

Community Newsletter

Issue 10 | August 2025



Jonathon English
Head of the Mount Piper Power Station

Job done! Thank you, Lithgow

Mt Piper Power Station upgrade successfully completed. This was a massive effort. Over 1500 workers came together, working around the clock for eight weeks. And they did it with an unwavering focus on safety, teamwork, and getting the job done right.

"To every person who contributed — whether you were on the tools, managing engineering and logistics, or supporting behind the scenes — thank you. The hard work and commitment delivered a project we can all be proud of," said Head of Mt Piper Power Station, Jono English.

The outage is part of a larger investment to make sure Mt Piper continues to run as efficiently and reliably as possible — now and into the future.

We've performed critical maintenance and critical half-life refits, continuing our ongoing commitment to investing in this asset for the NSW Energy Grid. Mt Piper now operates with greater flexibility than ever before.



Watch the
video

That's vital as we transition to a cleaner energy future. We're helping to support renewables, maintain stability in the grid, and deliver secure, affordable electricity when it matters most. But the benefits of this major project went far beyond the power station.

The Lithgow community once again showed incredible support — from local suppliers and cafes to accommodation providers and trades. It is clear this outage brought an additional economic lift to the region on top of the \$40 million a year to the Mt Piper provides to the local economy.

This makes us more than a workplace — we are a vital part of the community.

And we're already planning our next major outage at Mt Piper Power Station — scheduled for 2026 — to keep enhancing performance and flexibility. As the youngest coal fired power Station in NSW, Mt Piper remains a critical asset for NSW energy security, supplying up to 15% of the state's electricity, powering 1.2 million homes, and supporting around 250 local jobs. We operate 24/7, 365 days a year, and we're proud to play a vital role in keeping the lights on across the state.

We are proud of our team. Grateful to our local suppliers and community. And confident in the role Mt Piper plays in keeping NSW powered — efficiently and reliably.

What we have just delivered will 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.

EnergyAustralia and EDF partner on the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Project

We announced our strategic partnership with EDF power solutions Australia, to co-develop and deliver the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Energy Storage project (LLPHES) in Lithgow.

EDF Australia brings to the project significant global experience and capability in the development and operation of pumped hydro energy storage assets.

What does this mean?

Together, EnergyAustralia and EDF Australia own 100% of the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Project, with EDF Australia having acquired a 75% equity interest.

Why partner?

The Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Project is a major initiative that requires unique expertise to ensure it is developed and delivered efficiently, while we continue to consider the best interests of the local community and the wider state of NSW.

Who is EDF?

EDF is one of the world's largest, diversified low-carbon energy producers that owns and operates over 20GWs of hydroelectric assets across the globe, with many in development. Here in Australia, EDF Australia are leading the Dungowan Pumped Hydro Energy Storage project near Tamworth.

What does this mean for the Lithgow community?

EnergyAustralia will continue to lead engagement with the local Lithgow community. We will also continue to operate our Project HQ at 124 Main Street, Lithgow, after a refurbishment to ensure we are ready for pre-Environmental Impact Statement consultation activities.

What is next?

We (EnergyAustralia and EDF Australia) continue to work towards the Environmental Impact Statement

submission in 2025, with an internal Final Investment Decision target for late 2026.

Neighbour agreements

OUT NOW

All Stage 1 – Readiness and Resilience Neighbour Agreements have been issued to eligible project neighbours who have provided their details and engaged with the project. If you own property around Lake Lyell, along Magpie Hollow Rd, Sir Thomas Mitchell Drive, Martins Lane or think you might be an eligible neighbour – get in touch to arrange a chat or property visit community@energyaustralia.com.au

New Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Website Now Live

We refreshed and relaunched the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro project website — just in time for the next stage of the project.

With a clean new design and improved navigation, the updated site makes it easier to stay informed about the project's progress. Whether you're looking for key project updates or want to explore the details of how pumped hydro works or recap the history of engagement.

Importantly, the website now includes information about the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process — a crucial step for any major infrastructure project. Visitors can learn what's involved in preparing an EIS, what studies are being undertaken, and how community feedback plays a role.

Visit the site to subscribe to this newsletter and project updates: www.lakelyellpumpedhydro.com.au



STEM sparks curiosity across Lithgow schools

More than 1,000 students across nine Lithgow schools got hands-on with science and energy as part of an exciting STEM education program designed to inspire the next generation of problem-solvers.

From making electrical circuits out of potatoes to playing interactive energy games, students explored the world of renewable energy and electricity in fun, engaging ways. The program encouraged critical thinking, teamwork, and curiosity — with plenty of laughter along the way.

A major highlight was the visit from the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) model, which gave students a close-up look at how energy can be stored and used — a key part of our transition to a renewable future. The model helped demystify big energy concepts in a way that was exciting and accessible for students of all ages.

The program was developed to align with curriculum goals, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Thanks to all the students, teachers, and schools who took part — we can't wait to return next year with more STEM-powered learning!

Kudos to Cullen Bullen Public School who won the unofficial potato circuit challenge lighting up 9 bulbs efficiently from just 5 potatoes.

"My son did the potato battery experiment at Lithgow High and he couldn't stop talking about it." - Parent feedback



Teachers also expressed strong interest in repeat sessions, with 93% requesting the opportunity to host the program again.



From circuits to community: potatoes find a second purpose



At the end of our STEM schools' program this term, we found ourselves with an unexpected challenge: 15 kilos of surplus potatoes! After powering dozens of student-made circuits across nine Lithgow schools (yes — you really can light up a bulb with a spud), we had a pile of potatoes left over and didn't want them to go to waste.

So, in the spirit of community we donated the leftover spuds to

Nanna's Touch — a wonderful local organisation that provides free meals, support, and connection for those doing it tough. From science experiments to hearty meals, these potatoes are now helping in more ways than one.

We're thrilled to support Nanna's Touch and their amazing work. It's a feel-good end to a program that's all about energy, innovation, and community.

Getting the facts



We have been out and about doorknocking neighbours, attending community events and visiting schools as part of our school's program and answering questions like these. We are pleased to provide responses to some of the key comments we have heard recently.

Comment: "What is in a neighbour agreement?"

1

Answer: Voluntary neighbour agreements acknowledge the impact of a major project on people who own property nearby. For the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro project they are delivered in two stages. The first is a Readiness and Resilience agreement that provides a sign on payment of \$5,000 per property; a health and wellbeing payment of \$2,000 per property and reimbursement of legal fees capped at \$3,000. The second agreement is an Impact Assessment agreement that provides a wide range of options that are tailored to the needs of each neighbour and can include respite or relocation assistance, property value compensation, screening and sound proofing. The Neighbour Agreement Guide provides more information.



Neighbour Agreement Guide

Comment: "What happens at a Community Consultative Committee meeting?"

2

Answer: Community Consultative Committee (CCC) meetings bring together community members, local groups, and project operators to discuss developments that affect our area. They're a place to share updates, raise concerns, and exchange ideas in an open, respectful setting.

These meetings help ensure transparency, give the community a voice, and support better decisions through local input. CCC members act as a bridge between the community and project operators—so if you have a concern or suggestion, this is a great place to be heard.



Latest Minutes

Engage with us

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

Ongoing Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Neighbour agreements and engagement

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

5 August Lithgow Community Consultative Committee

August/September Grant recipient – opening of the PCYC Youth Hub and Training Room

September/October Grant recipient – 200 new trees for Farmers Creek Rehabilitation project with Lithgow Oberon Landcare

1 September – 30 September

2025 Round 2 Grants are open for community submissions

September Project HQ reopens ready for Pre – EIS submission consultation

October Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Pre – EIS submission consultation


Weekdays from September

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