

Workers' Accommodation Sites

Energy Australia acknowledges that the site of the proposed Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro project is on the traditional Country of the Wiradjuri People. We recognise their continued connection to land, waterways and community, and we pay our respects to Elders past and present.

About the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Project

EnergyAustralia is progressing with the development of a pumped hydro energy storage project on land and waterways we own near Lithgow. The project would use water from Lake Lyell, originally built to support surrounding power stations, and existing transmission infrastructure. It would involve a new purpose-built upper reservoir on nearby Mount Walker to operate a utility-scale energy storage facility.

The project has an optimised capacity of 385 megawatts for up to eight hours, with flexible capacity for more than 400 megawatts for a shorter duration, providing energy for at least 150,000 homes.

The NSW Government has declared the project as Critical State Significance Infrastructure (CSSI), highlighting its importance as essential, high-priority infrastructure for the state. With CSSI status, the project will still undergo extensive investigative work and technical studies as an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is completed in 2025.



500 construction workers accommodated for up to 5 years.

Why the camp is needed

Around 500 workers will need accommodation for four to five years during construction. Workers requiring accommodation for a short period can provide a boost in bookings to local motels or short-term rentals. Where accommodation is needed for several years for a large workforce using motels or local rentals can impact short-term availability and increase rental costs for a whole community.

EnergyAustralia does not want to put pressure on the housing available for local residents or tourist accommodation. Housing specialist workers in a new accommodation camp will avoid this issue.

Site selection

To assess the suitability of a site for worker accommodation we look at proximity to the worksite or the central business district, safety and security, nearby infrastructure and amenities or the need to build utilities, accommodation quality, cost, sustainability and proximity to neighbours.



Image: Artist's impression of lakeside site

Preferred site – lakeside

The preferred site is alongside Lake Lyell off Magpie Hollow Road, South Bowenfels.

The key benefits of this location include:

- Proximity to the worksite
- Contained, ensuring safety and security
- Reduced traffic impact on local roads and the Great Western Highway
- Minimises number of near neighbours impacted
- Potential uses post construction
- Accessible to Lake Lyell for recreation and worker wellbeing

The preferred site is owned by EnergyAustralia but is currently leased to Lithgow City Council.

Alternative site – town

The alternative site is in town on the former Pottery Estate off Silcock Street.

The key benefits of this location include:

- Proximity to local businesses for economic benefit
- Close to existing infrastructure and amenities
- Contained, ensuring safety and security
- Potential uses post construction
- Opportunity to protect and enhance local heritage

The alternative site is privately owned and EnergyAustralia would enter an agreement to construct and operate worker accommodation camp at the site and through this agreement pay rates to the Lithgow City Council.





Image: Artist's impression of town site

What happens to the camp after the project's completion?

EnergyAustralia is open to investigating options to repurpose the accommodation as a community asset. Other temporary worker accommodation sites supporting major infrastructure projects have been converted to tourism spaces, housing or residential training colleges or aged care facilities.

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Next steps

EnergyAustralia will continue to engage with the community and neighbours, so that either worker accommodation site can be designed and operated in a way that minimises impacts to those nearby.

We will continue to work with the Lithgow City Council as they look to manage worker accommodation needs within the Lithgow region over the next decade. EnergyAustralia will include the two workers accommodation sites in our Environmental Impact Statement, when the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro project is considered by the NSW Government.

Proudly funded by



Public acknowledgement and disclaimer. This project is proudly funded by the NSW Government's Pumped Hydro Recoverable Grants Program. The views expressed are not necessarily the views of the NSW Government. The NSW Government does not accept responsibility for any information or advice provided.

