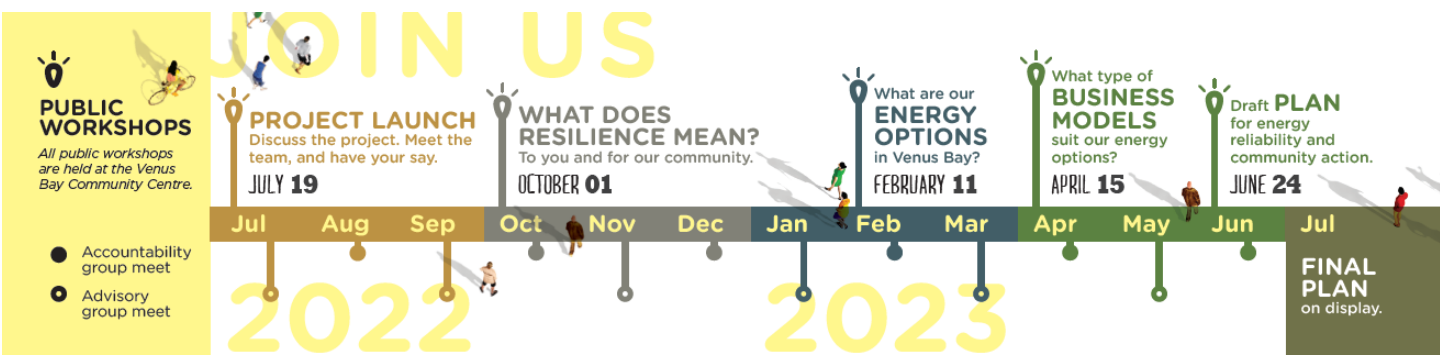
Please keep sharing your thoughts and questions so our Community Energy Project is built on diversity and inclusion. Drop in to VBCC for a chat or call or email Alyson – 0416 242 331, alyson@vbcc.org.au

For inspiration check out these community energy links:

[Totally Renewable Yackandandah](#)

[Totally Renewable Phillip Island](#)

[Community owned renewable energy – a how to guide](#)





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Brilliantly Resilient

Resilience means different things to each of us. How we express resilience is related to our life circumstances, experiences and the challenges that confront us.

In the Venus Bay Community Resilience and Reliable Energy Study, the main focus is on resilience as it relates to electricity supply and what we do now and could do in the future when mains power is unavailable.

Throughout the Study local people are being invited to consider **resilience of what?** We will begin by exploring resilience through the key ideas shown in the infographic below.

Energy sits behind most of our everyday comforts and basic needs. Based on information people have shared so far, energy for cooking, hot water, light, and refrigeration are featuring high on the priority list. Other considerations include infrastructure that relies on electricity, particularly water pumping and mobile phones.

In the last month there has been at least one major electricity outage and a flood in the district. Other priorities may have arisen related to energy use, during these times.

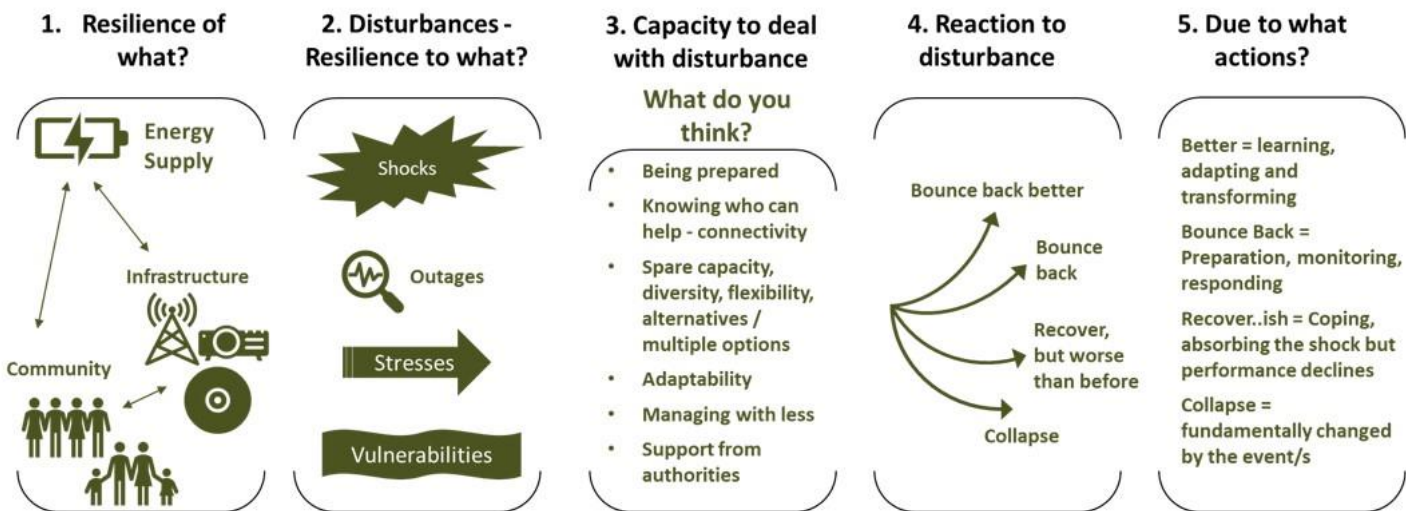
Emergency management experts often point out that resilience is to be found in the relationships between people and in our relationships to technology and infrastructure. You may have noticed a growing reliance in your life on access to the internet, to get news and information, to get money and sometimes to operate our digital systems.

What challenges cause you the most inconvenience when the power goes down?

Is it different at different times of the year or due to the cause being a flood, fire or storm event?

What else have you become reliant on? What is your back up strategy?

We will explore these questions together during the first Community Workshop on Saturday October 1st, 2022.



An **Advisory Group** with representatives from the local community, businesses and community groups along with representatives from agencies, Council and industry has formed to closely advise the Facilitation and Research Team. Advisory Group members bring different perspective to the Study and insights on how best to engage people. Other opportunities are being created to involve people throughout the 12-month Study.

Community Workshop #1 – What does resilience mean for each of us and our community?

Saturday October 1st, 2022. Venus Bay Community Centre 12 noon to 3 pm.

Lunch included – RSVP alyson@vbcc.org.au