

Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	EnergyAustralia Lithgow Regional CCC	Reporting Period:	December 2022 – December 2023
Independent Chairperson:	Brendan Blakeley	Proponent Contact:	Mick Hanly

1. Executive Summary

The EnergyAustralia Lithgow Regional Community Consultative Committee (CCC) was established in 2018 and combined previous committees overseeing the operational Mt Piper and the decommissioned Wallerawang power stations, and the Pine Dale Mine.

Mt Piper station is envisaged to remain operating until 2040. Pine Dale Mine is in care and maintenance mode and is currently not operating. The Wallerawang power station is no longer within EnergyAustralia's portfolio and therefore is not covered by the CCC.

The CCC operates in accordance with the Department of Planning and Environment's Revised 2023 Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Projects. In the December meeting the committee discussed and agreed to terms of reference under the revised guidelines.

The committee meets three times per year. Community representatives' attendance has been solid with a quorum for all meetings. Throughout the year the committee has had opportunities to be informed of, and provide feedback on, matters relating to:

- planning for:
 - Mt Piper Battery
 - Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro
- dam safety
- water quality and water management
- groundwater issues within the vicinity of ash repositories
- site operations
- environmental performance
- feral pest management
- status of mining leases
- rehabilitation activities
- the energy market and the transition to renewables
- community programs.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

Current membership is:

- EnergyAustralia 3 members
- Lithgow City Council Clr Maree Statham
- Rob White Concerned Lithgow Community Group
- Julie Favell Lithgow Environment Group

- Aunty Helen Riley MINGAAN Aboriginal Corporation
- Alex Preema Lithgow Acclimatisation Society
- Rob Cluff Wallerawang Lidsdale Progress Association
- Jim Whitty Local Resident
- Jamie Giokaris Local Resident

Meeting frequency and attendance throughout 2023 is outlined in the table below:

Date	EnergyAustralia Representation	Community Representation
April 2023	3/3	5/8
July 2023	3/3	6/8
December 2023	3/3	7/8

Representatives of organisations have been invited to nominate alternates to secure ongoing representation for these groups when a member is unable to attend.

Minutes of the meetings and supporting presentations have all been posted on the EnergyAustralia Mt Piper web page within 2-3 weeks of the meeting occurring.

Over 2023 the committee has worked constructively and respectfully to navigate, at times, varying views on several matters including:

- the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro proposal.
- the energy transition.
- leachate within groundwater.
- water quality in rivers, creeks, and dams.
- feral pest control.

In addition to CCC meetings, members also have:

- direct channels of communication with the EnergyAustralia community relations lead on site matters.
- opportunities to participate in the broader community consultation program for the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro proposal.
- been forwarded copies of relevant media releases, notifications, and newsletters as they became available.

Other activities have included:

- a call for CCC nominations to participate in an ecological study for the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro proposal.
- an invitation to work alongside the consultancy developing a community benefits package being prepared for the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro proposal.

3. Key issues

There are many aspects to EnergyAustralia’s operations within the Lithgow region. These are detailed in individual meeting minutes, and the following table provides an overview of key issues of interest to the CCC:

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Proposal	<p>The project has been presented at all meetings throughout the year.</p> <p>The revised concept for the project was discussed in detail at the December meeting.</p> <p>Some of the issues raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual impacts • Amenity impacts • Environmental and heritage matters • Recreational impacts • Location of workers accommodation. 	<p>This proposal will be a major focus for the CCC over 2024.</p> <p>Given the significance of the project an additional meeting has been scheduled for 2024.</p>
Mt Piper Battery Proposal	<p>The group has been updated on the project throughout 2023.</p>	<p>The project will be discussed in detail at the February 2024 meeting prior to the lodgment of the EIS.</p>
Ash Repository Leachate	<p>Ongoing presentations including updates on the progress of lining and capping the ash repositories have been provided.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>This matter is still of concern to the group particularly impacts on local waterways.</p> <p>The CCC has requested regular updates on water monitoring results and progress on lining and capping.</p>
Water quality in dams and rivers	<p>Updates have been provided.</p>	<p>Ongoing updates throughout 2024.</p>
Community programs	<p>Ongoing information provided.</p> <p>CCC members requested to promote program and process for making applications.</p> <p>The process for developing the Community Benefits program for the Lake Lyell proposal has been presented to the CCC</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Potential CCC member involvement in the development of the Community Benefits program.</p>

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
Rehabilitation and remediation work	Monitoring data presented to CCC.	Ongoing updates.

4. Focus for next 12 months.

Currently planned activities for 2024 will include four meetings with agenda items guided by the contributions and interests of CCC members. Discussion is likely to encompass:

- detailed aspects of Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro and the Mt Piper Battery proposals.
- ongoing environmental performance.
- Mt Piper operations.
- ash repository management.
- surface and groundwater water quality.
- community funding programs.

As per the guidelines group members can nominate agenda items for meetings and the proponent is quite responsive to these requests. It is noted that some of the questions being asked by committee members about the Lake Lyell proposal are subject to ongoing investigation and studies and therefore information is not yet available or may change as the EIS is finalised.

Signature of Chair:



Date:

25 January 2024