

Issue 5 – April 2024

8 min read

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Project

Welcome to our April 2024 Community Newsletter.

In this community update, we focus on sharing with you information on some of the work we're doing to inform the project's Environmental Impact Statement.

Take a virtual tour of the Lake Lyell project

We've released a virtual tour of the Lake Lyell project. The animation gives a realistic depiction of the project's key components, helping people to envisage how the project will look and operate.

It also shows how we're working hard to ensure this is the best project possible for the community and NSW's clean energy future:

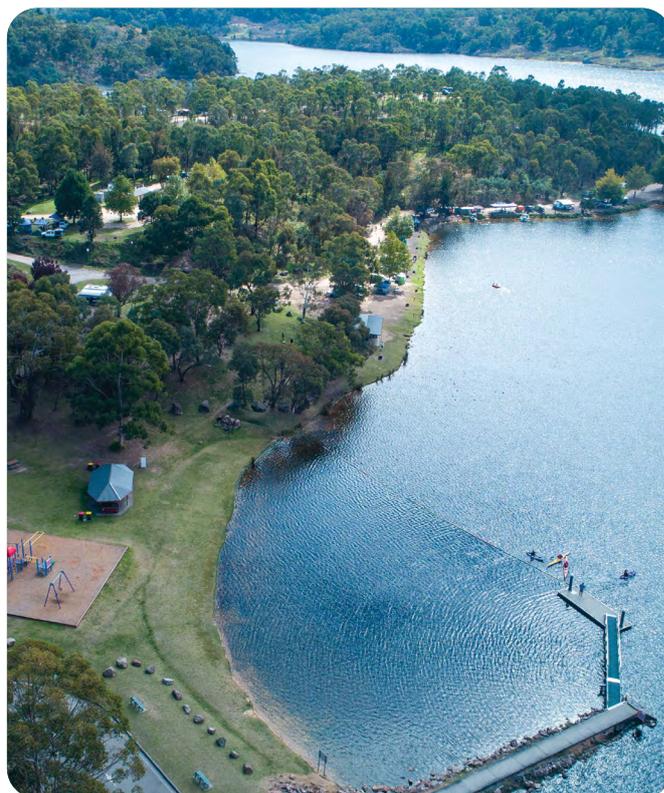
- Community access to Lake Lyell will be maintained for boating, fishing, swimming, and other recreational activities.
- Using the site's natural geography, we've designed the project to minimise visual impacts for the community. It will be out of sight for most of Lithgow and from the Lake Lyell Recreation Centre.
- With no need for new transmission lines, we're helping to reduce disruptions to the surrounding landscape.
- The project will be situated entirely on EnergyAustralia-owned land which is zoned for energy generation.

Experience the virtual tour for yourself.



QR code not working for you?

Go to lakelyellpumpedhydro.com.au and you'll find the video under the News & Resources tab.





Out in the community

Thanks to everyone who visited our stand at the Lithgow Show in March!

Over 50 people dropped by, and we enjoyed meeting more members of our local community interested in discussing the project. From enquiries about the project's environmental impact to the details of our new concept design, and from explaining how pumped hydro works to addressing concerns about construction and visual impacts – we appreciated the conversation and feedback.

If you missed the chance to stop by, don't worry. We'll be getting out in the community more this year. Stay updated by following our Facebook page (search for "Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Project") for upcoming event details.



Talking with the community at the Lithgow Show



Update on Environmental Impact Statement

We are currently conducting an extensive technical and environmental study program, with the results contributing to the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We're assessing a wide range of issues that may be affected by the project, such as noise, air quality, biodiversity, water resources, heritage, and socio-economic impacts. Results from the EIS will be shared with the community, who will have the opportunity to comment on it.

Here are some of the things we've been looking at.

- **Koala studies**

In February, we had specially-trained dogs sniffing around Lake Lyell, helping us look for evidence of the presence of koalas. The dogs are able to sniff out koala scats (poo), even if old and under several inches of leaf litter, with their incredible noses.

- **Aboriginal heritage**

In March, we began an Aboriginal heritage excavation program at Lake Lyell and Mt Walker. Our focus is on finding materials tied to the area's Aboriginal history. We are collaborating closely with local Traditional Owners and knowledge holders such as the Mingaan Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation, Wiradjuri elders, and the wider Aboriginal community. Our goal is to integrate their perspectives and knowledge into the study and understand the importance of preserving cultural values.



Sifting through dirt in the hope of finding Aboriginal artefacts



The platypuses are carefully weighed and measured as part of the field study

- **Platypus studies**

We're conducting a detailed study to understand the movements and habits of platypus in Lake Lyell, led by experts from the Centre for Ecosystem Science at the University of New South Wales. We invited local community members to join the study's field trips, helping with data collection under the supervision of the university's ecologists. The field studies have been conducted at night in the Farmer's Creek and Coxes River arms of Lake Lyell. During the studies, platypuses are carefully caught in nets. The ecologists then tag each platypus as well as collect various samples from them to understand more about their habits and health. Recognising the platypus's significance to Wiradjuri people, we're also collaborating with local knowledge holders to incorporate their perspectives into the study. The information from the field studies will help us understand more about the platypus population and inform recommendations for mitigating the impact of the project on them.

- **Geotech**

We've recently completed our current round of geotechnical works. Part of this work involved drilling boreholes which will be used to collect water samples. These samples will be used to develop the geohydrological model required for the project's EIS.



Our current round of geotechnical works have been completed



Visit us at Project HQ

Drop by our Project HQ located at 124 Main Street, Lithgow. We're open:

Monday & Tuesday: 9am - 5pm

Wed: 9am - 2pm

Thurs & Fri: 9am - 5pm

Explore our displays and grab some information about the Lake Lyell project. Our Community Liaison Officer, Leanne Walding, can't wait to welcome you and hear your thoughts on the proposed project.

See you there!



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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🌐 lakelyellpumpedhydro.com.au



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