

# Mt Piper Battery Energy Storage System

## Q&A

### What are you doing?

EnergyAustralia is progressing the development of a 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 within existing EnergyAustralia landholdings is anticipated to have low environmental and social impacts. This site is considered highly suitable given it is currently zone for (infrastructure) electricity generating works, and will connect directly to the existing transmission infrastructure. This also removes the need to construct additional overhead powerlines on private land.

### 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 reduce the risk of fire occurring on site and be further supported by a Bushfire Emergency Management and Evaluation Plan for construction and operations

### Will the project impact the surrounding environment?

No significant impacts are anticipated as a result of the project. Potential impacts on the environment and biodiversity have been assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Statement and appropriate mitigations developed.

### 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.

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

The Environmental Impact Statement 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?

Community and stakeholder consultation has been ongoing since 2022. Community and stakeholders were also invited to make submissions as part of the public exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement in mid-2024.

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