

Invitation to comment

Waratah Super Battery – Munmorah

September 2022

About the Waratah Super Battery

To ensure NSW continues to have reliable energy supply following the planned closure of the Eraring Power Station in 2025, the NSW Government is procuring a new network battery – the ‘Waratah Super Battery’ – dedicated to supporting the electricity transmission grid.

The Waratah Super Battery is designed to act as a shock absorber to address any sudden power surges such as those from a bushfire or lightning strike across the electricity grid.

The NSW Government, through the Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo), has launched a competitive process to identify suitable battery developers and sites for the development of the Waratah Super Battery.

A final decision on the successful developer, and where the Waratah Super Battery will be developed, is expected to be made in late 2022.

Former Munmorah Power Station site

One of the sites being considered for development of the Waratah Super Battery is within the former Munmorah Power Station at 301 Scenic Drive Colongra (the Munmorah Site).



Proposed Munmorah site location

The Munmorah Power Station operated for approximately 50 years, before closing in June 2012. It has a total area of approximately 730 hectares.

The potential location of the Waratah Super Battery at Munmorah has an area of approximately 15 hectares and was previously used as the coal stockpile area for the power station.

The potential site is largely cleared and disturbed from its previous use for the power station.

If the Waratah Super Battery is developed on the Munmorah site, it will include:

- a battery energy storage system with a capacity of approximately 700 megawatts (MW);
- transmission infrastructure to connect the battery to the existing Munmorah Substation within the former power station; and
- other infrastructure and services required for the project.

The battery energy storage system technology for the Waratah Super Battery is yet to be confirmed, however it will likely comprise lithium-ion batteries in containerised battery enclosures.



Indicative site layout

Planning approval process

On 2 September 2022, the Minister for Planning declared the potential development of the Waratah Super Battery on the Munmorah site as 'Critical State Significant Development' (CSSI), in recognition of the critical nature of the project to NSW's energy security.

The CSSI declaration means the NSW Minister for Planning is the approval authority for the potential development of the Waratah Super Battery on the Munmorah site.

EnergyCo is now preparing a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposal, which will assess the impacts of the Waratah Super Battery on the environment and surrounding communities.

The EIS will consider the full range of potential impacts, including on soil and water resources, noise and vibration, air quality, visual amenity, biodiversity, heritage, traffic and transport, wastes and hazards, as well as socio-economic impacts and benefits.

Once completed, the EIS will be lodged with the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). The DPE will publicly exhibit the EIS for at least 28 days, and EnergyCo will be required to provide a response to public submissions. This response to submissions will be made available on the DPE website and issues raised by the community will be considered by DPE in its merit assessment of the project. Once this assessment is complete, the NSW Minister for Planning will decide whether the project should be allowed to proceed on the site.

As outlined above, the Munmorah Site is one of several sites being considered for the development of the Waratah Super Battery. A final decision on the proposed site will be made in late 2022.

Waratah Super Battery – Munmorah project timeline

1 **September 2022**
Project declared CSSI by Minister for Planning.

2 **Mid to late 2022**
EIS preparation underway, including stakeholder consultation.

3 **Late 2022**
EIS lodged with DPE for public exhibition.

4 **Late 2022**
Final decision made on chosen site and developer of Waratah Super Battery.

5 **Mid 2023**
Start of construction, subject to planning approval and Munmorah site being chosen for the Waratah Super Battery.

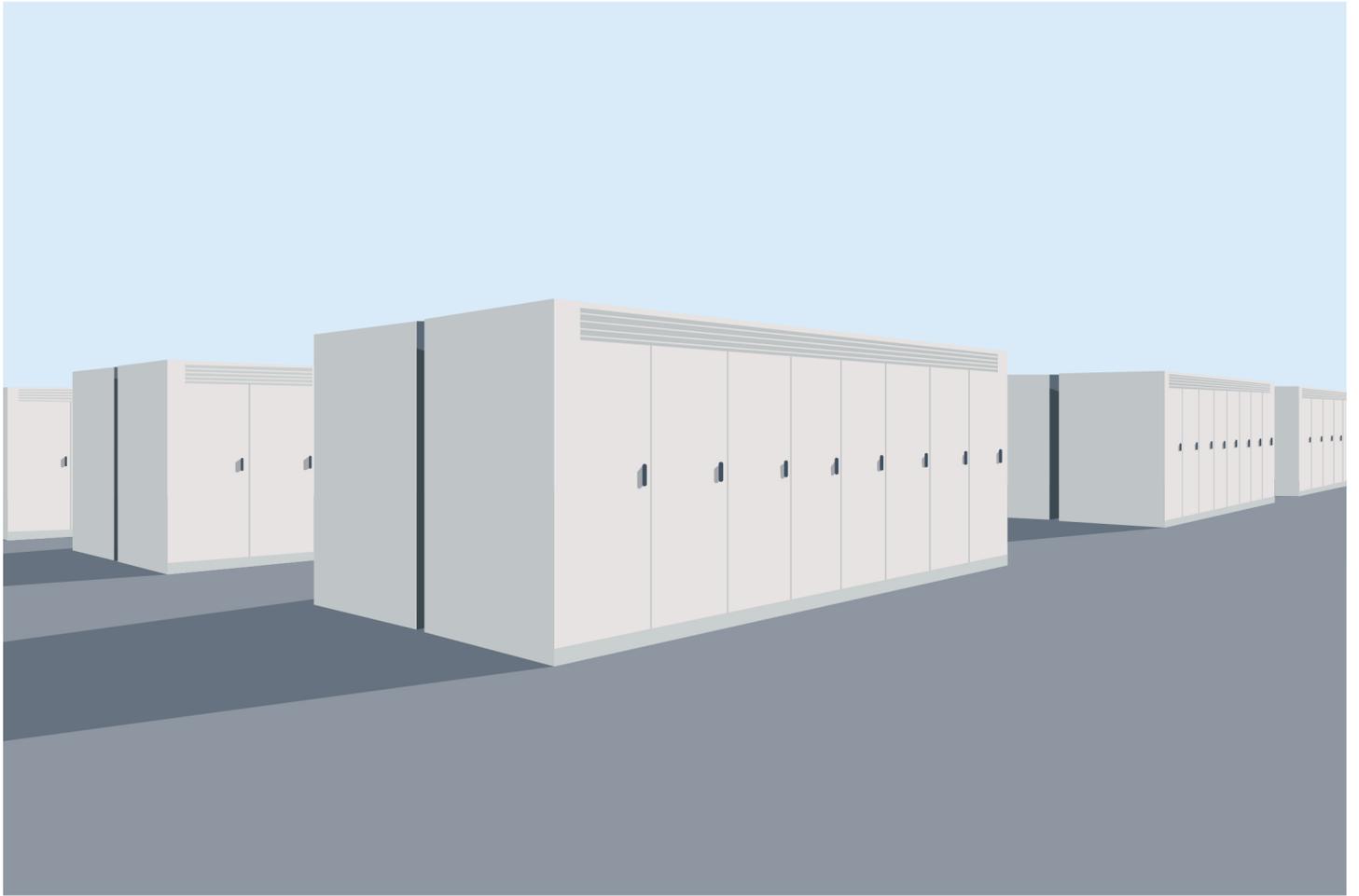
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As part of the preparation of the EIS for development of the Waratah Super Battery at Munmorah, EnergyCo is consulting with a range of stakeholders who may have an interest in the proposed development, including residents in the surrounding community.

If you have anything you would like EnergyCo to consider as part of the EIS process or have any queries regarding the project, please contact us on 1800 118 894 or contact@energyco.nsw.gov.au. To assist with the EIS preparation, it would be appreciated if any comments could be provided by 3 October 2022.

Further information on the project, and EnergyCo's other programs to secure NSW's energy future, can be found on our website at www.energyco.nsw.gov.au.

Planning-related information on the project will also be available on the DPE's major projects website at www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects.



Artist impression of battery energy storage system layout (indicative only)



Aerial view of Munmorah site with visual concept of potential Waratah Super Battery development (indicative only)