

Community Newsletter

Issue 12 | March/April 2026



Get ready for the EIS Exhibition

After nearly four years of technical studies, environmental investigations and community consultation **Lake Lyell Hydro** is preparing to enter its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) public exhibition period. This is a significant milestone for the project.

The EIS brings together detailed assessments covering biodiversity, heritage, traffic, water, noise, visual impact, social and economic impacts. It reflects years of specialist work and sustained community engagement across Lithgow and surrounding areas.

What happens during the public exhibition period?

During the public exhibition period:

- The full EIS will be publicly available online
- Hard copies will be accessible at local libraries and the Project HQ

Community members can make submissions via the **NSW Major Projects Planning Portal**.

This is an important opportunity to review the detailed technical information and provide feedback before any determination is made.

What could this mean for Lithgow?

Lake Lyell Hydro is designed to provide long-duration storage into the National Electricity Market, supporting reliability as Australia's energy mix evolves. For Lithgow, the project represents:

- Significant construction employment and service provider opportunities
- Local procurement and supplier participation
- Skills and training pathways
- Long-term regional investment
- A multi-decade energy asset supporting the transition

Find out more:

www.lakelyellpumpedhydro.com.au

New name but same commitment to local region and NSW energy transition

You may see our new name about - 'Lake Lyell Hydro'. This simpler, easy-to-remember name reflects the Project's journey as it moves from early concept and technical studies into the formal planning and approvals stage. EDF power solutions Australia and EnergyAustralia look forward to growing our partnership under the Lake Lyell Hydro name, reinforcing our long-term commitment to the region and our commitment to supporting NSW's energy transition.



Mt Piper Battery Energy Storage System

Watch now – where today’s operations meet tomorrow’s energy

The 500MW Mt Piper Battery Energy Storage System — to be delivered in two stages — is advancing toward Final Investment Decision later this year, with early works now underway.

The animation shows how the battery will store and dispatch electricity, integrate with existing infrastructure and strengthen reliability as the energy system changes.

Visit the new website www.mtpiperBESS.com.au to learn more.

Powering up for impact

Conversations are progressing with local organisations to activate the Mt Piper BESS \$6.4 million Shared Community Benefit Program. Designed to deliver meaningful, long-term impact, the program has a strong focus on First Nations partnership and participation, as well as investment in education and skills pathways across the Lithgow region.

The program also includes \$1 million for Lithgow City Council once the project reaches operations.

EnergyAustralia recognises that we operate and plan for the energy transition on the traditional Country of the Wiradjuri peoples and we respect and acknowledge their continued connection to Country and culture.

STEM in Action – Supporting Local Schools

Last year, nearly 1,000 students participated in the Mt Piper BESS STEM Schools Program.

Building on that momentum, we are pleased to provide STELR renewable energy kits to Lithgow High School and Portland High School. Developed by the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, these hands-on kits allow students to experiment with solar, wind and energy storage systems, analyse real-time data, and explore how renewable energy integrates into the grid. Together, these initiatives continue to strengthen practical STEM learning and support future energy careers in the Lithgow region.



Supporting the Blue Tree Project

Mt Piper Power Station is proud to support the Blue Tree Project — a national initiative focused on raising awareness and encouraging open conversations about mental health and suicide prevention.

In regional communities especially, connection matters. The Blue Tree stands as a visible reminder that it's okay to check in, to speak up, and to seek support. Sometimes a simple conversation can make a profound difference. If you or someone you know needs support, Lifeline Australia 13 11 14 is available 24/7.

Lithgow Region Community Consultative Committee

Each year, community representatives, Council members and EnergyAustralia come together quarterly as part of the Lithgow Region Community Consultative Committee (CCC).

Chaired independently and operating in line with NSW Government guidelines, the CCC provides a transparent forum to share updates on Mt Piper Power Station's operations, environmental performance, major maintenance works and major projects including Lake Lyell Hydro and the Mt Piper BESS.

Just as importantly, it is a space to listen. Members bring local knowledge and thoughtful questions that help test assumptions, strengthen planning and ensure community perspectives are heard. Their role has been central to the four-year consultation for Lake Lyell and the development of the Mt Piper BESS.

Recently, members toured Mt Piper Power Station, seeing firsthand how the site operates and how environmental monitoring and upgrades are managed.

Independent Chair Brendan Blakely reflects:

"The CCC provides an important platform for open, balanced discussion. It allows community representatives to ask questions directly, receive detailed information, and ensure local perspectives are heard. Constructive dialogue builds understanding — and that benefits everyone."

CCC members represent the community, and you are encouraged to raise questions or perspectives with them to bring forward to the Committee.

We are grateful to members who give their time each year to support open and informed dialogue.

Explore CCC meeting minutes online which are available from 2009 onward.





Image: 2025 grant recipient
Lithgow Oberon Landcare

Mt Piper Community Grants

Grants of up to \$10,000 available

Applications close Tuesday, 31 March



Scan QR code for more information or visit energyaustralia.com.au/grants



Getting the facts

“How big is the battery at Mt Piper?”

1

The Mt Piper Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) will deliver up to 500 megawatts of capacity and store up to 2,000 megawatt hours of energy—enough to provide four hours of dispatchable power to approximately 320,000 homes. Delivered in two stages, stage 1 of 250 megawatts will start construction in early 2027 and will be operational in late 2028.

The facility will be built next to the Mt Piper Power Station near Lithgow, NSW, on existing EnergyAustralia land. Stage 1 of the BESS will be situated upon six hectares and will host 278 containers of lithium-ion batteries.

“How can I manage my energy bill this winter?”

2

Energy use typically increases during colder months. Understanding how your plan works can help you stay in control.

- **Check your tariff type.** If you are on time-of-use pricing, shifting flexible appliances outside peak periods may help manage costs.
- **Review your usage trends.** Bills and apps show daily averages — a quick check can help identify unexpected spikes.
- **Reach out early if you need support.** Flexible payment options and assistance programs are available for customers experiencing difficulty.

Staying informed helps you make practical decisions — especially during high-usage seasons. EnergyAustralia is proud to operate in the Lithgow community. You can contact one of our customer team to find out the best deal we can offer you on electricity and gas.

Engage with us

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

March 2026

- TBC - EIS Orientation - Lithgow Regional Community Consultative Committee
- 1-31 Community grant applications open

Pop-up engagements

- 12 – Gang Gang Farmers Market (James Street, Lithgow)
- 13 & 14 – Lithgow Show
- 25-26 National Regional & Economic Development Summit (Lithgow)
- 26 – Valley Plaza

April 2026

- TBC - EIS Orientation - Lithgow Regional Community Consultative Committee

Pop-up engagements

- 8– Bowenfels Family Fun Day (Fatima Hall – GWY)
- 18 & 19 l – Ironfest (The Foundations – Portland)

May 2026

- Lithgow Regional Community Consultative Committee

Weekdays

- Project HQ, 124 Main Street, LITHGOW

We are 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