



EnergyAustralia

LIGHT THE WAY

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Megan Ramsdale
Planner, Resource Assessments
NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Submission – Canyonleigh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

EnergyAustralia welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the proposed Canyonleigh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) development (SSD-78247462).

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

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

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

Collaboration on cumulative impacts

EnergyAustralia has appreciated the collaboration with the proponent and the constructive way in which they have engaged to understand the potential cumulative impacts of multiple projects being delivered simultaneously.

We recognise the potential cumulative impacts from multiple energy developments in the local area including traffic, water quality, biodiversity, visual, workers accommodation and ongoing/overlapping construction and are committed to ensuring that our development has as little impact on the surrounding community as possible. We would note that the area is not a declared Renewable Energy Zone (REZ), which affords greater coordination of multiple energy projects in a common region in a way that benefits the local community and neighbours.

As a leader in the energy industry, EnergyAustralia convened a Developer Reference Group (DRG), which includes the proponent, to try and address these issues in a constructive way. We have sought to reach agreement on a unified approach to the upgrade of Canyonleigh Road alongside Goulburn-Mulwaree Council.

However, such collaboration is not always found. Currently, the impetus is on each neighbouring proponent to mitigate cumulative impacts, without coordination. We see an opportunity in this space for a more coordinated approach to neighbouring development in partnership with the NSW Government.

Greater coordination of cumulative benefits

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

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

As multiple energy projects are proposed, there is a once in a generation opportunity to ensure that multiple revenue sharing and benefit programs are strategically coordinated to maximise the collective impact and legacy for the region. Greater collaboration between proponents of energy projects in this area, with support from the NSW Government, could improve the collective benefit to the Marulan community and Goulburn region.

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

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss our submission further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'IBL', followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Ian Black

Project Director
Head of Project Capability