

Community Newsletter

Issue 8 | February 2025



Lithgow – continuing to light the way

For more than 70 years, Lithgow has generated electricity to illuminate, warm, cool and power millions of homes across the state and the country.

We want to ensure Lithgow continues to light the way.

Today, as a host community for energy generation, we inject more than \$40 million a year into the local Lithgow economy along with our \$1.2 million grant program benefiting schools, events and community organisations.

We are proud of the contribution our assets and our workforce make to the economic prosperity of Lithgow and our nation. We want to continue to make a contribution to Lithgow.

Since 2015, our purpose has been to 'lead and accelerate the clean energy transformation for all.' To fulfil these ambitions, our portfolio, services and business activities are evolving, growing and changing and we will look distinctly different in the future.

This ambition is both a challenge and an opportunity for the Lithgow community too. You have long been a host

community for energy generation and today you are the frontline of the energy transition.

As an enduring host community, we want to ensure meaningful rewards are in place for Lithgow as we transition to new ways of generating energy. In this new look community newsletter, we outline the Shared Benefit Program set to inject around \$20 million into Lithgow, should our Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro project proceed.

When we say Lithgow can continue to light the way – we mean it.

Change is challenging. Lithgow as a community has been through change before. We can do it again.

EnergyAustralia seeks to support the Lithgow community through the energy transition and support Lithgow to continue as a vibrant host community with great training for young people, employment, economic benefits and impactful community support.

We extend an invitation to the Lithgow community to get involved, to understand the energy transition and join us in shaping and delivering the Shared Benefit Program.

\$20 million injection to sharing the benefits

Thank you, Lithgow, for being an enduring host community for energy generation.

We are part of the Lithgow community too and we share the desire to address critical community needs and support community led initiatives that can make a meaningful difference to the lives of Lithgow residents.

We are grateful to the Lithgow community for asking us how we can help, and we will continue to honour our enduring relationship with the community through this Shared Benefit Program – developed with the community, for the community, and implemented by the community.

50 local representatives co-designed the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Shared Benefit Program, identifying projects for further investigation including:

Projects for further investigation

- 
New signage and wayfinding for Lithgow
 A new wayfinding and signage initiative for the Lithgow local government area to significantly enhance visitor experience

- 
Development of new Lake Lyell visitor infrastructure
 New visitor infrastructure on Lake Lyell to improve appeal to visitors and locals

- 
Light the Way Community Future Fund
 A competitively funded program administered by a representative group of community members to support community infrastructure and events

- 
Lighthouse Education and Training Trust
 Creation of a charitable trust, funded through a single, start-up contribution from the Project and other partners, to support and enhance educational opportunities within the community

- 
Lake Lyell Workforce Readiness Program
 Through education, outreach and established targets, support local workers, businesses and disadvantaged groups to participate in Project delivery

- 
Lithgow 360° Youth Hub
 Increase accessibility for young people to key services, activities and support by providing a youth hub

- 
Repurposing the Lake Lyell Workers Accommodation Village
 Incorporate a legacy plan into the design of the proposed Lake Lyell workers camp to offer long term value to communities in need

- 
Wiradjuri Cultural Centre
 Improve cultural understanding and immersion by providing a cultural centre within the Lithgow local government area

As we finalise the Shared Benefit Program, we welcome further ideas and initiatives from the community via community@energyaustralia.com.au or stop by Project HQ or our pop-up engagement stand at the next community event.

Timeline

Developing new energy assets and extending the life of existing assets takes investment, expertise and time. We thank the Lithgow community for their ongoing engagement and patience as we work through the complexity of the energy transition.



*Subject to approvals

Lithgow schools to host BESS model

In Term 2, a cutting-edge battery energy storage model (BESS) will be visiting local schools in the Lithgow region to demonstrate how large-scale battery storage systems can help power communities and support sustainable energy.

As we continue to develop the Mt Piper BESS locally, this interactive experience will offer students a chance to explore the world of clean energy and learn about the critical role that battery storage plays in the energy transition.

The model, a scaled-down version of a real-world energy storage system, will showcase how large batteries store energy generated from renewable sources like solar and wind. These stored energy reserves can then be used when electricity demand is high or when renewable energy sources are unavailable, ensuring a reliable and consistent power supply.

Students will have the opportunity to see how systems work in real-time, with explanations on how energy is



stored, monitored, and distributed. Throughout Term 2, we will support students and teachers to engage in hands-on activities, exploring the technology behind the batteries, the science of energy storage and generation.

Experts will also be on hand to explain the potential for large-scale battery systems to transform energy grids, promote sustainability, and create a cleaner future.

This visit is not only a chance to dive into the world of renewable energy but also an opportunity for students to learn about innovative technologies that could shape their future careers. Register your school's interest at community@energyaustralia.com.au

Newly Appointed Head of Mt Piper Power Station

Mt Piper Power Station is excited to announce the appointment of Jonathon English (Jono), bringing fresh leadership and vision to Lithgow's iconic energy asset.



"I started my career at Mt Piper in 2008, as an undergraduate engineer and I have worked on nearly every inch of this power station. I've planned outages, solved problems and justified upgrades and learnt an incredible amount along the way," Jonathan shared at the University of Western Sydney HubFest event.

"I am proud to live here, our children go to school here and my wife and her family have been Lithgow locals for four generations."

With years of experience in the energy sector, Jono is poised to lead Mt Piper through a major upgrade program in the coming years. We're looking forward to what's to come. Welcome Jono!

EnergyAustralia recognises that we operate and plan for the energy transition on the traditional Country of the Wiradjuri peoples and we respect and acknowledge their continued connection to Country and culture.

Updates



This month you may see technical staff out and about on Magpie Hollow Road or Sir Thomas Mitchell Drive completing ecological or road surveys for the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Energy Storage. Nearby residents have been notified via letterbox and/or email.



We are getting ready for the release of the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), if you live nearby make sure you are registered to receive your EIS neighbour pack at community@energyaustralia.com.au.



Our Community Consultative Committee meets 3 to 4 times per year on all EnergyAustralia activities – catch up on the latest meeting notes.



Getting the facts

Thank you for the great feedback on the 'Getting the facts' section of the newsletter. We continue to engage and discuss the energy transition with the community, with neighbours, people at work, and friends and family. We are pleased to provide responses to recent comments.

Comment: "Isn't Mt Piper Power Station set to become nuclear?"

1

Fact: EnergyAustralia is committed to delivering the energy transition with the best possible outcome for customers.

We are focused on continuing to rollout existing, readily available technologies. We are developing more batteries in multiple states, pumped hydro at Lake Lyell in Lithgow, strengthening existing gas supply and working with partners to underpin further renewable energy.

Beyond our focus on deploying available technologies, there is much still to do in the energy transition in the 2030s and beyond. EnergyAustralia is technology neutral as to what will be required. Nuclear is recognised internationally as a zero-carbon energy generation technology, one that needs a good regulatory framework and a well-developed industry to deliver support it.

We regularly talk energy with governments, politicians, and regulators about how to deliver the best possible energy outcomes for customers through the transition.

Comment: "I hear EnergyAustralia has acquired property to develop the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro"

2

Fact: EnergyAustralia is developing the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro project on land that we own. We have not acquired property.

Comment: "You don't really need to do all the studies; I hear the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro is already decided"

3

Fact: The Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro project team will provide the community and the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure with more than 20 environmental and technical studies as part of the Environmental Impact Statement.

This is a significant requirement for any major infrastructure or energy project regardless of the status the NSW Government may give to a project.

The comprehensive studies detail both the impacts and mitigations for constructing and operating a major project. By making them public, we ensure everyone can make informed decisions about the project and we are accountable to how we construct and operate the project, should it be approved.

EnergyAustralia will submit the Environmental Impact Statement this year and begin the approval process for the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro project, which includes community consultation.

Engage with us

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

8 February

Rydal Show

15 February

HubFest with University of Western Sydney

1 March

Lithgow Business Awards with the Lithgow Chamber of Commerce

14-15 March

140th Lithgow Show

15 March

150th Celebration Lithgow Public School – Community Grant Recipient

19 March

Portland Touch Football Association BBQ Community Grant Recipient

TBC March

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

April – June

BESS Schools Visit

Weekdays

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