

# Mt Piper Battery Energy Storage System

## Fire safety

### Acknowledgement of Country and First Nations People

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

EnergyAustralia is proposing to develop a battery energy storage system (BESS) on land it owns next to the existing Mt Piper power station.

Batteries are a proven energy storage technology that absorb and release energy on demand. The Mt Piper BESS could dispatch up to 500 megawatts (MW) of power to the electricity network for up to 4 hours, adding flexibility and reliability to the grid when energy demand is high.

The project is currently in the planning and approvals phase.

### Managing fire risk for BESS projects

EnergyAustralia prioritises effective management of health, safety and environmental risks at its assets. All battery projects need to comply with relevant guidelines and standards to reduce the risk of fire and enable their safe operation. The Mt Piper BESS will follow the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standards for lithium-ion batteries, which set out how to construct, maintain and dispose of batteries safely. The BESS will also be third party certified against specific fire safety standards. With these appropriate safety assessment processes in place, the risk of fire within the BESS system can be managed.

A Fire Safety Study will be developed in accordance with the requirements of Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper (HIPAP) No.2 and to meet the operational requirements of Fire and Rescue NSW.

Appropriate safety measures include:

- Installing and maintaining cooling and ventilation systems to keep battery within normal temperature limits
- Separating and insulating battery modules to lower the risk of fire spreading
- Designing and installing compliant fire detection and suppression systems.

These measures will help to lower the risk of fire occurring on site.

### Managing bushfire risk

Bushfires pose a risk for sites where bushfire prone vegetation is present.

Accordingly, a bushfire assessment was undertaken as part of the Project's Development Application. The assessment followed the relevant guidelines, including *Planning for Bush Fire Protection: A guide for councils, planners, fire authorities and developers* (New South Wales Rural Fire Service, 2019) (the PBP).

To address the requirements of the PBP, the project will include the following fire and risk management measures:

- Providing a safe access and exit route for firefighting vehicles to access the site
- Providing an evacuation route and safety point
- Establishing and maintaining a defendable space around the site, to separate infrastructure from surrounding bushland and provide access around the site
- Installation of suitable water supply and hydrants around the project site

## Bushfire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan

As the project progresses to construction and operation, a Bushfire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan (BFEMEP) will be developed.

This plan will include:

- Risk mitigation protocols during construction, including on days with high fire danger ratings
- Training for staff about bushfire risks and mitigation plans
- Measures to prevent bushfire ignition
- Plans to ensure any bushfires are reported as soon as possible

We will continue working with Lithgow Rural Fire Service to understand and manage any bushfire risk through construction and operation.

## Find out more and have your say

All technical studies relating to hazards and risks are included in our Development Application, which was submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) in May 2024.

The Development Application will be made available on the DPHI website for public review and feedback.

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

Email: [community@EnergyAustralia.com.au](mailto:community@EnergyAustralia.com.au)

Phone: 1800 574 947

Postal Address: EnergyAustralia NSW Pty Ltd, 350 Boulder Road, Portland NSW 2847.

Website: [energyaustralia.com.au/about-us/what-we-do/new-energy-projects/mt-piper-battery-energy-storage-system](https://energyaustralia.com.au/about-us/what-we-do/new-energy-projects/mt-piper-battery-energy-storage-system)

### Mt Piper BESS Indicative Layout (500MW)

