

Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Energy Storage

Engagement and Consultation Report

January 2026

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Acronyms and definitions

Acronym	Definition
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AEIC	Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner
CCC	EnergyAustralia Lithgow Region Community Consultative Committee
CLCG	Concerned Lithgow Community Group
Commonwealth DCCEEW	Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
CPHR	Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group
CSEP	Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan
CSSI	Critical State Significant Infrastructure
DPHI	NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
ECR	Engagement and Consultation Report ('this report')
EDFA	EDF power solutions Australia
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EnergyAustralia	EnergyAustralia Portfolio Holdings Pty Ltd
EP&A Act	NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
EPA	NSW Environment Protection Authority
km	Kilometre
LEEP	Lithgow Emerging Economies Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
LLP	Lake Lyell Project Pty Ltd (partnership between EnergyAustralia and EDFA)
MW	Megawatt
MWh	Megawatt hour
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NSW	New South Wales
NSW DCCEEW	NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
NSW DPI	NSW Department of Primary Industries
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party
SEARs	Secretary's environmental assessment requirements
the project	Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Energy Storage
TfNSW	Transport for NSW

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

EnergyAustralia Portfolio Holdings Pty Ltd (EnergyAustralia) in partnership with EDF power solutions Australia (EDFA), referred to as Lake Lyell Project Pty Ltd (LLP) as trustee, is developing the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Energy Storage (PHES) Project (the project). The project will have the capacity to store up to 3,080 megawatt hours (MWh) of energy and generate at 385 megawatts (MW) for 8 hours or generate up to around 440 MW for a shorter period. At a basic level, it will consist of upper and lower water reservoirs, a pipeline connecting them, and a hydro-electric power station connected to the national energy grid that is capable of generating or consuming electricity.

The project is located approximately 5 kilometres (km) west of Lithgow and 110 km west of the Sydney central business district. The project takes advantage of existing infrastructure (i.e. Lake Lyell) associated with Mt Piper power station which will be decommissioned in the coming decades and allows Lake Lyell to continue to serve a specific purpose in electricity generation (consistent with its existing use).

In June 2024, the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces declared the project to be Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI). Accordingly, approval for the project is required under Part 5, Division 5.2 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). This requires the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the project in accordance with Secretary's environmental assessment requirements (SEARs) and the approval of the Minister.

1.2. Assessment guidelines and requirements

This Engagement and Consultation Report (ECR) has been prepared with reference to relevant guidelines, policies and industry requirements. Guidelines and policies referenced are as follows:

- *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects (DPHI, 2024)*
- *Energy Charter's Our Better Practice Engagement Principles and Landholder & Community Better Practice Engagement Guide* (of which EnergyAustralia is a signatory)
- *Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner's (AEIC) 2022 Annual Report Community Engagement Recommendations*
- *Engagement Institute Principles and the Quality Assurance Standard for Community and Stakeholder Engagement*
- *Engaging with Aboriginal Communities – Social Impact Assessment Practice Notes (NSW)*
- *Social Impact Assessment Guideline – NSW Government*
- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 (DECCW 2010).*

The key engagement requirements underpinning the engagement strategy adopted for the project are consistent with the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure’s (DPHI) expectations for State significant projects (Figure 1). Throughout this report it is noted, by reference to these requirements, where activities have contributed to consistent implementation of the *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects*.

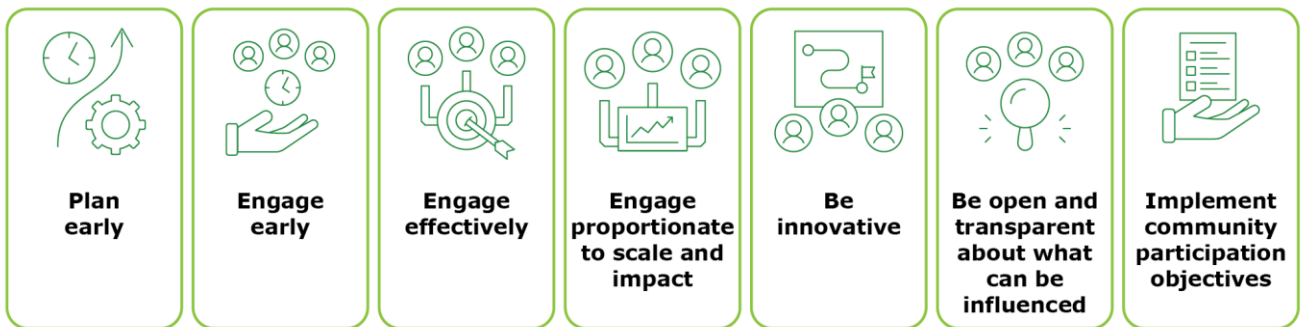


Figure 1 – Engagement guidelines for State significant projects (Chapter 3)

The approach to stakeholder engagement and communication planning is also guided by industry best practice from the Engagement Institute (formerly IAP2 Australasia) *Spectrum of Public Participation* (Figure 2). This approach to community and stakeholder engagement is reflected in the four core objectives outlined in Section 4.1.

Utilising *Spectrum of Public Participation*, knowledge of the community, experience on similar projects, whilst having regard to the nature of the project and the objectives to be achieved, is to inform, consult and involve:

- **Inform** – to provide all stakeholders with balance and objective information that assists them in understanding the project and what we are working on.
- **Consult** – to obtain feedback on some design decisions and construction related activities and property works.
- **Involve** – to work directly with key stakeholders to coordinate construction related activities and programming and property works.

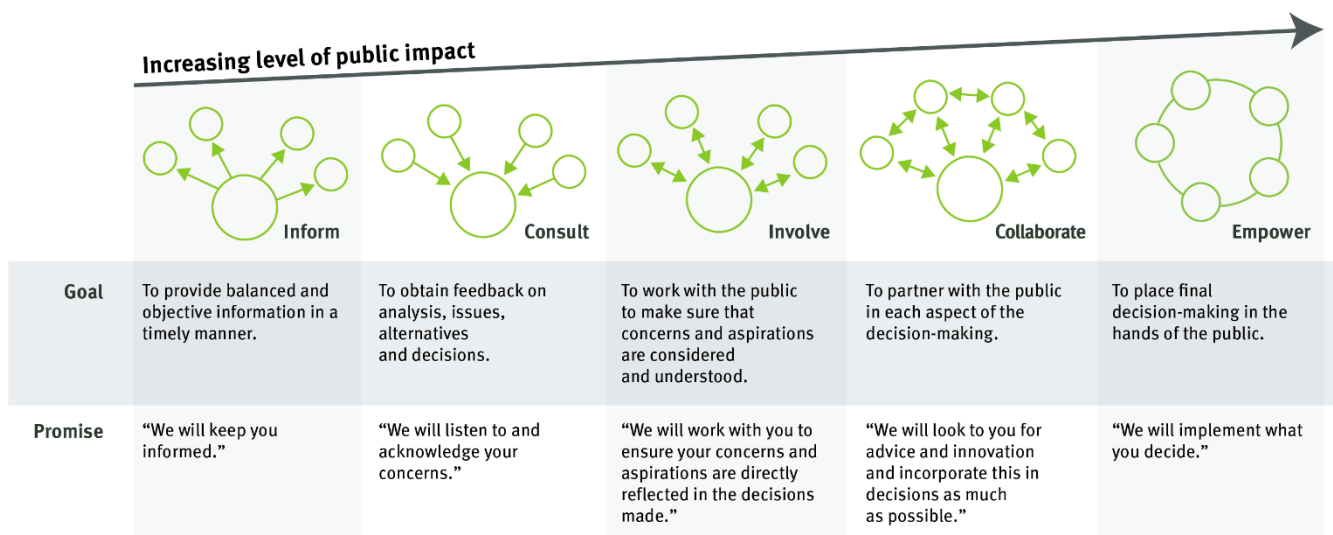


Figure 2 – Engagement Institute’s Spectrum of Public Participation

1.2.1. Secretary’s environmental assessment requirements

This ECR has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of DPHI and relevant agencies, which are set out in the SEARs for the project, issued on 17 November 2025. The SEARs identify matters which must be addressed in the EIS. Individual requirements relevant to this ECR and where they are addressed in this report are listed in Table 1.

Table 1 – ECR related SEARs

Requirement	Section addressed
<p>During the preparation of the EIS, you should consult with the relevant local, State or Commonwealth Government authorities, infrastructure and service providers, community groups, affected landowners and any exploration licence and/or mineral title holders.</p> <p>In particular, you must undertake detailed consultation with affected landowners surrounding the development, and relevant government agencies including the relevant local councils.</p> <p>The EIS must:</p>	Section 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> detail how engagement undertaken was consistent with the <i>Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects</i> (DPHI, 2024); and 	Section 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe the consultation process and the issues raised and identify where the design of the development has been amended in response to these issues. Where amendments have not been made to address an issue, an explanation should be provided. 	Section 4 Section 6

2. Description of the project

A detailed description of the project, including an overview of its design, construction and operation is provided in the project's EIS. A summary of the project's key elements is provided below.

The project design, can be broadly categorised into:

- pumped hydro generation components – including a 5.3 gegalitres (GL) upper reservoir to be constructed behind the southern ridge of Mount Walker, a 33.5 GL lower reservoir (existing Lake Lyell), inlet / outlet structures, and an underground powerhouse, surge shaft and waterway tunnels
- transmission connection components – including a new high voltage switchyard and connection to the existing 330 kilovolt (kV) transmission line that runs through the site
- site access and ancillary facilities – including upgrade of existing and construction of new access roads and bridges, a diversion and infill of a section of Lake Lyell, administration and utilities
- other construction components or works – including geotechnical investigations, temporary workforce accommodation, site work pads, laydown areas and facilities, and spoil management.

Construction will be completed in stages, including:

- pre-construction / enabling works – consisting of initial access works (internal and external roads), geotechnical investigations, site establishment and preparation of the worker's accommodation camp
- main works – consisting of all other construction activities needed to enable operation of the project.

During operation, the project will act as an electrical energy storage system through the conversion of electrical to kinetic energy to gravitational energy and back via water as it is transferred from the elevated upper reservoir to a lower reservoir. The project will provide services to the wholesale 'spot' market on the National Electricity Market (NEM), and support ancillary services used to manage the power system reliably.

After the 80 to 100-year design life of the project, the asset may remain viable for a plant refurbishment and extension of life as has been seen for other older assets globally. Following the plants final refurbishment or once it has reached the end of its serviceable life then the project would look to return the site to a more natural state and encourage community beneficial use.

3. Engagement context

We recognise and honour that this project is being developed on Wiradjuri Country. Wiradjuri people have maintained a deep and enduring connection to Country for thousands of years, with cultural knowledge expressed through tools, artworks, language, stories and practices that reflect a profound understanding of land, water, animals and sky.

Lithgow also has a significantly higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (7.8%) compared with 3.4% across NSW¹. This underscored the importance of ensuring all engagement activities were culturally safe, respectful, and inclusive.

The engagement process prioritised early and ongoing collaboration with First Nations community members, registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs), and local organisations to ensure Aboriginal voices are actively involved in planning and decision-making. General information about Aboriginal cultural heritage related to the project area was also shared with the broader community (without identifying or publishing site locations) to help build understanding, respect and recognition of Aboriginal history and deepen the connection to Country.

For more than 70 years, Lithgow has generated electricity to illuminate, warm, cool and power millions of homes across the state and the country. Generations of families have lived, worked, and built their lives around energy production, forming a proud, industrious identity rooted in self-reliance and contribution to the nation's progress.

EnergyAustralia has been a longstanding operator in the local area due to its ownership of the Mt Piper power station and has been actively undertaking community engagement since acquisition of both Mt Piper and Wallerawang power stations in July 2013.

Recognising the depth of local knowledge and community interest in the project, the project team began engaging and consulting with community members and other stakeholders across the Lithgow local government area (LGA) in 2021. This engagement has continued through the partnership with EDF, which formed in mid-2025.

A particular focus of the engagement has been in the adjoining suburbs and villages of South Bowenfels, Marrangaroo, Lithgow, Rydal, Blackmans Flat, Wallerawang, and Portland (Figure 3).

Understanding the demographic and social characteristics of the Lithgow LGA has been central to the development and implementation of the community engagement strategy. Drawing on both Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data and the extensive local knowledge gained through decades of operation and engagement in the region, the approach has been carefully tailored to reflect the unique composition, needs, and strengths of the Lithgow community (Section 4).

The Lithgow LGA is home to 20,810 residents, representing a small, distinctive regional community within NSW. The median age of 46 years is notably higher than the NSW median of 39 years, with 24.5% of residents aged 65 years and over compared to 17.7% across NSW.

This ageing population has deep roots into the community with many being long-term residents (59.5% living at the same address for five years or more)². Many residents also have direct or indirect ties to EnergyAustralia's Mt Piper power station or the three nearby coal mines and are knowledgeable about the energy industry.

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2021, 2021 Census QuickStats: Lithgow (LGA), Australian Bureau of Statistics, viewed November 2025, <https://www.abs.gov.au/census>.

² Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2021, 2021 Census QuickStats: Lithgow (LGA), Australian Bureau of Statistics, viewed November 2025, <https://www.abs.gov.au/census>.

This profile of an older population, with knowledge of the energy sector, informed the design of an engagement approach that prioritises transparency, respect, accessibility, intergenerational inclusion, and age-friendly communication, ensuring older residents can participate fully and comfortably. This has translated to an engagement approach (see Section 4.2) that is primarily face to face driven and then supported by hardcopy materials and reinforced by online engagement options made available through the project website ([Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Energy Storage](#)), YouTube and other social media platforms.

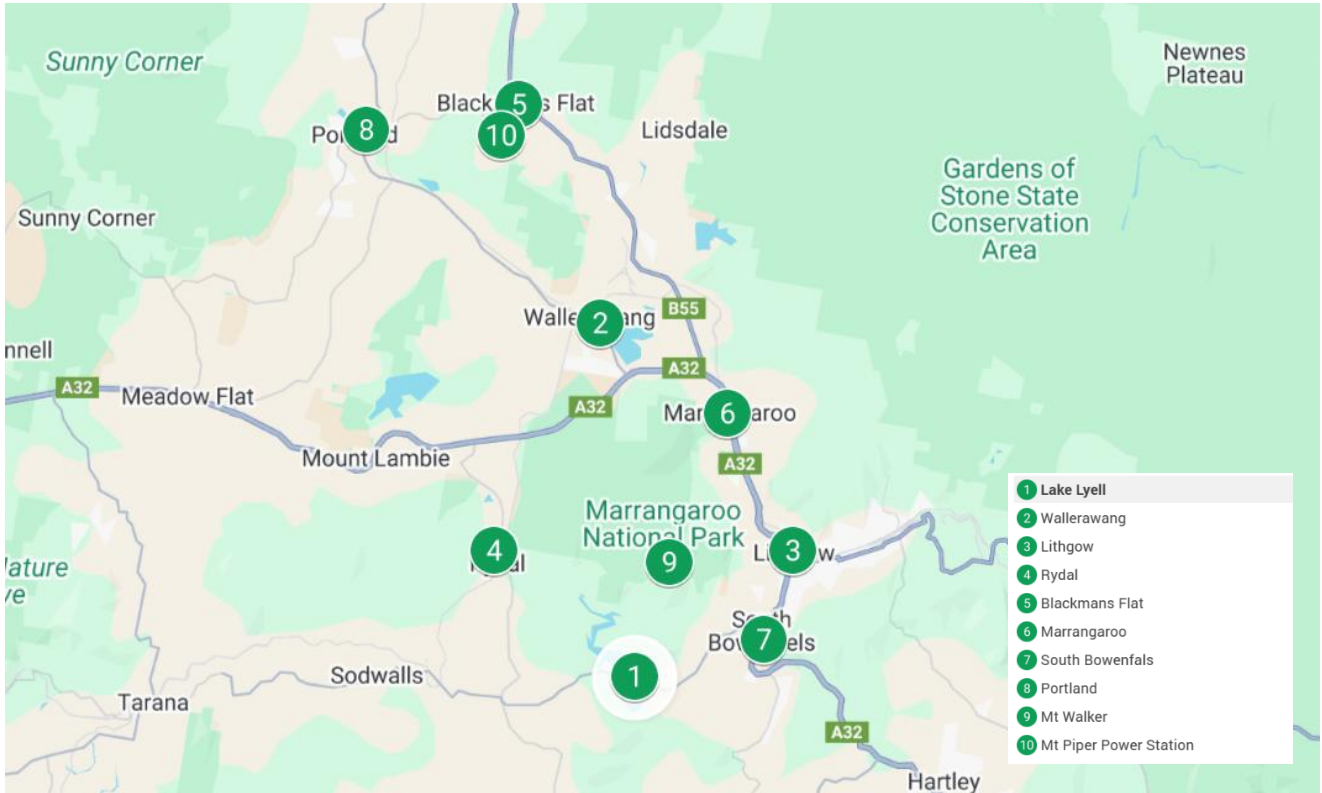


Figure 3 – Map of surrounding areas

4. Engagement and consultation approach

4.1. Objectives

The community and stakeholder engagement approach is guided by four core objectives:

- **Objective 1** - Inform communities and stakeholders about the project, the EIS process, and opportunities to participate
- **Objective 2** - Actively involve communities and stakeholders in the project’s development and planning to improve outcomes
- **Objective 3** - Encourage participation and seek input during preparation of the EIS, to identify issues of potential concern, obtain local insights and gain feedback on measures to address concerns
- **Objective 4** - Demonstrate how community and stakeholder issues and feedback are being captured and used to inform project development and assessment.

These objectives were shared publicly with the community and stakeholders in early 2023 and again through the Scoping Report (EMM, 2023) and will continue to apply until the project is ready to commence construction. Additional engagement objectives will apply during the construction and operation phases and will be outlined in a community and stakeholder engagement plan (CSEP) that will be prepared to support the construction and operation of the project, should the project be approved.

4.2. Consultation phases

The project follows a six-phase engagement approach from feasibility through to operations. This ECR focuses on Phase 1 (early engagement and awareness) and Phase 2 (planning and assessment). It also outlines the scope of Phase 3 (EIS exhibition), Phase 4 (construction readiness), Phase 5 (construction) and Phase 6 (operations). These later phases, particularly Phase 5 and Phase 6, will be guided by additional objectives to be detailed in a CSEP that will be prepared at a later stage, should the project be approved. A summary of each phase is provided in Table 2.

Table 2 – Engagement phases

Phase	Focus
Phase 1 2021-2022 (complete) Early engagement and awareness	Focused on early engagement and awareness-building to support the geotechnical investigations (part of a separate approval), feasibility studies and EIS scoping, this phase is centred on helping the community understand the project’s purpose, its early technical investigations, and the key issues being explored. It provided space for initial questions, local knowledge, and early insights on topics such as water levels, biodiversity, recreation, construction impacts and land access—laying the groundwork for deeper engagement as the studies progressed.
Phase 2 2023-2025 (complete) Planning and assessment	Preparing the EIS and undertaking detailed impact assessments, this phase explored key topics such as environmental values, cultural heritage, social considerations, water management, traffic, noise, visual and construction impacts. It also included targeted engagement with neighbours adjacent to the project to understand place-based concerns and local conditions. Consultation centred on gathering local insights, testing assumptions within the technical studies, and discussing how potential impacts could be avoided, minimised or managed. This period deepened understanding of the assessment themes and provided a structured way to explore the project’s evolving design, mitigation options and areas of concern.

Phase	Focus
Phase 3 2026 (underway) EIS exhibition	<p>Focused on the formal EIS exhibition and submission process, this phase centres on helping the community understand the assessment findings, the project’s potential impacts, and the proposed mitigation measures.</p> <p>It supports informed participation by clearly explaining key EIS topics and how earlier community and stakeholder feedback has shaped project design, safeguards and commitments.</p>
Phase 4 2026-2027 Construction readiness	<p>As the project moves toward construction, this phase focuses on preparing for workforce and supply chain readiness and working with the community to shape the Phase 5 Construction Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan.</p> <p>Engagement centres on understanding local expectations around jobs, contractor opportunities, establishing workforce behaviour and how these considerations should be reflected in the final construction engagement approach.</p>
Phase 5 2027–2031 (Initial scope) Construction	<p>The construction engagement approach is expected to include clear and timely communications about construction activities, including regular updates, forward notifications and real-time alerts for high-impact works.</p> <p>Engagement with neighbours is anticipated to remain a priority, with one-on-one discussions and tailored mitigation planning forming part of the approach.</p> <p>The scope will also likely cover transparent engagement on construction impacts such as traffic management, noise, vibration, visual, dust and haulage routes, with clear explanations of proposed controls and mitigations.</p> <p>Local and First Nations participation will remain central, including pathways for workforce, procurement and training opportunities and ongoing cultural heritage commitments.</p> <p>An accessible and fair issues-resolution process — including a 24/7 contact line and public reporting on performance — is also expected to be part of the plan. Safety awareness and readiness activities prior to operations may also be incorporated.</p>
Phase 6 2031+ (Initial scope) Operations	<p>The operational-phase engagement approach is expected to include ongoing communication with the community about operations, including regular updates.</p> <p>Long-term neighbour relations will form a core component, with clear protocols for managing operational impacts and responsive pathways for feedback and resolution.</p> <p>Environmental stewardship is anticipated to remain a major focus, supported by transparent reporting on compliance obligations.</p> <p>Sustained community benefit will continue through delivery of the Shared Benefit Program with ongoing governance visibility and reporting.</p> <p>An enduring partnership with First Nations communities is also expected to be central, including long-term cultural heritage management and opportunities for employment, training and procurement.</p> <p>This initial scope will evolve further through collaboration and detailed planning in earlier phases.</p>

5. Stakeholder identification

The project team identified a diverse range of stakeholders including individuals and stakeholders directly affected by the project, as well as people, groups and organisations within the broader community who have local or specialised knowledge and feedback to share. Table 3 provides the stakeholders identified and outlines their likely interest in the project. Note that there are no exploration licence and/or mineral title holders to be consulted.

Table 3 – Stakeholders by category and likely interest

Stakeholder category	Stakeholder	Likely interests
Commonwealth Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner (AEIC) • Commonwealth Treasury • Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Commonwealth DCCEEW) • Regional Development Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding project rationale and benefits. • Impacts and sentiment of constituents. • Community consultation process.
NSW Government NSW Statutory authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPHI • NSW DCCEEW – Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group (CPHR) • NSW DCCEEW - National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) • NSW DCCEEW – Water • NSW DCCEEW – Heritage NSW • Heritage Council of NSW • NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) – Agriculture • NSW DPI – Fisheries • NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) • NSW Crown Lands • Fire and Rescue NSW • NSW Rural Fire Service • NSW Resources • Transport for NSW (TfNSW) • Transgrid • WaterNSW • Dams Safety NSW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding project rationale and benefits. • Impacts and sentiment of constituents. • Community consultation process. • Planning process complies with applicable legislation and requirements. • Involvement in project development and assessment. • Optimal outcomes for environment and community. • Preparation of EIS and conformance with SEARs. • Broader regulatory requirements.

Stakeholder category	Stakeholder	Likely interests
Registered Aboriginal Parties and Traditional Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAPs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Didge Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation – Kamilaroi Yankuntjatjara Working Group – Wingarra Wilay Aboriginal Corporation – North East Wiradjuri Corporation – Konanggo Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services – Girragirra Murun Aboriginal Corporation – Gallangabang Aboriginal Corporation – Booral Maliyan – Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation – Warrabinga Native Title Claimants Aboriginal Corporation – Yurwang Gundana Consultancy Cultural Heritage Services – Thomas Dahlstrom Cultural Heritage Consult – Tim Stubbs – Yulay Cultural Services – Mingaan Aboriginal Corporation – Bathurst Local Aboriginal Land Council – Murrabidgee Mullangari – Wiradyuri Traditional Owners Central West Aboriginal Corporation – Bill Allen – Barrinang – One party registered but did not want to be named in publicly available reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding cultural values of Mount Walker, Lake Lyell and surrounds. • Understanding project rationale and benefits. • Understanding and avoiding/minimising potential adverse impacts. • Water resource use. • Opportunities to provide input to project planning, delivery, and land use. • Development and implementation of cultural heritage management plan for the management of artefacts and areas of significance, if required. • Optimal outcomes for Country including natural environment. • Opportunities for First Peoples businesses and employment.
Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors, executive and officers of Lithgow City Council (Council) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding project rationale and benefits. • Understanding and avoiding/minimising adverse impacts on Council land and assets, local residents, businesses, and the environment. • Opportunities to provide input to project planning and delivery. • Opportunities to regenerate or transition local industries, businesses and the economy. • Community consultation process. • Infrastructure benefiting local communities.

Stakeholder category	Stakeholder	Likely interests
Local community, business and tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EnergyAustralia’s Lithgow Region Community Consultative Committee (CCC) • Mt Piper power station employees • Lithgow Business Association • Lithgow District Chamber of Commerce • Cullen Bullen Progress Association • Concerned Lithgow Community Group (CLCG) • Hartley District Progress Association • Capertee and District Progress Association • Centennial Coal – Springvale Mine • Lake Lyell Community Group Lake Lyell recreational users and businesses • Rydal Village Association • Wallerawang Lidsdale Progress Association • Lithgow Acclimatisation Society • Local residents • Rydal community • Lithgow community • Portland community • Lidsdale community • Wallerawang community • Cullen Bullen community • Accommodation and service providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding project rationale and benefits. • Understanding potential impacts from project in local area. • Ability to provide local knowledge to enhance the project and delivery and to help avoid/minimise impacts. • Opportunities to provide input to the project. • Clear information and updates about the project. • Maximising local benefits from the project. • Opportunities for local businesses and employment.
Energy market operators and regulators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Energy Market Commission • Australian Energy Market Operator • Clean Energy Regulator • Energy Security Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding project scope, capacity and operations. • Grid connection. • Safety. • National Electricity Market operations.
Industry groups, peak bodies and NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean Energy Council • Unions NSW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding project rationale, benefits and impacts. • Opportunities to provide input to project planning and delivery. • Opportunities to regenerate or transition local industries, businesses and the economy. • Opportunities for local businesses and job seekers.

Stakeholder category	Stakeholder	Likely interests
Environmental groups and NGO's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Conservation Council (NSW branch) • Australian Foundation for Wilderness • Lithgow Environment Group Inc • Blue Mountains Conservation Society • Bathurst Community Climate Action Network • Lithgow -Oberon Landcare Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding project rationale, benefits and impacts. • Understanding and avoiding/minimising adverse impacts. • Opportunities to provide input to project planning and delivery.
Education institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local primary and secondary schools • TAFE NSW – Lithgow • NSW Skills Commission • Western Sydney University • Charles Sturt University • University of New South Wales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear information and updates about the project. • Future workforce needs and opportunities.
Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lithgow media (print, TV, radio, online) • NSW and Australian media (print, TV, radio, online) • Specialist media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear information and updates about the project. • Involvement in key milestone media opportunities. • Access to project team for interviews and public comment.

6. Outcomes

This section provides a quantified overview of the engagement activities undertaken in Phase 1 (Engagement and Awareness) and Phase 2 (Planning and Assessment), against each of the objectives (Section 4.1).

Engagement during these phases generated meaningful feedback from Government agencies, Council, neighbours and the broader community, strengthening understanding of the EIS process and creating transparency around project development.

Community and stakeholder insights directly informed key project decisions, including infrastructure siting, environmental and technical study refinements, the Shared Benefit Program (Attachment A Shared Benefit Program), the Neighbour Agreement Guide (Attachment C Neighbour Agreement Guide) and engagement program, and recreation and access improvements.

Figure 4 presents a high-level summary of the engagement undertaken from 2021 to 2025, capturing the breadth of interactions across community members, neighbours, Traditional Owners, local businesses, government agencies and regional stakeholders.

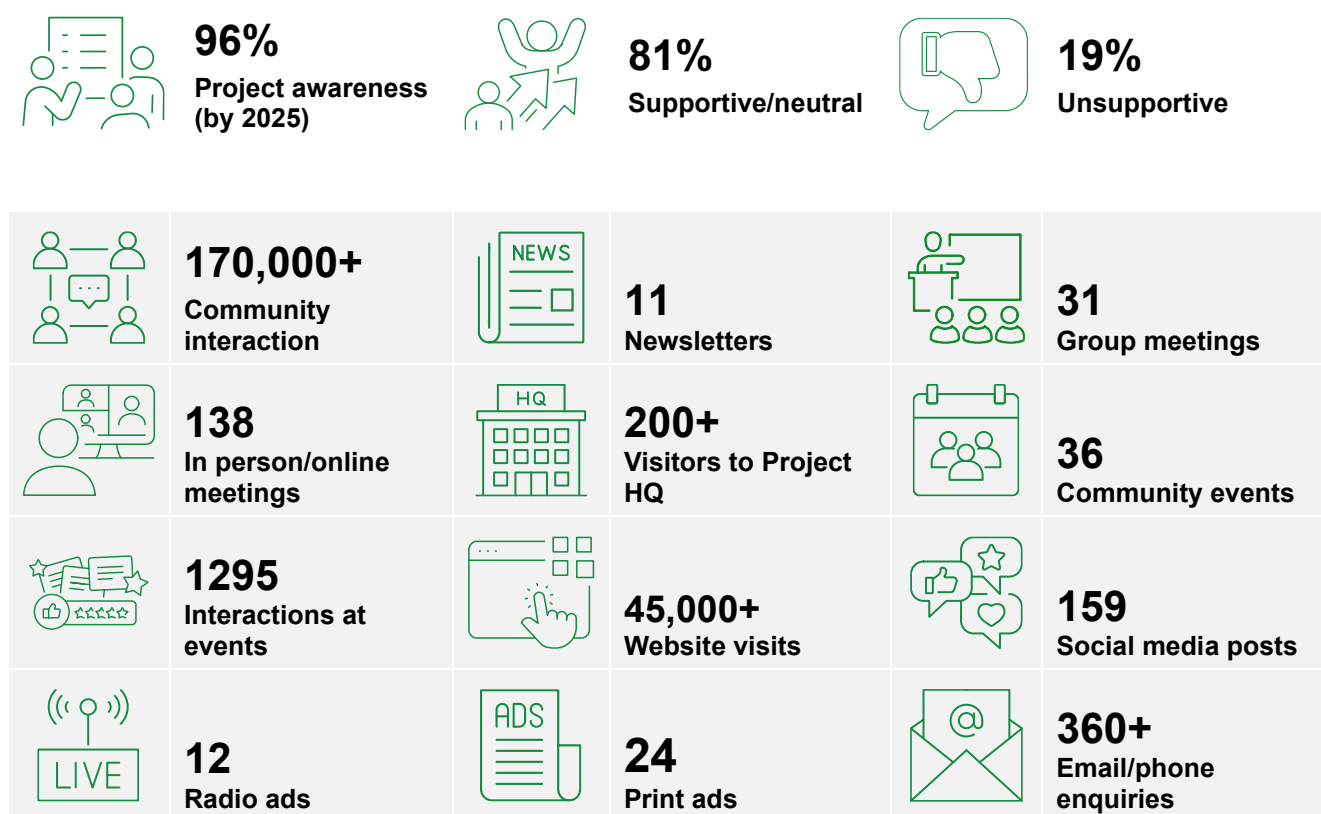


Figure 4 – 2021 to 2025 Phase 1 and 2 – engagement and consultation infographic

6.1. Objective 1 – Inform

Objective: Inform communities and stakeholders about the project, the EIS process, and opportunities to participate.

Activities

- Promotion of engagement opportunities – print and radio advertising, social media posts, community newsletter, media releases/articles.
- Communication tools and materials – website, information sheets, community newsletter, videos, social media content.

Outcome: Build awareness and understanding of the project.

6.1.1. Engagement promotion

Engagement promotion ensured the community knew when and how to participate. Across Phases 1 and 2, we widely advertised activities through local media, social media, the project website, newsletters, direct emails and on-the-ground signage.

Information was provided in clear, accessible formats so people could quickly understand what was happening and how to get involved. This approach helped reach a broad cross-section of the community and ensured neighbours, local groups and stakeholders were aware of upcoming discussions, consultation opportunities and project updates. Table 4 outlines promotion of the engagement opportunities.

Table 4 – Promotion of engagement opportunities

Date	Activity	Details	Indicators
8 June 2021	Print news article	A new face for power in Lithgow’ – Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Dam announced – Lithgow Mercury Page 2	49,000 print and digital monthly audience
19 November 2021	Print news article	‘Pumped hydro meeting planned’ - Lithgow Mercury	49,000 print and digital monthly audience
6 December 2021	Advertising – print & radio	Invitation to Community Town Hall on 8 December through print and local radio	1,500 invited, attendance approximately 180
11 February 2022	Advertising – print & radio	What was heard and discussed at the Community Town Hall meeting on 8 December 2021	1,500 invited, attendance approximately 180
29 July 2022	Print news article	‘DA for boreholes at Lake Lyell approved’ – Lithgow Mercury Page 3	49,000 print and digital monthly audience
9 September 2022	Print news article	‘Grant for pumped hydro study at lake’ – Lithgow Mercury Page 2	49,000 print and digital monthly audience
9 September 2022	Advertising – print & radio	‘EnergyAustralia welcomes funding for Lake Lyell pumped hydro study’ – Lithgow Mercury	49,000 print and digital monthly audience
15 September 2022	Print news article	‘EnergyAustralia welcomes funding for Lake Lyell pumped hydro studies’ – Village Voice	49,000 print and digital monthly audience

Date	Activity	Details	Indicators
30 September 2022	Advertising – print & radio	Promotion of Pop-Up Engagement activities at community venues in Wallerawang, Rydal, Portland and Lithgow in August and September – Lithgow Mercury	49,000 print and digital monthly audience
December 2022	Mailout to all residents	Issue 1 Community Newsletter – standing invitation to contact project team or visit a 2023 pop-up engagement	5,000 reach
10 February 2023	Advertising – print & radio	Promotion of Pop-Up Engagement activities at community venues in Wallerawang, Rydal, Portland and Lithgow in February	N/A
3 May 2023	Social media post	Promotion of Pop-Up Engagement activities at community venues at the Lithgow Business and Lifestyle Expo in Portland	21 likes
19 May 2023	Advertising – print & radio	Lake Lyell pumped hydro project update – Lithgow Mercury page 2	49,000 print and digital monthly audience
26 May 2023	Social media post	Promotion of doorknocking activity in South Bowenfels (Lithgow) seeking input on the project and the upper reservoir	15 likes
May 2023	Mailout to all residents	Issue 2 Community Newsletter – standing invitation to community to visit project website or contact project team	5,000 reach
3 August 2023	Print news article	'EnergyAustralia announces new less visible location for Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Project in response to community feedback' – Village Voice Page 5	N/A
4 August 2023	Print news article	'No big wall' – the project announces changes to the design concept of the proposed pumped hydro – Lithgow Mercury	49,000 print and digital monthly audience
August 2023	Mailout to all residents	Issue 3 Community Newsletter – standing invitation to community to visit project website or contact project team	5,000 reach
24 November 2023	Advertising – print & radio Social media post	Invitation to register for online community webinar and promotion of Pop-Up Engagement in Wallerawang, Rydal, Portland and Lithgow in December	78 likes
29 November 2023	Advertising – print & radio	'Join us for an update on EnergyAustralia's Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Project.' – Blue Mountains Gazette, Lithgow Mercury and Western Advocate	300,000 print and digital monthly audience
1 December 2023	Print news article	'Hydro plan and the platypus' Lithgow Mercury Page 5	N/A
1 December 2023	Advertising – print & radio Social media post	Promotion of the opening of Project HQ at 124 Main Street Lithgow and invitation to community to visit	11 likes
6 December 2023	Social media posts	Release of the concept design and call to register for the online webinar or attend Pop-Up Engagement	18 likes

Date	Activity	Details	Indicators
December 2024	Mailout to all residents	Issue 4 Community Newsletter – standing invitation to visit Project HQ to all residents	9,000 reach
18 January 2024	Social media post	Promotion of Project HQ opening times and invitation to community to visit	16 likes
14 March 2024	Social media post	Promotion of Pop-Up Engagement at the Lithgow Show	17 likes
17 April 2024	Social media post	Promotion of Pop-Up Engagement at the Ironfest (Portland)	4 likes
27 May 2024	Social media post	Invitation to provide feedback on the proposed worker accommodation site through Council	7 likes
April 2024	Mailout to all residents	Issue 5 Community Newsletter – standing invitation to visit Project HQ to all residents	9,000 reach
3 July 2024	Social media post	Promotion of co-design benefit sharing workshops held by invitation only	21 likes
August 2024	Mailout to all residents	Issue 6 Community Newsletter – standing invitation to visit Project HQ to all residents or as a neighbour to meet with the project team and discuss the Neighbour Benefit Guide	9,000 reach
December 2024	Mailout to all residents	Issue 7 Community Newsletter – standing invitation to visit Project HQ to all residents	9,000 reach
March 2025	Mailout to all residents	Issue 8 Community Newsletter – standing invitation to visit Project HQ to all residents or visit a pop-up engagement	9,000 reach
June 2025	Email to all subscribers	Issue 9 Community Newsletter – standing invitation to visit Project HQ and discuss the worker accommodation site	436 reach
August 2025	Mailout to all residents	Issue 10 Community Newsletter – standing invitation to visit Project HQ to all residents	9000 reach
September 2025	Email to all subscribers	Issue 11 Community Newsletter – standing invitation to visit Project HQ to all residents or visit a pop-up engagement	438 reach
October 2025	Advertising – print & radio	Announcing consultation is underway and promotion of pop-up engagement activities	N/A
October 2025	Social media posts x 4	Announcing consultation is underway and promotion of pop-up engagement activities. Also included informational videos	19 Likes
November 2025	Social media posts x 3	Sharing of informational videos encouraging community participation	8 Likes
November 2025	Radio and print advertising	Reminder that consultation is underway and closing soon	N/A

6.1.2. Communication tools and materials

Accessible, transparent and distributed resources have provided key information for the community and stakeholders since 2022. A community newsletter has been distributed three to four times a year as a hardcopy to resident mailboxes, while the website provides media-rich on demand resources such as videos, animations and factsheets.

Communication tools and materials were updated or expanded when new information became available such as the release of the Concept Design in December 2023. Hardcopy materials were also available at pop-up engagement activities, in Project HQ and at briefings and one-on-one meetings. Table 5 details the communication tools and materials which supported engagement and project understanding.

Table 5 – Communication tools and materials used in engagement

Date	Activity	Details	Indicators
December 2022	Mailout to all residents	Issue 1 Community Newsletter – information on the project overview, indicative timings and what has been heard to date	5,000 reach
17 February 2023	Social media post	Dedicated project page launched on Facebook	N/A
February 2023	InfoSheet	InfoSheet1 – State Significant Development Planning Pathway	N/A
February 2023	InfoSheet	InfoSheet 2 – Site Assessments and Environmental Impacts	N/A
February 2023	InfoSheet	InfoSheet 3 – Project outline, location and site access	N/A
February 2023	InfoSheet	InfoSheet 4 – Pumped hydro and the energy transition	N/A
3 March 2023	Social media post	Mingaan Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation delivering cultural awareness training for the project team and sharing ways to work with Traditional Owners to identify and preserve cultural heritage	8 likes
24 March 2023	Social media post	Responses to recent community questions on water quality and feasibility tests	7 likes
3 April 2023	Social media post	Why are we looking at pumped hydro?	6 likes
6 April 2023	Social media post	Responses to recent community questions on lake use during operations	5 likes
17 April 2023	Social media post	Response to recent community interest in status of geotechnical work underway at Mount Walker	6 likes
27 April 2023	Social media post	History of Lake Lyell	7 likes
May 2023	Mailout to all residents	Issue 2 Community Newsletter – indicative timeline for the project and overview of the EIS and approval process, highlight on proposed geotechnical investigations and First Nations engagement and the launch of the project website	5,000 reach
4 May 2023	Social media post	How Lake Lyell operates as a working lake for Mt Piper power station	8 likes

Date	Activity	Details	Indicators
18 May 2023	Social media post	Update on proposed development application to support geotechnical investigations such as drilling of boreholes for ground water monitoring	12 likes
25 May 2023	Website	Dedicated project website launched at: lakelyellpumpedhydro.com.au	N/A
29 May 2023	Media release	The project team submits separate development application to Council to support geotechnical investigations such as drilling of boreholes for ground water monitoring	17 Likes
2 July 2023	Social media post	Announcing intentions to establish Project HQ – a hub for information in Lithgow	17 likes
26 July 2023	Social media post	What is involved in an Environmental Impact Statement?	8 likes
August 2023	Mailout to all residents	Issue 3 Community Newsletter – update on the new location for the upper reservoir and the approach to exploring shared community benefits	5,000 reach
August 2023	Video – YouTube	Lake Lyell pumped hydro upper reservoir moving to a less visible location	670 views
2 August 2023	Social media post	Change to upper reservoir to less visible location	21 likes
3 August 2023	Media release	The project team announces new, less visible location for the project in response to community feedback	21 likes
23 August 2023	Media release	The project team commenced environmental studies	3 likes
1 September 2023	Social media post	Highlighting the benefit sharing workshops underway	9 likes
8 September 2023	Social media post	Beginning of the platypus study and how people will be kept informed for the EIS	14 likes
18 September 2023	Social media post	Outlining field work to be undertaken in September and October for the EIS	8 likes
22 September 2023	Social media post	How pumped hydro and batteries complement each other	3 likes
31 October 2023	Social media post	Field work underway for November	2 likes
10 November 2023	Social media post	Highlighting the ecologist field work underway for the EIS	7 likes
December 2023	Mailout to all residents	Issue 4 Community Newsletter – information on the concept design	9,000 reach
6 December 2023	Media release	The project team releases concept design	N/A
6 December 2023	Social media post	Release of the Concept Design information and images	50 reactions
December 2023	InfoSheet	InfoSheet 5 – Project Concept Design	N/A
13 December 2023	Webinar	Online information session presenting the Concept Design and responding to questions and answers from the community	141 attendees

Date	Activity	Details	Indicators
21 December 2023	Social media post	Wrap up of recent community engagement, link to recording of webinar and question and answers	6 likes
29 December 2023	Social media post	Field work underway in January	13 likes
25 January 2024	Social media post	Who owns Lake Lyell?	17 likes
31 January 2024	Social media post	Future use and investment in Lake Lyell	15 reactions
5 February 2024	Social media post	Profile on technical and environmental studies underway for Aboriginal cultural heritage, platypus monitoring, traffic counts and ecology studies for the EIS	16 likes
14 February 2024	Media release	The project team releases animated tour of the project	18 likes
14 February 2024	Video - YouTube	Animated fly-through of the project	2,896 views
20 February 2024	Social media post	What happens when the sun doesn't shine, and the wind doesn't blow? The role of energy storage projects	3 likes
23 February 2024	Social media post	Field work underway in March	15 likes
8 March 2024	Social media post	Working with Traditional Owners and knowledge holders like Mingaan Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation, Wiradjuri elders and broader Aboriginal community on the Aboriginal cultural heritage study for the EIS	15 likes
26 March 2024	Social media post	Update on the platypus study	23 likes
10 April 2024	Video - YouTube	Platypus study for the EIS	216 views
24 April 2024	Social media post	Field work underway in May for the EIS	6 likes
April 2024	Mailout to all residents	Issue 5 Community Newsletter – focus on technical and environmental studies for the EIS and release of the virtual tour	9,000 reach
2 May 2024	Social media post	Profile on the macroinvertebrate sampling and study for the EIS	7 likes
17 May 2024	Social media post	Profile on the road survey work underway for the EIS	5 likes
27 May 2024	Social media post	Location proposed for the worker accommodation village	8 likes
31 May 2024	Social media post	Field work underway in June for the EIS	9 likes
3 June 2024	Social media post	Highlight the benefits of the project to Lithgow and Australia	5 likes
11 June 2024	Social media post	Profile on the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment with the release of a new fact sheet	9 likes

Date	Activity	Details	Indicators
21 June 2024	Social media post	Profile on the worker accommodation village with release of a new fact sheet and concept image	23 likes
27 June 2024	Media release	Location proposed for the project worker accommodation village	17 likes
June 2024	InfoSheet	InfoSheet 6 – Worker accommodation village	N/A
June 2024	InfoSheet	InfoSheet 7 - Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment	N/A
June 2024	InfoSheet	InfoSheet 8 – Neighbour engagement and support	N/A
3 July 2024	Media release	Project given CSSI status	N/A
15 July 2024	Media release	Project to deliver benefits to Lithgow	N/A
22 July 2024	Social media post	Change to project capacity from 335 megawatts to 440 megawatts	13 likes
24 July 2024	Social media video clip	Community involvement in the platypus study	2,000 views 5 likes 1 share
1 August 2024	Video	Aunty Sharon Riley’s connection to Country	114 views
5 August 2024	Social media video clip	Interview with Aunty Sharon Riley on her involvement in project	2,200 views 8 likes 5 shares
August 2024	Mailout to all residents	Issue 6 Community Newsletter – information on community benefit sharing workshops, the projects increased capacity and plans to support neighbours	9,000 reach
17 September 2024	Social media video clip	Project Director addressing common questions – ‘Have Aboriginal artefacts been found and what’s happening with them?’	4,800 views 9 likes 4 shares
23 September 2024	Social media video clip	Project Director addressing common questions – ‘Is the project efficient?’ and ‘Will it produce enough energy?’	2,800 views 8 likes 2 shares
30 September 2024	Social media video clip	Project Director addressing common questions – ‘What are the steps the project needs to take to get approval?’	685 views 3 likes 1 share
7 October 2024	Social media video clip	Project Director provides an update on the EIS and the technical studies	1,100 views 2 likes 1 share
13 October 2024	Social media video clip	Project Director addressing common questions – ‘Why do we need pumped hydro?’	1,300 views 16 likes 4 shares
21 October 2024	Social media video clip	Project Director addressing common questions – ‘Why Lake Lyell for a pumped hydro?’	689 views 8 likes 1 share
29 October 2024	Social media video clip	Project Director outlines how Lake Lyell will still be available for recreational use	909 views 8 likes 2 shares

Date	Activity	Details	Indicators
4 November 2024	Social media video clip	Project Director outlines how residents and businesses neighbouring Lake Lyell are being engaged	1,100 views 4 likes 2 shares
11 November 2024	Social media video clip	Project Director addressing common questions – will there be jobs for locals during the project’s construction?’	3,400 views 6 likes 7 shares
18 November 2024	Social media video clip	Project Director addressing common questions – ‘will the water level at Lake Lyell change?’ and ‘What happens during drought?’	2,100 views 7 likes 8 shares
December 2024	Mailout to all residents	Issue 7 Community Newsletter – information on key project milestones and addressing misconceptions raised through recent community consultation	9,000 reach
14 January 2025	Social media post	Ecological studies underway around the Lake Lyell foreshore and Magpie Hollow Road	6 likes
24 February 2025	Social media post	Specialist technical studies undertaken	6 likes
March 2025	Mailout to all residents	Issue 8 Community Newsletter – information on Shared Benefit Program, key project milestones and addressing misconceptions	9,000 reach
4 March 2025	Social media post	Share your ideas for the Shared Benefit Program	1 like
7 March 2025	Social media post	Community newsletter out	N/A
18 March 2025	Social media post	2025 Lithgow Show pop-up engagement	27 likes
1 April 2025	Social media post	Share your ideas and feedback	1 like
2 April 2025	Social media post	Updated neighbour agreement guide	N/A
4 April 2025	Social media post	Artefacts returned to Country	10 likes
15 April 2025	Social media post	Have Your Say: Worker Accommodation for Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Project	12 likes
May 2025	Mailout to near neighbours	Neighbour agreement and guide sent to near neighbours	36 reach
June 2025	Email to all subscribers	Issue 9 Community Newsletter – information on neighbour agreements, Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment, worker accommodation village and addressing misconceptions	436 reach
19 June 2025	Social media post	Announcement of EnergyAustralia and EDFA partnership and release of official statement	26 likes
25 July 2025	Social media post	Community Consultative Committee minutes out now	3 likes
July 2025	Mailout to near neighbours	Stage 1 neighbour agreement and stage 1 readiness and resilience neighbour agreement sent to near neighbours	50+ properties

Date	Activity	Details	Indicators
August 2025	Mailout to all residents	Issue 10 Community Newsletter – information on partnership between EnergyAustralia and EDFA, neighbour agreements, updated website and addressing misconceptions	9,000 reach
1 August 2025	Social media post	Updated SEARs released	10 likes
1 August 2025	Social media post	Door knocking in Pottery Estate and around Lake Lyell	6 likes
7 August 2025	Social media post	The latest edition of our community newsletter is out now	8 likes
16 August 2025	Social media post	What is a neighbour agreement?	2 likes
8 September 2025	Social media post	EDF power solutions Australia and EnergyAustralia on site at Lake Lyell	9 likes
September 2025	Email to all subscribers	Issue 11 Community Newsletter – information on Have Your Say period, what we’ve heard summaries and addressing misconceptions	438 reach
October 2025	InfoSheet	InfoSheet 9 - Pumped Hydro Energy Storage	N/A
October 2025	InfoSheet	InfoSheet 10 - What is an Environmental Impact Statement	N/A
October 2025	InfoSheet	InfoSheet 11 - How community input has informed the project to date	N/A
17 October 2025	Social media video clip	How Your Feedback is Shaping the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Project	1,600views 7 likes 3 shares
23 October 2025	Social media post	Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Project Engagements This Week	6 likes
October 2025	InfoSheet	InfoSheet 12 – Biodiversity impacts	N/A
25 October 2025	Social media post	What is an environmental offset	4 likes
October 2025	InfoSheet	InfoSheet 13 - Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment	N/A
October 2025	InfoSheet	InfoSheet 14 - Economic impacts	N/A
26 October 2025	Social media video clip	Economic benefits of the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Project	1,700 views 3 likes 2 shares
October 2025	InfoSheet	InfoSheet 15 - Worker accommodation	N/A
November 2025	InfoSheet	InfoSheet 16 – Traffic	N/A
November 2025	InfoSheet	InfoSheet 17 – Construction methodology	N/A
November 2025	InfoSheet	InfoSheet 18 – Air, noise and vibration	N/A

6.2. Objective 2 – Actively involve

Objective: Actively involve communities and stakeholders in the project’s development and planning to improve outcomes.

Activities

- Online engagement – social media interactions, virtual information sessions, email contact point.
- In person engagement – one-on-one discussions, pop-up engagement, open house via Project HQ.
- Near neighbour engagement – one-on-one discussions, door knocks, mailouts and participation invitations.
- Targeted engagement – formal meetings, briefings and information sessions.

Outcome: Provide information about the EIS process and encourage participation.

6.2.1. Online engagement

Establishing a dedicated Facebook page for the project enabled real-time community wide outreach and interactive dialogue. Social media engagement increased from 2023 to 2025 and more than 85 posts provided information project updates, forecasts on EIS field work and clarification on key matters of interest. Table 5 – includes a summary of the different online engagement activities.

6.2.2. In-person engagement

There were multiple ways the community could engage in-person with the project, ranging from townhall and webinar sessions, to pop-up engagements in community venues or at local community events, as well as a dedicated engagement space in Project HQ (Figure 5) that maintained and increased project awareness through its presence in the centre of Lithgow. Engagement events were often timed with the release of new project information. In-person engagement activities and events provided high visibility of the project and often led to a spike in social media or website traffic.

Table 6 provides an overview of the in-person engagement opportunities.

Table 6 – In person engagement activities

Date	Activity	Details	Indicators
8 December 2021	Town hall	Community information session to provide initial project information, respond to questions and understand views of the community	150 attendees
August / September 2022	Pop-up engagement	4 x drop-in information sessions at Wallerawang Public Library, Foundations in Portland, Hoskins Memorial Hall in Lithgow	12 interactions
20-22 February 2023	Pop-up engagement	3 x drop-in information sessions at Wallerawang Public Library, Foundations in Portland, Hoskins Memorial Hall in Lithgow	22 interactions
5 October 2022	Pop-up engagement	Information stand at the community event: Rydal Showground	23 interactions
7 May 2023	Pop-up engagement	Information stand at community event: Lithgow Business and Lifestyle Expo, Foundations in Portland	100 interactions

Date	Activity	Details	Indicators
2 June 2023	Door knock	Project team door knocks residents who may experience a visual impact (from initial design prior to relocation of the upper reservoir) to answer questions, receive input and understand views	250 properties
12-13 December 2023	Pop-up engagement	3 x drop-in information sessions at Wallerawang Public Library, Foundations in Portland, Project HQ -Lithgow	10 interactions
December 2023	Project HQ – Open House	Accessing hardcopy factsheets, videos and discussing the project with the Community Liaison Officer or project staff	13 interactions
January 2024	Project HQ – Open House	Accessing hardcopy factsheets, videos and discussing the project with the Community Liaison Officer or project staff	38 interactions
February 2024	Project HQ – Open House	Accessing hardcopy factsheets, videos and discussing the project with the Community Liaison Officer or project staff	11 interactions
16 March 2024	Pop-up engagement	Information stand at the community event: Lithgow Show	50 interactions
March 2024	Project HQ – Open House	Accessing hardcopy factsheets, videos and discussing the project with the Community Liaison Officer or project staff	10 interactions
27 April 2024	Pop-up engagement	Information stand at community event: Ironfest, Foundations in Portland	51 interactions
April 2024	Project HQ – Open House	Accessing hardcopy factsheets, videos and discussing the project with the Community Liaison Officer or project staff	10 interactions
May 2024	Project HQ – Open House	Accessing hardcopy factsheets, videos and discussing the project with the Community Liaison Officer or project staff	24 interactions
June 2024	Project HQ – Open House	Accessing hardcopy factsheets, videos and discussing the project with the Community Liaison Officer or project staff	6 interactions
July 2024	Project HQ – Open House	Accessing hardcopy factsheets, videos and discussing the project with the Community Liaison Officer or project staff	11 interactions
August 2024	Project HQ – Open House	Accessing hardcopy factsheets, videos and discussing the project with the Community Liaison Officer or project staff	10 interactions
September 2024	Project HQ – Open House	Accessing hardcopy factsheets, videos and discussing the project with the Community Liaison Officer or project staff	3 interactions
October 2024	Project HQ – Open House	Accessing hardcopy factsheets, videos and discussing the project with the Community Liaison Officer or project staff	6 interactions
November 2024	Project HQ – Open House	Accessing hardcopy factsheets, videos and discussing the project with the Community Liaison Officer or project staff	3 interactions
December 2024	Project HQ – Open House	Accessing hardcopy factsheets, videos and discussing the project with the Community Liaison Officer or project staff	2 interactions

Date	Activity	Details	Indicators
January 2025	Project HQ – Open House	Accessing hardcopy factsheets, videos and discussing the project with the Community Liaison Officer or project staff	3 interactions
8 February 2025	Pop-up engagement	Information stand at the community event: Rydal Show	80 interactions
15 February 2025	Pop-up engagement	Information stand at the community event: HubFest	22 interactions
14-15 March 2025	Pop-up engagement	Information stand at the community event: Lithgow Show	150 interactions
1 October 2025	Pop-up engagement	Information stand at the community event: Portland Family Fun Day	20+ interactions
17 October 2025	Pop-up engagement	Drop-in information session at Wallerawang Bowling Club	7 interactions
18 October 2025	Project HQ – Open House	Accessing hardcopy factsheets, videos and discussing the project with the Community Liaison Officer or project staff	4 interactions
19 October 2025	Pop-up engagement	Information stand at the community event: Gone Fishing Day, Wallerawang	11 interactions
24 October 2025	Pop-up engagement	Drop-in information session at Lithgow Valley Plaza	63 interactions
25 October 2025	Project HQ – Open House	Accessing hardcopy factsheets, videos and discussing the project with the Community Liaison Officer or project staff	4 interactions
25 October 2025	Pop-up engagement	Information stand at the community event: Lithgow Halloween Street Party	85 interactions
26 October 2025	Pop-up engagement	Information stand at the community event: Queen Elizabeth Park Markets	21 interactions
27 October 2025	Pop-up engagement	Drop-in information session at Lithgow Library	3 interactions
1 November 2025	Project HQ – Open House	Accessing hardcopy factsheets, videos and discussing the project with the Community Liaison Officer or project staff	1 interaction
6 November 2025	Pop-up engagement	Information stand at the community event: Gang Gang Farmers Market	26 interactions



Figure 5 – Project HQ provides an open house environment for in person engagement (2025)

6.2.3. Targeted engagement – near neighbours

Near neighbours are landowners and businesses that have been assessed as likely to experience an impact from the design and construction of the project. The neighbour engagement approach is outlined in Attachment C Neighbour Agreement Guide. The project team proactively undertook one-on-one discussions to identify how the project may impact upon individual properties and people. The insights were critical to understanding the impacts of the project and developing ways to address the impacts together. Regular invitations were issued for near neighbours to participate and through this approach, the project team will tailor voluntary neighbour benefit agreements that are meaningful, relevant and fair. Table 7 outlines activities undertaken to identify and engage with neighbours.

Table 7 – Near neighbour engagement activities

Date	Activity	Details	Indicators
June 2023	Door knock	Project team door knocks residents who may experience visual impacts (from initial design prior to relocation of the upper reservoir) to answer questions, receive input and understand views	250 properties
September 2023	Letterbox drop	Targeted invitation to owners to meet one-on-one where their properties have a potentially visual impact	35 properties
September 2023	One-on-one meeting	In person and at property meetings with owners of neighbouring properties to understand individual circumstances and potential impacts	8 meetings
October 2023	Letterbox drop	Where no contact had been received, follow up invitation to owners to meet one-on-one where their properties have a potentially high visual impact	16 properties
October 2023	One-on-one meeting	In person and at property meetings with owners of neighbouring properties to understand individual circumstances and impacts	4 meetings
October 2023	Meeting record letters	Individual letters addressed to participating neighbours providing a record of the one-on-one discussions	12 letters
December 2023	Mailout - addressed letters	Invitation to participate in one-on-one meetings to discuss potential impacts and mitigations and inform development of an agreement program	48 letters
December 2023	One-on-one meeting	In-person and at property meetings with owners of neighbouring properties to discuss impacts and potential mitigations	7 meetings
January 2024	Meeting record letters	Individual letters addressed to participating neighbours providing a record of the one-on-one discussions	7 meetings
January 2024	Mailout - addressed letters	Where no contact had been received, follow up targeted invitation addressed directly to owners to meet one-on-one and discuss impacts and potential mitigations	48 letters
January 2024	One-on-one meeting	Over phone meeting with owner of neighbouring property to discuss impacts and potential mitigations	1 meeting
February 2024	Meeting record letters	Individual letters addressed to participating neighbours to provide a record of the one-on-one discussions	14 letters
February 2024	Mailout - addressed letters	Where no contact had been received, follow up targeted invitation addressed directly to owners to meet one-on-one and discuss impacts and potential mitigations	48 letters
February 2024	One-on-one meeting	Over phone meetings with owners of neighbouring properties to discuss impacts and potential mitigations	13 meetings
March to April 2024	Information Guide	Draft neighbour agreement process developed	N/A

Date	Activity	Details	Indicators
May 2024	One-on-one meeting	Over phone meeting with an owner of a neighbouring property to discuss impacts, mitigations and neighbour agreement process.	1 meeting
June 2024	Fact sheet	Factsheet 8 – Neighbour engagement and support	N/A
June 2024	Mailout – Neighbour Benefit Guide via addressed letters	Mailout with a copy of the Neighbour Benefit Guide developed through consultation with neighbours and an invitation to meet one-on-one to discuss individual property impacts, tailored mitigations and the proposed neighbour agreement process	48 letters
June 2024	Meeting record letter	Individual letter addressed to participating neighbour to provide a record of the one-on-one discussions	1 letter
July 2024	One-on-one meeting	Over phone meetings with owners of neighbouring properties to discuss impacts and potential mitigations	2 meetings
July 2024	Meeting record letter	Individual letters addressed to participating neighbours providing a record of the one-on-one discussions	2 letters
August 2024	One-on-one meeting	In person and at property meetings with owners of neighbour property to discuss impacts and potential mitigations	2 meetings
August 2024	Meeting record letter	Individual letters addressed to participating neighbours providing a record of the one-on-one discussions	2 meetings
October 2024	One-on-one meeting	In person at Project HQ and/or at property meetings with owners of neighbouring properties to discuss impacts and potential mitigations	4 meetings
October 2024	Meeting record letter	Individual letters addressed to participating neighbours providing a record of the one-on-one discussions	4 letters
October 2024	Meeting record corrections	Participating neighbours are invited to seek amendments to the record of meeting	2 amendments
December 2024	One-on-one meeting	In person meeting with owner of neighbouring property to discuss impacts and potential mitigations	1 meeting
December 2024	Meeting record letter	Individual letters addressed to participating neighbours providing a record of the one-on-one discussions	1 letter
December 2024	Mailout - addressed letters	A targeted addressed letter summarising what has been heard since 2023 through neighbour discussions provided to all neighbours engaged or with potential impacts	50+ letters
February 2025	Petition letter received and response	CLCG presents a petition from neighbours to the project through the CCC. Project responded to the CLCG and directly to each signatory of the petition where details were known	N/A
March 2025	One-on-one meeting	In person meeting with owner of neighbouring property to discuss impacts and potential mitigations	1 meeting

Date	Activity	Details	Indicators
March 2025	Mailout – updated Guide via addressed letters	A targeted addressed letter with the updated Neighbour Agreement Guide (name changed from Neighbour Benefit Guide) following feedback from neighbours	50+ letters
July 2025	Mailout - addressed letters	A targeted addressed letter introducing the project partnership and providing information on the Stage 1 neighbour agreements	40+ letters
July to August 2025	Door knock	One on one engagements with neighbours adjacent to the alternative worker accommodation site in Pottery Estate	17 properties engaged
July to August 2025	Door knock and mailout	Additional door knock along Magpie Hollow Road, Rydal and a letterbox drop of the Stage 1 neighbour agreements	18 properties engaged

6.2.4. Targeted engagement – First Nations

Consultation with First Nations people is detailed in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) (EIS Attachment L) and has been undertaken in alignment with NSW guidelines, covering notifications, invitations to participate, field survey involvement, knowledge sharing and opportunities to comment on heritage investigations and findings.

The RAPs, identified in Section 5 include local Wiradjuri Aboriginal organisations and/or individuals based in Lithgow, Mudgee, Wellington, Bathurst and/or immediate surrounds, as well as a smaller proportion that are based in the wider region and have interest in cultural heritage management. The project has also registered any Aboriginal organisation and/or individual when they have become known or identified their interest at any time.

The project is committed to acknowledging connections to Country, supporting cultural understanding, and creating meaningful opportunities for First Nations involvement as the project progresses. While community engagement activities are inclusive and open to the whole community, formal and targeted consultation with First Nations has occurred through the RAPs, culminating in more than 400 interactions across multiple opportunities.

In addition to the formal consultation, in early 2023, the project team undertook two days of on-Country cultural awareness training delivered by an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation, strengthening understanding of local history, cultural values and respectful approaches to working with Traditional Owners to identify and protect cultural heritage.

A Wiradjuri Traditional Owner and RAP contributed to the platypus (Biladurang) study at Farmers Creek (refer Section 6.3), sharing cultural knowledge—including the significance of Biladurang in Wiradjuri dreaming—and providing on-Country insights that strengthened the environmental assessment. The dreaming story was also shared with the community through a video that has been widely viewed.

Wiradjuri Traditional Owners were also actively involved in shaping the project’s Shared Benefit Program (refer Section 6.3 and Attachment A Shared Benefit Program), helping identify opportunities to fund and support initiatives that strengthen Wiradjuri cultural understanding and caring for Country.

EnergyAustralia also engages with First Nations representatives through participation in the CCC providing an ongoing forum for cultural awareness, project updates, discussion and two-way dialogue.

6.2.5. Targeted engagement – Lithgow City Council

Council have been engaging with the project team since 2021 and as a member of the Community Consultative Committee (CCC). A wide range of presentations, briefings, site tours and workshops have underpinned sustained and continuous engagement with the Council Executive and Councillors. At times throughout the project, engagement has been necessitated by planning regulations as the project team sought separate development applications to undertake geotechnical and feasibility studies. As a significant project for the community, there have been several debates and motions during Council meetings. Section 6.3.1 details how the interactions with Council and feedback have contributed to the project’s development. Table 8 outlines interactions with Council and observations from public Council meetings where the project has been discussed.

Table 8 – Council engagement activities

Date	Activity	Details	Indicators
15 June 2022	Meeting	The project team participates in the Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan (LEEP) development	N/A
23 May 2022	Council meeting	Development application for geotechnical studies lodged	N/A
29 June 2022	Workshop	The project team participates in the LEEP development	N/A
25 July 2022	Council meeting	Debate on development application for geotechnical works	5 favour 4 against
15 August 2022	Council meeting	Development consent granted to application for geotechnical investigation works	
22 August 2022	Council meeting	Debate on Geotechnical Investigation Works, Lake Lyell of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 25 July 2022 be rescinded	4 favour 5 against
27 February 2023	Council meeting	Discussion on geotechnical report findings	N/A
27 March 2023	Council meeting	Discussion regarding the development application modification for geotechnical investigation works	N/A
24 April 2023	Council meeting	Discussion on inclusion in LEEP and direct engagement with stakeholders	N/A
22 May 2023	Council meeting	Discussion regarding geotechnical studies which included borehole drilling and pit excavation	N/A
24 July 2023	Council meeting	Presentation on modification to the development application for geotechnical works	6 favour 3 against
24 July 2023	Council meeting	Modification to development consent for geotechnical investigation works approved by Council	
27 May 2024	Council meeting	Presentation on proposed lakeside worker accommodation village on lot leased by EnergyAustralia to Council	N/A
24 June 2024	Council meeting	Debate on proposed lakeside worker accommodation village on lot owned by EnergyAustralia and leased to Council. Debate deferred to an extraordinary meeting in July	5 favour 4 against

Date	Activity	Details	Indicators
8 July 2024	Council meeting	Debate on the proposed lakeside worker accommodation village on a lot owned by EnergyAustralia and leased to Council	6 favour 3 against
28 October 2024	Council meeting	Incoming elected Council votes against the project	1 favour 8 against
6 November 2024	Officer briefing	Meeting with General Manager and Director, People and Places, to discuss Councilor briefing and vote against pumped hydro	N/A
20 November 2024	Councilor briefing	Presentation on EnergyAustralia operations, contribution and project activities to incoming Council	N/A
28 January 2025	Council meeting	Motion and debate on a Council position to oppose the project	6 favour 3 against
24 February 2025	Council meeting	Response letter from the project team to 24 February 2025 Council meeting and the passed motion to oppose the project is tabled	N/A
20 March 2025	Council meeting	The project team meets with Council administrators to discuss alternative worker accommodation on a Council owned site	N/A
3 April 2025	Officer briefing	Regular discussion with Council administration on various aspects of the project where Council functions interface	N/A
21 May 2025	Councilor briefing	Worker accommodation – specifically an overview of the alternative Town Camp site option	N/A
2 September 2025	Officer briefing	Regular discussion with Council administration on various aspects of the project where Council functions interface	N/A
25 September 2025	Site tour	Councilors and administrators invited to tour the project site with Project Director	N/A
1 October 2025	Officer briefing	Consultation with roads and traffic area on project road design	N/A
8 October 2025	Officer briefing	Regular discussion with Council administration on various aspects of the project where Council functions interface	N/A
4 November 2025	Officer briefing	Regular discussion with Council administration on various aspects of the project where Council functions interface	N/A
17 November 2025	Councilor briefing	Project presented to Councilors with topics discussed including environment, water and recreation, roads and traffic, economic impact	N/A
1 December 2025	Council meeting	Project addressed the floor during the regular public forum to outline the recent targeted consultation activities undertaken and reiterate the importance of the project to the community	N/A

6.3. Objective 3 – Encourage participation and input

Objective: Encourage participation and seek input during preparation of the EIS, to identify issue of potential concern, obtain local insights and gain feedback on measures to address concerns.

Activities

- Community Consultative Committee.
- Co-design a Shared Benefit Program (the Program).
- Facilitating involvement in technical and environmental studies.
- Always open input channels.

Outcome: Continue to promote the EIS process and formal consultation opportunities.

6.3.1. Community Consultative Committee

A key consultative activity in operation since 2018 is the CCC. The CCC meets at least three times per year to consider and provide feedback on a wide range of matters in the region, not only this project, regarding operations, rehabilitation and the energy transition. An extraordinary meeting focused on the project was held on 29 September 2025.

Membership includes, but is not limited to, a representative of the CLCG, the Lithgow Environment Group, Council and EnergyAustralia. In total, there are 11 members of the CCC representing a broad range of organisations and interests.

This existing and independently chaired CCC operates in accordance with DPHI *Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Projects (2023)*. Table 9 outlines when matters related to the project have been discussed or presented to the CCC.

Table 9 – CCC engagement activities

Date	Activity	Details	Indicators
December 2021	CCC meeting	Overview of the project and upcoming community information session.	11/11 attendees
March 2022	CCC meeting	Outcomes of December 2021 community meeting and an overview feasibility study to inform the Scoping Report for the project.	11/11 attendees
July 2022	CCC meeting	Presentation on status of project and feasibility studies and development applications for geotechnical studies; highlighting planned community engagement activities. Responses to questions from members.	10/11 attendees
December 2022	CCC meeting	Presentation on geotechnical studies which commenced in September 2022; discussing upcoming survey of lake users over the summer and development of EIS Scoping Report, developing benefit sharing approach and outlining the EIS approval process. Responses to questions from members.	11/11 attendees
April 2023	CCC meeting	Outline of how pumped hydro work, status of geotechnical studies, investigation of alleged cloudy water in Farmers Creek. Responses to questions from members.	8/11 attendees
July 2023	CCC meeting	Update on geotechnical studies and an overview of the Scoping Report for the project; outline of engagement activities including doorknocks, new website materials. Responses to questions from	9/11 attendees

Date	Activity	Details	Indicators
		members about the EIS process and what studies are included.	
December 2023	CCC meeting	Presentation on the revised concept design and an outline of the EIS approval process including visual imagery of the project and initial discussion on suitable sites for the worker accommodation village. Responses to questions from members.	10/11 attendees
February 2024	CCC meeting	Responses to questions on notice including cost estimate for the project; general question on the community consultation approach and opportunities to provide feedback; visual impact analysis.	10/11 attendees
June 2024	CCC meeting	Highlighting the upcoming workshops on benefit sharing; update on the field work supporting the EIS; and discussion on the worker accommodation village.	9/11 attendees
August 2024	CCC meeting	Status of the EIS studies; participation rates in the community benefit workshops; neighbour engagement.	10/11 attendees
November 2024	CCC meeting	Responses to questions on notice including discussion on where artefacts uncovered through the ACHA should be stored and the approach taken in accordance with Heritage NSW protocols.	10/11 attendees
February 2025	CCC meeting	Responses to questions on notice including changes to SEARs due to the project being declared as CSSI. Provided an update on the community benefits scheme. Responses to questions from members.	10/11 attendees
February 2025	CCC meeting	Complaint from a member to DPHI regarding the level of information provided on the project. Independent Chair of the CCC provided response to DPHI on 27 February 2025, in which DPHI confirmed was to their satisfaction..	N/A
May 2025	CCC meeting	Provided an update on the EIS and forthcoming engagement. Responses to questions from members.	9/11 attendees
August 2025	CCC meeting	Update provided on the EIS, amended SEARs and proposed program of consultation. Responses to questions from members.	9/11 attendees
September 2025	Extraordinary CCC meeting	Dedicated to the project - sharing insights from the draft EIS reports and studies.	6/11 attendees

6.3.2. Shared Benefit Program

The project has co-designed with the community a Shared Benefit Program (the Program) - a long-term commitment to the Lithgow community that will operate over the early life of the project. The Program has been designed to provide sustained and substantial funding for critical community needs and locally driven initiatives. It will help ensure that Lithgow continues to thrive as a proud energy community, even as the way energy is generated continues to evolve.

The Program has been developed in collaboration with the NSW Government and Council and has been informed by the Lithgow Emerging Economy Plan (LEEP) (2023-24) and ongoing engagement with community (2021-25), one-on-one discussions with key stakeholders (2023-25) and targeted co-design workshops (2024).

An overview of the Program co-design is available at Attachment A Shared Benefit Program. Table 10 outlines how the Program was developed with the community and stakeholders through a series of workshops.

Table 10 – Shared Benefit Program development activities

Date	Activity	Details	Indicators
2022–2024	Multiple workshops	EnergyAustralia collaborates with the NSW Government and Council and other stakeholders to develop the LEEP to manage the energy transition to become a modern, diverse economy with new job opportunities. The LEEP informs and aligns to the Program which supports the realisation of the community ambitions and opportunities within the LEEP.	50 participants in total
February 2024	One-on-one discussions	RAPs and Wiradjuri Traditional Owners have been actively involved in shaping the Program, helping identify opportunities to fund and support initiatives that strengthen Wiradjuri cultural understanding and caring for Country.	21 invites 16 participants
1 July 2024	Co-design workshop 1	Independently facilitated - Skills, Training, Services and Infrastructure focus to develop priority and implementable opportunities.	50 invites 28 participants
16 August 2024	Co-design workshop 2	Independently facilitated – Tourism, Recreation, Heritage and Environment focus to develop priority and implementable opportunities.	50 invites 25 participants
28 September 2024	Co-design workshop 3	Independently facilitated – Tourism, Recreation, Heritage and Environment focus to develop priority and implementable opportunities.	50 invites 24 participants
20 February 2025	Draft report released	Draft Shared Benefit Program – co-design report released to all workshop participants and the public with request for feedback and additional ideas or initiatives that could also be included.	1,000 reach 50 participants
May 2025	What we heard report	Feedback received on the Program is noted in a 'What we heard report' and action taken to finalise the Program.	20 pieces of unique feedback
September – December 2025	Targeted engagement	Feedback through a pop-up engagement program developed a Lake Lyell map of potential recreational upgrades which informed a key part of the Program initiatives.	125 pieces of feedback

6.3.3. EIS preparation

EIS technical and environmental studies were enriched by valuable local knowledge and cultural perspectives where the local community, non-government organisations, RAPs and Traditional Owners worked collaboratively and in the field with technical experts, or through consideration independent assessments. Participation was sustained over many in-field and follow up sessions.

Table 11 outlines how community members were involved in technical and environmental studies.

Table 11 – Participation in technical and environmental studies

Date	Activity	Details	Indicators
November 2023 to February 2024	Platypus study	Community member / RAP logged, undertook nocturnal observations with ecologist.	3 participants
October 2024	Social impact assessment	One-on-one interviews with neighbours, community members, business leaders and operators, Council staff, non-government organisations.	14 participants

6.3.4. 'Always open' input channels

Feedback channels including the project hotline (1800 574 947), a dedicated community email inbox, and a PO Box provided the community with accessible and 'always open' ways to share their input and feedback or ask questions. These methods are particularly useful for diverse voices who may not have the opportunity, or willingness, to engage through in-person meetings. Since 2023, all messages, questions, written submissions and responses have been considered and collated by the project (refer to Table 12). In late 2025 a 24/7 'have your say' section was added to the website as a further support for feedback.

Table 12 – Overview of 'always open' engagement activities

Date	Activity	Details	Indicators
2023	Community inbox and hotline	Questions and comments from the community for response received via email or as a phone message.	13 interactions
2024	Community inbox and hotline	Questions and comments from the community for response received via email or as a phone message.	30 interactions
2025	Community inbox and hotline 'Have your say' section of the website	Questions and comments from the community for response received via email or as a phone message.	45 interactions

6.4. Objective 4 – Demonstrate feedback influence

Objective: Demonstrate how community and stakeholder issues and feedback are being captured and used to inform project development and assessment.

Activities

- Accessible information and engagement opportunities tailored to community information needs.
- Design changes – relocation of the upper reservoir.
- Design changes – alternative Town camp worker village accommodation site presented as option in EIS.
- Mitigations – co-development of the Neighbour Benefit Guide and framework.
- EIS Reports – enhanced with local and cultural knowledge and perspectives
- Shared Benefit Program – co-designed and identified opportunities for social, environmental and economic impact.

Outcome: Obtain feedback on specific matters to inform project development and design refinement.

To enable adequate opportunities to collect feedback, a variety of channels were used, including meetings, community pop-ups, townhalls and door knocks, complemented by a dedicated website, email address and phone number.

6.4.1. Feedback informed design

Throughout the project, LLP has undertaken design refinements and discussions with the RAPs, which has resulted in the avoidance or partial avoidance of two significant sites. The proposed upper reservoir and associated activities were also moved off the peak ridgeline of Mount Walker in part as a result of its contemporary cultural values identified through the ACHA. Consultation with First Nations people and outcomes are detailed in the ACHA (EIS Attachment L).

6.4.2. Government and agency feedback

DPHI invited government agencies, including Council, to recommend matters to be addressed in the EIS. These matters were considered by the Secretary for DPHI when preparing the SEARs. Comments made by agencies relating to each SEARs assessment area, and where they are addressed, are outlined in the technical assessment reports appended to the EIS (EIS Appendix F to Y).

During preparation of the EIS, engagement with government departments and regulatory agencies has been a critical part of the project’s development. These stakeholders provide the technical, policy, and statutory oversight that ensures the project aligns with environmental, social, and planning requirements under the EP&A Act and associated guidelines.

The Government and agency feedback table (Table 13) summarises the key themes raised, the way in which the project has responded or incorporated advice, and where those responses are reflected within the EIS chapters or supporting plans.

Table 13 – Government and agency feedback

Government/Agency Stakeholder	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Commonwealth DCCEEW	During consultation, Commonwealth DCCEEW sought detailed information on potential impacts to Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES). Advice was also provided in relation to the change in the person taking the action from EnergyAustralia to LLP.	Impacts to MNES have been assessed under the Bilateral agreement between the Commonwealth and NSW governments via accredited process. Both the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) (Appendix J of the EIS) and Aquatic Ecology Assessment (Appendix K of the EIS) include consideration of MNES. A request to change the person taking the action will be submitted to Commonwealth DCCEEW.	Appendix J – Biodiversity development assessment report Appendix K – Aquatic ecology assessment

Government/Agency Stakeholder	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Australian Government Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner (AEIC)	<p>During consultation in 2023, 2024 and 2025, the AEIC sought information on how the project is managing the interests and impacts experienced by neighbours, as well as further detail on the types of concerns raised by the broader community. The AEIC requested clarity on the process, support mechanisms, and ongoing engagement with those living closest to the proposed infrastructure.</p>	<p>Consultation with the AEIC informed the development and refinement of the project’s neighbour-focused engagement approach and supported the commitment to transparent reporting of community sentiment.</p> <p>In response to enquiries about neighbour interests, the project has implemented a Neighbour Benefit Guide and engagement program, which outlines tailored support measures for eligible neighbours. Further information on the Neighbour Agreement Guide can be found at Attachment C Neighbour Agreement Guide.</p> <p>To address requests for information on general community concerns, the project undertook a targeted community consultation program during October and November 2025, including pop-up sessions, briefings, and online feedback opportunities.</p> <p>These insights have informed the project’s ongoing community engagement strategy and the preparation of relevant EIS chapters addressing each area of interest.</p>	This report Appendix O - Social impact assessment
NSW DPHI	<p>Through regular engagement with DPHI during preparation of the EIS, key issues as advised by the SEARs were discussed, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community and stakeholder engagement activities and progress • near neighbour engagement and agreement for associated impacts • visual impact assessment and mitigation • Aboriginal heritage engagement, impacts and management. 	<p>Additional information was provided to DPHI in relation to community engagement and the status of near neighbour agreements.</p> <p>In the absence of specific guidelines for the visual assessment of the project, the assessment methodology was reviewed and revised to align with DPHI expectations.</p> <p>A specific briefing was held to inform DPHI of First Nations engagement for the project.</p>	This report Appendix L -Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment Appendix N – Landscape and visual impact assessment Appendix O - Social impact assessment
NSW DCCEEW) CPHR	<p>Feedback from CPHR focussed on potential impacts to threatened species and native habitat and the application of survey and assessment guidelines, including guidance on specific threatened species and application of SAII guidelines.</p>	<p>Consultation with CPHR has informed the design refinements, biodiversity survey program and impact assessment process adopted for the BDAR, ensuring that avoidance and minimisation measures were embedded from the outset.</p> <p>Species survey requirements and methodological input from CPHR, as documented in the BDAR.</p>	Appendix J – Biodiversity development assessment report

Government/Agency Stakeholder	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
NSW DCCEEW Water	<p>Engagement included both the licensing and regional water strategy teams and focussed on the requirements for both surface water and groundwater during construction and operation of the project. The proposed water licensing pathway and the project's interaction with Coxs River Scheme and Fish River were areas of interest.</p>	<p>Consultation with DCCEEW informed the development of the project's water licensing approach and ensured the EIS provides a clear and transparent regulatory pathway.</p> <p>The project has prepared a Water Licensing Strategy, which is included as part of the EIS. The strategy sets out the proposed licensing pathway required for construction and operational phases under the NSW water regulatory framework.</p> <p>The strategy also outlines the process for securing the necessary approvals and demonstrates how the project will ensure compliance with water access, use, and management obligations.</p>	<p>Appendix F – Surface water assessment</p> <p>Appendix G – Groundwater impact assessment</p> <p>Appendix H – Water licensing strategy</p>
NSW DCCEEW Heritage NSW	<p>In relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage, Heritage NSW sought to ensure adequate engagement with RAPs.</p> <p>In relation to historic heritage, Heritage NSW recommended avoidance of the State heritage item #00078 Lithgow Valley Colliery and Pottery Site (located in the disturbance footprint for the alternative Town camp accommodation option) as a preferred strategy, or avoidance of areas of high archaeological sensitivity if the Town camp is chosen through design. Further engagement with Heritage NSW was requested if the Town camp is selected.</p>	<p>The ACHA has been prepared as part of the EIS, and is consistent with the relevant Heritage NSW consultation guidelines. Further information was provided to Heritage NSW to confirm RAP engagement status and approach.</p> <p>The Lakeside camp accommodation option has been presented in the EIS as the preferred worker accommodation site. Additional consultation would be undertaken with Heritage NSW should the alternative town camp be selected as the preferred camp following EIS exhibition.</p>	<p>Appendix L – Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment</p> <p>Appendix M – Statement of heritage impact</p>

Government/Agency Stakeholder	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
DPI Fisheries	<p>During initial consultation to introduce the project, DPI Fisheries requested further information pertaining to the diversion of Farmers Creek arm of Lake Lyell, the design of the intake structure, and other relevant construction and operational management details.</p> <p>Discussion was also held regarding the approach to offsetting the loss of key fish habitat.</p>	<p>Initial feedback from DPI Fisheries informed the ongoing design development for the project and the approach to the Aquatic Ecology Assessment.</p> <p>Further consultation was undertaken to provide detail regarding the design development of the diversion and intake structure.</p> <p>The design of the lake diversion has been developed to allow fish (and platypus) passage between Lake Lyell and Farmers Creek. A series of design principles were developed with fish passage specialists and are presented in the Aquatic Ecology Assessment. The detailed design will also consider DPI Fisheries recommendation to include some deeper pools within the diversion channel to provide refuge to fish.</p> <p>Offset for impacts on key fish habitat will focus on local / catchment level initiatives and re-stocking.</p>	<p>Appendix K - Aquatic ecology assessment</p> <p>Refer to Attachment J of Appendix K for diversion design principles</p>
NSW EPA	<p>During consultation, the EPA sought detailed information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water management and discharges to the environment • information on how the project would manage potential blasting / nitrate impacts from spoil • air quality and greenhouse gas assessment considerations, such as decomposition of vegetation. 	<p>Consultation with the EPA informed the project's approach to air, noise, waste and water management measures, ensuring that the EIS reflects relevant regulatory frameworks and best practice environmental controls.</p> <p>A Surface Water Assessment (SWA) has been prepared that describes the existing surface water environment, the water management approach (including management of nitrates) for construction and operation of the project and residual impacts. This is supported by the Excavated Rock Management Strategy (ERMS) that describes the spoil strategy for the project, concepts for proposed permanent spoil emplacements (PSE) and the expected water quality profile of seepage from PSEs.</p> <p>The Air Quality Impact Assessment (AQIA) and Greenhouse Gas Assessment (GHGA) were informed by consultation with EPA to ensure the assessment approach aligned with EPA expectations (e.g. in relation to <i>NSW Guide for Large Emitters</i>).</p>	<p>Appendix F – Surface water assessment</p> <p>Appendix I – Excavated rock management strategy</p> <p>Appendix S1 – Air quality impact assessment</p> <p>Appendix S2 – Greenhouse gas assessment</p>

Government/Agency Stakeholder	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Transport for NSW (TfNSW)	<p>During consultation, TfNSW sought information on the outcomes of the oversized and over-mass (OSOM) vehicle route analysis, including key vehicle dimensions, swept paths, road constraints and any required modifications.</p> <p>TfNSW requested detailed justification for the proposed signalisation of the Magpie Hollow Road and Great Western Highway intersection, and sought assurance that all alternative options had been explored.</p> <p>TfNSW also indicated they would not support posted speed limit reductions on Magpie Hollow Road.</p> <p>TfNSW required regular (monthly) meetings with appropriate TfNSW representatives to discuss emerging design, traffic impacts, and the strategic justification for intersection upgrades.</p>	<p>The project has prepared an OSOM route analyses, including swept path assessments and identification of required road modifications. The OSOM assessments are included in the Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) (Appendix Q of EIS). The proposed road and intersection modifications, primarily along Sir Thomas Mitchell Drive have been included in the disturbance footprint (and environmental assessments) for the EIS.</p> <p>Based on safety, operational performance and community benefit, traffic signalisation is recommended and has been fully assessed in the TIA. Following consultation with TfNSW, further justification was included in the TIA, which demonstrates that alternative treatments have been explored but do not achieve the desired safety or operational outcomes.</p> <p>Following TfNSW advice that speed reduction would not be supported, key intersections have been designed (refer TIA) to meet performance and safety requirements based on the current posted speed limits.</p> <p>The CSEP identifies TfNSW as a key ongoing stakeholder, with regular detailed design coordination meetings committed through construction planning. TfNSW's input will help shape the mitigation measures used to manage construction traffic, OSOM movements and local road network impacts.</p>	Appendix Q – Traffic impact assessment This report
Transgrid	<p>Transgrid advised that the project would be required to enter into a formal Connection Processes Agreement (CPA) to progress a connection to the Transgrid-operated 330 kV transmission network. Transgrid noted that all new connection assets—including any new switchyard and transmission line works—must be assessed and approved in accordance with Transgrid's network standards and the National Electricity Rules.</p>	<p>Consultation with Transgrid has informed the project's transmission design, connection strategy, and EIS assessment.</p> <p>The project has incorporated the required transmission connection infrastructure into the EIS. This includes a new switchyard and approximately 150 metres of new connection linking the project to the existing Transgrid-operated transmission line. The project entered into a CPA with Transgrid to facilitate detailed design, technical assessment, network modelling, compliance requirements and the broader connection approval process.</p> <p>The project will continue to consult with Transgrid throughout detailed design to ensure that all connection assets meet Transgrid's technical, operational and safety standards.</p>	Appendix B1 – Detailed project description

Government/Agency Stakeholder	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Dams Safety NSW	<p>Dams Safety NSW requested information on how the project will manage dam safety during design, construction and operation. They sought assurance that the project would comply with Dams Safety NSW standards, incorporate appropriate engineering and monitoring systems, and develop robust emergency planning in coordination with emergency services and local authorities.</p>	<p>Consultation with Dams Safety NSW has guided the project's approach to dam safety design, risk assessment and emergency management planning.</p> <p>The project's dam and reservoir structures have been designed in accordance with Dams Safety NSW guidelines, incorporating requirements for structural integrity, hydraulic performance and operational safety.</p> <p>Geotechnical, hydrological and seismic studies have informed the design of the lower dam interface, upper reservoir embankments, and water conveyance tunnels. Designs incorporate modern resilience measures for flood, bushfire and earthquake scenarios, consistent with current dam safety engineering practices.</p> <p>During operations, real-time monitoring systems (structural, hydrological and geotechnical) will be implemented to detect and manage potential risks early. Monitoring outputs will be reviewed routinely and integrated into the project's dam safety management system.</p> <p>A comprehensive emergency action plan will be developed and will set out clear protocols for incident notification, response coordination, communication with the community and evacuation procedures (if ever required).</p>	<p>This report Appendix B1 – Detailed project description</p>

6.4.3. Council feedback

Council has been a key stakeholder for the project since early engagement commenced in 2021. Over this period, Council has provided feedback through formal resolutions, written submissions, councillor briefings, technical meetings, and ongoing liaison with Council staff.

A new Council was elected in September 2024, resulting in changes to the composition of elected representatives. In February 2025, the newly formed Council carried a motion to formally oppose the project.

To ensure clarity and accountability, the feedback received from Council is presented in two distinct categories:

- Elected Councillors – reflecting political positions, motions, and public statements.
- Administration (Council employees) – reflecting operational, technical and planning feedback provided by Council staff.

The summary provided below captures feedback recorded since 2021, including from both the previous and current Council. It is important to note that the views expressed over this period may not fully represent the current position or sentiment of the Council in 2025, given the change in elected representatives and evolving political context. Table 14 aims to present this feedback transparently and demonstrate how the EIS and project development have responded to Council input over time.

Table 14 –Council feedback

Feedback category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Regional energy transition and local governance position	The role of the project in NSW Energy Transition and Council’s changing position overtime	During consultation, the elected Council expressed concern about the strategic justification of the project within the broader regional and state energy transition. Councillors sought clarification on why the project has been identified as part of the future renewable energy system, noting Lithgow’s historic role as a coal generation centre and community sensitivities about change. Council also highlighted that new councillors were elected in 2024, and in January 2025 the Council moved a motion opposing the project. They indicated they may make a submission objecting to the EIS during the exhibition period.	The strategic context for the project is presented in EIS Chapter 2, including relevant Commonwealth and NSW Government plans that underpin the projects need. EIS Chapter 20 provides a justification and evaluation of the project as a whole, having regard to its economic, environmental and social impacts and the principles of ecologically sustainable development. Further detail is provided in EIS Chapter 10 (Social and economic) which presents a detailed summary of the project’s potential social and economic impacts on the surrounding local area and Lithgow region. This is supported by a detailed Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and Economic Assessment.	EIS Chapter 2 – Strategic context EIS Chapter 20 – Justification and evaluation of the project Appendix O - Social impact assessment Appendix P – Economic impact assessment

Feedback category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Roads, access and traffic safety	Road upgrades, intersection treatments, access management and Council governance processes	<p>During consultation, Council officers provided detailed feedback on road and traffic matters associated with the project. Council expressed strong support for the proposed upgrades to local road infrastructure, in particular the signalisation of the Great Western Highway / Magpie Hollow Road intersection and the upgrade of the Magpie Hollow Road / Sir Thomas Mitchell Drive intersection.</p> <p>Council advised that these treatments address longstanding traffic safety and congestion issues that pre-date the project and would provide broader community benefit.</p> <p>Council advised that once the EIS is submitted, the proposed road upgrades will be referred to the Lithgow Traffic Committee for technical review and comment, consistent with local governance processes for road and traffic matters.</p> <p>Council also requested consideration of a Voluntary Planning Agreement; however, noted this was ultimately at the discretion of the proponent.</p>	<p>The project acknowledges Council's support for the proposed upgrades and confirms these are incorporated into the TIA and project design.</p> <p>The project notes Council's intention to refer the proposed upgrades to the Lithgow Traffic Committee upon EIS submission. The project will provide additional information as required, including detailed design, modelling outputs, OSOM routing and safety controls.</p> <p>The project is not pursuing a Voluntary Planning Agreement. Instead, the project has developed a Shared Benefits Program providing longer-term community value across the lifecycle of the project.</p>	<p>Appendix Q – Traffic impact assessment</p> <p>This report</p>

Feedback category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Waste management and utilities provision	Capacity of local waste services and utilities to support the project	<p>During consultation, Council’s administration raised concerns about the capacity of local waste management services and utilities infrastructure to support the project should it proceed. Council sought clarity on the nature and volume of waste streams generated during construction and operation, how these would be managed to avoid burdening local services, and what utilities infrastructure (water, sewer, power, telecommunications) the project would require. Council emphasised the need for ongoing coordination to ensure the project does not place undue strain on existing council-managed facilities or networks.</p>	<p>Since mid-2025, the project team has been consulting directly with Council officers to ensure waste management requirements and utilities interface issues are clearly understood and integrated into project planning. These discussions will continue through detailed design, particularly as construction staging, peak workforce periods, and utilities demand become more refined.</p> <p>Waste generation (including spoil, general waste, packaging, wastewater, and regulated waste) has been assessed within the EIS. All waste management measures will be implemented under the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). Spoil management is addressed in the ERMS report.</p> <p>The project’s utility requirements (water supply, sewerage, electricity and telecommunications) are assessed in the EIS. Council will continue to be consulted on any areas where Council-owned assets or networks may be involved.</p>	<p>Appendix I – Excavated rock management strategy</p> <p>Appendix Y – Waste management assessment</p>
Public understanding of EIS	Explaining the EIS in accessible plain language	<p>During consultation, Council officers suggested that the project develop simple, accessible materials explaining what an EIS is, how it is used in the approvals process, and what the community can expect during exhibition.</p> <p>Council noted that many community members were unfamiliar with the purpose, structure and importance of an EIS and recommended that communication materials translate technical information into clear, easy-to-understand language.</p>	<p>During the project’s targeted community consultation program (15 October to 30 November 2025), the project produced a suite of communication materials to increase public understanding of the EIS process. These materials included plain-language information sheets explaining what an EIS is, why it is required, who assesses it, what “exhibition” means and how the public can have a say.</p> <p>These materials were designed to reduce technical barriers and improve community confidence and engagement.</p> <p>The project will continue to develop simple explanatory content about planning processes as the project progresses. This approach helps ensure the community is well informed and able to participate meaningfully in the assessment and exhibition phases.</p>	This report

Feedback category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Aquatic ecology and species protection	Management of the Lake Lyell platypus population	<p>During consultation, the elected Council raised concerns regarding the protection and long-term health of the platypus population in Lake Lyell and the surrounding waterways.</p> <p>Councillors sought assurance that construction and operational activities would not adversely impact platypus breeding, foraging behaviour, habitat connectivity, or water quality. Council emphasised the cultural, ecological and community importance of the platypus and requested clear management, monitoring and mitigation measures.</p>	<p>Whilst not a listed species, LLP recognises the community and cultural importance of platypus and proactively commissioned a detailed study of the Lake Lyell platypus population to inform the Aquatic Ecology Assessment.</p> <p>The project proposes to develop a Platypus Management Plan to safeguard the species during construction and operation. The plan will be developed with input from aquatic ecology specialists, First Nations representatives and independent experts as needed. The plan will include adaptive management triggers, with response actions if monitoring indicates any decline in platypus health.</p>	Appendix K – Aquatic ecology assessment
Local economic benefits, workforce and regional development	Economic contribution, local jobs and support for local contractors	<p>During consultation, the elected Council requested detailed information about the project’s economic impacts, including the number of direct and indirect jobs created, the scale of economic activity generated locally, and the extent to which the project would engage and support local contractors and suppliers. The elected Council sought clarity on long-term employment opportunities for Lithgow residents and the role the project could play in diversifying the local economy as the region transitions from coal generation.</p> <p>Council officers sought technical detail on the methodology used to assess regional economic impacts, how workforce forecasts were developed, and how the project intended to maximise local participation in procurement and contracting. Council officers also sought clarity on how economic benefits would be distributed across the construction and operational phases and how the project would mitigate any potential negative economic pressures.</p>	<p>An Economic Assessment has been prepared as part of the EIS, applying input-output (IO) analysis to quantify direct and indirect employment, spending and regional economic uplift. The Economic Assessment also evaluates broader regional effects, including workforce migration, supply chain opportunities and long-term economic resilience.</p> <p>The project has developed a comprehensive approach to supporting the local economy, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employing local workers where possible, with commitments reflected in workforce development planning • maximising opportunities for local contractors and suppliers, supported by early engagement with the business community and capability-building initiatives • supporting innovation in local businesses, enabling them to meet procurement standards and expand their service offerings • implementing a significant local apprenticeships and traineeships program, supported by partnerships with educational institutions 	<p>Appendix O - Social impact assessment</p> <p>Appendix P – Economic assessment</p> <p>This report</p>

Feedback category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> providing renewable energy workforce training, building regional skills for future economic opportunities collaborating with business groups, industry associations, and the NSW Government to maximise community benefit and address any adverse economic impacts. <p>The project has established a Shared Benefit Program, which provides long-term investment in local priorities. This program is designed to deliver sustained economic and social value to the region throughout the project's lifecycle.</p>	
Investment profile and regional economic significance	Overall project value and contribution to regional investment	During consultation, Council officers requested information on the total project value, noting that understanding the scale of investment is important for Council's economic planning, advocacy and communication with local stakeholders. Officers advised that investment figures help demonstrate the significance of the project to the Lithgow LGA and assist in positioning the region as an energy transition hub.	<p>The Economic Assessment quantifies direct and indirect employment, spending and regional economic uplift and evaluates broader regional effects, including workforce migration, supply chain opportunities and long-term economic resilience.</p> <p>Further detail is provided in EIS Chapter 10 (Social and economics) which presents a detailed summary of the project's potential social and economic impacts on the surrounding local area and Lithgow region. This is supported by a detailed SIA.</p> <p>The project team will continue to engage with Council officers to discuss the role of the project in Lithgow's economic transition, opportunities to leverage associated economic activity and to promote alignment with Council's strategic planning and regional development objectives. These discussions will occur through established engagement channels and scheduled meetings as the project progresses toward detailed design and delivery.</p>	Appendix O - Social impact assessment Appendix P- Economic assessment

Feedback category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Community benefit and long-term regional legacy	Operation, governance and community outcomes of the Shared Benefit Program	<p>During consultation, the elected Council requested detailed information about the Shared Benefit Program, including how it would operate, what types of projects or initiatives could be funded, and how the program could deliver meaningful, long-term benefits for the Lithgow community. Council sought clarity on governance arrangements, program timing, eligibility, decision-making processes, and how the program could help address regional priorities such as infrastructure, recreation, tourism, cultural heritage and community wellbeing.</p>	<p>The Shared Benefit Program is designed to be guided by the principles of transparency, collaboration, fairness and long-term legacy, ensuring that benefits are targeted, equitable and aligned with community priorities. The program framework (Attachment A Shared Benefit Program) outlines mechanisms for investing in local initiatives, which may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community infrastructure • recreational and tourism projects • skills, training and workforce pathways • cultural heritage initiatives • community health, wellbeing and resilience • environmental restoration or amenity enhancements. <p>These areas were identified through extensive community and stakeholder engagement since 2021.</p> <p>Implementation of the Shared Benefit Program is subject to NSW and Commonwealth Government approval of the project, and a Final Investment Decision by LLP. Once activated, the program will be supported by a governance model that includes clear decision-making criteria and reporting commitments.</p> <p>The project team will continue to work with the elected Council and Council officers to promote alignment with regional needs and complement existing strategic plans such as the Community Strategic Plan and Destination Management Plan.</p>	<p>This report Appendix O – Social impact assessment Appendix P- Economic impact assessment</p>

Feedback category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Construction program and delivery timeline	Duration of construction and key delivery stage	During consultation, the elected Council requested clear information about the project's anticipated construction timeline. Councillors sought clarity on the duration of construction, sequencing of major works, and how the overall program would interface with local planning, community impacts, and upcoming infrastructure or development priorities within the Lithgow LGA.	<p>The project anticipates a construction period of approximately four to five years, subject to project approval and a Final Investment Decision. The EIS outlines the indicative sequencing of early and major works.</p> <p>Construction milestones and major activity periods will be communicated to Council and the community through the Construction CSEP.</p>	EIS Chapter 3 – Project description Appendix B1 – Detailed project description
Recreation, tourism and public access	Recreational assets, lake access and foreshore management	During consultation, the elected Council requested detailed information on the recreational assets proposed for the Lake Lyell precinct and how these would be managed during construction and operation. Councillors noted the high value the community places on swimming, boating, fishing and foreshore recreation at Lake Lyell and sought reassurance that the project would not permanently reduce access or diminish the recreational experience. Council also asked how safety, water levels, public access, and new recreational facilities would be communicated and managed.	<p>A Tourism and Recreation Study was conducted to support the SIA (Annexure E of Appendix O). The purpose of the study is to describe the recreational context of the local area and assess how the project may impact existing recreational values and explore opportunities to offset impacts and/or enhance recreational values.</p> <p>Subject to project approval and a Final Investment Decision, the project is looking to deliver new infrastructure and recreation features around Lake Lyell to support safe, ongoing public access to the lake and its foreshore as part of the proposed Shared Benefit Program. These works are intended to enhance the visitor experience and provide long-term recreational benefit to the Lithgow community and may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved foreshore access points • upgraded boat-based or water-based recreation facilities • new walking trails, lookout points or day-use areas • signage, safety information and visitor amenities. <p>As recreational design elements evolve, the project will continue working with Council, recreational user groups, local tourism operators and community members to ensure the facilities reflect user needs and regional tourism priorities.</p>	This report Appendix O – Social impact assessment

Feedback category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Worker accommodation, community interface and legacy considerations	Worker accommodation – visual impacts, traffic interface and long-term reuse	<p>During consultation, the elected Council requested clear information about the potential impacts of the workers’ accommodation facility, including how it would appear in the landscape, how nearby communities would experience it, and what would happen to the site once construction of the project concludes. Councillors emphasised that the accommodation facility should minimise visual intrusion, fit appropriately within the local environment, and offer potential long-term community benefit if retained or repurposed after construction.</p> <p>Council officers noted the project’s alternative Town camp option (former Pottery Estate site) and identified associated legacy opportunities. In particular, Council officers observed that the increased temporary workforce may necessitate improvements to the local road network and suggested that signalisation of the Lithgow Street / Kirkland Street intersection could address longstanding traffic issues, independent of the project. Council officers requested that the project explore this coordinated solution should the Town camp option be selected.</p>	<p>A detailed Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is provided in Appendix N of the EIS and includes consideration of both the preferred Lakeside camp and alternative Town camp. The LVIA details the following to be considered during detailed design for the accommodation camp:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use of colours and materials that blend with the existing landscape • arrangement of structures on the site to prevent repetitive or continuous facades • vegetation screening to the perimeter of the camp. <p>At the end of construction, the project will explore opportunities to retain or repurpose the accommodation facility if this aligns with community interests. If removal is preferred, the site will be decommissioned and rehabilitated under the project’s rehabilitation plan.</p> <p>If the Town camp is selected, the project will work directly with Council to address traffic interface issues. This includes investigating the signalisation of the Lithgow Street / Kirkland Street intersection, consistent with Council’s advice.</p>	<p>This report</p> <p>Appendix N – Landscape and visual impact assessment</p> <p>Appendix O – Social impact assessment</p> <p>Appendix Q – Traffic impact assessment</p> <p>Appendix T - Soil, land and rehabilitation</p>

Feedback category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Land ownership, need for project and Council position	Appropriateness of the site and Council's position on the project	<p>During consultation, the elected Council questioned the justification for locating the pumped hydro project at Lake Lyell, noting their motion in January 2025 to oppose the project and their stated intention to submit an objection during EIS exhibition.</p> <p>The elected Council sought clarity on why this site was chosen, whether alternative locations were considered, and how the project aligns with local planning priorities. Councillors also noted that parts of the project area include land owned by EnergyAustralia and areas leased back to Council for community use, prompting questions about long-term access and public benefit.</p>	<p>The strategic context for the project is presented in EIS Chapter 2, including consideration of alternatives. EIS Chapter 20 provides a justification and evaluation of the project as a whole, having regard to its economic, environmental and social impacts and the principles of ecologically sustainable development.</p> <p>The project notes the elected Council's January 2025 motion to oppose the project and respects Council's right to make an independent submission during EIS exhibition. The EIS incorporates feedback received to date and will support informed decision-making by the Minister.</p> <p>The project acknowledges Council's interest in land leased from EnergyAustralia near the lake. The project will maintain engagement with Council to ensure continuity of access where possible and to explore opportunities for improved recreational or community outcomes.</p> <p>A Tourism and Recreation Study was conducted to support the SIA (Annexure E of Appendix O). The purpose of the study is to describe the recreational context of the local area and assess how the project may impact existing recreational values and explore opportunities to offset impacts and/or enhance recreational values.</p>	<p>EIS Chapter 2 – Strategic context EIS Chapter 20 – Justification and evaluation of the project Appendix O - Social impact assessment</p>

6.4.4. Community feedback

Community feedback has highlighted a wide range of issues directly related to the project’s design, construction, and operation — these form part of the EIS assessment scope. They include potential effects on amenity, environment, and community wellbeing such as noise, dust, vibration, traffic, biodiversity, water quality, landscape and visual character, heritage, safety, and socio-economic change.

The EIS process provides a formal mechanism to assess, quantify, and respond to these concerns through project design, detailed technical studies prepared in accordance with NSW Government guidelines, and/or development of appropriate mitigation measures and minimisation strategies. A summary of the feedback from the community and how the project addressed the feedback is provided in Table 15.

Table 15 – Community feedback

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Strategic context	Lithgow transition and project’s role in the region	<p>Community members expressed a range of views about the strategic purpose of the project and its place within Lithgow’s transition from a traditional coal-based economy to a more diversified energy future. Many acknowledged that the region is undergoing significant change, with Mt Piper power station nearing the end of its operational life and the broader NSW energy transition accelerating. People highlighted the need for jobs, investment and industry diversification, and saw renewable energy projects — including pumped hydro — as potentially important contributors to regional stability and resilience.</p> <p>At the same time, some community members questioned the timing, necessity and policy alignment of the project. They sought clarity on why pumped hydro is needed, how it fits within the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap, and whether it would genuinely support the State’s transition to reliable renewable energy.</p> <p>There were mixed views about whether Lake Lyell is the right location for pumped hydro. Some saw the project as an opportunity for Lithgow to remain a key energy region and retain its long-standing role in powering NSW.</p>	<p>The strategic context for the project is presented in EIS Chapter 2, including relevant Commonwealth and NSW Government plans that underpin the project’s need and consideration of alternatives. EIS Chapter 20 provides a justification and evaluation of the project as a whole, having regard to its economic, environmental and social impacts and the principles of ecologically sustainable development.</p> <p>Further detail is provided in EIS Chapter 10 (Social and economic) which presents a detailed summary of the project’s potential social and economic impacts on the surrounding local area and Lithgow region. This is supported by a detailed SIA and Economic Assessment.</p>	<p>This report</p> <p>Chapter 2 of the EIS - Strategic context</p> <p>Chapter 20 of the EIS – Justification and evaluation of the project</p>

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Strategic context	References to ANU / Blakers Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Atlas	<p>Some community members referenced the Australian National University (ANU) / Blakers Pumped Hydro Energy Storage (PHES) Atlas, noting that Lake Lyell does not appear in the list of sites identified in the publicly available mapping. This led to questions about whether Lake Lyell was evaluated by ANU, why it was not shortlisted, and whether its absence suggests that the site is unsuitable for pumped hydro development.</p> <p>Some community members were concerned that the lack of inclusion implied the project was pursuing a site not supported by independent national research, while others simply wanted assurance that independent analysis had been considered before committing to the proposal.</p>	<p>The Project acknowledges community interest in the ANU / Blakers PHES Atlas and has clarified that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the ANU atlas is a desktop, theoretical modelling tool designed to identify broad potential pumped hydro opportunities across Australia, based on high-level topographic screening the atlas does not assess land ownership, existing infrastructure, geotechnical suitability, engineering feasibility, environmental constraints, cultural heritage considerations, or commercial viability — all of which are critical factors in determining whether a site is genuinely feasible many potential sites across NSW were not included in or not prioritised by the ANU model, not because they were unsuitable, but because the model was not designed to evaluate operational pumped hydro proposals or sites with existing infrastructure Lake Lyell is a brownfield site with an existing dam, established energy infrastructure, and transmission connection points — characteristics that make it viable from an engineering and operational perspective but fall outside the scope of the ANU model, which primarily identifies greenfield, open-loop opportunities the project’s site selection process was based on a detailed assessment of geotechnical, hydrological, environmental, engineering and grid-connection criteria, supported by four years of technical studies. This provides a level of analysis far beyond the ANU atlas. <p>The EIS includes a summary of independent research, alternatives considered and rationale for selecting the project, providing transparency about how national modelling relates to the project.</p>	EIS Chapter 2 – Strategic context

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Project design	Technology understanding	<p>Community members expressed curiosity and, in some cases, uncertainty about how pumped hydro technology works. People wanted a clearer explanation of how water moves between the upper and lower reservoirs, how electricity is generated, and what happens during different operating modes.</p> <p>Some participants raised questions about dam safety, the risk of flooding, or potential failures of tunnels or underground structures.</p> <p>Others wanted reassurance that the system would not drain or contaminate Lake Lyell or cause water-level fluctuations that could be unsafe for recreation or downstream users.</p> <p>There was a general desire for simple, visual information — diagrams, animations, and plain-language explanations — to help the community understand how pumped hydro supports the energy grid and how safety is managed through engineering design, regulation, and monitoring.</p>	<p>The project team recognises the importance of demystifying how pumped hydro works and building confidence in its safety and reliability. The EIS includes detailed technical descriptions of system design, operation, and safety management, presented in accessible summary materials for the community.</p> <p>The project team has prioritised clear and accessible information explaining how pumped hydro energy storage works — through explainer videos, and at-a-glance summaries displayed at community pop-ups, Project HQ, and online. Animations have been used to demonstrate how water moves between the upper and lower reservoirs, and how the system stores and releases energy to support renewables.</p> <p>Site tours, education sessions for local schools and community groups, pop-up engagements at community events have and continue to build energy literacy and understanding of the project’s role in the broader energy transition.</p>	<p>This report</p> <p>EIS Chapter 3 – Project description</p> <p>Appendix B1 – Detailed project description</p>

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Community engagement	Complaint handling	<p>Community members sought clarity on how complaints will be received, managed, and resolved during the construction phase of the project. People emphasised that construction impacts such as noise, dust, vibration, traffic, and access changes can be unpredictable, and they wanted confidence that concerns will be handled promptly, fairly and transparently.</p> <p>Many residents requested information on who to contact, what the response timeframes would be, and how issues would be tracked and escalated if they are not resolved at first contact. Some community members also asked for assurance that the complaints process would be independent, well-documented, and capable of addressing urgent matters — including after-hours issues or exceedances of environmental limits.</p> <p>Several people highlighted the need for regular reporting on complaints trends and responses, to demonstrate that issues are being taken seriously and that corrective actions are implemented. There was also an expectation that the process should be easy to use, accessible to all, and designed to maintain trust throughout long periods of construction activity.</p>	<p>A formal complaints and enquiries protocol has been established, consistent with NSW Government and EPA guidelines. All complaints are acknowledged within 24–48 hours, recorded in a central register, and resolved or escalated through defined procedures.</p> <p>Dedicated contact channels (phone, email, website form, and in-person options) allow residents to lodge concerns easily and confidentially. Complaint data is analysed to identify trends, recurring issues, and opportunities for improvement, with outcomes reported quarterly. The process is designed to be fair, accessible, and accountable, ensuring all voices are heard and acted upon appropriately.</p>	This report

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Community engagement	Ongoing engagement	<p>Community members emphasised the need for consistent, transparent and responsive engagement throughout the life of the project. People expressed appreciation for earlier engagement activities but noted that the scale and duration of the project requires a strong, sustained commitment to communication.</p> <p>Many residents asked for clear feedback loops — wanting to understand how their input has shaped project decisions, what issues have been escalated, and what outcomes have been achieved as a result of community submissions or discussions.</p> <p>There was concern that without regular updates, people could lose trust or feel disconnected from the process, especially as construction approaches and decisions become more detailed.</p> <p>Community members also highlighted the importance of timely responsiveness, seeking assurance that enquiries, complaints and requests for information will be acknowledged and resolved quickly. Some requested more direct access to technical experts, clearer explanations of complex topics, and early notice of upcoming works or changes to project plans.</p> <p>Across consultations, there was a strong desire for the project to maintain open, two-way communication channels, provide regular and honest updates, and demonstrate a clear commitment to listening, responding and adapting based on community feedback over time.</p>	<p>The project is committed to two-way, ongoing engagement throughout construction and operations — not just during the EIS phase. Through the approval process, LLP are committed to regular dialogue with representation from residents, Council, First Nations groups, and community organisations.</p> <p>Regular project updates, newsletters, and drop-in sessions will ensure transparency about timelines, impacts, and changes.</p> <p>A feedback management system tracks, analyses, and responds to community enquiries, with responses published or summarised through “You Said, We Did” updates.</p> <p>The engagement approach is guided by the principle of “no surprises” — maintaining openness, accessibility, and timely responses to community feedback.</p>	This report

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Economic, environmental and social impacts	First Nations co-design of mitigation measure	Community members wanted to understand how cultural heritage knowledge would be respected and protected, and whether Aboriginal people would be involved in rehabilitation, cultural interpretation, and naming of project features.	<p>The CSEP guides the project team's commitment to a co-design approach with Traditional Owners to ensure that mitigation and enhancement measures are culturally appropriate and locally meaningful. This includes collaboration, funded through the Shared Benefit Program on interpretive signage, artwork, and naming opportunities that reflect Aboriginal languages, stories, and local cultural identities. Aboriginal representatives will be invited to contribute to environmental and cultural monitoring programs, ensuring Traditional knowledge is integrated into long-term stewardship of the site.</p> <p>The project will explore opportunities for employment, cultural tourism, and education linked to heritage interpretation and storytelling. These co-designed elements aim to create a visible and enduring presence of Aboriginal culture within the project's operational landscape, promoting recognition and respect.</p>	This report
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Aboriginal artefacts and sacred sites	<p>Aboriginal community representatives and residents emphasised the importance of protecting cultural heritage places, artefacts, and landscapes across the project area.</p> <p>Participants expressed concern that construction activities — particularly earthworks, tunnelling, or reservoir works — could disturb undiscovered artefacts or sites of spiritual or cultural significance.</p>	<p>The project's ACHA has been undertaken in close partnership with RAPs and Traditional Owner representatives, ensuring early and ongoing involvement in site identification and assessment. In the ACHA cultural heritage discovery protocols have been established and will be incorporated into all contractor induction and training programs. These protocols outline the steps to be taken if artefacts or cultural materials are uncovered during construction.</p> <p>All artefacts identified will be managed, recorded, and stored in accordance with the NSW <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> and in consultation with Traditional Owners regarding their final care and custodianship.</p> <p>The project team will continue to engage with Aboriginal stakeholders throughout the construction phase to ensure the respectful management of any finds.</p>	Appendix L – Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Cultural landscapes	<p>Several Aboriginal stakeholders highlighted that cultural values extend beyond physical artefacts to include cultural landscapes, songlines, and connections to water, Country, and story places.</p> <p>They sought reassurance that the project would ensure ongoing consultation, early involvement in surveys, and transparent decision-making about any artefact finds or management measures.</p>	<p>The project recognises that cultural heritage extends beyond artefacts to include living storylines, cultural connections, and the broader landscape values that hold significance to Traditional Owners. Engagement with local Aboriginal stakeholders, through the development of a Cultural Values Mapping report, has informed project design to avoid or minimise disturbance to culturally significant areas and to maintain or re-establish safe and appropriate access to Country.</p> <p>The ACHA has documented intangible heritage values. These insights are guiding the development of interpretive and educational elements that will help communicate and respect cultural narratives across the project's footprint.</p> <p>Where feasible, rehabilitation and revegetation plans will incorporate species of cultural importance, reflecting ongoing connection to Country and use for teaching, ceremony, and identity.</p>	Appendix L – Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Construction timing and duration	<p>Community members sought clarity on how long construction would take, when different stages would occur, and how impacts such as noise, dust, and traffic would be managed over that period.</p> <p>Some were concerned about the extended duration of work and the potential for disruption to daily life, recreation, and tourism.</p> <p>People asked for clear timelines, early notice of major milestones, and a commitment to stage works in a way that limits prolonged disturbance for nearby residents and visitors.</p>	<p>The project anticipates a construction period of approximately four to five years, subject to project approval and a Final Investment Decision. The EIS outlines the indicative sequencing of early and major works.</p> <p>Construction milestones and major activity periods will be communicated to the community through the Construction CSEP.</p> <p>A suite of management plans and frameworks regulate construction timing, duration and notifications. The project will communicate indicative timelines for key construction phases — including early works, tunnelling, dam embankment works, power station caverns, and transmission connection — as part of ongoing community engagement.</p> <p>Staged completion of work fronts will be used to reduce concentrated disruption and to allow early reinstatement of disturbed areas. Regular updates on construction progress, upcoming activities, and any out-of-hours work will be provided via notifications, project newsletters, the project website, and Project HQ.</p>	This report Appendix E – Mitigation measures

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Long- term operational footprint	<p>Community members sought reassurance that once the project is operating, noise, lighting, and visual impacts would be minimal and respectful of the local landscape.</p> <p>People asked how far operational noise (from the power station, transformers, and ventilation systems) would travel, particularly at night when background noise levels are low.</p> <p>There was concern that site lighting, especially around the lower reservoir and powerhouse, could create a night-time glow or spill into neighbouring properties and the surrounding hills.</p> <p>Some residents also questioned the long-term visual permanence of the project — how infrastructure such as transmission lines, access roads, and dam walls would alter the landscape character and whether rehabilitation would fully restore disturbed areas.</p>	<p>An operational environmental management plan will be developed to manage the potential impacts after the construction works are complete. The operational layout has been refined to minimise visible infrastructure from key public viewpoints and neighbouring properties, supported by landscape screening, vegetation buffers, and natural landform integration. Operational noise modelling has informed the placement and acoustic treatment of key infrastructure, ensuring compliance with NSW noise guidelines.</p> <p>Lighting design incorporates downward-directed, low-intensity fittings with motion sensors and curfews to maintain dark-sky conditions and visual amenity.</p> <p>The project will maintain public access where safe and appropriate, including potential recreational improvements around the lower reservoir, viewing areas, or trails.</p>	Appendix E – Mitigation measures

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Visual and landscape - views	Community members raised concerns about potential changes to the landscape character, scenic outlooks, and the visual amenity of properties and public viewpoints — particularly around the proposed upper reservoir area. Early concept images presented to the community showed the upper reservoir in a location that was highly visible from Lithgow and nearby vantage points. Many felt this would significantly alter the skyline and detract from the area’s scenic quality.	<p>A comprehensive LVIA was undertaken to understand how the project would appear from nearby homes, roads, and recreation areas, and to identify opportunities to reduce its prominence within the landscape.</p> <p>In early 2023, the project released an image of the proposed upper reservoir. Following community feedback about potential visual intrusion and loss of valued views, the project team relocated the reservoir site to reduce its visibility from key public and private viewpoints.</p> <p>The revised location takes advantage of natural topography and existing vegetation to screen the reservoir and associated infrastructure, significantly improving landscape integration.</p> <p>Visual simulations and photomontages are being shared with stakeholders to transparently communicate design refinements and gather ongoing feedback through the CSEP. Through the Rehabilitation Plan, progressive rehabilitation and revegetation will further soften the visual impact over time, restoring natural character and maintaining scenic values important to the local community.</p>	Appendix N – Landscape and visual impact assessment

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Visual and landscape - lighting and night time glow	<p>Community members raised concerns about light spills, glare, and reduced night-sky visibility during both construction and operation of the project. People noted that lighting from work areas, machinery, and site compounds could affect nearby residents and alter the natural darkness of the landscape.</p> <p>There was particular concern about night-time glow from operational facilities such as the powerhouse and lower reservoir area, and its visibility from surrounding hills or rural properties. The community asked that lighting be carefully designed and directed to minimise off-site illumination, that non-essential lighting be switched off when not in use, and that the project follow dark-sky principles to protect the rural character and night-time amenity of the area.</p>	<p>Under the CEMP a lighting protocol will ensure that temporary and permanent lighting complies with AS/NZS 4282 (Control of Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting). During construction, lighting will be directional, shielded, and operated only when necessary, minimising glow visible from surrounding areas.</p> <p>Operational lighting will use low-intensity, warm-spectrum fittings with timers or motion sensors to reduce unnecessary illumination.</p> <p>Lighting controls have been refined through visual simulations and consultation with nearby residents to ensure the project maintains the area's dark-sky character. Feedback will continue to inform adaptive management, with complaints or observations recorded and addressed promptly through the project's community feedback register – part of the CSEP.</p>	This report Appendix N – Landscape and visual impact assessment
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Visual and landscape - screening and buffers	<p>Community members requested the use of natural screening and vegetation buffers to help blend project infrastructure into the surrounding landscape. People felt that visual integration would be important for both nearby residents and visitors, helping to soften views of access roads, transmission infrastructure, and dam embankments.</p> <p>Feedback emphasised the preference for local native species that reflect the existing vegetation character and provide long-term landscape continuity. Some residents also suggested progressive planting – establishing vegetation early in construction – so that buffers would mature as the project develops and help reduce the visual prominence of built elements over time.</p>	<p>The proposed vegetation management plan includes planting of native vegetation to create natural buffers around visible structures and road corridors. Species selection prioritises locally endemic vegetation to ensure ecological integrity and visual compatibility with surrounding bushland.</p> <p>Progressive rehabilitation will occur as construction areas are completed, allowing regrowth to establish early and reduce long-term visibility. Over time, this approach will restore natural landform patterns and strengthen the project's visual integration into the regional landscape.</p>	Appendix N – Landscape and visual impact assessment Appendix T – Soils, land use and rehabilitation assessment

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Biodiversity: Flora and vegetation clearing	Community members expressed concern about potential impacts on local flora and fauna, particularly threatened species and their habitats — including areas of native woodland, riparian corridors, and the aquatic environment of Lake Lyell and its tributaries.	A detailed assessment of the project’s impacts on biodiversity values, including terrestrial and aquatic ecology are provided in the BDAR and Aquatic Ecology Assessment. These document the measures avoidance and minimisation of biodiversity impacts, document reasonable and feasible mitigation measures, and assess residual impacts. Where impacts cannot be avoided, offsets will be secured and managed in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS).	Appendix J – Biodiversity development assessment report Appendix K – Aquatic ecology assessment
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Biodiversity: Rehabilitation and offset areas	Community members sought confidence that disturbed areas would be properly rehabilitated, and that biodiversity offsets would be meaningful, well-managed, and local. Many questioned whether re-vegetated areas could genuinely replace mature forest or habitat lost to the project, and how long monitoring and maintenance would continue. Some respondents asked who would be responsible for managing offset lands in the long term and whether the community could see or visit those areas. Others asked for transparency — for example, whether offsets would be secured in the Lithgow region, and how their ecological success would be tracked and reported over time.	The project will include the preparation of a rehabilitation plan to restore disturbed areas progressively, using native species representative of local ecological communities. Rehabilitation outcomes will be measurable ensuring accountability for biodiversity commitments. Offsets will be secured and managed in accordance with the NSW BOS. Opportunities for local community or Landcare involvement in planting and monitoring may be explored as part of broader benefit-sharing and stewardship initiatives.	Appendix T – Soils, land use and rehabilitation assessment Appendix J – Biodiversity Development assessment report Appendix E – Mitigation measures This report
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Biodiversity: Offset adequacy	Some community members questioned whether biodiversity offsets can genuinely compensate for the loss of high-quality habitat and the displacement of threatened species. Concerns included the adequacy of offset ratios, the long-term security of offset lands, and whether offsets would be established locally to ensure tangible benefits to the Lithgow region.	LLP will pursue biodiversity offsets required for the project in accordance with the NSW BOS. This will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> establishment of Stewardship sites on EnergyAustralia-owned land purchase of credits (or land) from the market to meet the anticipated credit shortfall limited use of the NSW Government Biodiversity Conservation Fund (BCF). 	Appendix J – Biodiversity development assessment report

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Biodiversity: Fauna corridors	<p>Community members and environmental stakeholders raised concerns that the project could disrupt existing fauna movement corridors, particularly along forested ridgelines, riparian zones, and drainage lines connecting to Lake Lyell. People highlighted the importance of maintaining connectivity for wallabies, wombats, birds, and other native species that rely on these areas for movement, foraging, and breeding.</p> <p>There was a strong preference for project design and rehabilitation works to retain and restore vegetated linkages, incorporate fauna-friendly crossings or underpasses where access roads are required, and ensure revegetation uses native species that support habitat continuity. Some also requested monitoring to confirm that these measures are effective in maintaining wildlife movement and reducing habitat fragmentation over time.</p>	<p>Consideration has been given to prescribed impacts on threatened species and communities recorded or assumed to be present within the disturbance footprint, as per Chapter 6 of the Biodiversity Assessment Methodology. This includes the assessment of impacts on areas connecting threatened species habitat such as movement corridors. The assessment concluded that the project is unlikely to prevent long-term movement of any threatened species of animals from one side of the project footprint to the other as habitat would remain directly connected in areas of continuous forest and woodland.</p>	Appendix J – Biodiversity development assessment report
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Platypus	<p>Community members expressed strong concern about how the project could affect platypus populations living in and around Lake Lyell, Coxs River, and associated creeks.</p> <p>Feedback suggested that the platypus is a unique and sensitive species that depends on stable water levels, good water quality, intact banks for burrowing, and abundant macroinvertebrate food sources.</p> <p>People wanted reassurance that construction (especially tunnelling, blasting, and water releases) and operational drawdown of the reservoir would not cause injury, strand animals, or destroy burrows.</p> <p>Several submissions also suggested partnering with local wildlife experts or universities to monitor platypus health and population trends before, during, and after construction, and to publicly report findings.</p>	<p>Whilst not a listed species, LLP recognises the community and cultural importance of platypus and proactively commissioned a detailed study by Austral Research and Consulting (with support from the University of NSW) of the Lake Lyell platypus population to inform the Aquatic Ecology Assessment.</p> <p>The project proposes to develop a platypus management plan to safeguard the species during construction and operation. The plan will be developed with input from aquatic ecology specialists, First Nations representatives and independent experts as needed. The plan will include adaptive management triggers, with response actions if monitoring indicates any decline in platypus health.</p>	Appendix K – Aquatic ecology assessment

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Fish passage	Community members and recreational fishers raised concerns that the project could affect fish movement and aquatic connectivity — particularly in relation to water transfers between reservoirs, the intake/outlet structures, and any downstream flow changes.	<p>The Aquatic Ecology Assessment has considered impacts to fish passage and includes a set of recommended design principles for the lake diversion which are typical for a natural river/waterway and are based on details and contemporary rock fishway experience.</p> <p>Due to the proposed water management measures and the beneficial effect of the PHES operation on Lake Lyell water quality, the operational phase of the project is expected to have a neutral to beneficial effect on water quality in the Coxs River downstream of Lake Lyell.</p> <p>Aquatic offsets to key fish habitat will also be pursued for the project. Following consultation with DPI Fisheries it has been agreed that the offset approach will focus on local/catchment level initiatives and will also include re-stocking.</p>	Appendix F – Surface water assessment Appendix K – Aquatic ecology assessment
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Water quality	Community members raised concerns about potential impacts on water quality during construction and operation — including sediment runoff, spills, tunnelling discharge, and the possible mixing of water between the upper and lower reservoirs.	A comprehensive SWA and Groundwater Impact Assessment (GIA) has been prepared. The assessment evaluates potential sources of contamination or turbidity and outlines mitigation measures for both the construction and operational phases.	Appendix F – Surface water assessment Appendix G – Groundwater impact assessment

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Biosecurity and weeds	<p>Landholders and community members were concerned that construction activity could introduce or spread weeds and pests. They noted that vehicle movements, soil stockpiles, and tunnelling spoil could spread seeds or disease, and that cleared areas might create habitat for feral animals.</p> <p>Many wanted assurance that the project would implement strict hygiene protocols, work with local biosecurity officers, and actively control feral species such as deer, pigs, and foxes that damage pastures and native habitat.</p> <p>There were also questions about who would maintain weed and pest control once the project moves into operation and how long rehabilitation areas would be monitored to ensure weeds don't dominate revegetation sites.</p>	A biosecurity monitoring plan will be implemented to prevent the introduction or spread of weeds and pests during construction and operation. The plan will identify priority weed species and outline inspection, treatment, and reporting protocols to ensure early detection and control. The plan will also document clear roles and responsibilities for implementation.	<p>Appendix J – Biodiversity development assessment report</p> <p>Appendix E – Mitigation measures</p>
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Inflationary pressures	Community raised concerns in relation to inflationary pressures on the price of rent, groceries, fuel, etc.	<p>The project proposed to utilise a workforce accommodation camp that is anticipated to house approximately 80% of the project workforce during construction. By accommodating most workers at the dedicated site, the project will avoid direct competition with residents for rental or short-stay accommodation.</p> <p>A detailed SIA and Economic Assessment have been prepared and present a detailed assessment of the project's potential social and economic impacts on the surrounding local area and Lithgow region.</p>	<p>Appendix O – Social impact assessment</p> <p>Appendix P – Economic impact assessment</p>
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Pedestrian and school-bus safety	Community raised concerns about pedestrian and school-bus safety near villages and schools.	As there are no public transport facilities and limited cyclists or pedestrian facilities in the vicinity of the site. No impacts to existing services or facilities are predicted. Truck drivers will be notified about the presence and timing of school buses travelling along Magpie Hollow Road. This will be incorporated in the Drivers Code of Conduct.	Appendix Q – Traffic impact assessment

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Water levels and access	<p>Community members raised concerns about how project operations could affect Lake Lyell's water levels and public access for recreation, including swimming, boating, and fishing. People wanted to understand whether the project would cause significant or sudden fluctuations in water level that could impact safety, amenity, or the usability of boat ramps and picnic areas.</p> <p>There was also interest in how access would be managed during construction and whether public recreation areas around the lake would remain open. Many emphasised the importance of maintaining Lake Lyell as a valued community asset and requested clear, ongoing communication about any temporary restrictions, safety zones, or long-term changes to recreational use.</p>	<p>The project construction and operational arrangements have considered ongoing public recreational access as a key priority.</p> <p>A Tourism and Recreation Study was conducted to support the SIA (Annexure E of Appendix O). The purpose of the study is to describe the recreational context of the local area and assess how the project may impact existing recreational values and explore opportunities to offset impacts and/or enhance recreational values.</p>	Appendix O – Social impact assessment
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Construction traffic volumes	<p>Community members expressed concern about increased construction traffic, particularly the movement of heavy vehicles on local roads. People were worried about road safety, congestion during peak travel times, and potential damage to local road surfaces.</p> <p>There were specific concerns about interactions with school buses, cyclists, and farm machinery on narrow rural roads.</p> <p>The community asked for clear traffic management measures, designated haulage routes, and scheduling heavy vehicle movements outside school and commuter peak periods to minimise safety risks and disruption.</p>	<p>A detailed TIA is provided in Appendix Q. The TIA was prepared in accordance with the relevant assessment requirements, guidelines and policies and provides recommendations for appropriate management and mitigation measures, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • road upgrades to cater to expected construction volumes • measures to improve sight lines and intersection upgrades to facilitate construction traffic movements to and from the development footprint • communications with local schools about the presence of additional trucks in the area • a Driver's Code of Conduct to address all relevant site and locality road safety and traffic management measures • a road maintenance strategy to maintain the local roads during construction in consultation with Council • a complaint management process. 	Appendix Q – Traffic impact assessment

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Noise, dust and vibration	Community members raised concerns about increased noise, dust, and vibration from construction activities such as earthworks, tunnelling, heavy vehicle movements, and blasting. People were particularly worried about how these impacts would affect nearby homes, farms, and local air quality. They wanted reassurance that monitoring would be in place, that mitigation measures such as dust suppression and noise barriers would be used, and that there would be clear points of contact to report issues or request respite if conditions became disruptive.	<p>A detailed Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment (NVIA) and AQIA has been prepared for the project.</p> <p>The project noise and vibration impacts are expected to be suitably managed with the implementation of mitigation measures, which have been identified following a 'reasonable and feasible' assessment in line with the recommendations of the <i>Interim Construction Noise Guideline</i>.</p> <p>Air quality impacts are expected to be suitably managed with the implementation of mitigation measures detailed in the AQIA. Measures to be implemented include the use of water sprays, minimising travel speeds and distances travelled by on-site equipment, and measures to reduce diesel combustion.</p>	<p>Appendix R – Noise and vibration impact assessment</p> <p>Appendix S1 – Air quality impact assessment</p>
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Blasting or tunnelling disturbance	Concerns about potential impacts from blasting or tunnelling, including property damage, structural cracking, and general safety. Nearby landholders raised concerns about vibration, noise, and dust from tunnelling and blasting activities. Many were worried about potential damage to homes, water tanks, or heritage structures, as well as the suddenness of blasts and lack of certainty about when they would occur. Community members sought assurance that vibration levels would be closely monitored, that they would be notified in advance of any blasting, and that there would be clear processes for reporting and investigating any damage or concerns.	<p>Blasting would be carried out for several elements of the project, including works associated with underground tunnels, main tunnel access, upper reservoir, switchyard, lower inlet/outlet structure and lake diversion.</p> <p>Residential receivers surrounding the project are located outside the relevant blast offset distances required to maintain acceptable emission levels from tunnelling and open cut blasting. No vibration sensitive areas or locations are located within these offset distances.</p>	Appendix R – Noise and vibration impact assessment

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Spoil management	<p>Community members raised concerns about how spoil from tunnelling, excavation, and dam construction would be managed, stored, or transported.</p> <p>People wanted clarity on where spoil would go, how much material would be generated, whether it would be reused locally, and what measures would be in place to control dust, noise, truck traffic, and runoff from stockpile areas.</p> <p>Some landholders also asked for assurance that spoil would not be left in visible mounds, or valley fills, and that rehabilitation would occur progressively, restoring the landform to its natural appearance.</p> <p>Others wanted transparency about opportunities to reuse suitable spoil for local or community benefit (e.g. landscaping, road base).</p>	<p>The construction of surface and subsurface infrastructure for the project will require the excavation of significant quantities of rock. LLP propose to beneficially use most excavated rock to construct the upper reservoir embankment, construction pads and access roads. A detailed ERMS has been prepared as part of the EIS. It includes a description of excavated rock sources and proposed permanent spoil emplacements (PSEs), a description of the geochemical characteristics of the excavated material and the potential water quality risks from excavated rock emplacements and presents design principles and concepts for each PSE.</p>	Appendix I – Excavated rock management strategy
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Drainage and runoff	<p>Community members raised concerns that large-scale excavation, tunnelling, and earthworks could lead to soil erosion, sediment runoff, or contamination of nearby waterways. People were particularly worried about how rainfall events could wash sediment into creeks or Lake Lyell, affecting water quality, aquatic life, and recreation. Some also expressed concern about accidental spills of fuel or chemicals, and whether local water supplies or tanks could be affected. Residents sought reassurance that strict controls, monitoring, and contingency plans would be in place to prevent any pollution reaching local streams or the lake, especially during heavy rainfall or tunnelling works.</p>	<p>The EIS includes a detailed SWA and commits to implementing best-practice erosion and sediment controls in accordance with the <i>Blue Book – Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction (4th ed.)</i> and the <i>NSW Water Quality Objectives</i>.</p> <p>The SWA is supported by the ERMS which describes the spoil strategy for the project, concepts for proposed PSE and the expected water quality profile of seepage from PSEs.</p>	Appendix F – Surface water assessment Appendix I – Excavated rock management strategy

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Workforce accommodation siting	<p>Community members provided mixed feedback on the proposed location of the worker accommodation, with views divided between the proposed sites - the preferred camp location near the lake off Magpie Hollow Road and the alternative camp within town at the former Pottery Estate.</p> <p>Some residents supported a town-based location, noting it could bring economic benefits to local businesses and reduce potential environmental and visual impacts near Lake Lyell. Others preferred a lakeside location, citing proximity to the work site and reduced daily traffic movements. Across both options, people sought assurance that the workforce camp would be well-managed, with clear expectations around behaviour, noise, and traffic, and that its design, screening, and scale would fit sensitively within the surrounding landscape and community context.</p>	<p>Two potential accommodation sites were assessed as part of the EIS, with only one option to proceed – either the preferred site on Magpie Hollow Road near Lake Lyell and an alternative site at the former Pottery Estate within Lithgow town.</p> <p>While both options will result in changes to local social values, the SIA identifies the key differences in social impacts and benefits between the Town camp and Lakeside camp.</p> <p>The operation of the accommodation camp (during project construction) will provide some economic activity to the region. The estimated direct and indirect regional economic impact of the camp operation on the regional economy is reported in Economic Assessment.</p>	<p>Appendix O – Social impact assessment</p> <p>Appendix P – Economic impact assessment</p>

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Local business participation	<p>Local businesses expressed strong interest in participating in the project and benefiting from the economic opportunities it could bring to the region. Many asked for clear information on how to register for work, supply, or service contracts — including catering, accommodation, transport, and construction support.</p> <p>There was a consistent view that the project should prioritise local procurement and employment, ensuring that Lithgow businesses and workers are given fair access to opportunities rather than contracts going to large external firms. Some also suggested the creation of a local supplier database or information sessions to help small businesses understand upcoming tenders, workforce requirements, and compliance expectations, so the community can share directly in the project’s economic benefits.</p>	<p>The proposed workforce management plan for the project will set targets to support and enhance recruitment of workers for the regional and local areas. The workforce management plan will be complemented by the procurement strategy and the industry and Aboriginal participation plan that will be developed to ensure regional suppliers are prioritised in project procurement.</p> <p>Early supplier briefings and a registration portal will provide transparent information about upcoming packages for catering, cleaning, transport, and maintenance. Tender evaluations will include local content weighting and recognition of First Nations and small-business participation. Partnerships with the Council Local Employment and Economic Participation (LEEP) team will promote opportunities through existing business networks. Through the industry and Aboriginal participation plan, targeted funding will be made available to support local capability building — for example, training or certification to meet procurement standards.</p>	This report

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Workforce behaviour	<p>Community members raised concerns about potential workforce behaviour and social impacts associated with a large influx of non-local workers during construction. People were apprehensive about how a sudden population increase could affect community character, safety, and social cohesion, particularly in smaller towns and rural areas. Some residents referenced experiences from other major projects, highlighting worries about antisocial behaviour, noise, and pressure on local services, while others emphasised the importance of ensuring positive integration between workers and the community.</p> <p>Feedback encouraged the project to implement a Workforce Code of Conduct, clear expectations around behaviour and alcohol use, and proactive community engagement programs to help workers participate respectfully in local life. There was also support for local employment opportunities, which were seen to strengthen social connection and community acceptance of the project.</p>	<p>The proposed workforce management plan will step out expectations regarding worker behaviour. All employees and contractors will complete code-of-conduct and cultural-awareness training, developed in partnership with Traditional Owners and local community representatives. The accommodation precinct will include recreation, wellbeing, and communication facilities to encourage positive social interaction within the camp and reduce potential strain on town amenities.</p> <p>Contractors will operate under zero-tolerance policies for antisocial or disrespectful behaviour, supported by clear disciplinary and reporting mechanisms. Ongoing engagement with the local police ensures coordination on community safety and social harmony.</p>	This report Appendix O – Social impact assessment

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Pressure on local services	<p>Community members expressed concern that an influx of construction workers could place additional pressure on local services, particularly healthcare, hospitals, and emergency response capacity in Lithgow and surrounding areas.</p> <p>Residents noted that existing health and community services are already limited and may struggle to accommodate a sudden increase in demand from a temporary workforce. People sought reassurance that the project would coordinate with local service providers and government agencies to plan for this increase, including access to general practitioners, urgent care, and mental health support.</p> <p>Some also encouraged the project to establish on-site first aid and medical facilities, ensure workers have access to dedicated health services, and support community investment initiatives that help strengthen local service capacity during the construction phase.</p>	<p>The proposed workforce management plan would outline services and strategies for supporting workers. Discussions with NSW Health, NSW Jobs and Investment, and the Council LEEP team have identified where local services may need to be boosted to accommodate an increased temporary workforce. The project will provide key health and wellbeing services on site within the accommodation precinct — including first aid, medical screening, and access to mental health support — to reduce reliance on the public system.</p> <p>Emergency response planning will be coordinated with local hospitals, ambulance, and NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) to ensure integrated procedures.</p> <p>LLP will continue collaborating with NSW Health and local agencies to monitor service capacity and support targeted investments or partnerships where needed.</p>	Appendix O – Social impact assessment

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Local employment and training	<p>Community members consistently raised the importance of local employment and training as one of the most meaningful ways the project can deliver long-term benefits for the Lithgow region. People expressed strong support for opportunities that create local jobs, apprenticeships, and partnerships with schools and training providers, ensuring that young people and existing workers can participate in the energy transition.</p> <p>At the same time, there was a perception that major infrastructure projects often rely heavily on fly-in fly-out (FIFO) or temporary contractors, resulting in limited sustained employment once construction is complete. Several residents and local businesses asked for clarity on how many jobs will be filled locally, what commitments exist for local procurement, and whether school-based programs or trades pathways would be established to connect the project with the next generation of workers.</p> <p>Stakeholders emphasised that visible, genuine local participation — supported by measurable targets and transparent reporting — is essential to building trust and demonstrating that the project is contributing to regional skills development and long-term economic resilience.</p>	<p>The project has embedded local employment and training targets within procurement and contracting processes, ensuring that local workers and suppliers are prioritised wherever possible.</p> <p>A Local Industry Participation Plan (LIPP) would outline how tenders will preference regional suppliers, apprentices, and trainees.</p> <p>Partnerships with TAFE NSW, local high schools, and regional skills groups are being developed to create pre-apprenticeship pathways, work experience placements, and site tours for students.</p> <p>Contractors are required to report regularly on local content performance, including workforce location, gender participation, and First Nations engagement.</p> <p>The project will host “Jobs and Training” open days and provide transparent updates on opportunities through the project website and local community channels.</p>	<p>This report</p> <p>Appendix O – Social impact assessment</p> <p>Appendix P – Economic impact assessment</p>

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Support for community facilities	<p>Community members emphasised that as a host community, Lithgow should receive meaningful and sustained benefits from the project. People expressed strong interest in grants, sponsorships, and co-funded partnerships that would support local facilities, services, and community-led initiatives.</p> <p>Many noted that the region’s aspirations — such as improving sporting facilities, upgrading community halls, investing in youth programs, supporting arts and cultural activities, or strengthening local emergency services — require long-term, reliable funding. They felt that the project presents an important opportunity to partner with Council, community organisations, and local volunteers to enhance amenities and create lasting social value.</p> <p>Across consultations, there was a clear expectation that benefits should be fair, transparent, and aligned with community priorities, rather than one-off or ad-hoc contributions. People also asked for clarity about governance, eligibility, and decision-making for any grants or community investment program, ensuring that funding is accessible, merit-based, and genuinely reflective of local needs.</p> <p>Community members stressed that ongoing investment in facilities and partnerships would help strengthen Lithgow’s wellbeing, identity, and resilience — demonstrating that the project is committed to being a long-term partner in the region’s growth and ambitions.</p>	<p>The project’s Benefit Sharing Program includes funding streams for small grants, strategic partnerships, and co-funding arrangements with Council and community organisations.</p> <p>Grant categories align with community priorities identified through consultation — such as recreation, environment, education, and local heritage. Funding guidelines are being co-designed with local representatives to ensure fair, transparent, and accessible allocation processes.</p> <p>Examples include potential co-funding for recreation upgrades, school science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs, and environmental restoration projects. The program will be administered locally, with annual reporting on funded outcomes and community impact.</p>	<p>Appendix O – Social impact assessment</p> <p>This report</p>

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Local tourism economy	Concerns about how the project may affect tourism and the local visitor economy during construction and operation.	<p>The project acknowledges the importance of Lake Lyell and the surrounding area to Lithgow’s visitor economy, particularly for nature-based tourism and local small businesses.</p> <p>A Tourism and Recreation Study was conducted to support the SIA (Annexure E of Appendix O). The purpose of the study is to describe the recreational context of the local area and assess how the project may impact existing recreational values and explore opportunities to offset impacts and/or enhance recreational values.</p>	Appendix O – Social impact assessment This report
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Working hours	Community members expressed concern that parts of the construction may operate 24 hours a day, particularly tunnelling, concrete works, or deliveries. They worried about noise, lighting, and vibration impacts during the night, as well as sleep disturbance and general loss of amenity. People sought clear information on what activities would occur outside standard hours, how often, and what measures would be in place to minimise disruption or provide respite.	<p>Construction work hours are outlined in the project description in the EIS (Chapter 3 and Appendix B1) and have informed the detailed assessments of noise and vibration for the project.</p> <p>A “no surprises” approach underpins all community engagement regarding work hours and scheduling, ensuring transparency and predictability for affected residents through the CSEP.</p>	EIS Chapter 3 – Project description Appendix B1 – Detailed project description Appendix R – Noise and vibration impact assessment
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Fire and emergency access	<p>Community members raised concerns about how construction activities and workforce movements could increase fire risk in the area, particularly during hot and dry conditions.</p> <p>People wanted to understand how emergency vehicles would access the site if a bushfire occurred and whether construction activities could interfere with local RFS operations or evacuation routes.</p> <p>There was also concern that increased traffic, fuel storage, and heavy machinery could heighten the risk of accidental ignition or limit emergency access for nearby residents. Locals sought reassurance that the project would have clear fire management protocols, trained personnel, and coordination with emergency services to protect both the workforce and the surrounding community.</p>	<p>The project design process includes consultation with the RFS, local councils, and emergency agencies to ensure that new or modified access roads meet fire and emergency vehicle standards. Emergency response and evacuation routes will be mapped and incorporated into the project’s Emergency Management Plan, ensuring continued and safe access for both emergency responders and residents.</p> <p>During construction, temporary access changes will be communicated in advance, with clear signage, traffic management, and coordination with local authorities. The project will continue to work with local emergency services to test and refine response plans, ensuring shared understanding of routes, gates, and key contact procedures.</p>	Appendix U – Bushfire risk assessment

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Community benefit programs	Structure, fairness and eligibility	The project's Benefit Sharing Program and local supply-chain commitments ensure that the benefits extend locally, not just to the grid. This includes funding for community projects, apprenticeships, and small business participation. Economic and social impact assessments have identified opportunities to prioritise local workforce participation, supporting regional skills development through partnerships with TAFE and local high schools. Transparent communication materials explain the local value proposition — including improved grid reliability, economic diversification, and local investment in roads and services.	This report
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Safety and signage	Community concern about safety during construction and operation — particularly regarding water access, recreation near project areas, and dam operation risks.	The project will install safety signage, fencing, and designated exclusion zones around operational infrastructure, construction areas, and intake/outlet points to clearly identify no-go areas for the public. Public education materials (maps, infographics, and seasonal advisories) will be distributed through local tourism channels and onsite information boards. During construction, water-based activities will be managed under strict controls, including safety spotters, traffic management on the water, and communication with local recreation and fishing groups. In operation, the project will maintain open communication about lake conditions and coordinate emergency and safety planning with Dams Safety NSW.	This report

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Recreation infrastructure	Requests for improved or maintained access to recreational facilities such as jetties, picnic areas, camping sites, and walking trails	<p>The project recognises Lake Lyell’s role as a community recreation destination and is working with Council and local stakeholders to identify opportunities for enhancements or upgrades to existing recreation infrastructure. Potential improvements include upgraded picnic facilities, refurbished jetty structures, signage, and shared-use trail access, co-funded through the project’s Benefit Sharing Program.</p> <p>Construction planning will aim to minimise disruption to existing recreation areas, maintaining access wherever it is safe and practical to do so. Where temporary closures are necessary, clear public notices and detour signage will be provided well in advance.</p> <p>Post-construction, the project will explore co-design opportunities with community groups to establish interpretive trails, viewing points, or educational signage highlighting water management and local ecology.</p>	This report

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Project justification	Community understanding of strategic energy need and alternatives	<p>Community members sought clear and accessible information about why the project is needed, how it fits into the broader electricity system, and whether the benefits justify the scale of construction and potential local impacts.</p> <p>People asked for clarity on the state-wide electricity need, including why long-duration storage is required, how the project complements renewable generation, and whether other technologies were considered as alternatives.</p> <p>Some stakeholders questioned whether the project is justified at this location, and whether the benefits to NSW and the national energy system translate into meaningful benefits for Lithgow. Others raised concerns about timing, policy alignment, long-term energy demand, and whether the project could become stranded or redundant as technology evolves.</p> <p>Across discussions, there was a clear desire for transparent, evidence-based information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the energy system need the project seeks to address • the criteria used to evaluate options and select Lake Lyell • how the project contributes to state and national energy security • whether the local and regional benefits outweigh the potential impacts • and how the project complements Lithgow’s transition from coal-based energy generation. 	<p>The EIS includes a comprehensive project justification (Chapter 2), supported by a detailed assessment of strategic need, alternatives, costs and benefits.</p> <p>The EIS outlines the alternatives considered, including other storage technologies, demand management options, distributed batteries, alternative pumped hydro sites, and “do-nothing” scenarios. The assessment demonstrates that the project meets the required technical, grid, environmental and economic criteria more effectively than the alternatives reviewed.</p> <p>The Economic Assessment, SIA, and Shared Benefit Program collectively show how the project contributes to local and regional benefits — including jobs, skills development, procurement, community investment, and long-term regional diversification.</p> <p>The project has committed to ongoing communication about strategic need and justification through public briefings, visual materials, online fact sheets and targeted neighbour and stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>This ensures the community can clearly understand why the project is proposed, what alternatives were evaluated, and how the project aligns with the future of the NSW electricity system and the Lithgow region.</p>	<p>This report</p> <p>EIS Chapter 2 – Strategic context</p> <p>EIS Chapter 20 – Justification and evaluation of the project</p> <p>Appendix O - Social impact assessment</p> <p>Appendix P – Economic assessment</p>

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Beyond the scope of the project	Foreign ownership of the project	Some community members expressed concern about the project being partly foreign-owned, questioning whether international investment is appropriate for a major piece of energy infrastructure and whether profits would benefit local communities.	Decisions regarding corporate ownership, private investment structures and foreign equity are outside the scope of the EIS and are regulated by national agencies such as the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB). The EIS instead focuses on assessing environmental, social and economic impacts, regardless of ownership structure. The project remains committed to delivering local benefits through employment, procurement and community investment irrespective of investor origin.	N/A
Beyond the scope of the project	Preferred energy sources	Some community members argued that NSW should continue operating coal-fired power stations rather than investing in renewable energy infrastructure. Others questioned the timing of coal closures or expressed concern about job losses in the coal sector.	Decisions about coal closure timelines and the NSW energy mix are set by State and Commonwealth governments, not by individual projects. The EIS cannot revisit or alter State energy policy. The project is designed to meet identified needs under the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap and Government policy. The project acknowledges community concern and focuses on supporting regional jobs, training pathways and economic diversification as the transition proceeds.	
Beyond the scope of the project	Nuclear energy	Some stakeholders questioned why nuclear energy is not being considered as an alternative to pumped hydro, arguing that nuclear energy could provide firm baseload generation without large-scale environmental disturbance.	Nuclear energy is currently prohibited in NSW and Australia under existing legislation. As a result, nuclear options cannot be considered within the EIS or as an alternative to this project. The EIS assesses feasible and lawful alternatives consistent with State policy, including long-duration storage technologies, grid options and other renewable energy solutions.	N/A
Beyond the scope of the project	Energy prices and cost of living pressures	Some community members raised concerns that the project may influence electricity prices or that renewable energy is increasing household energy bills. Others felt the government should intervene to stabilise prices.	Electricity pricing and market regulation are outside the scope of an EIS and are managed at the national level by the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) and the Australian Energy Regulator (AER). The EIS instead assesses how the project contributes to system reliability and security, which are important inputs into long-term price stability.	N/A

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Beyond the scope of the project	Broader concerns about Lithgow's economic future	Some community members expressed concerns about Lithgow's long-term economic direction, population decline, or the perceived lack of government investment in alternative industries outside the energy sector.	Broader regional economic planning is led by local, State and Federal governments, not private proponents. While the project contributes to jobs and local procurement, it cannot replace whole-of-region economic strategy. The EIS addresses project-specific economic impacts, and the Shared Benefit Program supports community-identified priorities within the scope of the project.	N/A
Beyond the scope of the project	Concerns about other unrelated projects	Some feedback related to cumulative frustration about unrelated developments in the region such as transmission lines, other mining proposals, or urban expansion. Concerns centred on perceived over-development or regional pressure.	While the EIS assesses cumulative impacts where relevant, it cannot address or influence unrelated or speculative future developments. Planning decisions for other projects sit with the NSW Government. The EIS assesses only those cumulative effects directly linked or reasonably foreseeable.	N/A
Beyond the scope of the project	Objections to NSW Energy Transition policy and renewable targets	Some community members did not support NSW renewable energy targets or government transition policies and felt that large infrastructure projects like Lake Lyell PHES are unnecessary or politically driven.	Government policy decisions, such as renewable targets, net-zero strategies, and coal retirement schedules, are outside the scope of the EIS and are not determined by project proponents. The project assesses its impacts within the existing regulatory and policy framework set by the NSW and Australian governments.	N/A

6.4.5. Near neighbour feedback

While community feedback provides a broad understanding of how the project is perceived across the region, the neighbour perspective represents a more direct and personal experience of change. Neighbours are those living or operating businesses in closest proximity to the proposed infrastructure that are likely to experience the most tangible day-to-day impacts during construction and operation.

For this reason, the project has prepared a dedicated neighbour feedback table (Table 16) alongside the broader community feedback table. The two are closely related: community feedback highlights collective values, aspirations, and regional considerations, while neighbour feedback captures the individualised effects, sensitivities, and adaptation needs of those most directly affected.

Separating these perspectives ensures that localised issues such as noise, dust, access, visual change, water supply, and business continuity are understood in depth and addressed through measures including the Neighbour Agreement Guide and engagement program. Recognising and responding to the neighbour experience is essential to maintaining trust, fairness, and long-term community confidence in the project.

Table 16 – Neighbour feedback on the strategic context

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Strategic context	Neighbour views on how the project aligns with the future of their local area	<p>Neighbours provided feedback that reflected not only specific project impacts but also broader concerns about how the project fits into the future of the valley, their neighbourhoods, and the landscape in which they live and work.</p> <p>Many expressed a strong connection to the tranquillity, natural setting, and rural-residential character of the area, and raised questions about how the project aligns with the long-term vision for the locality. Some neighbours were concerned that the project signalled a shift toward more intensive industrial uses around Lake Lyell, while others questioned whether the project would influence future development pressure, infrastructure demands, or tourism patterns in the area.</p> <p>Some neighbours also sought clarity on how the project fits into the broader transition of Lithgow, noting that they were uncertain about whether the project represented an opportunity for regional renewal or a</p>	<p>The project acknowledges that neighbours have a unique and deeply personal perspective on the strategic future of the Lake Lyell locality, which differs from broader regional views. In response, the EIS explains how the project has been designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimise changes to the local landscape character, including relocating the upper reservoir based on neighbour feedback • integrate infrastructure within EnergyAustralia’s existing landholding to reduce pressure on surrounding private land • maintain public access, recreation opportunities and amenity around Lake Lyell wherever feasible • avoid creating development pressure or new industrial precincts beyond the project footprint. <p>The SIA also considers neighbour identity, sense of place and local landscape values as part of the project’s strategic assessment of social context. Through the Neighbour Agreement Guide, the project commits to ongoing, transparent engagement that recognises neighbours as</p>	<p>Appendix O – Social impact assessment This report</p>

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
		<p>change that might alter the qualities that drew them to live near Lake Lyell.</p> <p>Overall, neighbours have indicated that they want confidence that the project would be designed and operated in a way that respects the existing landscape and community identity, and that their proximity would be acknowledged as part of the project's broader strategic considerations.</p>	<p>primary stakeholders whose lived experience and expectations help shape the project's approach to integration within the locality.</p>	
Community engagement	Construction - how, what and when information is communicated to neighbours	<p>Neighbours consistently emphasised the importance of clear, timely and personalised communication throughout the life of the project.</p> <p>Many expressed appreciation for the direct engagement that had already occurred but asked for continued visibility, responsiveness and access to project decision-makers as the proposal progresses.</p> <p>People wanted early notice of major works, traffic changes or blasting events and clear explanations of what to expect — rather than technical updates after decisions had been made.</p> <p>Several neighbours also requested a single, consistent point of contact who understands their individual circumstances and can help resolve issues quickly.</p> <p>There was a strong call for transparency and accountability, including regular reporting of monitoring results (noise, vibration, dust, and water), progress against commitments, and honest communication about challenges or changes.</p>	<p>The Neighbour Agreement Guide is the key framework for direct neighbour support and communication and is supported by the broader CSEP.</p> <p>The project recognises that open, ongoing and respectful communication is essential to maintaining trust with neighbours. The project has established dedicated engagement channels to ensure that people living closest to the site receive accurate, relevant and timely information.</p> <p>This approach is grounded in the principles of accessibility, transparency and empathy — ensuring that neighbours can raise concerns easily and have confidence that their feedback informs project decisions.</p>	<p>Appendix O – Social impact assessment This report</p>

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Visual and amenity impacts for neighbours	<p>Neighbours living closest to the project area expressed concern about changes to their outlook, property amenity, and night-time environment.</p> <p>Neighbours were particularly sensitive to potential loss of scenic views, lighting from construction areas, and the long-term visibility of project infrastructure such as embankments, access roads, and power facilities.</p> <p>Feedback highlighted a strong desire for the project to retain a natural landscape character and to use screening, vegetation buffers, and sympathetic design treatments to reduce visual prominence.</p> <p>Many asked for early consultation on landscaping options and for lighting systems to comply with dark-sky principles.</p>	<p>The Neighbour Agreement Guide and engagement program enable direct collaboration with neighbours on amenity improvements.</p> <p>The project recognises that visual character and rural amenity are highly valued by neighbouring residents. The project team has incorporated community feedback into design refinement and will continue to consult directly with eligible neighbours.</p> <p>Receivers with a moderate or high visual impacts (as identified in the LVIA) will be offered property-specific viewpoint assessment and photomontages, to inform any negotiated mitigation measures at the receiver. Negotiated mitigation measures may include planting of vegetative screens or architectural modifications or other solution. Mitigation at the receiver will be developed in consultation with affected landowner(s) as part of the Neighbour Agreement process.</p>	Appendix N – Landscape and visual impact assessment
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Local workforce accommodation and social cohesion	<p>Through the Community Benefit Sharing workshops (2024) participants sought that the worker accommodation camp be located in town to maximise the economic benefit of workers.</p> <p>Residents living near the Pottery Estate site were concerned about increased traffic, noise, and parking demand in a residential area, and potential pressure on local services such as shops, schools, and healthcare. Some felt that locating the workforce close to town could alter local amenity and character, particularly if the camp operated at full capacity during construction peaks. Others noted potential economic benefits, such as increased local spending and trade for nearby cafes, supermarkets, and service providers. However, residents emphasised the need for a strong workforce Code of Conduct, well-managed accommodation facilities, and</p>	<p>The project acknowledges that workforce accommodation is a sensitive issue with differing community views about the most appropriate location. The project is committed to selecting a site that minimises amenity impacts, maintains public confidence, and supports positive social and economic outcomes.</p> <p>Two potential accommodation sites were assessed as part of the EIS, with only one option to proceed – either the preferred site on Magpie Hollow Road near Lake Lyell (Lakeside camp) or an alternative site at the former Pottery Estate within Lithgow town (Town camp).</p> <p>While both options will result in changes to local social values, the SIA identifies the key differences in social impacts and benefits between the Town camp and Lakeside camp.</p>	Appendix O – Social impact assessment

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
		<p>security measures to ensure positive community integration.</p> <p>Landholders and residents near the Lakeside camp raised concerns about noise, lighting, and visual impacts, particularly at night, and the potential for the camp to detract from the lake’s recreational and tourism appeal. People worried about the effect on AirBnB and wedding businesses, visitor perception, and the sense of tranquillity associated with the area.</p> <p>Environmental concerns were also raised regarding wastewater management, water use, and bushfire safety at the lakeside location.</p> <p>Some neighbours preferred the Lakeside camp over the Town camp, citing its distance from established residential areas, while others felt it would have greater ecological and landscape implications.</p>		
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Noise	<p>Neighbours living in close proximity to the proposed works expressed concern about how construction noise may affect their daily lives and amenity.</p> <p>All neighbours sought further information about noise modelling results, predicted levels, and how noise may travel through the valley and across Lake Lyell.</p> <p>Many shared local observations about how sound carries in the landscape and requested that this knowledge be incorporated into project planning and mitigation.</p> <p>Neighbours also discussed a range of possible mitigation options that could be tailored to individual needs. These included — but were not limited to — double glazing, landscape screening, temporary noise abatement walls, provision of noise-cancelling headphones, relocation for</p>	<p>The Neighbour Agreement Guide provides the framework providing support to manage noise impacts. The Lake Lyell project recognises that managing construction noise is a key priority for neighbours and that the local topography around Lake Lyell can influence how noise travels.</p> <p>The project team has undertaken detailed construction noise and vibration modelling to inform planning. This modelling will be verified and refined as design details are confirmed and used to establish site-specific noise criteria for sensitive receivers.</p>	<p>This report</p> <p>Appendix O – Social impact assessment</p> <p>Appendix R – Noise and vibration impact assessment</p>

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
		agreed periods, respite arrangements during peak construction, adjustments to construction timing, and designated "quiet days.		
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Dust, air quality and vibration	<p>Neighbours expressed concern about dust, air quality, and vibration impacts during construction — particularly from tunnelling, heavy vehicle movements, and spoil placement.</p> <p>People living close to the site noted that wind conditions can carry dust long distances and were worried about potential effects on homes, water tanks, gardens, and livestock.</p> <p>Many sought clear information on how air quality would be monitored and what actions would be taken if limits were exceeded. Some also shared experiences from other projects, requesting on-property monitoring to track local conditions and provide transparency.</p> <p>Concerns about vibration from tunnelling and blasting were also raised, with neighbours seeking reassurance that there would be baseline property condition surveys and clear processes for reporting and investigating any damage or disturbance.</p>	<p>Air quality impacts are expected to be suitably managed with the implementation of mitigation measures detailed in the AQIA. Measures to be implemented include the use of water sprays, minimising travel speeds and distances travelled by on-site equipment, and measures to reduce diesel combustion.</p> <p>Residential receivers surrounding the project are located outside the relevant blast offset distances required to maintain acceptable emission levels from tunnelling and open cut blasting. No vibration sensitive areas or locations are located within these offset distances.</p>	<p>This report</p> <p>Appendix O – Social impact assessment</p> <p>Appendix R – Noise and vibration impact assessment</p> <p>Appendix S1 – Air quality impact assessment</p>

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Blasting, vibration and structural assurance	<p>Neighbours located near the proposed tunnelling and underground works expressed concern about blasting, vibration, and potential structural impacts to homes, water tanks, sheds, and farm infrastructure.</p> <p>Many requested clear information on the blast schedule, notification process, and how vibration levels would be monitored and reported.</p> <p>Some neighbours also asked for baseline property condition surveys and a transparent process for assessing and addressing any future damage claims.</p> <p>Others noted the need for independent oversight and on-property vibration monitoring to ensure that all activities remain within safe and regulated limits.</p> <p>The community also sought reassurance that blasting would be controlled, infrequent, and managed to minimise disruption to livestock, pets, and local amenity.</p>	<p>Residential receivers surrounding the project are located outside the relevant blast offset distances required to maintain acceptable emission levels from tunnelling and open cut blasting. No vibration sensitive areas or locations are located within these offset distances.</p> <p>Management and mitigation measures to address noise and vibration impacts would be consolidated and implemented through a Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan (CNVMP) as part of the CEMP. The CNVMP would generally follow the approach in the Interim Construction Noise Guideline, including identifying receivers and noise criteria, approved work hours and practices, complaints handling processes and any noise monitoring that is required.</p>	Appendix R – Noise and vibration impact assessment

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Tank water quality	<p>Neighbours raised concerns about how tunnelling, excavation and dewatering activities could affect local groundwater levels, bores, springs, and household water tanks. People wanted reassurance that their private water supplies would not be contaminated, reduced, or structurally affected by construction works.</p> <p>Several neighbours emphasised the importance of early testing and baseline data to establish pre-construction water quality and pressure. Others asked that on-property monitoring be undertaken during construction and that any loss or contamination of supply be quickly rectified by the project. Some neighbours also sought clarity on how the project would manage surface runoff and sediment to prevent contamination of roof-fed tanks, creeks, and dams on rural properties.</p>	<p>A detailed SWA and GIA have been completed as part of the EIS.</p> <p>The surface water assessment has considered the potential impacts of the project's construction and operation on existing water levels, flow regime and water quality of the receiving environment.</p> <p>Groundwater modelling for the project has predicted localised watertable drawdown throughout construction and operation. The drawdown is not predicted to impact any private groundwater users.</p> <p>Overall water impacts of the project are expected to be manageable with the implementation of the required management, mitigation and monitoring measures.</p>	<p>Appendix F - Surface water assessment</p> <p>Appendix G – Groundwater impact assessment</p>
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Business operations and sustainability	<p>Neighbours who operate tourism, accommodation, and wellness businesses — including short-stay accommodation, wedding venues, and bathhouse facilities — expressed concern about how construction activities could affect their operations, guest experience, and reputation.</p> <p>Many noted that the natural landscape, quiet setting, and lake views are central to their business appeal, and were worried that noise, dust, traffic, or visual disturbance during construction could deter visitors or reduce bookings. Operators sought early and reliable information about construction schedules, road closures, and potential disruptions so they could manage guest expectations and adjust operations where needed. Some also raised concerns about access routes, signage, and the impact of heavy vehicle movements on visitor safety and comfort.</p>	<p>The Neighbour Agreement Guide offers mitigation and support for eligible tourism and business-based neighbours. The project recognises that local tourism and hospitality operators contribute significantly to the social and economic character of the area. Maintaining visitor access, amenity, and confidence is a key focus of ongoing engagement.</p> <p>A Tourism and Recreation Study was conducted to support the SIA (Annexure E of Appendix O). The purpose of the study is to describe the recreational context of the local area and assess how the project may impact existing recreational values and explore opportunities to offset impacts and/or enhance recreational values.</p>	<p>This report</p> <p>Appendix O – Social impact assessment</p>

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
		<p>Businesses suggested opportunities for the project to work collaboratively on visitor information and tourism messaging, ensuring Lake Lyell remains viewed as an attractive and accessible destination during construction.</p>		
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Property prices	<p>Neighbours living closest to the proposed project raised concerns about how the development could affect their property values and long-term confidence in the local housing market. Many expressed anxiety that proximity to large-scale infrastructure may make it harder to sell or refinance their properties, or that potential buyers might perceive the area less favourably.</p> <p>Some neighbours also asked for clarity around eligibility for compensation or support, including how the Neighbour Agreement Guide would recognise personal or financial impacts that extend beyond the construction phase. A consistent theme was the desire for long-term certainty and transparency — including commitments to ongoing communication, post-construction reviews, and clear evidence that the project will maintain or enhance the region’s liveability and reputation.</p>	<p>The project understands that proximity to major infrastructure can create concern about property values, even when physical impacts are well managed.</p> <p>The Neighbour Agreement Guide provides a structured framework to acknowledge, support, and respond to the personal and financial implications experienced by those living closest to the project.</p>	This report Appendix O – Social impact assessment
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Wellbeing	<p>Neighbours living closest to the proposed project area highlighted the personal and emotional challenges associated with major change in their immediate environment. Many spoke about the stress and uncertainty linked to potential construction impacts, altered views, or a changing sense of place.</p> <p>There was a strong desire for practical and wellbeing-based support to help manage these changes, including information, early notice of works, and opportunities to discuss individual circumstances directly with the project team.</p>	<p>The project acknowledges that neighbours are uniquely affected by both the construction and long-term presence of the project. The project team is committed to ensuring that those living closest are informed, supported, and respected throughout every phase.</p> <p>In addition to direct engagement, LLP has developed a Neighbour Agreement Guide that provides support to eligible neighbouring households. This program recognises the social and wellbeing dimensions of proximity to major infrastructure and aims to build personal resilience and readiness for change.</p>	This report Appendix O – Social impact assessment

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Property access, safety and traffic management	<p>Neighbours raised concerns about property access, road safety, and increased traffic during construction, particularly in areas close to site entrances, haulage routes, and work compounds.</p> <p>People were worried about heavy vehicles using local rural roads, potential damage to road surfaces, and conflicts with school buses, farm machinery, and local commuters.</p> <p>Several landholders emphasised the need for safe and reliable access to their properties throughout the construction period.</p> <p>Some neighbours also requested early notice of temporary road closures or changed traffic conditions, as well as clear signage and communication to ensure safety for residents, visitors, and workers alike.</p>	<p>The project recognises that maintaining safe, predictable, and convenient access for neighbours is critical to daily life. The Neighbour Agreement Guide provides a channel for direct communication for neighbours.</p> <p>A detailed TIA is provided in Appendix Q and was prepared in accordance with the relevant assessment requirements, guidelines and policies and provides recommendations for appropriate management and mitigation measures, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • road upgrades to cater to expected construction volumes • measures to improve sight lines and intersection upgrades to facilitate construction traffic movements to and from the development footprint • communications with local schools about the presence of additional trucks in the area • a Driver's Code of Conduct to address all relevant site and locality road safety and traffic management measures • a road maintenance strategy to maintain the local roads during construction in consultation with Council • a complaint management process. 	<p>This report</p> <p>Appendix O – Social impact assessment</p> <p>Appendix Q – Traffic impact assessment</p>
Economic, environmental and social impacts	Site selection, landownership and infrastructure connectivity	<p>Several neighbours expressed concern that they were not aware that the majority of land proposed for the project is already owned by EnergyAustralia, and that the project would be developed largely within this existing landholding.</p> <p>Some neighbours initially believed that the project would require access to or occupation of adjacent private properties, or that significant new transmission corridors would need to traverse neighbouring land.</p> <p>Others questioned why this specific site had been chosen and whether alternative areas – further from homes or businesses – had</p>	<p>The EIS includes detailed mapping and explanation of the land tenure, infrastructure connections, and site selection process.</p> <p>The project will continue to ensure that neighbours receive clear, accessible information about the land footprint, location of infrastructure, and how the design continues to avoid direct disturbance or tenure requirements on neighbouring land.</p>	<p>EIS Chapter 2 – Strategic context</p> <p>Appendix B1 – Detailed project description</p>

Feedback Category	Feedback topic	Feedback description	How the project addresses the feedback	Relevant EIS reference/s
		<p>been considered. Across discussions, neighbours sought clearer information about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how and why the project footprint is located on EnergyAustralia’s existing lands • the extent to which nearby properties would or would not be directly affected by the need for new infrastructure corridors • how the site connects to existing power infrastructure • whether site selection decisions were made with the intent of avoiding impacts on adjacent landholders where possible. 		

7. Ongoing engagement and consultation

This section provides a summary of planned engagement during Phase 3 (EIS exhibition) and Phase 4 (construction readiness).

7.1. Phase 3: EIS Exhibition

The project will lead an extensive engagement program to support the formal EIS exhibition period, ensuring communities, neighbours, businesses and stakeholders have clear, accessible pathways to understand the assessment, ask questions and make informed submissions. This will include extended opening hours for Project HQ, mobile pop-ups across Lithgow, targeted briefings, online tools, and tailored support for near neighbours and government agencies.

7.1.1. Objectives

The objectives of Phase 3 are to:

- encourage ongoing participation and seek input during exhibition of the EIS, to identify issues of potential concern, obtain local insights and gain feedback on measures to address concerns
- demonstrate how community and stakeholder issues and feedback continue to be captured and used to inform project development and assessment.

7.1.2. Purpose

The purpose of Phase 3 is to support informed, accessible, and transparent participation during the formal EIS exhibition period and to demonstrate how community and stakeholder feedback has influenced assessment and project design.

Phase 3 focuses on supporting the formal EIS exhibition and submission process by providing clear, accessible information and multiple opportunities for the community and stakeholders to participate. The emphasis is on enabling informed engagement—helping people understand the assessment, navigate the EIS, ask questions and lodge submissions.

This phase also demonstrates how feedback gathered over several years has influenced project design, mitigations and assessment outcomes, supporting transparency and strengthening trust as the project progresses toward determination.

7.1.3. Outcome

The intended outcome of Phase 3 is a well-informed community and stakeholder group who understand the EIS, feel confident navigating the material, and can meaningfully participate in the formal submission process.

Engagement during this phase results in transparent, accessible pathways for feedback, clear demonstration of how community and stakeholder input has shaped the project and strengthened trust as the project moves toward determination

7.1.4. Activities and timing

The EIS will be placed on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days. During this time the activities and tools used during earlier phases to notify the community and stakeholders will continue to be used and include:

- stakeholder and agency briefings
- mailout to near neighbours and offer briefings
- information sessions
- pop-up engagements
- updated to project website including availability of online resources (i.e. factsheets and FAQs)
- project newsletter
- local publication advertisements.

During this time any stakeholder can make a formal submission regarding the project. At the close of the exhibition period, the submissions received and responses to them will be collated into a Submissions Report and will be considered by the DPHI during the assessment of the EIS process. An Amendment Report may also be required in the event the project design changes after submission of the EIS or as a result of submissions received. The Minister for Planning and Public Spaces will consider the Submissions Report and the Amendment Report (if required) when determining the project.

7.2. Phase 4: Construction readiness

While the project remains subject to planning approval and a final investment decision, several engagement activities must occur in parallel to ensure workforce pathways, local supplier participation is established in a timely and coordinated way.

7.2.1. Objectives

The objectives of Phase 4 are to:

- ensure a high level of process awareness remains for the community post project approval and prior to commencement of construction
- provide opportunity for and demonstrate how issues and feedback continue to be captured and used to inform project development
- ensure local benefits during construction, including local workforce participation, local procurement opportunities, First Nations employment pathways and community benefit initiatives.

7.2.2. Purpose

The purpose of the construction readiness phase is about preparing the community and key stakeholders for the project to move from planning and into construction. This means providing information about impacts and mitigation measures and ensuring they can be an active participant in the many social and economic benefits the project will generate. To achieve this outcome, Phase 4 will be shaped by the following activities:

- **Targeted regional and local business engagement:** A focused business and industry engagement program will be delivered to prepare local suppliers and regional industries for future participation opportunities. This will include capability-building workshops, procurement briefings, Meet-the-Buyer events, and partnerships with RDA, local Chambers, TAFE and Skills NSW to strengthen workforce readiness and maximise economic benefits for Lithgow and the Central West.
- **Shared Benefit Program governance implementation:** Following co-design, the governance framework for the Shared Benefit Program will be established and implemented through a transparent, community-led model.
- **Community & Stakeholder Engagement Plan development:** As the project progresses toward early works and construction, a CSEP will be developed to guide communication, notifications, complaints handling during this phase. This will set clear expectations for contractors, establish communication protocols, and ensure the community is informed and supported throughout the transition to construction.
- **Ongoing local government engagement:** The project will continue structured engagement with Council providing regular strategic briefings, technical working groups and transparent issue-tracking processes will ensure open communication, alignment where possible, and collaboration on infrastructure, planning and community priorities.
- **First Nations participation and engagement:** Ongoing engagement with Traditional Owners and RAPs with dedicated consultation activities that support cultural heritage activities, identify opportunities for First Nations participation and ensuring First Nations perspectives remain central to planning and implementation.

7.2.3. Outcome

The intended outcome of Phase 4 is that the community and stakeholders are prepared for the construction phase of the project and understand how impacts are being mitigated. They are supported with the tools and strategies to manage the impacts and harness the many economic and social benefits generated by the project.

7.3. Phase 5: Construction

Engagement during Phase 5 will be guided by a Construction CSEP developed during Phase 4, should the project be approved.

7.4. Phase 6: Operations

Engagement during Phase 5 will be guided by a CSEP developed during Phase 5.

Attachment A Shared Benefit Program



Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Energy Storage - Shared Benefit Program

January 2026

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1. Introduction

For more than 70 years, the Lithgow region has generated electricity to illuminate, warm, cool and power millions of homes across New South Wales and Australia. The region has long stood at the heart of the State’s energy system and continues to play a vital role in shaping its future. EnergyAustralia and EDF power solutions Australia are delivering the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Project (the project) through Lake Lyell Project Pty Ltd. Together we recognise Lithgow’s enduring contribution as a host community for energy generation and the pride that comes with this legacy.

Lithgow is now on the frontline of Australia’s energy transition. This shift represents both a challenge and an opportunity: to manage change respectfully and invest in new forms of prosperity for the region. The Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Shared Benefit Program (the Program) is a long-term, co-designed community investment program. It will provide \$23 million in funding for locally driven initiatives that support community wellbeing, economic participation, environmental stewardship and cultural connection, and will operate for the first 20 years of the project, subject to NSW Government approval and final investment decision.

The Program is a community-focused benefit stream and is one component of a broader package of benefits being delivered by the project (refer to Table 1). The project will deliver positive outcomes across multiple categories addressing infrastructure, environment, workforce and regional capacity. Together, the Program and the other broader project benefits form an integrated framework for supporting Lithgow and the Central West region.

Table 1 Overview of broader project benefits

Benefit Stream	Description	Timing
Neighbour Agreements	Voluntary agreements for most-impacted neighbours	Development / Construction
Shared Benefit Program	Co-designed community investment initiatives for the benefit of neighbours and the broader local community	Construction / Operations
Road Construction & Maintenance	Road and intersection upgrades and maintenance	Construction
Worker Accommodation Village	Purpose-built workforce accommodation with the potential to be re-purposed after construction of the project	Construction
Using local supply chains	Support and encouragement for local business participation in energy transition	Construction

1.1. Benefit Sharing Frameworks

EnergyAustralia and EDF power solutions Australia are signatories to the Clean Energy Council’s *Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Projects* (the Charter), which outlines commitments and standards to be upheld in the development of renewable projects. As signatories, we report annually on:

- how we are engaging respectfully with the communities in which we operate,
- how we are being sensitive to environmental, agricultural and cultural values; and
- how we are making a positive contribution to the regions in which we operate.

The Charter principles guided the development of this Program and are aligned to the NSW Government *Benefit Sharing Guideline*¹ for large-scale renewable energy projects, which was released in November 2024 after the co-design workshops for the project were completed. While the Benefit Sharing Guideline is not applicable to pumped hydro, the Program nonetheless reflects the principles of the Charter and the Benefit Sharing Guideline and intends to operate in alignment with these principles.

Section 3.5.1 of the Benefit Sharing Guideline outlines what proponents of large-scale renewable energy projects should do when developing a benefit sharing framework for a project. Table 3 provides a reference to how each requirement has been addressed as the project has developed.

Table 2 NSW Community Benefit Sharing Guideline requirements

Community Benefit Sharing Guideline (s3.5.1)	How this requirement has been addressed	Where in this report
<p>Engage with relevant council, local communities (including Aboriginal communities) and neighbours to consider options for distributing benefits at different levels</p>	<p>Extensive engagement undertaken since 2021 including independently facilitated co-design workshops, pop-up events, online consultation, direct engagement with Lithgow City Council, Aboriginal community representatives, neighbours and community groups. Recreation and tourism mapping workshops were undertaken in 2025 to spatially identify priority investments at Lake Lyell. This engagement and feedback have informed the structure for administration of the Program together with the range of potential initiatives to be funded by the Program.</p>	<p>Section 2</p>

¹ New South Wales Government, 2024. *Benefit Sharing Guideline*. [online] Available at: <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-11/benefit-sharing-guideline.pdf>

Community Benefit Sharing Guideline (s3.5.1)	How this requirement has been addressed	Where in this report
Develop a proposed model for community benefit-sharing consistent with policy principles	A structured shared benefit program has been developed applying the Benefit Sharing Guideline principles of transparency, collaboration, fairness and long-term legacy. The model includes a Community Shared Benefit Program; independent community governance and a monitoring, reporting and evaluation framework.	Section 3
Outline the expected total value of community benefits in the EIS	The Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Project Shared Benefit Program has a total expected value of \$23 million over 20 years (approximately \$5 million during construction and the balance during operations).	Section 3
Implement or give effect to benefit-sharing arrangements through conditions of consent	The Program will be implemented via establishment of a Community Steering Committee (or a similar oversight framework), annual funding commitments, public reporting and independent evaluation at defined intervals.	Section 3

2. Development

2.1. Engagement and co-design

Since 2021, the project has engaged extensively with the broader Lithgow community to understand how we could deliver shared benefits beyond direct employment and procurement. Independently facilitated co-design workshops were held in 2024 with more than 50 representatives from across Lithgow and the Central West, including:

- Local businesses and tourism operators
- Environmental and recreational groups
- Traditional Owners
- Schools and education providers
- Employment and community support services
- Lithgow City Council

Participants identified priority local needs, developed a long list of potential initiatives, and collectively prioritised those likely to deliver the greatest long-term social impact.

The draft Shared Benefit Program was released for community review in early 2025. During this time further input was received from the community and stakeholders – particularly around when investment should occur with the community expressing a strong expectation that funding should commence during construction and continue into the operational phase.

Table 3 outlines the five key themes that emerged from early community engagement and were further explored in co-design workshops. It also summarises examples of projects identified by the community that could be further investigated and implemented under this Program. The Shared Benefit Program Community engagement and co-design outcomes report can be found at: [Resources | Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Energy Storage](#). Further information on the potential projects to be explored can be found at: [Community | Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Energy Storage](#).

2.1.1. Recreation and tourism insights

In late 2025, further community engagement focused on Lake Lyell as a recreational and tourism asset. The community expressed strong support for:

- Keeping the lake accessible during construction and operations
- Upgrading boat ramps, jetties and access paths
- Predictable water level information
- Fish restocking programs
- Clear communication about the lake's energy role
- Improved safety signage and information

Community ideas were mapped spatially, creating the Lake Lyell Recreation Enhancement Map which guides priority foreshore and on-water investment planning in partnership with Lithgow City Council. The insights already received, and we will continue to receive, are expected to inform the recreational and tourism initiatives that will be supported by the Program. Community insights. Information about recreation and water access, and how to provide community input via

the Lake Lyell Recreation Enhancement Map can be found at: [Recreation and water access | Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Energy Storage](#).

Table 3 What we heard during development of the Program

Potential funding stream	Purpose	Example initiative	Potential projects to be investigated
Tourism & Recreation	Enhance visitor amenities, connect communities to Lake Lyell	Visitor infrastructure including accessible jetty, trail network and facilities to attract events and tourism	Lake Lyell Recreation Masterplan
Natural environment & biodiversity	Support local habitat restoration and water quality improvements	Creek stabilisation, biodiversity corridors, revegetation	Vegetation restoration project/s Habitat augmentation and research
Skills, training and education	Deliver local training, STEM pathways and workforce readiness and transition support	Apprenticeships, women in energy scholarships and TAFE partnerships	Lighthouse Education and Training Trust Lake Lyell Workforce Readiness Program
Community services and connectivity	Improve community wellbeing, transport and digital access	Community transport pilot, youth hub, digital inclusion program	New signage and wayfinding to enhance visitor experience when in Lithgow Light the Way Community Future Fund – a trust to support and enhance education opportunities Lithgow 360° Youth Hub Repurpose Lake Lyell Workers Accommodation Village
First nations partnerships	Strengthen cultural heritage and support Wiradjuri led enterprises	Business capability development, building cultural connection	Ranger program, language signage, cultural centre

3. Delivery

The Program is part of a coordinated, long-term investment strategy that supports Lithgow's transition into a diversified, resilient regional economy.

Through transparent governance, community-led decision-making and partnership-driven delivery, the Program will help ensure that the benefits of the project extend well beyond construction and contribute to the region's long-term wellbeing and prosperity.

The Program has been designed with clear operational features to ensure it is implemented consistently, transparently and in line with community expectations.

The Program will adopt the following framework:

- **Commencement** - following Final Investment Decision (FID) for the project
- **Governance** - be overseen by an independent Community Steering Committee (or similar) responsible for governance and investment decisions relating to the Program
- **Operation** - for a period of 20 years, spanning both construction and into the operational phase
- **Target investment** - provide annual funding to support community-led projects and initiatives
- **Monitoring** – measure and report on outcomes and community impact on a regular basis

3.1. Commencement

While delivery of funding will formally commence following FID, preparatory activities to establish the Program may be undertaken in advance of this decision. This includes the design of governance arrangements, development of terms of reference, recruitment planning for the independent Community Steering Committee (or similar) and preparation of grant administration systems. These early steps will ensure the Program is operational and able to deliver community benefits as soon as practicable after FID.

3.2. Governance

The Program will be administered through an independent Community Steering Committee (or a similar group) comprising representatives from the local community, First Nations stakeholders, local government and relevant subject-matter experts (if required). The governance framework will require the Committee to oversee:

- investment priorities and funding criteria;
- assessment of grant allocations;
- performance data and evaluation findings; and
- measures to ensure that the Program remains aligned to community expectations and regional strategies.

3.3. Operation

While many shared benefit programs commence once a project enters operations, the Lake Lyell Shared Benefit Program brings a significant portion of community investment forward into the construction phase (refer to Table 4). Taking onboard community feedback, this early activation is intended to ensure that community benefits are realised as soon as possible, rather than being deferred for many years.

By prioritising investment in the first five years, the Program enables early delivery of key infrastructure particularly to support the recreational and tourism use of Lake Lyell. This approach ensures that the community begins to experience tangible benefits during construction of the project, while also laying the foundations for long-term legacy outcomes throughout the operational phase.

Table 4 Program investment timing

Phase	Focus	
Construction	Early funding rollout for community projects, skills pathways, recreation enhancements and service support.	Approximately \$5 million
Operations	Long-term programs including education scholarships, environmental stewardship, tourism development and social investment initiatives.	The balance of the funding (approximately \$18 million)
Total		\$23 million

3.4. Target investment

The Program will be delivered with phased investments in a range of initiatives and projects (such as the examples identified in Table 3) during the construction period (Years 1–5) and then sustained and expanded throughout the operations phase (Years 6–20).

This approach ensures early activation of community benefits while embedding long-term legacy outcomes that respond to evolving community needs over the life of the project.

3.5. Report and measure impact

The Committee will develop appropriate metrics to ensure that the objectives of the Program are being fulfilled. Periodic independent assessment of the Program will be carried out against the relevant metrics.

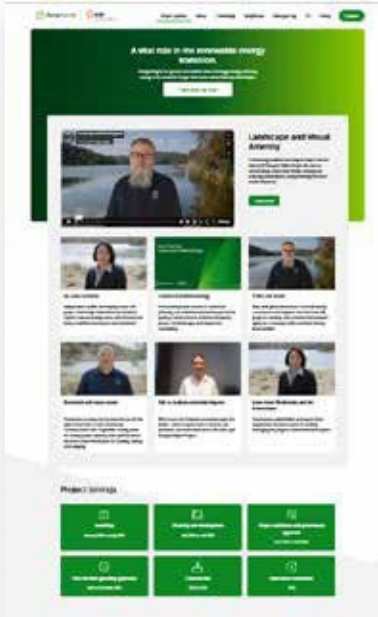


The Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Project is a funding recipient under the NSW Government's Pumped Hydro Recoverable Grants Program. The views expressed herein are not necessarily the views of the NSW Government. The NSW Government does not accept responsibility for any information or advice contained herein.

Attachment B Information Summary

This Information Summary provides an overview and a sample of the communication tools and materials used to support engagement for the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Project. Accessible, transparent and distributed resources have provided key information for the community and stakeholders since 2022. Communication tools and materials were updated or expanded when new information became available. Refer to Engagement and Consultation Report, Table 5, for a detailed and chronological summary of communication tools and materials used to support engagement.

Project Website



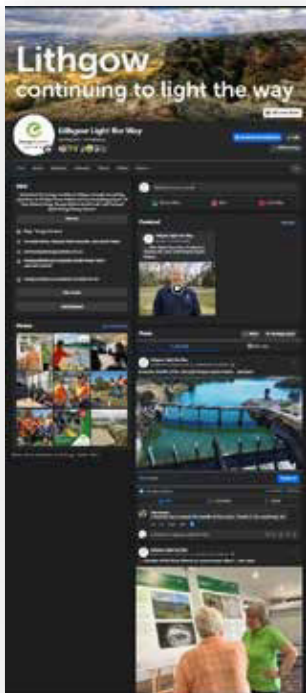
Launched in 2023, a project website hosted on the EnergyAustralia platform, later integrated into a standalone Lake Lyell Project Pty Ltd site, regularly updated with project milestones, technical information, FAQs, news articles and downloadable resources.

Purpose

- Acts as the primary information hub for all project related material.
- Provides 24/7 access for community, stakeholders and media.
- Central repository for project fact sheets, newsletters, maps, videos, newsletters, media releases and consultation updates.
- Enables community members to register for updates and contact the project team directly.

URL: www.lakelyellpumpedhydro.com.au

Social Media



Channels

- Facebook Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro – launched 2023
- Converted to Facebook Lithgow Light the Way – early 2025

Purpose

- Provide timely updates, reminders for drop-in sessions, and announcements.
- Extend reach to broader audiences beyond traditional engagement channels.
- Share photos, video content, and milestone achievements to increase project visibility.
- Drive traffic back to the project website and consultation tools.

Explainer Videos and Animations

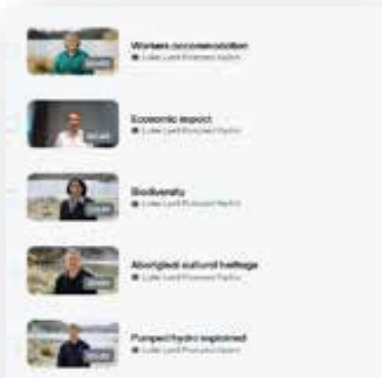


Materials developed (examples)





- Project overview animation (virtual tour)
- Lake Lyell platypus study
- Project updates
- Q&A series
- EIS topics

Purpose

- Convey complex technical information in a simple, engaging format.
- Support consistent messaging across face-to-face and online engagement.
- Assist visual learners and reduce misunderstandings about how pumped hydro works.
- Provide a shareable resource suitable for schools, community groups and digital engagement.



Information sheets

	<p>Materials developed (examples)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How input has influenced the project • Workers' accommodation impacts • Economic impacts • Aboriginal and Cultural heritage • Biodiversity impacts • What is an Environmental Impact Statement • Pumped hydro explained • What we have heard • Project concept design • Project outline, location, site access • Project overview
	<p>Purpose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide clear, concise, topic-based information on project elements. • Support informed decision-making and discussion at community sessions. • Allow people to take material home for further reflection. • Serve as a consistent reference in ongoing conversations with neighbours, agencies and stakeholder groups.
	
	

Community Newsletters




Printed and digital newsletters distributed via letterbox drops, email updates and website postings at key project milestones.

Purpose




- Summarise progress and outline upcoming engagement activities.
- Provide transparent updates on project design changes, investigations and approvals.
- Reach residents who prefer traditional communication formats.
- Reinforce key messages and provide practical information (e.g., session dates, planning process milestones).



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

	<p>Description</p> <p>A consolidated FAQ document published online and available at engagement events, updated throughout each consultation phase.</p> <p>Purpose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Address common enquiries and misconceptions.• Provide consistent and accurate responses to recurring themes.• Support staff and spokespersons with aligned messaging.• Increase clarity around technical, environmental and construction-related topics.
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Renders, Visualisations, Maps and Diagrams

	<p>Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early concept renders • Updated valley landscape view simulations • Construction footprint diagrams • Maps of access roads and work sites • Geotechnical investigation footprint maps • Community drop-in exhibition panels • Interactive viewpoint map (digital)
	<p>Purpose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help the community visualise what the project may look like once completed. • Aid comprehension of site layout, scale and location of facilities. • Support discussions about visual impact, noise, access and cumulative impacts. • Build transparency around the scope and progression of design.
	

Other Communication Tools



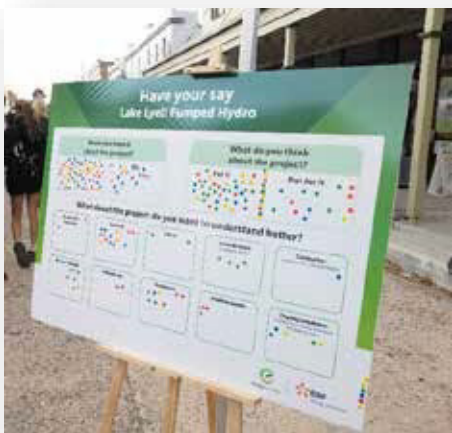
Posters, Flyers and Corflutes

- Promote engagement sessions and create visibility across Lithgow and surrounding villages.
- Provide simple, highly accessible messaging to attract community participation.



Project HQ Display Panels

- Permanent exhibition at Lithgow Project HQ showcasing project components, design evolution, environmental studies, feedback summaries and maps.



Feedback Boards

- Used during community and stakeholder sessions to gather quick, visual input.
- Promoted transparency by displaying community sentiment in real time.

Attachment C Neighbour Agreement Guide

Neighbour Agreement Guide



This guide provides an overview of the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Project Neighbour Agreement process. It outlines eligibility and payments that will be available to project neighbours, and how we will work with you to understand the potential for impact related to your property. This guide is for eligible neighbours.

EnergyAustralia and EDF power solutions Australia acknowledges that the site of the proposed Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Project is on the traditional Country of the Wiradjuri People. We recognise their continued connection to land, waterways and community, and we pay our respects to Elders past and present.

Overview

EnergyAustralia and EDF power solutions Australia are developing the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Energy Storage project (the Project) on land it owns near Lithgow in New South Wales. The Project has a proposed capacity of 385 megawatts (MW) for up to eight hours, with flexible capacity of more than 400MW for a shorter duration, providing energy for at least 150,000 homes¹. At a basic level, it will consist of upper and lower water reservoirs, a pipeline connecting them, and a hydro-electric power station connected to the national energy grid that is capable of generating or consuming electricity.

In June 2024, the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces declared the Project to be Critical State Significant Infrastructure under the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* before it can proceed. The NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces will be the determining authority for the Project.

The Project is also a “controlled action” under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, requiring approval by the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment. The Project will be assessed by the accredited assessment process with the NSW government. Approval of the Project is required from both the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces and the Commonwealth Minister for Environment.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared to address the NSW Secretary’s environmental assessment requirements (SEARs) and Commonwealth supplementary SEARs for the Project.

Further information about the EIS is available at: www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/lake-lyell-pumped-hydro-energy-storage
Further information about the Project is available at www.lakelyellpumpedhydro.com.au



Proposed capacity
385MW



Energy for homes
150,000



Storage duration
8 hours

We are committed to working with our neighbours who are most affected by the project

¹ Based on POE10 demand of 1.97kW for EnergyAustralia’s portfolio of NSW residential customers at 385MW of generation.

Neighbour Agreement Eligibility

Eligible neighbours are private landowners and businesses that have been assessed in the EIS as predicted to be impacted by visual and/or noise impacts arising from the Project.

Voluntary participation and confidentiality

Participation in the Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement process is voluntary. You can participate in confidential discussions at any stage up to the end of the construction of the Project, without an obligation to sign a Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement.

Stage 1 Neighbour Agreements

Stage 1 Neighbour agreements were issued to neighbours that were identified as potentially being impacted by the Project.

The purpose of Stage 1 Neighbour Agreements was to acknowledge the time and effort required by neighbour's to engage with the Project.

Stage 1 Neighbour Agreements are expiring and our neighbour engagement team will advise you in writing as to when the Stage 1 Neighbour Agreements will come to an end.

Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement payment summary

The following benefits will be available to eligible neighbours who sign a Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement and paid as a lump sum or reimbursed prior to the Project's Financial Investment Decision (FID) and once the Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement is executed by all parties:



Signing Milestone payment



Health & Wellbeing support



Reimbursement of reasonable legal and other professional fees.

The following benefits will be paid after FID:



Project Approval payment



Health & Wellbeing support.

You may be eligible for some additional payments associated with:

- Alternative accommodation / relocation assistance
- Property alterations / maintenance
- Business support
- Property valuation reimbursement

Additional payments, should you be eligible, would be reimbursed after the Project's FID and once your Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement is executed by all parties. The neighbour team will discuss your eligibility for the additional payments with you and advise you of the post FID lump sum payment we propose to offer.

Businesses eligible for additional payment/s associated with business support as a result of the Project must be demonstrated through financial and operational records.

Property valuation reimbursement may be available to eligible neighbours in some circumstances during the construction phase of the project.

Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement process

The Project will communicate with eligible neighbours in writing to advise of eligibility for a Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement.

Our correspondence to eligible neighbours will also include the template Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement for voluntary review.

The neighbour engagement team will then seek to meet with you on an individual basis and to outline the Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement process and advise of the predicted visual and/or noise impacts that you may experience arising from the Project. During our meeting we will provide you with a summary of all lump sum payments, support and mitigations that you are eligible for regarding visual/and or noise impacts. This information will be provided to you in writing.

We may request access to your property to ensure that the payments, mitigations and supports are fair and reasonable.

We may request information from you including but not limited to:

- land title information including ownership
- pre-existing property plan
- pre-existing business plans
- business records (financial and operational)

We will seek to ensure that:

- All correspondence and discussions are conducted in good faith between eligible neighbours and the project.
- Provides a transparent, equitable, fair and consistent process for entering into a Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement.
- Facilitates reasonable and equitable support and mitigations for eligible neighbours.

Seeking professional advice

We encourage you to consider the information available and seek clarification to support your voluntary participation in the Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement process.

You can seek professional legal advice to support you during the process and to form a Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement. At your direction, the Project can engage directly with your appointed legal adviser.

Engagement for the Project, including with neighbours, is guided by the Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects and is informed by key industry and government standards including:



Energy Charter

Our Better Practice Engagement Principles and Landholder & Community Better Practice Engagement Guide



Australian Energy Charter

2022 Community Engagement Recommendations



Engagement Institute

Principles and Quality Assurance Standard for Community and Stakeholder Engagement



NSW Guidelines

Social Impact Assessment Guideline; Engaging with Aboriginal Communities Practice Notes; and the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment guideline

The Project is committed to early, transparent, respectful and ongoing engagement, ensuring community, stakeholder and neighbour feedback meaningfully informs Project design, assessment and decision-making, consistent with the NSW Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Developments (March 2024). or respite is required.

Why does the Neighbour Agreement process and Guide exist?

When infrastructure is hosted on a landowner's property there are clear guidelines and regulations for landowner agreements that include mitigation arrangements or compensation. The Project is proposed on land we own which is adjacent or in proximity to landowners or neighbours. Therefore, where neighbours are likely to experience impacts from the construction or operation of the Project, we would recognise this impact and seek to mitigate or compensate eligible neighbours who are landowners.

The Neighbour Agreement process and this Neighbour Agreement Guide have been informed by engagement with the community and neighbours and developed consistently with best-practice process and approach in other major infrastructure projects across Australia.

Our Stage 2 Neighbour Agreements seek to help manage uncertainty by providing financial and physical support during the Project.

How will I know if I am an eligible neighbour?

The neighbour engagement team will directly contact neighbours to advise of their eligibility for a Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement. For non-eligible neighbours, Stage 1 Neighbour Agreements will expire. Our neighbour engagement team will advise you in writing when the Stage 1 Neighbour Agreements will end.

How do I get legal fees reimbursed?

Reimbursement of reasonable legal fees, during the Stage 2 negotiation period, is subject to your nominated legal representative providing the Project with a quotation for proposed services and the subsequent agreement of a costs cap.

Will the Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement payments vary between eligible neighbours?

Yes. There may be variation between the payments as part of a Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement, relative to the level of impact(s) that an eligible neighbour will be likely to experience, as has been assessed within the EIS. There will be some payments that are fixed for all eligible neighbours, for example, the sign-on fee.

What specific conditions are attached to the Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement?

There will be some conditions in the Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement and all eligible neighbours will receive a draft copy of the Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement for their review and/or review by their legal adviser.

The Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement will include mutual confidentiality obligations and require neighbours to consent to the construction, use and operation of the Project and the impacts, which is a change from the previous version of the Neighbour Agreement Guide.

Can a participant withdraw from the agreement after signing?

No, the agreement will be binding for the term of the Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement.

Can I sign a Stage 1 Neighbour Agreement, as well as a Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement?

Yes, project neighbours who are eligible for a Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement and who have already signed a Stage 1 Neighbour Agreement with the Project can also sign a Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement.

Please note that the neighbour engagement team will advise in writing as to when the Stage 1 Neighbour Agreements will come to an end.

Can residents review the pro forma Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement before committing?

Yes. All eligible neighbours will receive a draft copy of the Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement for their review and/or review by their legal adviser. Before you begin, you must provide a quotation for services from your third-party adviser(s) to the Project to ensure an upfront understanding and agreement of third-party adviser costs and any associated cost-cap.

Do private landowners include businesses or private companies?

Yes, private landowners include individual persons, private companies, businesses, or trusts.

Are public landowners or tenants eligible for a Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement?

No, public landowners or tenants are not eligible for a Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement.


Who will Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement payments be provided to?


Any payments received under a Stage 2 Neighbour Agreement will be provided and available to the current registered proprietor(s) of the property.

Find out more

We are available to discuss this guide and answer your questions.

 lakelyellneighbour@EnergyAustralia.com.au

 **1800 574 947**

 EnergyAustralia Project HQ,
124 Main Street, Lithgow
lakelyellpumpedhydro.com.au

Updated: February 2026

Proudly funded by



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