

Mt Piper Battery Energy Storage System

Q&A

What are you doing?

EnergyAustralia is currently investigating the development of a new Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) on a preferred site adjacent to its operating Mt Piper power station, near Lithgow.

- Situated on Wiradjuri country, the Mt Piper Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility would be potentially capable of dispatching up to 500 MW of electricity for a duration of up to 4 hours.
- Building a BESS adjacent to the Mt Piper power station facility is anticipated to have low environmental and social impacts. The project will also avoid the need to construct lengthy new overhead power lines across private land.
- There's still a lot to do as we work through various studies, planning approvals and the environmental impact assessment; however, we believe this project has immense promise in the development of a modern energy system and will provide another asset to Lithgow's energy sector.

Why do we need Battery Energy Storage?

As we transition to cleaner forms of energy generation, an increase in energy storage capacity is needed to help balance our current energy needs. The addition of more renewable energy into the grid provides benefits, such as reduced costs, while also creating new challenges for our energy system, including the variable nature of their supply. Battery storage, such as the Mt Piper BESS proposed, present an energy infrastructure option that can safely store and dispatch electricity when needed.

How often do you see the storage batteries discharging its energy?

The BESS will be designed so that it can fully charge and discharge each day if required.

Will the project impact the surrounding environment?

Potential impacts on the environment and biodiversity will be assessed in detail as part of the Environmental Impact Statement. This will be shared with the community through the planning exhibition process. At this stage in the development no significant impacts are anticipated as a result of the project.

How will this impact tourism/aesthetics of the region?

As the proposed location is on EnergyAustralia land adjacent to Mt Piper Power Station we expect visual impacts to be very low – our preliminary assessment indicates that there will be no visual impacts beyond the power station boundary.

We welcome suggestions from the community on how to make the project something the Lithgow community can be proud of. All feedback will be considered during the ongoing design and assessment process.

What will the impact be to local roads (e.g. Castlereagh Hwy)?

The Environmental Impact Statement will need to assess the impact of using this route and what mitigating measures we may need to put in place to ensure it is safe and minimises any inconvenience for other users. Our preliminary assessment indicates that impacts will be low however, a detailed assessment will continue as the project progresses.

What will the noise impact be during construction and operations?

Noise levels during construction and operations will be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Statement. Our preliminary assessment indicates that impacts will be low however, a detailed assessment will continue as the project progresses.

How many long-term jobs will there be?

As the project is only in its very early stages, it is too early to confirm likely job numbers. As Lithgow and its surrounding area have deep experience in the electricity generation sector we will look to work with local businesses and suppliers as a priority when sourcing labour, materials, goods and services.

The number and types of jobs will be reviewed under the Social Impact Assessment during the Environmental Impact Statement process.

When and how will the community be consulted?

We will engage with the community and key stakeholders on the project as feasibility and planning progresses. We will continue to do this over the next two years as the project design develops, and through the Environmental Impact Statement process run by the NSW Government.