

## Mt Piper BESS

# Shared Community Benefit Program

### Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the Mt Piper Battery Energy Storage System will be developed and operate 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.



We are progressing the development of a battery energy storage system (BESS) in Lithgow on land we own next to the existing Mt Piper Power Station.

Storing 500MW of energy when supply is high and delivering up to 4 hours of energy when we need it most, the BESS will be developed in two stages.

### \$6.4 Million investment in Lithgow's future

For more than 10 years, EnergyAustralia has worked alongside the Lithgow community through our community grants program, project engagement, partnerships and ongoing dialogue with local organisations, Lithgow City Council and First Nations leaders.

#### **These conversations have helped identify what matters most:**

- Long-term local capability
- First Nations leadership and connection to Country
- Education and workforce pathways
- Community resilience
- Stronger regional participation in the energy transition



The Mt Piper BESS Shared Community Benefit Program (the Program) builds directly on that listening.

It translates over a decade of engagement into a structured \$6.4 million investment designed to deliver lasting, shared outcomes during construction and into operations.

## Why First Nations focus?

Most of this investment is intended to support local First Nations organisations and initiatives, reflecting formal commitments and the priorities consistently raised through consultation. Through the Program, we are taking deliberate steps to strengthen First Nations participation. Historically, major infrastructure projects have not consistently delivered sustained economic participation or capability building for First Nations communities. As energy infrastructure expands Wiradjuri Country, this Program seeks to help address that gap and create meaningful, lasting opportunity.

## Program overview

The Program will operate across the development, construction and operational phases of our BESS.

**It will be delivered through a mix of:**

- Targeted partnership agreements
- Expressions of Interest (EOI) processes
- Co-designed initiatives
- Pilot programs and projects

Some initiatives will focus on equity and access, addressing the structural barriers that can prevent long-term capability building.

Initiative	How it will be sought	Delivery mechanism	Impact
<b>\$1M Voluntary Planning Agreement</b>	Targeted – Lithgow City Council	Agreement active during operations	Allows Council to convert development impacts into infrastructure, funding and social investment that strengthens community outcomes and reduces pressure on ratepayers.
<b>\$3.1M First Nations Capacity Building Fund</b>	Co-designed	Grant agreements over multiple years	First Nations organisations have access to sustained funding to scale, grow capability or expand capacity
<b>Local supplier innovation and capacity building</b>	Targeted – Lithgow Business Chamber	Multi-year partnership agreement	Local businesses and suppliers provide for BESS and/or innovate services for BESS market
<b>Caring for Country</b>	Expression of Interest	Partnership agreement	Ongoing cultural land management, local employment and connection to Country
<b>Wiradjuri Cultural Centre Seed Funding</b>	Expression of Interest	Direct capital contribution	Establishment of a permanent cultural and community facility
<b>First Nations Business Participation Support</b>	Expression of Interest	Supplier development & partnership support	Increased First Nations business participation in energy supply chains
<b>Community Battery Grants</b>	Pilot and Expression of Interest	Grant agreement	Provide at least 4 local community organisations with an energy solution to lower their operating costs
<b>Lithgow STEM Schools Program</b>	Expression of Interest	Completed 2025	Inspire future energy workforce and strengthen local STEM capability
<b>Fire &amp; Rural Fire Service Equipment &amp; Training</b>	Targeted consultation	Grant agreement	Improved regional emergency preparedness
<b>Women in Construction Partnership</b>	Targeted partnership – NSW Government	Partnership agreement	Increased participation of women in infrastructure and energy sectors
<b>Youth Driving Credentials Program</b>	Targeted partnership – TAFE NSW	Partnership agreement	Remove transport barriers to workforce participation
<b>STEM to Skills Partnership</b>	Expression of Interest	Education partnership agreement	Strengthen local STEM teacher capability and student pathways into energy industry
<b>First Nations Traineeships</b>	Advertised and recruited	Employment contract and partnership agreement	Career pathway into energy industry and capacity for First Nations organisation




## Program transparency and accountability


The Shared Community Benefit Program forms part of binding commitments under the Australian Government Capacity Investment Scheme and requires regular reporting on defined targets and outcomes.


The program will be administered by the Mt Piper BESS project team with investment decisions shaped by community-aligned eligibility criteria, collaborative partnership agreements and clear, documented outcomes to ensure transparency and accountability for the community throughout the life of the project.

Progress will be shared with the community each year, with updates made publicly available through annual reports on the EnergyAustralia and Mt Piper BESS project websites, regular briefings to the Lithgow Region Community Consultative Committee (CCC), community newsletters and project social media channels. The CCC will continue to serve as a key forum for open reporting and community feedback.

## Engage with us

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