

Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	EnergyAustralia Lithgow Regional CCC	Reporting Period:	December 2023 – December 2024
Independent Chairperson:	Brendan Blakeley	Proponent Contact:	David Wilson

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 2023 meeting the committee discussed and agreed to terms of reference under the revised guidelines.

The committee currently meets four 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
 - Planning applications related to water management and changes to ash repository operations
- water management
- groundwater monitoring and leachate 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 across 2024 now replaced by Clr Ray Smith for 2025
- Rob White Concerned Lithgow Community Group

- Julie Favell Lithgow Environment Group
- Aunty Helen Riley Mingaan Aboriginal Corporation
- Alex Preema Lithgow Acclimatisation Society
- Rob Cluff Local resident and member of the 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
Feb 2024	3/3	7/8
June 2024	3/3	6/8
August 2024	3/3	7/8
November 2024	3/3	7/8

The chair is in discussion with a member who, for personal and business reasons, was unable to participate in the CCC throughout the year. If the member is unable to attend the first meeting in 2025 the chair will request their resignation, and a replacement community representative will be recruited as per the CCC guidelines.

Minutes of the meetings and supporting presentations have all been posted on the [Mt Piper Community | EnergyAustralia](#) web page within 2-3 weeks of the meeting occurring.

Over 2024 the committee has worked constructively and respectfully to navigate quite varying views on several matters including:

- the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro proposal
- Mt Piper Battery Energy Storage System
- the energy transition
- water management
- groundwater quality
- water quality in rivers, creeks, and dams
- feral pest control
- the Federal Opposition's announcement of possible nuclear power generation at Mt Piper.

In addition to CCC meetings, members also have:

- direct channels of communication with the EnergyAustralia Community Engagement team on site matters
- been forwarded copies of relevant media releases, notifications, and newsletters as they became available.

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>Some of the issues raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • visual impacts • amenity impacts • environmental concerns • the process for input to Aboriginal heritage • recreational impacts • location of workers accommodation • adequacy of community consultation. 	<p>This proposal will be a major focus for the CCC over 2025.</p> <p>Aspects of the EIS will be discussed at CCC in the lead up to public exhibition.</p>
Mt Piper Battery Proposal	<p>The group has been updated on the project throughout 2024.</p>	<p>The project has received approval, and the group will continue to be updated as this project moves into procurement and delivery.</p>
Ash Repository Leachate	<p>Ongoing presentations including updates on the progress of lining and capping the ash repositories have been provided. Works have progressed significantly throughout 2024.</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. A planning modification to increase storage in TCR was discussed in detail at the November meeting.</p>	<p>Ongoing updates throughout 2025.</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</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
	Lake Lyell proposal has been presented to the CCC	
Rehabilitation and remediation work	Monitoring data presented to CCC.	Ongoing updates.
Environmental performance	Environmental monitoring results for various aspects of the station's operations were discussed at the November meeting.	Ongoing updates with a detailed presentation reviewing environmental performance across 2025 to be provided at November 2025 meeting.

4. Focus for next 12 months

Currently planned activities for 2025 will include four meetings with agenda items guided by the contributions and interests of CCC members. Discussion is likely to encompass:

- The Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro proposal and the forthcoming exhibition of the EIS as part of the CSSI application.
- 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.

Signature of Chair:



Date:

20 February 2025