Mt Piper Battery Energy Storage System
fact sheet

Acknowledgement of Country and First Nations People

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

Background

Storage in the Australian electricity grid is expected to become more critical as we increase our dependence on renewable energy.

Batteries are a proven energy storage technology that absorb and release energy on demand. Battery energy storage provides a versatile, space efficient energy storage solution.

Although the final battery composition for this project is yet to be determined, lithium-ion is the most common battery for utility scale installations and considered an optimal choice of storage technology for this application due to their performance, economics and proven track record.

By investing in projects like the Mt Piper battery energy storage system (BESS), EnergyAustralia is supporting the transition to a low-emissions electricity system that can meet the needs of NSW and the wider National Electricity Market.

The Mt Piper BESS will be capable of dispatching energy in fractions of a second and for a duration of up to four hours, adding flexibility and reliability to the grid when customer energy demand is high.

Mt Piper BESS

EnergyAustralia is progressing the development of a BESS on land it owns adjacent to its existing Mt Piper power station. This project has received planning approval from the NSW Department of Planning, housing, and Infrastructure (DPHI) following public exhibition of the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in mid-2024.

This grid scale battery project could provide up to 500MW for 4 hours (2,000MWH) of dispatchable energy storage, helping to improve diversity and reliability of the electricity network.

The project

The Mt Piper BESS proposes to utilise nearby, existing infrastructure to develop a grid-scale battery with the capacity to dispatch up to 500MW of power to the electricity network over a duration of up to 4 hours.

Building a BESS within existing EnergyAustralia landholdings is anticipated to have low environmental and social impacts. This site is considered highly suitable given it is currently zoned for (infrastructure) electricity generating works, and will connect directly to the existing transmission infrastructure, removing the need to construct addtional overhead powerlines on private land.

The project is in the detailed planning phase, having received planning approval in November 2024.

A final investment decision is expected in mid-2026, with construction to start following this decision.

It will take approximately 18-24 months to construct, which means the Mt Piper BESS could be operating by 2027/2028.

500 MW
Up to four hours

Li-Ion
battery storage

500 kV
Mt Piper Terminal Station Connection

18-24
months construction

110+
jobs during construction

Location of the Mt Piper BESS.

Information current as at December 2024

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Benefits

The Mt Piper BESS brings benefits to the grid and to the local community including:

- **High Energy Density.** Batteries have a high energy density, making utility scale storage projects space efficient compared to other storage technologies.
- **Low Maintenance.** Batteries are simple to operate, with less moving parts and lower maintenance requirements when compared to many other storage technologies.
- **It supports renewable energy.** A BESS lends itself to supporting further growth and deployment of utility scale renewable energy generation as it provides an industry proven measure to store and dispatch variable energy at times when demand for power is high.
- **Reliability.** A rechargeable facility that can provide fast and easy access to up to 2,000 MWh for the local energy grid on demand.
- **Performance and Longevity.** Utility scale BESS developments are able to store large amounts of energy, with a design life of up to 20 years.
- **It fits the existing infrastructure.** The proposed development will utilise existing energy infrastructure, which should lower costs and speed up the development process.
- **It creates jobs.** The project should provide work opportunities for the surrounding community during construction. It will also help to sustain Lithgow's future as an energy hub.
- **Versatility.** Batteries provide an ideal storage solution in many different applications. The technology can be used to provide rapid electricity to the grid when needed, as well as other grid stability services.

About EnergyAustralia

EnergyAustralia is a leading energy retailer and generator with around 1.6 million customers across eastern Australia. We supply energy to our residential and business customers from a modern energy portfolio, underpinned by coal and gas power plants, as well as renewable energy sources.

Next Steps

BESS technology has great potential when use in combination with other forms of renewable and storage technologies to help supply the people of New South Wales with a reliable source of electricity when demand is high. Energy storage projects, such as this one, are an important part of the national transition to a more secure and reliable energy future.

EnergyAustralia will now press ahead with planning for the construction of the project following an final investment decision in mid-2026.

EnergyAustralia will continue to provide the community and local stakeholders with opportunities to provide feedback and input into the project. This will inform further planning, design, and construction of the Mt Piper BESS

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

Email: 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