

# EnergyAustralia Lithgow Region Community Consultative Committee

## Final Meeting Minutes – 13 May 2025

### Member attendees:

- Julie Favell
- Jim (Cricket) Whitty
- Jamie Giokaris
- Brian Fitzgerald
- Rob White
- Auntie Helen Riley
- Cr Ray Smith – Lithgow City Council
- Jonathon English – EnergyAustralia
- Ben Eastwood – EnergyAustralia

### Also present:

- Simon Davey – EnergyAustralia

### Apologies:

- Lauren Stevens – Lithgow City Council
- Rob Cluff
- David Wilson
- Cath Russell (David's alternate)

### Presenters:

- Michael de Vink – EnergyAustralia
- Jarvis Lulham - Senior Environment Officer, EnergyAustralia

### Chair:

- Brendan Blakeley

Item	Discussion Point
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| 1 | <p><b>Welcome and introductions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The meeting began at 5:02 pm</li><li>• The chair welcomed all members</li><li>• The chair acknowledged Country</li><li>• The chair asked for declarations of interest:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- the chair noted he chaired a similar group for EnergyAustralia at Tallawarra Power Station</li><li>- the chair declared payment received from EnergyAustralia for his role as independent chair of this CCC</li><li>- no other interests were declared.</li></ul></li><li>• The chair introduced Simon Davey, Head of Government Relations for EnergyAustralia</li><li>• The chair announced Rob Cluff's resignation from the CCC. He thanked Rob for his contribution to the group over the years.</li><li>• The chair noted he would commence the process for recruiting a new CCC member over the coming few weeks.</li></ul> |
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2	<b>Minutes</b>
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- The chair asked if there were any comments or suggestions on the previous minutes.
- *None were noted.*
- The chair asked CCC members if the minutes were in a suitable format and at the right level of detail.
- *Members noted satisfaction with the minutes.*

Actions from the previous meeting were:

1. *Provide a regular update on Wombat Mange Program.*  
*(see slide 6)*
  - EnergyAustralia outlined the following points:
    - An initial survey found 26 inactive burrows and 4 active burrows.
    - Treatment flaps have been installed on the active burrows.
    - Tanks within the flaps deliver around 5mls of Cydecton an approved pour on control for parasites and insects
    - EnergyAustralia will progressively survey the broader area and undertake ongoing monitoring.
    - The tanks are topped up on a 14-day rotation.
  - *Rob White commented that there seemed to be a high proportion of inactive burrows.*
  - *Jim Whitty noted that from what he has observed, wombats will use any burrows they come across and even inactive burrows can be used at any time.*
  - *Julie Favell asked about the locations of the active burrows.*
  - Ben responded that none were in operational areas and we will prepare a plan showing their locations.
2. *EPA investigation into the Wangcol Creek incident*  
*(see slide 7)*
  - He noted the incident was not attributable to any EnergyAustralia activities within the Pinedale lease area.
  - No further discoloration has been sighted since.
  - We understand the EPA is investigating but no results are available at this time.
  - EnergyAustralia will share a link with CCC once EPA makes any outcomes of its investigation available.
  - There are anecdotal reports of similar incidents recently in the upper section of Farmers Creek.
  - *Julie Favell asked about the extent of the discoloration in Wangcol Creek.*
  - Ben replied that the whitish discoloration ran the full length of the creek within the Pine Dale Mine Lease area down to the junction with the Coxs River.
  - *There was discussion about Farmers Creek*
  - Ben reiterated that this was only an anecdotal report.

3. *TCR water quality and level*

(see slides 8,9 &10)

- Ben showed an image of a water quality monitor in TCR close to the riparian release point into Thompson Creek.
- Water conductivity was logged at a series of locations throughout the outage period with highest and lowest readings recorded.
- The readings give an indication of water conductivity:
  - from the SWTP to TCR.
  - Within TCR.
  - Riparian release point from TCR.
- Across the outage period, blended water from the SWTP was discharged into TCR at median levels between 535 to 620  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ .
- The Mod 11 consent provided for higher conductivity of water in TCR when water was unable to be used for energy production.
- Over the outage the average level of conductivity in TCR was consistently below 500  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ .
- If it went above 600  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  transferred would have been stopped.
- The SWTP plant blended water reached a highest maximum of around 640  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  which is diluted in TCR.
- Over the outage period the water level in TCR rose by 500 mm.
- Riparian releases will steadily drop the water level within the reservoir over the next few months

*Discussion*

- *Julie Favell commented that the conductivity level in the reservoir was well above 350  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  across this time. She noted that under the current ANZECC guidelines levels above 350  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  were dangerous for aquatic life and these readings were not acceptable.*
  - *Rob White commented that a 1 metre difference between the minimum and maximum water level didn't leave a lot of leeway for dam management. He asked if Lake Lyell was used to top up TCR.*
  - Ben responded that water can be pumped into TCR from Lake Lyell but this is usually only done periodically now in order to maintain the pumps and pipe integrity. The major water inputs into TCR are rainfall and excess treated water from the SWTP. For the overall station water system there is at times limited use of water from the Fish River supply scheme, sourced near Oberon. Fish River water is used primarily for the fire suppressant system at MPPS.
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## Mt Piper and Pine Dale Update

### Site safety

*(See slide 13 & 14)*

Jonathon English spoke to the following matters:

- An outage is a high-risk time for injuries.
- There have been three restrictive injuries across the period.
- What is encouraging is the very high report rate for hazards.
- There was a poor start with injuries at the beginning of the outage, but things did improve.
- Injuries were more likely to occur with “just do something” tasks than when undertaking high risk work.
- As with all injuries EnergyAustralia reviews what happened and looks at improvements to avoidance and prevention.
- Last Thursday there was a site wide “stop and pause” to reflect on the importance of safety.

### Operation in the market

*Slides have been redacted due to confidentiality. Only high-level discussion points are reported below.*

Jonathon English noted:

- Demand is fluctuating.
- The operating pattern outside the outage has been consistent in that solar is supplying a lot of power through the day meaning that there is lower demand for coal fired generation in daytime hours.
- Mt Piper Unit 1 is scheduled to be back on in late May.
- Unit 2 was out for three weeks and went back into service in late April and has been operating reliably since. Unit 2 will have a major service outage later in 2026.
- Coal supply is good and Mt Piper now receiving “run of mine” coal from Centennial following the longwall change
- EnergyAustralia took advantage of the outage to maintain some coal handling equipment with a bearing failure on the coal mill rectified. We also worked on other systems such as the cooling tower and transmission infrastructure etc
- Across the outage a lot of effort went into safety with drop protection zones and access scaffolds.
- Jonathon showed images of work undertaken and the equipment that needed reconditioning and or replacement. He noted that the images showed the intense operating environment that station equipment functions in.
- At the peak of the outage there was maximum of close to 1000 people on site during the day.

### *Discussion*

- *Julie asked about the frequency of outages.*
  - Jonathon responded that each unit has a minor outage every two years and a major outage every 4 years. Having both units out at the same time allows for work to be done on common services systems such as boilers, cooling, transformer and distribution
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equipment. Much of the work during the outage is the dismantling that needs to be done to get access to the equipment.

- It takes a lot of planning, and typically EnergyAustralia tries to keep the overlap period as where two units are out of service as short as possible.
- *Julie asked about the extent of recycling.*
- Jonathon replied that recycling does occur. Some things are reconditioned as replacement parts; other parts are sold as scrap metal. As an aside the old fill from the cooling tower is being used as a drainage layer in the ash repository.
- *Rob White asked about the status of maintenance works at Lake Lyell that were previously presented to the group.*
- *See Section 6 of the minutes of the Dec 2023 CCC meeting.*
- Jonathon replied that concrete repairs to the dam wall have progressed and some of the other maintenance entailed less urgent work than what was originally envisaged. He noted he would come back to the committee with more detail on the status of the work at Lake Lyell.
- *Rob White replied that an update would be appreciated.*

***ACTION: Jonathon to provide an update on status of works at the next meeting.***

#### Environment

*(see slide 20)*

- Jarvis provided an update on the nesting box program:
    - 40 boxes have been placed across EnergyAustralia lands.
    - The boxes are of different sizes to cater to the needs of different species.
  - *Julie Favell noted LEG would be interested in receiving any survey data and were particularly interested in glider data.*
  - *Rob White commented upon how deep some hollows of trees need to be to attract different species. Rob noted the recent bat survey and the number of different bat species that were identified within the area.*
  - *Rob White noted that landowners in the vicinity of Lake Lyell are seeing a rapid rise in the number of pigs. Rob noted he had trapped 38 alone on his place and his neighbour had caught 13 pigs.*
  - *Rob White requested EnergyAustralia have a look at pig control on the bushland surrounding the lake. He noted that this may need to encompass both shooting and trapping, with trapping only being as good as the maintenance of the traps. Also trapping needs to be consistent given sows can breed twice a year and average 8 pigs per litter.*
  - *Julie Favell observed that pigs follow the waterline eating tubers and orchids.*
  - Ben responded that he would review the control program.
  - *Jim Whitty supported the need for a culling program using responsible shooters.*
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- *Julie Favell suggested that EnergyAustralia coordinate with the NPWS on pig control.*

#### Planning updates

(see slides 25,26 & 27)

- Ben outlined that the current planning matters that included:
  - The CSSI development application being prepared for Lake Lyell.
  - Mod 9 Capping the Mt Piper Ash Repository which is close to being signed off by the department with only a few responses outstanding.
  - Mod 10 for the augmentation of settling ponds and bunding of an old coal stockpile area. Planning is continuing as this may entail offsets.
- *Julie Favell asked about the type of capping used.*
- Ben responded it will be a plastic material combined with earthen batters.
- *Julie Favell asked if the entire repository was being capped.*
- Ben replied that a large area was being capped with the sides of the repository having enough slope to carry the water away quickly so reduce percolation into the ash. Water flowing off the sides is then directed into a detention pond where it settles before flowing into the creek. The objective of these extensive works is to minimise the amount of water traveling down through the ash and into the groundwater system.
- *Julie asked if Ben could present the biodiversity findings for Mod 10 at the next meeting.*
- Ben agreed to do this.

***ACTION: Ben to present Biodiversity findings for Mod 10.***

#### Pine Dale Mine and Enhance Place Update

(see slide 29)

- Ben noted:
  - No non compliances.
  - Pine Dale is in a very steady state.
  - The regulator visited the site and EnergyAustralia is making some minor updates to plans in response to some suggestions they made.
- Julie Favell requested that at the next meeting Energy Australia provides a summary of what the regulator requested.

***ACTION: Summary to be provided at August meeting.***

#### Community (see slide 31 and 32)

- Jonathon noted:
  - There were 16 applications for the first round of community grants open from 01 March 2025.
  - Successful projects were:
    - Creative Community Concepts – Ready Set Sport Portland

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- Lithgow Oberon Landcare Association – Farmers Creek Rehabilitation Project – Tree Planting
    - Lithgow PCYC – Youth Hub/Training Room
    - Uniting Church Lithgow – Project Serenity
  - He showed a slide of a recent newsletter highlighting EnergyAustralia's record of community investment.
  - Jonathon also noted that EnergyAustralia is looking to more frequently publish newsletters and have a greater presence at community events.
  - *Cr Smith queried the note in the newsletter about the \$20 million contribution identified for community benefits if Lake Lyell goes ahead and asked how this figure was arrived at.*
  - Michael de Vink responded that it is common for large projects to have a shared community benefits scheme. The fund could support a range of programs and ideas. Ideas and themes identified to date were arrived at through workshops with community groups, discussions with various parties, and they will continue to be further refined in discussions with others. The figure was derived from what would be required to deliver on the identified program and projects.
  - *Cr Smith noted the money was minor looking at the lifespan and scale of the project. Windfarms have benefits schemes where the amount is tied to output generated.*
  - *Rob White supported Cr Smith's proposal to tie the fund to output generated.*
  - Michael replied that the intent was to look at the \$20 million being distributed across a fixed timeframe and loaded early in the project during the construction phase and the initial years of operation.
  - Jonathon added that with windfarms the economies of the projects were very different, and they were about generating power rather than acting as storage of power. He also noted that the process for windfarms is quite established, and this is not the case for larger scale hydro projects.
  - *Cr Smith asked if the figure or projects funded under the scheme were set in stone?*
  - Michael responded that a lot of work had gone into identifying themes and areas for community benefit, but they could still be refined through ongoing consultation with stakeholders. It will be important to have the overall benefits package in place before construction starts. He also noted that the funds would be subject to project determination and the disbursement of the funds would be managed by EnergyAustralia.
  - *Julie Favell responded that it was good there was a commitment to community benefits even though there are no guidelines requiring them.*



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- The Mt Piper Battery Energy Storage Scheme (BESS) has received formal approval.
  - Some updated images were shared showing the layout of the battery array looking back towards the station.
  - A STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) school program that uses the BESS as a case study will roll out across 9 local schools over the next few months.
  - EnergyAustralia has applied to the Commonwealth Capacity Investment Scheme to underwrite funding for the first stage of the BESS to deliver 250MW of storage. If funding is received, then the first stage would be in service sometime in 2028. [Capacity Investment Scheme - DCCEEW](#)
  - *Rob White noted that members of the CLC group and others in the community support batteries in this location.*
  - *Jim Whitty asked about the size of the area for the battery.*
  - Jonathon replied the site was around 10 hectares and located to take advantage of station and transmission infrastructure.
  - *Rob White asked about the competition for funding.*
  - Simon responded that it is very competitive although the focus of funding seemed to be moving from generation to dispatchable storage. The go ahead from EnergyAustralia is likely to be contingent upon CIS funding. Simon noted that there is new information on the website including fact sheet. [Mt Piper Battery Energy Storage System | EnergyAustralia](#)
  - *Rob White commented that this was a positive initiative as it responded to community needs while also firming up wind power. Unlike pumped hydro the battery project had:*
    - *no Indigenous heritage issues.*
    - *no environmental issues.*
    - *no traffic.*
    - *no social disruption.*
  - *Rob also added that it made good use of existing infrastructure and that members of his group support this technology which is a better way of reliably storing power.*
  - Jonathon noted that diversity of storage capacity was important to the overall EnergyAustralia portfolio.
  - *Rob White questioned if the battery would have community benefits scheme.*
  - Jonathon noted it was a different type of project compared to Lake Lyell and no benefits scheme was being proposed.

**Chairs note:** I have been advised by EnergyAustralia that there is a community benefits scheme proposed for the Mt Piper BESS and have asked that details of this will be provided at the next meeting.

**ACTION:** *EnergyAustralia to provide details of proposed Mt Piper BESS Community Benefits Scheme at the next meeting.*

- *Cr Smith asked if the government takes a stake in the project in return for any investment.*
  - Simon responded that the CIS is an underwriting scheme only.
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**Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Study**

*Refer slides 37 – 38*

- Michael de Vink provided an update on the EIS noting, EnergyAustralia has:
    - optimized the project within the existing footprint and within the existing SEARs.
    - confident this can result in 385 MW output across 8 hours with no additional footprint.
    - gone through a briefing with DPHI inform of changes.
  - He outlined the two options for locations of the workers accommodation that will be within the EIS.
  - Michael noted that the additional work to prepare the in-town accommodation option next to the Pottery Estate is pushing out the timing for lodging the EIS.
  - The in-town accommodation is close to 10 hectares comparable to the lakeside camp and both camps are designed for around 500 workers.
  - The in-town accommodation will comprise double stacked units to optimise use of the space along with central amenities buildings, car parks and a bus pick up and drop off area.
  - The second location came about from feedback received during the shared benefits workshops where some stakeholders challenged EnergyAustralia that an out-of-town camp would not contribute as much to the economy of Lithgow.
  - *Cr Smith raised the following objections:*
    - *temporary camps did not provide for future use or repurposing as housing – any option should provide well-built, quality long term accommodation.*
    - *neither camp is in the right location.*
    - *dongers were not suitable for a development that is within town.*
    - *Council would not want to take on an asset like this.*
  - Michael replied EnergyAustralia is open to discussions with council about what could improve the in-town option and noted that while the housing units were temporary some of the services, amenities buildings and infrastructure could support future development of the site.
  - *Jim Whitty and Jamie Giokaris noted their support for the in-town option over a village at Lake Lyell.*
  - *Jamie agreed that a developer could use the services and infrastructure for the in-town village for future redevelopment of the site.*
  - *Cr Smith raised the former Mayor's reservations about having a camp of this size in proximity to areas where there are children. He stated that Council had voted down excising the lakeside land for the purposes of building a village, and voted down the project*
  - *Rob White asked if EnergyAustralia was looking to lease or acquire the site.*
  - Michael replied that both options were being looked at.
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- Michael reminded members that both a lakeside village and in town accommodation village options will be in the EIS for agencies, council and others to comment on. The determining authority will then come to a view a preferred option as part of the assessment.
  - *Julie Favell asked about the status of the Pipers Flat option.*
  - Michael replied it was the least preferred option due to distance from the worksite.
  - *Rob White asked about the pontoon shown in the lakeside accommodation image.*
  - Michael responded that this reflected the potential to ferry workers up to the construction zone.
  - *Rob White noted that neither option is suitable because the project was not wanted by many in the community and not just people living around Lake Lyell who would be directly impacted.*
  - *He emphasised that the Lake Lyell village option was particularly bad because of its prominence in a key view of the lake and this would impact upon tourism not just during construction but into the long term if the site was repurposed. He also noted the distance from town as a problem with this option.*
  - *He added that while he could see some advantages to the town location, but these did not change his view of the project.*
  - *Rob White questioned the absence of the Japanese Bath House on the hillside depicted in the image of the lakeside accommodation village.*
  - Michael responded that the bathhouse wasn't removed from the image and was not visible from the ground level vantage point the image was taken from.
  - *Rob noted he disagreed with Michael's assessment and that the image should accurately reflect what is there.*

#### Forthcoming Engagement

*(See slides 40 – 47)*

- Michael outlined the proposal for enhanced community engagement prior to the EIS being lodged:
    - Lodgement is likely to be late Q3 given that there are additional reports for the new town accommodation option.
    - Once it is lodged it will take some time for the department to review for adequacy. Before it is placed on exhibition.
    - It is unlikely that EIS will be exhibited this year.
  - As EnergyAustralia gets closer to lodgement the team is looking to ramp up engagement on different parts of the project.
  - This will build upon engagement that has already occurred and resulted in changes such as:
    - shifting the reservoir off the ridge and making it less obtrusive.
    - the alternative camp location in town.
    - improved generation outcomes within the same footprint.
    - community benefits program.
  - EnergyAustralia is required to outline changes in response to issues raised in consultation within the EIS.
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- Now that EnergyAustralia has a good idea of the shape of the final project, it is a good time to do more consultation and look at any further refinements that could improve the outcome.
  - *Julie Favell noted that it would be good for the CCC to get an overview of the range of community feedback over this next stage of engagement. She also commented that she had not seen such extensive engagement on any other mining or renewables project that she has been involved in over the last 20 years.*
  - *Rob White expressed his dissatisfaction with the community engagement that has been undertaken. He noted that it has been based on an approach of “this is what we are going to do anyway, and we will see what the community says”. It is hard to make a project better when a large amount of the community think it is wrong in this location and don’t want it. It isn’t just people around the lake that are against this project. It is people whose businesses depend on tourism and lake recreation as well. The engagement has not provided us answers to simple questions - it has been about selling the project to us.*
  - Michael noted that the consultation program has been very broad and not just focused on neighbours. EnergyAustralia has talked widely across the community and the enhanced consultation planned on the EIS before it is lodged will stimulate even more conversation.
  - *Rob White reiterated that the people against this project are not just neighbours.*
  - Michael noted EnergyAustralia has sought to engage widely across the community. The team will continue to consult, and the EIS will stimulate more conversations. EnergyAustralia recognises that groups like CLC do not agree with the project, while other people in the community do support it. Whatever their views it is still important to consult.
  - *Rob White stated that the question for consultation should be “do people want this project here or not”? The system is doctored to only talk about certain matters not whether this project should be allowed to go ahead in this location.*
  - *The chair commented that in the planning system as it stands proponents can put forward a proposal and supporting studies and consult on what the issues are. This is the process. It is the assessment process that determines yes or no after the EIS has been considered and public feedback received.*
  - *Rob White responded that this wasn’t about a process it was about doing right by the community. Apart from Lake Lyell EnergyAustralia has had a good community reputation in Lithgow. The community and not just neighbours have very valid reasons why Lake Lyell should not go ahead. The question is, is EnergyAustralia willing to alienate such a large part of the community by going ahead with this project for such doubtful benefits and when there are technologies such as batteries that can do the same thing.*
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- *Julie Favell noted that many government agencies will have a role in the assessment.*
  - *Jim Whitty expressed his view that it was very important to have reliable power storage to back up solar and wind generation.*
  - Jonathon added that EnergyAustralia needed a diversity of storage technologies that work differently. He noted that reliable dispatchable power was the biggest engineering challenge facing the grid.
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#### **Other business**

- *Julie Favell asked about Centennial's Mod 12. She stated the LEG believes all water going into Wangcol Creek should be treated before discharge and that a proposal to dump even more low-quality water into the creek, on top of other challenges such as groundwater salinity, is not acceptable. She explained that Dr Ian Wright from WSU has identified the creek as one of the most compromised creek systems in the area. Centennial, Springvale, Angus Place and EnergyAustralia should all take responsibility and stop sacrificing the creek as an easy option. It could be so much better.*
  - Ben responded that EnergyAustralia is doing their bit in terms of dealing with groundwater and run off into the creek, and that MOD 12 is under Centennial's control.
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#### **Meeting close**

- The meeting ran around 15 minutes over time and closed at 7.15 pm.
  - There was discussion about the timing of the next meeting. Tentative dates for the next meeting would be either 5 or 12 August 2025.
  - This may change if the EIS is lodged earlier than anticipated.
  - The chair thanked members for their participation.
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# EnergyAustralia Lithgow Region

## Community Consultative Committee

13 May 2025

Jonathon English - Head of Mt Piper



**EnergyAustralia**  
LIGHT THE WAY

# Agenda

1. Welcome – Acknowledgement of Country – Declarations of Interest
2. Minutes and Actions
3. Mt Piper and Pine Dale Update
4. Project Updates
  - Mt Piper Battery
  - Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro
5. General Discussion
6. Meeting Close

# Acknowledgement of Country

I would like to acknowledge  
the Wiradjuri people as the  
Traditional Owners of the land  
on which we meet today, and  
pay my respects to their  
Elders past, present and  
future

Artwork done by Wurundjeri Traditional Owner, Mandy Nicholson





# Declarations of Interest

# Minutes and Actions



# Question on Notice

- ***At previous meeting, Ben advised the group of white discolouration in an area in the Pine Dale mine area flowing through Wangcol Creek. Ben was going to report back with EPA's investigation results.***
  - This incident is not related to EnergyAustralia activities.
  - We have observed that water quality is no longer discoloured in the Pine Dale Mine Lease area.
  - The outcomes of any investigation by the EPA are not publicly available at this time.
  - EnergyAustralia will be happy to share any findings that the EPA makes available on this matter.

# Question on Notice

- ***Current water monitor readings with Mt Piper outages for Unit 1 and 2 discharge point base of TC Dam.***



# Question on Notice

## TCR Water Quality week results

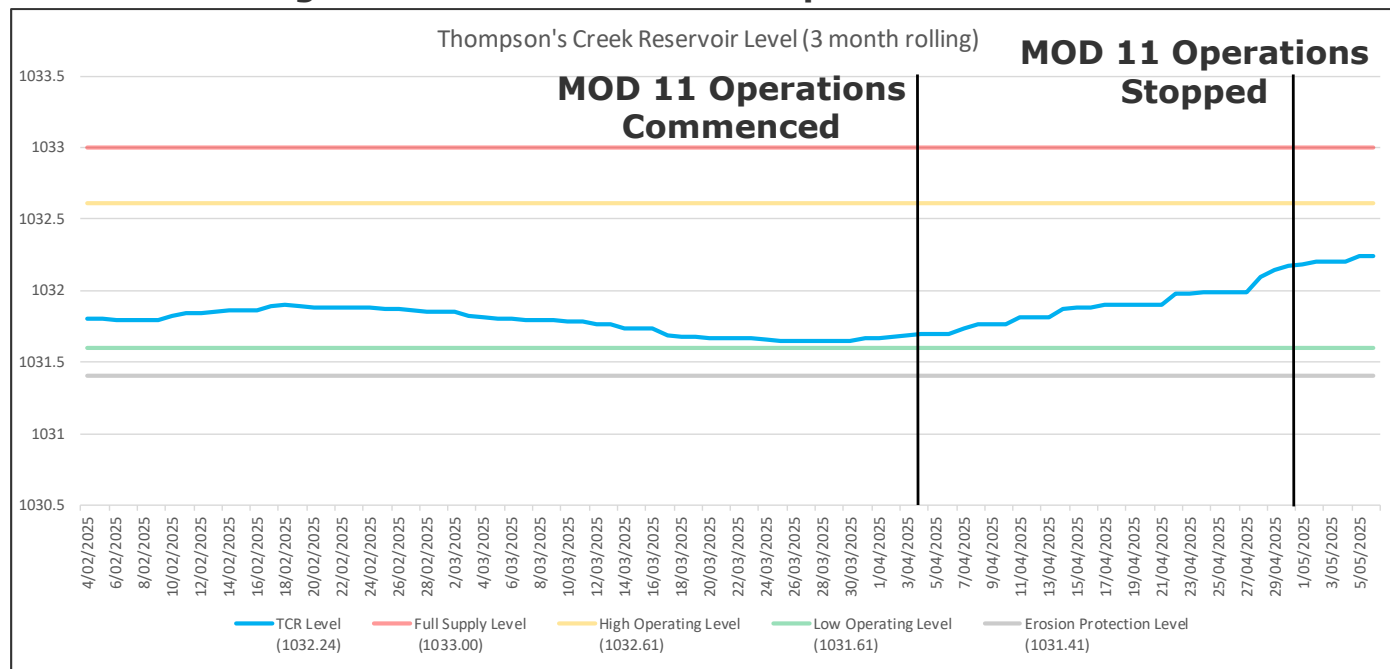
Week	Date	Electrical Conductivity (µS/cm)								
		TCR			SWTF discharge to TCR			TCR Riparian Release		
		Lowest sample value	Median of sample	Highest sample value	Lowest sample value	Median of sample	Highest sample value	Lowest sample value	Median of sample	Highest sample value
1	Sat 19 Mar - Fri 4 Apr	475	475	475	475	619	640	478	478	478
2	Sat 5 Apr - Friday 11 Apr	477	481	501	336	588	630	475	475	475
3	Sat 12 Apr - Fri 18 Apr	464	493	497	274	535	579	484	484	484
4	Sat 19 Apr - Fri 25 Apr	451	470	487	257	552	590	489	489	489
5	Sat 26 Apr - Fri 2 May	443	469	476	228	589	642	498	498	498

Water quality results for TCR and the riparian release point can be found on the EA Website here:

[Mt Piper EPA Reports | EnergyAustralia](#)

# Question on Notice

## TCR level change over the SMWTF MOD 11 period



There was an increase of 0.54m to the TCR level over the MOD 11 operations period



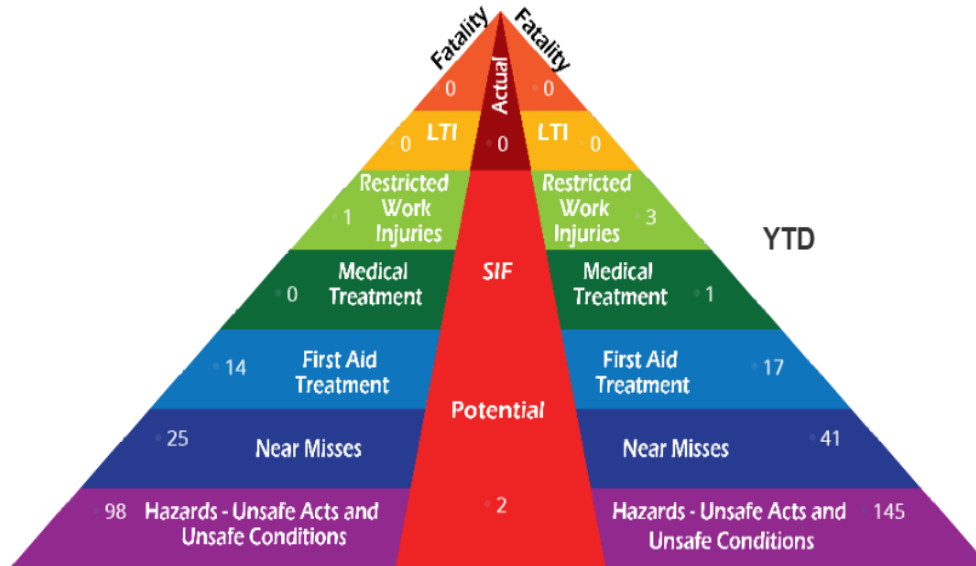
# Mt Piper Update

# Site Safety

# Site Safety – April 2025

Safety Triangle

Apr 25



YTD is calculated to the end of the previous month

# Site Safety April 2025

YTD – TIFR (As of April 2025)

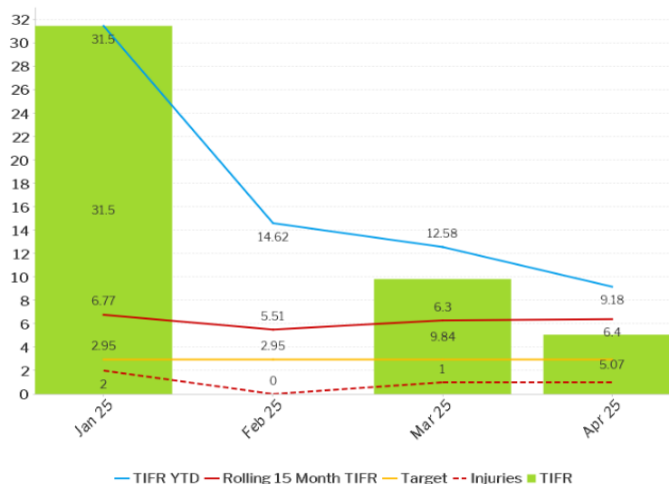
**Actual** = 5.07

**Target** = 2.95

March 1 RWI: 1 Hand injury

April 2 RWI: 1 Hand injury

TIFR (by site)



Month	TIFR	TIFR YTD	Rolling 15 Month TIFR	Target	Injuries
Jan 25	31.50	31.50	6.77	2.95	2
Feb 25	0.00	14.62	5.51	2.95	0
Mar 25	9.84	12.58	6.30	2.95	1
Apr 25	5.07	9.18	6.40	2.95	1

# Market Update

# Operation in the Market

Redacted

# Operations (Site) Update



# Operations update – May

Redacted

# Operations update – May

Redacted

# Unit 2 and station outage were completed successfully in April

Redacted

# Environment









# Nesting Box

- We have installed a further 20 hollow nesting boxes at Thompsons Creek Reservoir Biodiversity Offset Area. This is in addition to the 20 nesting boxes at Pine Dale Mine, bringing the total to 40 Nesting boxes installed.
- Nesting boxes provide temporary habitats, supporting native wildlife as young Eucalyptus trees grow and mature.
- These boxes significantly enhance biodiversity, particularly in young forests where natural tree hollows are limited.
- Target Species include a variety of birds such as Parrots, Silvereye, Rosella etc. as well as gliders like sugar and feather tail and various possums.



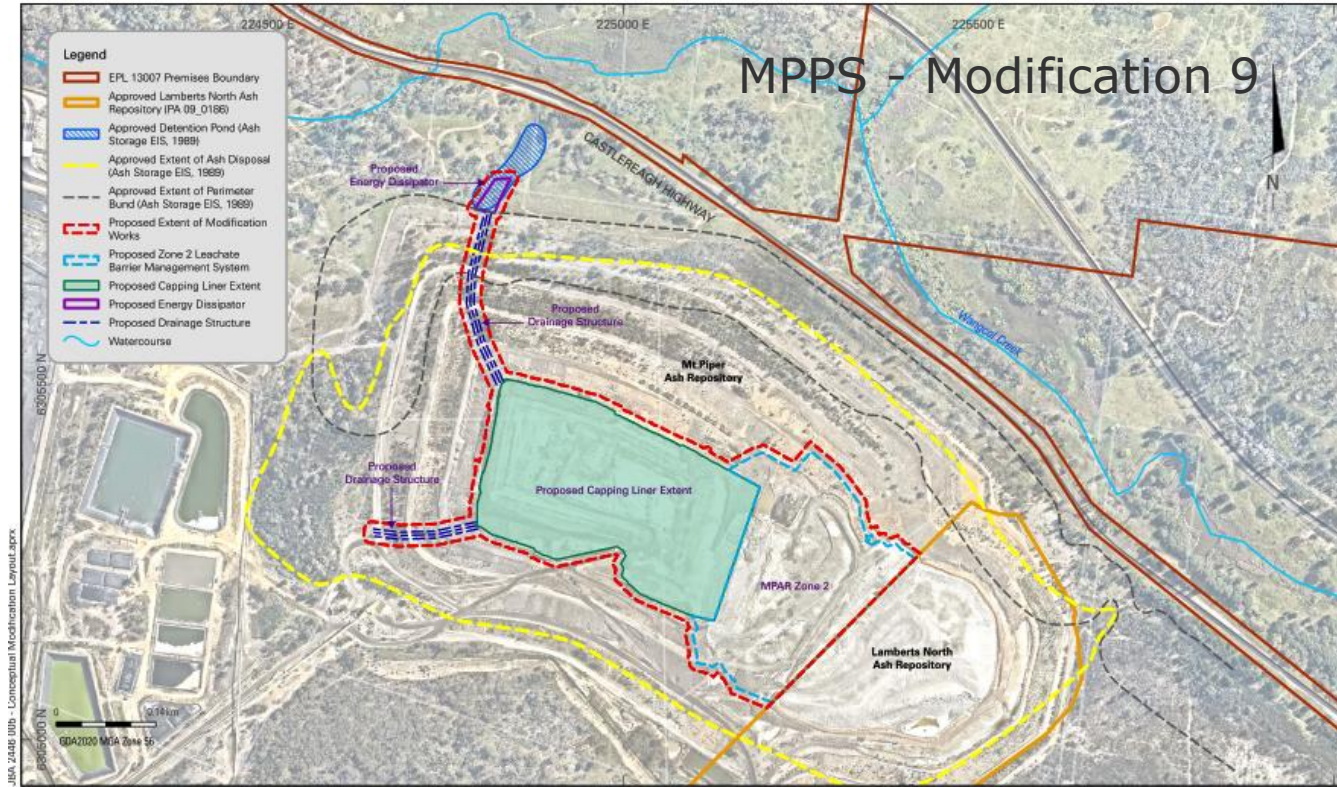
# Planning Approvals

# Environment Planning Approvals

	Approval Process - Stage					
	Project Description/Introduction (SEARs or Mod briefing, application briefing)	Complete Environmental Studies & Prepare report (SEE, EIS or Mod report)	Lodge Application with Determining Authority (DPHI or LCC)	Public Exhibition	EA Response to Submissions	Determining Authority Assessment & Project Determination
EA Project	Community Consultation					
Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Site Investigation Geotech (Council DA)						Approved
Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Site Investigation Geotech Mod 1 (Council DA)						Approved
Mt Piper Battery Energy Storage System (SSD)						Approved
Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro (CSSI)						
Lamberts North Ash Repository Mod 2 (SSD) (extension of operating hours)						Approved
Mt Piper Mod 9 (SSD) (Ash repository capping)						
Mt Piper Mod 10 (SSD) (Coal settling pond augmentation)						
Springvale Water Treatment Plant Mod 11 (SSD) (Transfer of water from SWWTP to TCR)						Approved



# Environment Planning Approvals



MOUNT PIPER POWER STATION MOD 9

Conceptual Modification Layout

**FIGURE 2**

# Environmental Planning Approvals

## **MPPS - Modification 9 (MPAR Capping & Zone 2)**

- Modification Report has been updated in response to comments from Planning
- Modification Report has been submitted to Planning for assessment and determination

## **MPPS – Modification 10 (Coal Settling Pond Augmentation)**

- Biodiversity surveys have been completed
- Modification Report is being prepared

# **Pine Dale Mine and Enhance Place**

# Pine Dale Mine

- No non-compliances at the Pine Dale Mine reported
- Site continues in care and maintenance
- The Resources Regulator complete a site inspection in March, minor updates to rehab plan required

# Community Update

# Community Grants

Round 1 Grants closed. 16 applications received.


Successful applicants:

- Creative Community Concepts – Ready Set Sport Portland
- Lithgow Oberon Landcare Association – Farmers Creek Rehabilitation Project – Tree Planting
- Lithgow PCYC – Youth Hub/Training Room
- Uniting Church Lithgow – Project Serenity



# Community engagement

**Getting the facts**




We have been out and about at the Rydal Ag Show, HalfFest, Black Rose Lithgow Business Awards and at the Lithgow Show answering questions like these. We are pleased to provide responses to some key recent questions.

**Comment:** "Can I still use Lake Lyell?" 1

**Fact:** Yes. You will still be able to use Lake Lyell, built to supply water to the Mt Piper Power Station, for recreation including swimming, fishing, boating, kayaking and waterskiing. During daily operating cycles, the water level will rise and fall by about 30 cm every half hour or 2.5 metres over 8 hours as water is pumped to and from the upper reservoir to store and generate energy.

**Comment:** "How big is the battery at Mt Piper?" 2

**Fact:** The Mt Piper Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is designed to have a capacity of up to 500 megawatts and store up to 2,000 megawatt-hours of energy, providing four hours of dispatchable power.



**Engage with us**

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

**April – June**  
Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro - community feedback on alternative worker accommodation

**April – ongoing**  
Neighbour engagement – Stage 3 Neighbour agreements

**April – June**  
Mt Piper Power Station Outage

**May – June**  
Mt Piper BESS – schools engagement program

**June – August**  
Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro – preliminary consultation on Environmental Impact Statement

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

**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



Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro



Mt Piper Battery Energy Storage System



See our best energy plans

COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHOOLS PROGRAM UNDERWAY TOWN ACCOMMODATION PROPOSED

## Community Newsletter

Issue 9 | May 2025




### Investing in Lithgow's heart

Community grants are more than just funding—they are an investment in the heart of the Lithgow community. That is why we were honoured to fund the restoration of the iconic **Lithgow Public School bell**—part of the soundscape of Lithgow since 1901 and the heartbeat of the school day.

When this school bell rang, it was as if the world paused for a moment. The iconic sound slicing through the quiet murmur of a classroom or the laughter of the playground and being carried across the streets of Lithgow.

Yet for over 30 years the school bell was silent. Stored in the basement, with cracks and covered in layers of paint waiting for the day it would ring again. A restoration over many months with a \$10,000 grant, meant the bells' beauty sounded once again and was heard once again at the recent 150th anniversary of the **Lithgow Public School**.

From one celebration to another at the Portland Touch Football Association where a new free community BBQ at Saville Park will be a great spot for play-by-play recaps and victory speeches as teams battle it out in the years to come. We were delighted to help the many people and businesses that got the BBQ up and running with a \$10,000 grant.

We are now working our way through the latest grant applications and listening to great ideas for the \$20 million Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Shared Benefit Program, should the project be approved.

Whether it's a small neighbourhood project, a school resource or program, a local nonprofit, an arts initiative or sporting club, EnergyAustralia community grants help people across Lithgow bring their vision to life and make a meaningful impact.

Thank you, Lithgow, for asking us how we can help.



# Q1

## Highlights

Community events

# 700+

People engaged

New community newsletter distributed

# 10

# 25,000

Engaged online

# **Project – Mt Piper Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)**



# New artists impressions



# STEM Schools Program

- Great response and sign up to host BESS model STEM activities
- Teachers looking for opportunities to learn about energy transition in their own backyard

**9**

Schools

**Primary and  
Secondary  
Schools**

**~850**

Students

**May to  
June**

Term 2

# **Project – Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro**

# More Power. Same Project Footprint.

## Using space more efficiently

*We figured out how to increase power to 385MW without changing the project footprint*

## Going public with the increase

*We released the information at the Rydal Show (8 February), online later that month and here in the CCC*

## We responded to feedback following the last CCC

*We went through a formal process to assess if these changes to the project were significant enough to change the agreed scope under the Streamlined Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements*

# Alternative workers accommodation



# Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro

Draft overview

Pre-EIS submission community consultation



**EnergyAustralia**  
LIGHT THE WAY

# Seeking your feedback

## We are getting ready for the EIS submission

*We are preparing more than 20+ studies and reports into a major EIS submission*

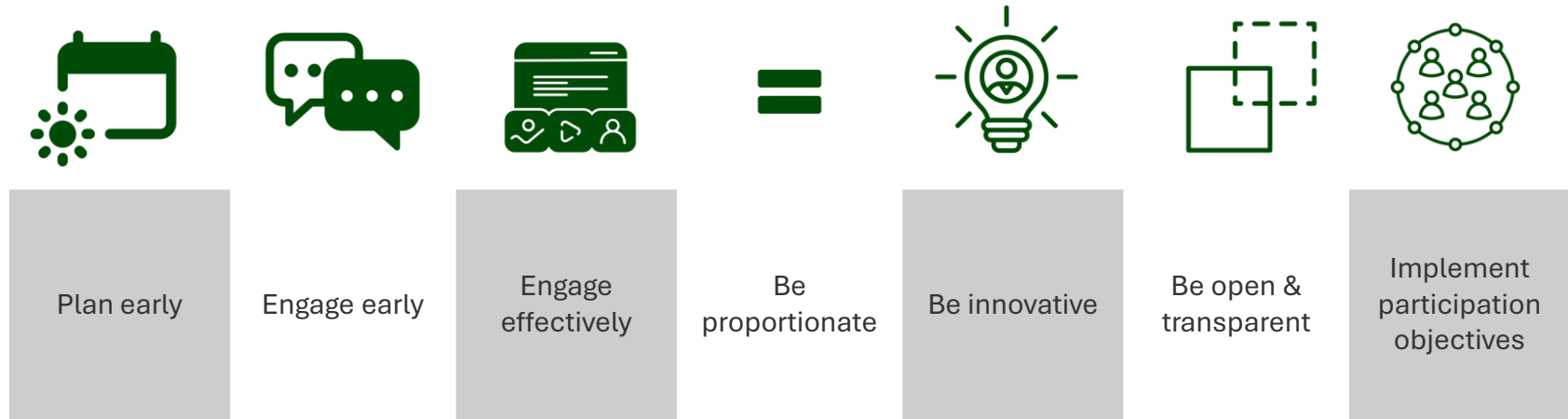
## Before we submit, we need an intensive wave of community consultation

*This helps unpack the findings, content of the key reports, impacts and benefits for the community so that they can undertake informed participation*

## We would like your feedback on the proposed community consultation approach

*How we engage is as important as the content of the consultation, we want to make sure we are developing an approach that will support informed participation in the EIS*

# Engagement requirements



**Engagement is a specific requirement of the Streamlined Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for major infrastructure projects.**



# Engagement evidence



We need to demonstrate how engagement and feedback has influenced these three project phases

# We listen, reflect and report



WHAT WE HEARD  
BY TOPIC AT A  
MOMENT IN TIME



INFLUENCES  
PROJECT

WHAT HAS BEEN  
HEARD ON ALL  
TOPICS,  
OVERALL TIME, BY  
ALL STAKEHOLDERS

As part of the EIS we provide a detailed report of engagement activities, feedback that influenced the project and community and stakeholder issues

# Engagement to date

Consultation is an essential part of the project.



# Pre EIS Consultation - AIM

## We have valid and relevant community input

*We are confident the input received is validated and relevant*

## The community are ready to undertake informed participation

*We have invested time and expertise to provide the community with the information they need to participate in the EIS process*

## We have clarity on the communities understanding of impacts

*We can demonstrate that the community understand the project impacts and provide evidence of where the community has influenced the project – design, planning, construction or operations*

# Approach

Traditional Owners  
Community  
Neighbours  
Council

EIS topic by topic

Project HQ  
Libraries &  
community spaces  
Online

6-8 weeks in lead  
up to submission

Ask an Expert  
Explainer videos  
Briefings  
Site tours  
Kitchen table  
discussion guide

**WHO IS  
INVITED**

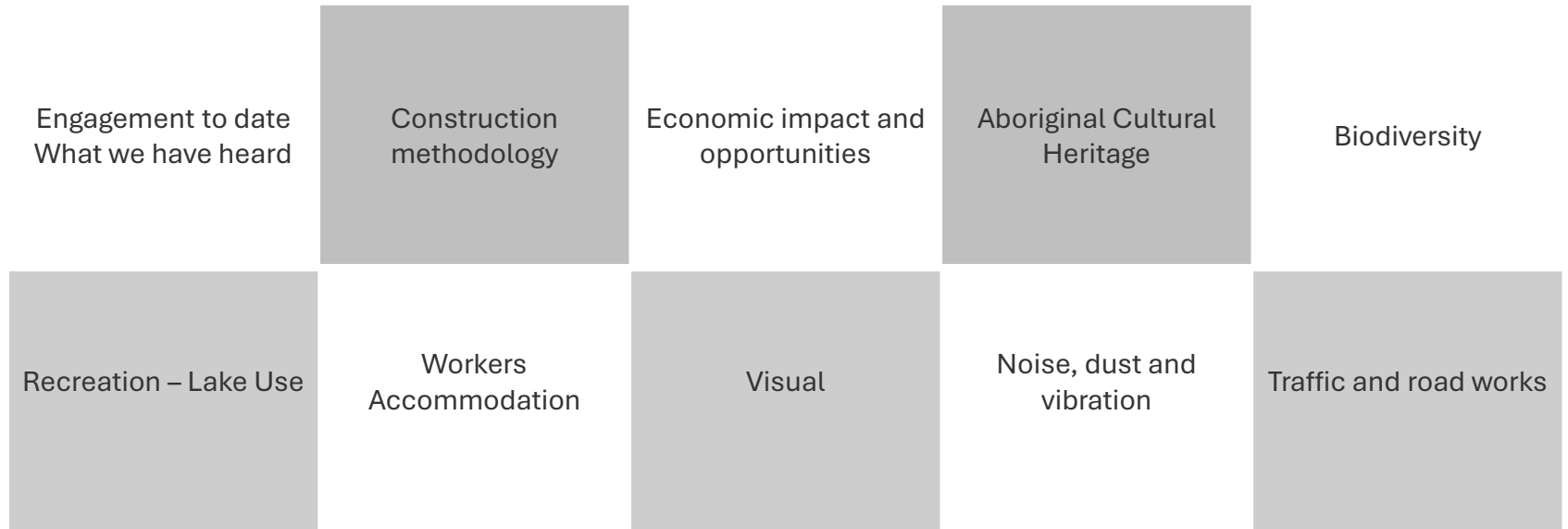
**WHAT**

**WHERE**

**WHEN**

**HOW**

# Pre-EIS Submission Consultation Topics



# General Discussion

**Thank you**