



FACT SHEET

Project Outline, Location and Site Access

EnergyAustralia acknowledges that the proposed site for the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Project is on the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri Peoples. We recognise their continued connection to Country and culture, and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Project Overview

EnergyAustralia is investigating the feasibility of a pumped hydro energy storage project on land it owns near Lithgow in New South Wales. The project would be capable of producing up to 335 megawatts (MW) of reliable energy – enough energy to supply over 150,000 households for up to eight hours¹.



Proposed capacity

335MW



Energy for homes

150,000

Key elements of the project

- **Regenerating Lake Lyell.** Extends the life of Lake Lyell, a purpose-built dam used to store cooling water for a nearby power station, to provide water for the proposed pumped hydro facility. Recreational use of the lake is expected to continue into the future.
- **A new upper reservoir.** Creation of a new upper reservoir behind the southern ridge of Mount Walker to store large volumes of water for quick release back into Lake Lyell to produce electricity when demand for energy is high.
- **Connection with Farmers Creek.** Provision to move water from Lake Lyell to the new upper reservoir through a series of purpose-built pipes located near Farmers Creek.
- **Underground powerhouse.** A new underground powerhouse with a reversible turbine will act as a pump, allowing water to be pumped to the top reservoir when supplies of low-cost renewable energy are high.
- **Use of existing transmission lines.** Existing high-voltage transmission lines to supply power to the energy grid will be used, reducing the need for building new power line infrastructure on public or private land not owned by EnergyAustralia.
- **New offices and administration buildings.** Purpose built administration buildings and an operations hub will be constructed to house project personnel and the equipment needed to service the facility.

¹ Based on POE10 demand of 1.97kW for EnergyAustralia's portfolio of NSW residential customers at 335MW of generation.



The upper reservoir will not be visible from the majority of Lithgow, Bowenfels, South Bowenfels and Hillcrest Estate.

Location

The proposed 4.4 gegalitre upper reservoir would be built behind the southern ridge of Mount Walker where it will not be visible from the majority of Lithgow.

Underground pipes connecting the upper and lower reservoir – or ‘penstock’ – would also be located on this side of Mount Walker. Water intake or the ‘tail race’ would be located at the upper reaches of Farmers Creek. A new switchyard and operations building would be located at the base of the hill and nearby to existing 330 kV high-voltage transmission lines.

Site access

The project site will be accessed from the south, via Sir Thomas Mitchell Drive and Magpie Hollow Road from Great Western Highway. It is expected that at least one new sealed road and two access tracks will be required to allow effective access for the construction, operation and maintenance of the project.

We’re here to help

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Keeping people safe

The Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Project is a major infrastructure development, and if it proceeds, keeping our employees, contractors, and the community safe is our priority.

As we progress our feasibility assessment for the project and if construction proceeds, there will be changes to access for certain parts of the lake and to Mount Walker. While our aim is to ensure as much of Lake Lyell remains available to the public as possible, where we need to limit access, particularly near Farmers Creek, we will provide the community with advance notice, ensure restricted areas are signposted, and will fence off certain areas to assist with safety.

Maintaining access to Lake Lyell

Lake Lyell is a popular recreation destination for locals and tourists to enjoy sightseeing, boating, fishing, camping and swimming. EnergyAustralia is committed to ensuring Lake Lyell continues to be available for recreational use. Our plan is to create a project that can coexist with lake users and can create wider benefits for the Lithgow community.

Supported by



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