

Mt Piper Battery Energy Storage System

fact sheet

Acknowledgement of Country and First Nations People

EnergyAustralia recognises that the proposed site for the Mt Piper Energy Storage System is on the traditional Country of Wiradjuri peoples and respects and acknowledges their continued connection to Country and culture.

Background

Storage in the Australian electricity grid is expected to become more critical as we increase our dependence on renewable energy.

Batteries are a proven energy storage technology that absorb and release energy on demand. Battery energy storage provides a versatile, space efficient energy storage solution.

Although the final battery composition for this project is yet to be determined, lithium-ion is the most common battery for utility scale installations and considered an optimal choice of storage technology for this application due to their performance, economics and proven track record.

By investing in projects like the Mt Piper battery energy storage system (BESS), EnergyAustralia is supporting the transition to a low-emissions electricity system that can meet the needs of NSW and the wider National Electricity Market.

The Mt Piper BESS will be capable of dispatching energy in fractions of a second and for a duration of up to four hours, adding flexibility and reliability to the grid when customer energy demand is high.



Mt Piper Battery Storage

EnergyAustralia is proposing to develop a BESS on land it owns adjacent to its existing Mt Piper power station. This project is currently in the planning and assessment stage.

This grid scale battery project could provide up to 500 MW for 4 hours (2,000 MWH) of dispatchable energy storage, helping to improve diversity and reliability of the electricity network.

If the Mt Piper BESS proceeds it will be the second EnergyAustralia owned BESS under development and, once operational, the sixth BESS that we will have market operation of as we look to transform our electricity generation portfolio and provide cleaner energy for our customers.

The proposal

The Mt Piper BESS proposes to utilise nearby, existing infrastructure to develop a grid-scale battery with the capacity to dispatch up to 500MW of power to the electricity network over a duration of up to 4 hours.

Building a BESS within existing EnergyAustralia landholdings is anticipated to have low environmental and social impacts. This site is considered highly suitable given it is currently zoned for (infrastructure) electricity generating works – and should remove the need to construct additional overhead powerlines on private land.

It is estimated that the project will take around two years to reach the point of a final investment decision and approximately 18-24 months to construct. That means a BESS at Mt Piper power station could be operating by 2027.

Benefits

The Mt Piper BESS will bring potential benefits to the grid including:

- **High Energy Density.** Batteries have a high energy density, making utility scale storage projects space efficient compared to other storage technologies.
- **Low Maintenance.** Batteries are simple to operate, with less moving parts and lower maintenance requirements when compared to many other storage technologies.
- **It supports renewable energy.** A BESS lends itself to supporting further growth and deployment of utility scale renewable energy generation as it provides an industry proven measure to store and dispatch variable energy at times when demand for power is high.
- **Reliability.** A rechargeable facility that can provide fast and easy access to up to 2,000 MWh for the local energy grid on demand.
- **Performance and Longevity.** Utility scale BESS developments are able to store large amounts of energy, with a design life of up to 20 years.
- **It fits the existing infrastructure.** The proposed development will utilise existing energy infrastructure, which should lower costs and speed up the development process.
- **It creates jobs.** The project should provide work opportunities for the surrounding community during construction.
- **Versatility.** Batteries provide an ideal storage solution in many different applications. The technology can be used to provide rapid electricity to the grid when needed, as well as other grid stability services.

About EnergyAustralia

EnergyAustralia is a leading energy retailer and generator with around 1.6 million customers across eastern Australia. We supply energy to our residential and business customers from a modern energy portfolio, underpinned by coal and gas power plants, as well as renewable energy sources.

Next Steps

Before the project can be approved there are various studies and assessments required to ensure the development is viable and beneficial for the community. These studies and assessments relate to the technical, social, environmental, planning, commercial and stakeholder aspects of the project.

The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements were issued in December 2022 and outline the matters that we must now address in the project environmental impact statement.

As the project continues and we work through our environmental and social assessments, we will look at ways to avoid, manage and minimise potential environmental and social impacts with continued refinement of the design. In the interest of achieving best project outcomes, we will continue to consult with the community to ensure their values and expectations are heard and considered.

We think the technology has great potential to help supply the people of New South Wales with a reliable source of electricity when demand is high. We also believe this project could support renewable energy development and sustain Lithgow's future as an energy hub. Energy storage projects, such as this one, are an important part of the national transition to a more secure and reliable energy future.



For more information on the Mt. Piper Battery Project, please contact us on:

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More details at: energyaustralia.com.au/about-us/what-we-do/new-energy-projects