

Project update: Development Application for Mt Piper Battery Energy Storage System now on exhibition

June 2024

Welcome to another update on the Mt Piper Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). We recently submitted the Development Application for this project to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

The application is now on public exhibition until Thursday 27 June through the DPHI website. We welcome any feedback from community members or project stakeholders on the application, which includes the Environmental Impact Statement.

Background

The proposed Mt Piper BESS would have a capacity of up to 500 megawatts (MW) and a duration of up to 4 hours.

This preferred site for the Project is on previously cleared land owned by EnergyAustralia, next to existing energy infrastructure at the Mt Piper power station. This means the anticipated impacts to the environment and community will be low as there isn't a need to construct lengthy new overhead powerlines.

Battery energy storage systems will play an essential role in our transition to renewable energy. If approved, the Mt Piper BESS will help supply NSW customers with a reliable source of electricity when demand is high, adding security and reliability to the energy grid.

Provide your feedback

Submissions can be made online through the NSW Planning Portal or by post. You can make a submission as an individual, or on behalf of a group or organisation.

Our project team will also be available in the Lithgow Shop Hub on the following dates to answer any questions about the project or technical studies:

Thursday 13th June, 1pm – 3pm
Tuesday 25th June, 10am – 12pm

The submissions process is run by DPHI. If you have any questions about submission or need assistance, please visit the Major Projects website or contact Service NSW on **1300 305 695**.

Review the Development
Application and make
a submission



<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/mt-piper-battery-energy-storage-system>

Technical studies' findings

The full Development Application, including all technical studies, is now available on the DPHI website for review. The table below provides a summary of some of the key assessments conducted.

Technical studies and assessments have indicated that impacts to the environment and community will be minimal given the project's location. Where required, appropriate measures will be implemented to manage any remaining impacts.

Noise and vibration No significant noise impacts are expected given the distance to residential properties from the site, and the landscape between them. Any impacts will be minor.	Traffic and transport No significant road delays on nearby roads or intersections are expected as a result of the project. The network will continue to comfortably operate within limits.
Cultural Heritage There are no Aboriginal sites recorded within the Project area, and it is very unlikely that scarred trees, rock art or burial sites are present. Engagement with Traditional Owners will continue as the Project progresses.	Biodiversity No significant biodiversity impacts are expected from construction or operation, as the site was cleared previously for the Mt Piper power station construction. Some non-native and native vegetation will be cleared for construction and to manage fire risk.
Socio-economic No impacts to community infrastructure are anticipated. The project would create new jobs during construction, which would have positive economic benefits for the region.	Bushfire and hazards Although batteries involve some hazardous materials, any associated risks are unlikely with the appropriate safety measures in place. The project will meet all relevant safety and bushfire standards for battery projects.
Visual Amenity No visual impacts are anticipated as a result of the Project, due to locating the Project within EnergyAustralia land and screening from surrounding topography, vegetation and power station structures.	Other assessments The Development Application also considers a range of other assessments including water, soils and geology, land use, contamination, and waste. These studies have not identified any significant impacts as a result of the Project.

Next steps

After the public exhibition period, the Department will consider the full application, all stakeholder and community feedback and any social, environmental or economic impacts the project is expected to have.

A decision will then be made about the project and published on the DPHI website, including reasoning behind the decision and how community feedback has been taken into account.

If approved, the Mt Piper BESS could commence construction in 2025.

You can keep up to date on the project via our website:
energyaustralia.com.au/about-us/what-we-do/new-energy-projects/mt-piper-battery-energy-storage-system



To subscribe for project updates or get in touch with a member of the project team, please contact community@energyaustralia.com.au