

Community Newsletter

Issue 9 | May 2025



Investing in Lithgow's heart

Community grants are more than just funding—they are an investment in the heart of the Lithgow community.

That is why we were honoured to fund the restoration of the iconic **Lithgow Public School** bell – part of the soundscape of Lithgow since 1901 and the heartbeat of the school day.

When this school bell rang, it was as if the world paused for a moment. The iconic sound slicing through the quiet murmur of a classroom or the laughter of the playground and being carried across the streets of Lithgow.

Yet for over 30 years the school bell was silent. Stored in the basement, with cracks and covered in layers of paint waiting for the day it would ring again. A restoration over many months with a \$10,000 grant, meant the brass beauty sounded once again was heard once again at the recent 150th anniversary of the **Lithgow Public School**.

From one celebration to another at the Portland Touch Football Association where a new free community BBQ at Saville Park will be a great spot for play-by-play recaps and victory speeches as teams battle it out in the years to come. We were delighted to help the many people and businesses that got the BBQ up and running with a \$10,000 grant.

We are now working our way through the latest grant applications and listening to great ideas for the \$20 million Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Shared Benefit Program, should the project be approved.

Whether it's a small neighbourhood project, a school resource or program, a local nonprofit, an arts initiative or sporting club, EnergyAustralia community grants help people across Lithgow bring their vision to life and make a meaningful impact.

Thank you, Lithgow, for asking us how we can help.



Thank you, Recognised Aboriginal Parties

We provided an opportunity to make artefact discoveries in an unexplored area by applying Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro project.

Together with Registered Aboriginal Parties, we discovered 1344 artefacts and cultural materials.

In accordance with the Heritage NSW Code of Practice and in consultation with 22 Registered Aboriginal Parties, archaeologists and specialists were entrusted with the artefacts to undertake analysis in Sydney.

When the analysis was completed, we consulted with 22 Registered Aboriginal Parties to return all 1344 artefacts to Wiradjuri Country which are now secured in a temporary keeping place.

Ensuring Wiradjuri cultural heritage is recorded and managed is an important part of the development of the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Project.

Read the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Information Sheet at www.lakelyellpumpedhydro.com.au

500-person worker accommodation site in town

We are seeking your views so that we can design, construct and operate a workers accommodation site in town that minimises impacts to nearby neighbours.

We will put forward two sites in the Environmental Impact Statement for consideration by the NSW Government. A preferred site - lakeside, off Magpie Hollow Road and an alternative site in town. Learn more at www.lakelyellpumpedhydro.com.au and have your say at a pop-up engagement, doorknock or via email community@energyaustralia.com.au

Neighbour agreements set to begin

We want to ensure eligible neighbours are provided with fair and reasonable supports to manage the changes presented by the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro project to their properties and livelihoods. We have undertaken significant consultation with neighbours to develop the neighbour agreement process as well as determine financial offerings and supports.

Neighbour agreements are commonplace for significant infrastructure. Neighbour agreements are voluntary, and they can provide a sense of certainty by way of a plan to manage the changes presented by the project.

Neighbour agreements will be delivered in a two-stage process.

Stage 1 is a resilience and readiness agreement providing health and wellbeing support on offer from April 2025.

Stage 2 is an impact agreement offered when the Environmental Impact Statement is available on exhibition.

Neighbours are also encouraged to express their interest in a Readiness and Resilience Session. This confidential group session would support people experiencing significant change and would be run by an independent facilitator without EnergyAustralia's involvement.

Download the Neighbour Agreement Guide at www.lakelyellpumpedhydro.com.au

Local community and suppliers provide key support

You may have noticed the supermarkets, takeaways, pubs, motels and bakeries are busier than usual as an additional workforce of more than 600 people are in town to upgrade the Mt Piper Power Station.

There is plenty of work too for local businesses and suppliers as every planned outage is an enormous undertaking that brings direct benefits to the Lithgow region. The last major outage in 2021 saw an overall economic benefit of \$60 million with \$12 million injected into the local economy.

“You can see the boost to the local economy already and it is great to have the Lithgow community welcoming our visiting workforce,” said Mt Piper Station Manager, Jonathon English.



“Shoutout to the many local Lithgow businesses and suppliers that are stepping up to make sure we have what we need to get the job done.”

“The Major Outage Works ensure Mt Piper Power Station continues to be as efficient as possible and remains reliable, able to deliver energy to our customers when they need it.”

Powering the next generation

Thanks to all the teachers who have shown their enthusiasm for our upcoming visits to Lithgow schools. We can't wait to introduce BESS – the battery energy storage system model to Lithgow schools' students in Term 2.

Our BESS model is a great way to prompt discussions about energy use, generation and storage with teachers and students. And our hands-on activities will help students engage with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

Who knows what this visit may inspire?

Just like the workforce visiting Lithgow today undertaking

skilled and technical work at the Mt Piper Power Station, our new energy assets across Australia will need a skilled future workforce that's able to design, build and maintain and keep powering our communities.

Developing an interest in STEM is the first step to becoming a future problem solver, builder, designer or technical expert that could work on energy assets and other major infrastructure across Australia.

For local Lithgow students some of those energy infrastructure assets will be here in the region, like the Mt Piper BESS seen here in the new artist's impressions.



Image: Artist impression of the Mt Piper BESS.

Getting the facts



We have been out and about at the Rydal Ag Show, HubFest, Black Rose Lithgow Business Awards and at the Lithgow Show answering questions like these. We are pleased to provide responses to some key recent questions.

Comment: "Can I still use Lake Lyell?"

1

Fact: Yes. You will still be able to use Lake Lyell, built to supply water to the Mt Piper Power Station, for recreation including swimming, fishing, boating, kayaking and waterskiing. During daily operating cycles, the water level will rise and fall by about 30 cm every half hour or 2.5 metres over 8 hours as water is pumped to and from the upper reservoir to store and generate energy.

Comment: "How big is the battery at Mt Piper?"

2

Fact: The Mt Piper Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is designed to have a capacity of up to 500 megawatts and store up to 2,000 megawatt-hours of energy, providing four hours of dispatchable power.

Engage with us

We are out and about and available to answer your questions and receive your feedback.

April – June

Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro
-community feedback on alternative workers accommodation

April – ongoing

Neighbour engagement –
Stage 1 Neighbour agreements

April – June

Mt Piper Power Station Outage

May – June

Mt Piper BESS – schools
engagement program

June – August

Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro –
preliminary consultation on
Environmental Impact Statement

June

'Beyond Coal: Young Families
and Young People – Your Future,
Your Voice Forum'

Weekdays

Project HQ, 124 Main Street, Lithgow

We're here to help

If you have a question, please
don't hesitate to contact us.

 **community@
EnergyAustralia.com.au**

 **1800 574 947**

 **EnergyAustralia Project HQ,
124 Main Street, Lithgow**



Mt Piper
Power Station



Lake Lyell
Pumped Hydro



Mt Piper
Battery Energy
Storage System



See our best
energy plans