

Mt Piper Battery Energy Storage System

Q&A

What are you doing?

EnergyAustralia is currently investigating the development of a new Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) on a preferred site adjacent to its operating Mt Piper power station, near Lithgow.

- Situated on Wiradjuri country, the Mt Piper Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility would be potentially capable of dispatching up to 500 MW of electricity for a duration of up to 4 hours.
- Building a BESS adjacent to the Mt Piper power station facility is anticipated to have low environmental and social impacts. The project will also avoid the need to construct lengthy new overhead power lines.

Why do we need Battery Energy Storage?

As we transition to cleaner forms of energy generation, an increase in energy storage capacity is needed to help balance our current energy needs. The addition of more renewable energy into the grid provides benefits, such as reduced costs, while also creating new challenges for our energy system, including the variable nature of their supply. Battery storage, such as the proposed Mt Piper BESS, provide critical new infrastructure that can safely store and dispatch electricity when needed.

How often do you see the storage batteries discharging its energy?

The BESS will be designed so that it can fully charge and discharge each day as required.

Do batteries pose a fire risk and how will you manage this?

All battery projects carry some risk and need to comply with relevant guidelines and standards to safely manage the risk of fire.

Safety measures to manage fire risk for the Mt Piper BESS will 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 reduce the risk of fire occurring on site and will continue consulting with the Rural Fire Service to understand and manage fire risk at the site.

Will the project impact the surrounding environment?

Potential impacts on the environment and biodiversity will be assessed in detail as part of the Environmental Impact Statement. This will be shared with the

community through the planning exhibition process. At this stage in the development no significant impacts are anticipated as a result of the project.

How will this impact visual amenity of the region?

As the proposed location is on EnergyAustralia land adjacent to Mt Piper Power Station we expect visual impacts to be very low – our assessment indicates that there will be no visual impacts beyond the power station boundary.

We welcome suggestions from the community on how to make the project something the Lithgow community can be proud of. All feedback will be considered during the ongoing design and assessment process.

What will the impact be to local roads (e.g. Castlereagh Hwy)?

The EIS Traffic and Transport study assessed potential impacts to local roads and intersections. Our assessment found there are no road capacity concerns, even at peak construction. No new road upgrades will be needed for the project.

What will the noise impact be during construction and operations?

Given the significant distance between residential properties and the site, as well as the intervening landscape, any noise and vibration impacts will be minor and will fall within acceptable limits.

How many jobs will there be?

Up to 177 jobs will be created at the peak of construction for the Mt Piper BESS. As Lithgow and its surrounding area have deep experience in the electricity generation sector we will explore options to work with local businesses and suppliers as a priority when sourcing labour, materials, goods and services.

When and how will the community be consulted?

Consultation with community and project stakeholders has informed preparation of the project's Development Application, and community can make a submission during the 28 day public exhibition period run by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure. We will continue to consult with community as the project progresses.

We are also exploring opportunities for meaningful benefits sharing, and how this project can contribute through our broader benefits sharing approach for the Lithgow region.