

# Business Battery Programme

How the programme works, how to apply and what to expect at each stage.

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## About this guide

The Business Battery Programme offers Queenstown Lakes businesses **up to 40% EECA co-funding towards eligible battery project costs**, helping businesses lower electricity costs and improve energy resilience. The programme is led by the [Queenstown Electrification Accelerator \(QEA\)](#) in collaboration with Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC), with funding provided by the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA).

The programme is best suited to medium and large electricity users, with a **minimum battery size of 125 kW**. Funding is limited and subject to eligibility and EECA approval. **Expressions of Interest close on 10 November 2026**. Submitting an Expression of Interest does not commit your business to proceeding or guarantee funding.

This guide explains who the programme is for, how to apply, what funding is available and what to expect at each stage, from the free initial assessment through to feasibility, installation and ongoing reporting.

# Why consider a battery for your business?

A battery can help your business lower electricity costs, improve energy resilience and make better use of the energy you generate onsite. Depending on your site and system design, benefits can include:

- **Lower electricity bills:** store electricity when prices are lower and use it when prices are higher.
- **Reduced peak demand charges:** use stored energy during network peaks to help reduce applicable peak-demand and network charges. In addition, by reducing your peak electricity demand, this may enable a smaller grid connection or avoid a costly connection upgrade.
- **Greater resilience:** keep essential equipment running during power outages.
- **Smarter energy use:** store surplus solar generation and manage demand from electric vehicle charging and other electric equipment, making energy available when your business needs it most.

To learn more about battery storage, how it works and the benefits for your business, visit the [QEA website](#). You can also [explore our local stories map](#) to see how businesses across the district are already benefiting from batteries.

The sections below explain each stage of the process, what businesses can expect, and the key decisions and responsibilities along the way.

## About the programme

The Business Battery Programme is designed to help eligible Queenstown Lakes businesses assess and progress battery energy storage system (BESS) projects that can reduce electricity costs, improve resilience and create more value from how their business uses electricity.

**Up to 40% co-funding is available** from EECA towards eligible battery project costs, including feasibility, design, capital and reporting costs, subject to the project meeting the programme requirements and receiving EECA approval.

## What should I know about the programme requirements?

The programme has a **minimum battery size of 125 kW**. Because of this, it is primarily suited to medium and large electricity users. As a general rule of thumb, businesses with a connection size of 150 kVA or greater are likely to be the strongest fit, although businesses with smaller connections (around 69–150 kVA) may also be considered.

As a very high-level indication only, a 125 kW battery project could cost around \$200,000, including feasibility, design and installation. **With co-funding from EECA at 40% for example, the business would contribute \$120,000 towards the total project.** Actual project costs will vary depending on the battery configuration, site requirements, installation complexity and other project-specific factors.

As part of the Expression of Interest and (free, fully funded) initial assessment, QEA will review your connection size, annual electricity use and half-hourly electricity data to assess whether a battery of this scale is likely to be suitable and economical for your site. Submitting an Expression of Interest does not commit your business to proceeding and does not guarantee eligibility for funding.

**The programme has a limited funding pool**, and the aim is to support a range of suitable battery projects across different businesses and locations in the district. The level of funding offered to individual projects may therefore vary depending on factors such as project size, the level of demand for the programme and the overall mix of projects applying. Funding decisions will involve some discretion to help ensure the available funding is distributed fairly and can support multiple businesses across the Queenstown Lakes District.

## Who is involved?

[\*\*QEA\*\*](#) is leading the initial business engagement and assessment stages of the programme. QEA will work with businesses to understand their battery opportunity, support them through the Expression of Interest and initial assessment process, and help suitable businesses progress into feasibility. This is a valuable opportunity for Queenstown Lakes businesses to access specialist support and funding to explore battery projects and bulk procurement arrangements that could reduce electricity costs and improve energy resilience.

**QLDC** is the overall programme manager and the funding intermediary between participating businesses and EECA. For projects approved by EECA, QLDC will enter into the project funding agreement with the business and pass through the approved funding in line with programme requirements. The EECA-QLDC agreement establishes QLDC as the intermediary responsible for overseeing approved projects and contracting with project owners.

[\*\*EECA\*\*](#) provides the programme funding through its Efficient Demand Flexibility (EDF) initiative, which supports the deployment of battery energy storage systems.

[\*\*Revolve Energy\*\*](#) has been appointed as the programme's energy consultant to provide specialist battery expertise and help streamline the process from feasibility through procurement, installation and commissioning. Businesses may choose to use Revolve for their feasibility study and project delivery support, or appoint their own suitably qualified energy consultant. Businesses using another consultant can still participate in the programme and can still access the bulk procurement arrangements.

## The programme is a staged process

### 1. Submit an [Expression of Interest \(EOI\)](#) by 10 November 2026

Businesses start by providing some basic information about their business and the site the battery would be installed at. In order to submit the EOI, you will need your ICP number (this can be found on your electricity bill).

After submitting your EOI, you will also need to request at least 12 months of half-hourly electricity consumption data from your electricity retailer. This data is required for QEA to complete the initial battery assessment, so we recommend requesting it as early as possible.

**You can use the template below to request the data from your retailer:**

*Subject: Request for half-hourly electricity consumption data for [business name and location]*

*Hi [Account Manager/Team],*

*Could you please provide half-hourly electricity consumption data (HHR data) as a CSV or Excel file for each ICP at my site, covering at least the last 12 months?*

*Many thanks,  
[Name, Business name]*

Once you receive the data, please send it to **Lowri@qea.nz** so QEA can complete your initial assessment.

### 2. QEA completes an initial assessment

QEA uses the information provided to carry out a high-level assessment of the battery opportunity, this is fully funded and free of charge to the businesses. This assessment will look at factors such as likely battery size, potential value streams and high-level economics. If the business would get significant benefit from a battery, QEA would then recommend a feasibility study be commissioned.

### 3. QEA & QLDC apply to EECA for a feasibility study to be undertaken

If the business decides to proceed, QEA & QLDC will apply to EECA for the feasibility study to be undertaken on behalf of the business.

#### **4. Complete a feasibility study**

Once EECA gives approval for the feasibility study to go ahead, the business enters into a funding agreement with QLDC for the study. The next step is then to appoint an energy consultant to confirm the proposed battery solution, costs and project economics in more detail (and adhering to EECA's requirements).

QEA has partnered with [Revolve Energy](#), who has been onboarded to support the programme and undertake these services, but businesses are free to appoint their own suitably qualified energy consultant.

#### **5. EECA reviews the feasibility study for approval**

The completed feasibility study is submitted for EECA review. EECA assesses whether the project meets the programme requirements and, if approved, confirms the level of funding available for the proposed project.

#### **6. Sign the project funding agreement with QLDC**

If the business decides to move forward, the business enters into a funding agreement with QLDC for the project design and delivery stages to be completed.

#### **7. Design, procure, install and operate the battery**

Once the agreement with QLDC is in place, the project moves into detailed design, procurement, installation and commissioning, supported by the business's energy consultant. Participating businesses can access the programme's bulk procurement arrangements which have been organised by Revolve Energy to help streamline procurement and improve pricing. Once the battery is commissioned, the business operates and maintains the system and completes the required monitoring and reporting over the following two years.

## **When is the funding paid?**

Funding is paid in stages as the project progresses and the relevant requirements are completed and accepted by EECA.

- **Feasibility study:** EECA funds 75% of eligible costs incurred for the feasibility stage. This is paid once EECA has accepted the feasibility study and issued the project's Funding Approval Letter. This payment is still available if the business decides not to proceed with the battery installation.

- **Installation and commissioning:** 80% of the remaining approved project funding is paid once the battery has been installed and commissioned and the system is operational and compliant.
- **12-month reporting:** 10% of the remaining approved project funding is paid following completion and acceptance of the 12-month Project Report.
- **24-month reporting:** The final 10% of the remaining approved project funding is paid following completion and acceptance of the 24-month Project Report.

The feasibility-stage payment is taken into account when calculating the later payments, and the total funding paid cannot exceed the maximum amount approved by EECA in the Funding Approval Letter.

QLDC passes the relevant funding on to the business once it has received the corresponding payment from EECA.

## What are the eligible costs?

Eligible technologies include battery energy storage systems (BESS) and associated control systems. These can include:

### **Project enablement costs:**

- Detailed feasibility study (for costs that EECA has not already co-funded)
- Project management (external resource)
- Measurement & Verification Plan
- Consents & approvals
- Metering

### **Capital costs:**

- Flexibility-enabling battery energy storage systems (BESS) and control systems to enable shifting, reducing, or optimising electricity demand
- Integration infrastructure required to connect flexibility-enabling technologies to site systems
- Electrical works, control systems, and software required to enable demand flexibility capability

# What you are committing to if your project proceeds

The detailed requirements will be set out in the project-specific funding agreement with QLDC. The main commitments businesses should understand before making a final investment decision are summarised below.

| <b>Commitment</b>                                        | <b>What it means for your business</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Business contribution and remaining project costs</b> | The business is responsible for all project costs not covered by the approved EECA funding, including any costs above the approved funding amount. Other Central Government funding cannot be used to cover these remaining project costs.                                                                                          |
| <b>Consents and approvals</b>                            | The business is responsible for obtaining the consents, approvals and licences required for its project and site, including electricity network approval where required (although their energy consultant should be able to undertake some of these tasks). Consenting costs are eligible for EECA co-funding, subject to approval. |
| <b>Health and safety</b>                                 | The business remains responsible for managing implementation at its site in accordance with health and safety law and good practice. A site-specific safety plan and supplier accreditations may be required.                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Insurance</b>                                         | Project-specific insurance requirements will be confirmed in the funding agreement. These may include public liability, material damage insurance for the battery system, and professional indemnity where design services are included by an energy consultant.                                                                    |
| <b>Suppliers and procurement</b>                         | The business is responsible for its suppliers and subcontractors. Supplier details and compliance evidence may need to be provided to QLDC/EECA.                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Operate and maintain the system</b>                   | The business must keep the battery operating and maintained for at least two years after commissioning and until the final report has been accepted by EECA (this is the Asset Retention Period).                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Data, reporting and records</b>                       | The business must provide the required Project Reports and supporting data once the battery is commissioned.                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Sale of the site/business</b>                         | If the site or business is sold during the Asset Retention Period, QLDC must be notified and additional arrangements may be required so the project obligations continue.                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Repayment risk</b>                                    | The funding agreement sets out circumstances where some or all funding may need to be repaid, for example if funding is not used for approved project costs or key project requirements are not met.                                                                                                                                |

## Ready to get started?

Start the process by completing the Business Battery Programme [Expression of Interest](#).

If you have questions about the EOI, the information you need to provide, or whether the programme may be suitable for your site, [contact QEA](#) before submitting.

**Please submit your EOI by 10 November 2026.**

**Disclaimer:** This document is intended as a plain-English guide to help businesses understand the Business Battery Programme and the steps involved. It is not a contract and does not replace the formal funding agreement between the business and QLDC. The funding agreement sets out the full terms, conditions, obligations and requirements that apply to each approved project.