



FACT SHEET

Site Assessments and Environmental Impacts

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.

About the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Project

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 clean energy - enough energy to supply over 150,000 households for up to eight hours¹.



Proposed capacity

335MW



Energy for homes

150,000

Site geotechnical investigations

As part of early work on the technical and environmental feasibility of the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Project, EnergyAustralia has been undertaking geotechnical works to understand more about the proposed site's ground conditions and geology including its suitability to build a new upper reservoir.

The geotechnical work began in September 2022 and, so far, has involved drilling six boreholes at Mount Walker and two on the shoreline of Lake Lyell in the Farmers Creek arm. Six of the boreholes have been sealed, while two have been kept for ongoing water monitoring. The drilling works and the sealing of the boreholes have been carefully completed to avoid any significant environmental impacts.

We will conduct an additional site investigation program to help us develop more detailed groundwater modelling and monitoring. This will involve drilling up to 14 further boreholes. This will commence later in 2023 and take three to five months to complete.

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

Committed to minimising environmental impacts

Like any major development, the construction of the proposed Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Project would have an impact on the environment. EnergyAustralia is committed to planning and designing the project based on the principle of avoiding impacts where possible, and where impacts are unavoidable, taking steps to mitigate harm to the environment.

As part of the project's planning, we will be carefully assessing these impacts and ways to minimise them. This includes engaging the community about their concerns.

Assessing Environmental Impacts

The proposed Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Project will be subject to assessment by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. This includes the requirement that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is completed to assess environmental and cultural heritage impacts of the project.

Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

As a first step, the NSW Department of Planning and Environment will issue its Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). The SEARs identifies what information needs to be included in the Environmental Impact Statement. Generally, environmental assessments are likely to address:

- Biodiversity
- Water
- Aboriginal and cultural heritage
- Visual impacts
- Social and economic impacts
- Fit with existing land uses
- Noise impacts
- Transport
- Hazards
- Air quality.

More information on SEARs and the NSW Department of Planning and Environment's Planning Approval process is available on EnergyAustralia's Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Project State Significant Development Planning Pathway Fact Sheet.

We're here to help

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Supported by



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