



## FACT SHEET

# State Significant Development Planning Pathway

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 hours<sup>1</sup>.



Proposed capacity

**335MW**



Energy for homes

**150,000**

## State Significant Developments

The Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Project is considered to be a State Significant Development (SSD), reflecting its complexity, economic value and potential impacts.

As an SSD, the project will be subject to assessment by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. Local, state and national-level issues will be considered as part of the project's assessment and approvals process.

The project's plans will be informed through consultation with stakeholders, including neighbours, Traditional Owners, referral agencies, special interest groups and the local community. Evidence will also be gathered by technical and environmental specialists, including field-work and in-depth feasibility and impact studies. There will be regular opportunities for feedback at different stages of the project.

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

## Overview of the planning timeline



## SSD Planning Approval Process – Key Steps

The New South Wales Minister for Planning and Environment must approve State Significant Development projects under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) before they can proceed. An approval from the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) is also required as the project is likely to have an environmental impact of national significance and is considered a Controlled Action.

### 1. Scoping Report and SEARs

EnergyAustralia has produced a scoping report for the New South Wales Government that introduces the project and requests the issue of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). SEARs outlines the matters that EnergyAustralia will need to address in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), including any community consultation requirements.

### 2. Environmental Impact Statement

Following receipt of the SEARs, EnergyAustralia will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement in accordance with the SEARs. An EIS for large projects usually takes 12 to 18 months to prepare. EnergyAustralia will ensure consultation opportunities are provided to gather community and stakeholder feedback on key topics and issues to be addressed

by the EIS and other relevant technical studies. This feedback will be considered and, where practical, it will be used to shape planning for the project.

### 3. Public Exhibition

A concept development plan for the project and the EIS will then be publicly exhibited for a minimum of 28 days to give the community and people with an interest in the project the opportunity to read the EIS and make a submission.

EnergyAustralia will actively promote the EIS process to ensure public visibility of this process and opportunities to provide formal feedback to the assessment.

### 4. Assessment and Approvals

The NSW Minister for Planning and Environment will evaluate the merits of the project, paying attention to the economic, environmental, and social impacts, the issues raised during consultation and in submissions, and the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

A project may also be referred to an independent committee for a decision in certain circumstances.

After considering the project, the Minister will publish a notice setting out the decision and how community views were considered in making the decision.

## We're here to help

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Supported by



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