

# Media statement

**22 November 2021**

## **EnergyAustralia statement on the Energy Recovery project**

EnergyAustralia owns and operates the Mt Piper power station, located near Lithgow in New South Wales.

Since 2016, EnergyAustralia has been working with ReGroup Pty Ltd to jointly assess an Energy Recovery project, which involved converting part of the power station to run on non-recyclable household waste as fuel, commonly referred to as "refuse-derived fuel" or RDF.

After careful consideration of the project's technical and economic merits, EnergyAustralia has decided to withdraw from the Joint Venture with Re.Group in pursuing the Energy Recovery project at Mt Piper. In light of this, Re.Group is now exploring options to enable a modified version of the project to proceed.

Liz Westcott, EnergyAustralia Chief Operating Officer, said: "EnergyAustralia thanks the Lithgow community and Lithgow City Council for listening to our plans and providing their feedback on the Energy Recovery project.

"We also thank Re.Group as well as the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, the New South Wales Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, and the Environment Protection Authority NSW for their continued support," Ms Westcott said.

EnergyAustralia continues to advance a modern energy system in Australia. Recent announcements include commitments to build a 350-megawatt four-hour battery in Victoria and the 300+ megawatt Tallawarra B power station in New South Wales, supporting the transition to renewable energy generation. The company is also underpinning the 250-megawatt Kidston pumped hydro energy storage facility in Queensland.

Specific to the Lithgow region, EnergyAustralia is exploring a pumped hydro energy storage facility at Lake Lyell. Early feasibility studies suggest the facility would be capable of producing 335 megawatts of electricity with around eight hours of storage, enough to power over 150,000 households during peak demand.

If the project goes ahead, it's anticipated hundreds of jobs would be created during construction, with roles also needed to oversee the facility's ongoing operation.

Locals interested in hearing more about the Lake Lyell pumped hydro energy storage project can attend an information session hosted by the Lithgow Community Power Project that will be held at the Wallerawang Bowling Club starting at 6pm on Wednesday 8 December 2021.

**ENDS**