



EnergyAustralia

LIGHT THE WAY

6 June 2025

Pragya Mathema
Planner, Resource Assessments
NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Confidential Submission - Wattle Creek BESS and Solar Farm Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

EnergyAustralia welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the proposed Wattle Creek Battery Energy Storage System and Solar Farm developments (SSD-63345458 and SSD-663344210).

EnergyAustralia is one of the largest generators and retailers of electricity and gas in Australia. We have approximately 1.6 million electricity and gas customers, a generation fleet of approximately 4,800 MW and rights to more than 859 MW of solar and wind farm PPAs.

EnergyAustralia is committed to playing its part as the energy sector continues to transition to a low emissions system. In 2024, EnergyAustralia published its Climate Transition Action Plan (CTAP) and set out our commitments to achieving Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions across Scopes 1 and 2 by 2050, and our ambition for this commitment to extend to Scope 3. We are making significant investments across our portfolio to ensure our assets are positioned to continue to support the NSW energy system as the transition continues, and to provide the services required to maintain system security.

In line with our focus on supporting the transition of the NSW energy system, EnergyAustralia is progressing the development of the Marulan Gas Fired Power Station (MP07_0176), on land we own adjacent to the Wattle Creek developments. Our Project has been identified for development since 2009 and was declared Critical State Significant Infrastructure by the NSW Government in October 2024. Our project sits within both the Upper Lachlan Shire Council and the Goulburn Mulwaree Council Local Government Areas.

Clarity on mitigating cumulative impacts

Our Project is identified in Appendix 18 of this EIS as having a high likelihood for potential substantial cumulative impacts. However, our project has a relatively small footprint of 18 ha with limited visual impact (stations set into the hill behind a tree line), and when running is unlikely to be noticed by nearby residents.

To provide further detail on our neighbouring project, we have ongoing engagement with Sydney University (the landowner) and we undertook our first meeting with Spark Renewables during this EIS exhibition period and we will continue close engagement with a focus on how we collectively manage cumulative impacts and benefits.

We recognise the potential cumulative impacts from multiple energy developments in the local area including traffic, water quality, biodiversity, visual, workers accommodation and ongoing/overlapping construction and

EnergyAustralia Pty Ltd
ABN 99 086 014 968

Level 19
Two Melbourne Quarter
697 Collins Street
Docklands Victoria 3008

Phone +61 3 9060 0000
Facsimile +61 3 9060 0006

enq@energyaustralia.com.au
energyaustralia.com.au

are committed to ensuring that our development has as little impact on the surrounding community as possible. We would note that the area is not a declared Renewable Energy Zone (REZ), which affords greater coordination of multiple energy projects in a common region in a way that benefits the local community and neighbours.

Hence the impetus is on each neighbouring proponent to mitigate cumulative impacts, without coordination. We see an opportunity in this space for a more coordinated approach to neighbouring development in partnership with the NSW Government.

Greater coordination of cumulative benefits

Coordination of activities is key to unlocking significant potential benefits to the Marulan region of the planned investments, while mitigating community impact to the greatest degree possible.

Marulan is one of the fastest growing communities in NSW, requiring investment in a wide range of social and public infrastructure to support the population.

As multiple energy projects are proposed, there is a once in a generation opportunity to ensure that multiple revenue sharing and benefit programs are strategically coordinated to maximise the collective impact and legacy for the region.

We would note that the cumulative impacts outlined in this EIS only account for potential negative impacts and do not consider the cumulative benefits that may be delivered for the region. Greater collaboration between proponents of energy projects in this area, with support from the NSW Government, could improve the collective benefit to the Marulan community and Goulburn region.

EnergyAustralia understands the important role that our business and assets have in the communities in which we operate, and we have a strong record of working closely and consultatively with our local communities.

As we have done previously for other projects, most recently the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Project near Lithgow, we are committed to developing a community benefit sharing program as part of the Marulan Gas Fired Power Station Project.

We would welcome the opportunity to expand this approach to be delivered in collaboration with other proponents, Councils and stakeholders to ensure maximum benefit is delivered to the Marulan community.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss our submission further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Black', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ian Black
Marulan Gas Project Director