



Issue 6 – August 2024

8 min read

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Project

Welcome to our August 2024 Community Newsletter.

In this edition, we share info on our recent community benefit sharing workshops, exciting news on the project's new, increased capacity, as well as our plans to support neighbours.



### Delivering benefits to the community

On the 1st and 2nd of July, we held workshops with over 50 community representatives and local leaders. The goal was to collaboratively design a benefit sharing program that ensures the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Project contributes to Lithgow's long-term prosperity.

Over the past two years, our discussions with the community have highlighted several key themes:

- Initiatives that improve tourism and recreation in the area
- Projects that protect the environment and recognise it as an important part of Lithgow's prosperity
- Skills, training and education opportunities
- Targeted improvements to local services and infrastructure that improve community connectivity
- Traditional Owner and heritage programs.

During the workshops, we made progress towards transforming these themes into a practical shortlist of projects. These will align with community expectations and deliver tangible benefits.

Funding for the initiatives will kick off upon approval of the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Project's development application and the green light from investors to begin construction.



*Discussing potential projects at a workshop in Lithgow.*



## Where is the project at?

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** – Our environmental field studies have just wrapped up with the scientists now holding more than 12 months of data on the project site's flora and fauna, ecology and biodiversity. They'll spend the next three months writing their reports which will inform the EIS. Once the EIS is complete, around the end of this year, it will be reviewed, lodged for assessment by government and then released for public exhibition.

**Engineering** – The preliminary design of the pumped hydro project has been completed with an additional level of detail developed for the major underground structures and equipment. The site has been confirmed as geotechnically suitable and the overall scheme confirmed as technically feasible.

**Project approval** – The decision for the project to proceed into construction depends on two things:

1. Development Approval needs to be granted by the NSW Government at the conclusion of the EIS assessment, exhibition and responses.
2. A positive business case and funding agreements need to be finalised to enable EnergyAustralia to make the Final Investment Decision. We aim to complete these requirements in late 2025.

## More power when it's needed

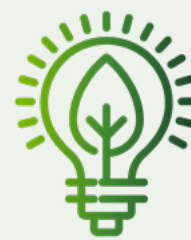
We're pleased to share exciting news about the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Project's development. Through our concept refinement, we've discovered a way to enhance its capacity significantly. Here are the details:

**Normal capacity** – Initially, the project was designed with a capacity of 335 megawatts, providing energy for up to eight hours.

**Enhanced capacity** – Now, the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Project will deliver an impressive 440 megawatts, albeit for a shorter duration. Imagine it as a turbo boost, ready to kick in when energy demand peaks—such as on cold, still nights. Importantly, this has been achieved without increasing the size of the upper reservoir or other above ground infrastructure.



**Normal capacity**  
335 megawatts  
Powers ~150,000 homes.



**Enhanced capacity**  
440 megawatts

A turbo boost can kick in during peak energy demand and power an added ~50,000 homes.

This increased capacity will mean there's power for approximately 50,000 additional homes. It means the Lake Lyell project will play an even greater role in meeting our state's energy needs.



## Lake Lyell – an ideal location for pumped hydro

A good location for pumped hydro requires land, water, sufficient height difference for the upper and lower reservoirs and access to the transmission network. The Lake Lyell location has all of these.

Importantly, the project would be constructed entirely on EnergyAustralia's own land, where it has direct access to the energy grid. This means no new transmission lines would need to be built across public or private property.

The project would use water from EnergyAustralia-owned Lake Lyell, which was built by people in the 1980s for the

purpose of specifically supplying water to nearby power stations. Today, Lake Lyell is still a working lake and is zoned SP2 Infrastructure – Electricity Generating Works. We invest millions of dollars each year to maintain its operation and ensure its safety.

As part of the project, a new upper reservoir would be built on nearby Mount Walker. In response to community feedback, we have relocated the reservoir behind the mountain's southern ridge, ensuring that it is hidden from view for most Lithgow residents.

## Ensuring continued access to Lake Lyell

Lake Lyell, a valued recreational destination for both locals and visitors, will remain accessible despite the pumped hydro project. Here are the key points:

**Uninterrupted recreation** – Access to the lake for activities like fishing, boating, and camping will continue. During construction, the project won't disrupt the recreational experience across the majority of the lake, although there will be some access restrictions around the Farmers Creek arm

for the safety of workers and the community. Then when the project's up and running and the water level changes, we're making investments so that access to the lake is maintained.

**Project impact** – The project going ahead is good news for Lake Lyell. It provides a long-term purpose for the EnergyAustralia-owned lake and ensures it'll be available for recreation for generations to come.



Locals enjoying Lake Lyell





## Working with neighbours

We recognise that some neighbouring residents and businesses may be impacted by the Lake Lyell vPumped Hydro Project, and we're committed to providing support and assistance throughout its development and construction.

Geoff Gay, from our Project Team, is currently out meeting with affected neighbours and sharing a comprehensive Neighbour Benefit Guide that outlines the full range of benefits and support options available to help mitigate the impact of the project.

## To learn more

Please refer to the fact sheet titled "Neighbour Engagement and Support". You'll find it on our website at [lakelyellpumpedhydro.com.au](http://lakelyellpumpedhydro.com.au) under the "News and Resources" tab.

## Visit us at Project HQ

Drop by our Project HQ located at 124 Main Street, Lithgow. We're open most days throughout the week. Drop us an email at [community@energyaustralia.com.au](mailto:community@energyaustralia.com.au) so we can have the kettle on when you drop in.



*Our Project HQ in Lithgow's Main Street*



## We're here to help

If you have a question please don't hesitate to contact us. You can also keep updated by following us on Facebook at Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Project.

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