

# MINUTES

## Marulan Gas Fired Power Project Community Reference Group Meeting 3

<b>Date</b>	<b>Wednesday, 26 November 2025</b>	<b>Time: 5-7pm</b>
<b>Venue</b>	Meridian Café, George Street, Marulan	
<b>Attendees</b>	Deborah Palmer (DP), CRG Chairperson Christie Charlin (ChC), Community Representative Carlos Charlin (CaC), Community Representative Tony Mulvihill (TM), Community Representative Geoff Kettle (GK), Stakeholder Representative (online)	Cath Russell (CR), NSW Engagement Lead, EnergyAustralia Ian Black (IB), Project Director, EnergyAustralia
<b>Invited</b>	Goulburn Mulwaree Council   Upper Lachlan Shire Council   Wendy Tuckerman Office (MP)	
<b>Observers</b>	Amanda Jones – Project Approvals Lead Simon Pilkington – Projects Engineer Matt Poole – Project Manager Kylie Cochrane, Aurecon	
<b>Apologies</b>	Alessandro Donagh-De Marchi (ADDM), Community Representative Dakota Gow (DG), Community Representative	

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Item	Discussion Point
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1. **Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country**

The Independent Chairperson opened the meeting, welcomed all attendees, and provided an Acknowledgement of Country. The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the meeting took place, recognised their continuing connection to land, water, and community, and paid respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

2. **Apologies**

Alessandro Donagh-De Marchi (ADDM), Community Representative  
Dakota Gow (DG), Community Representative

3. **Introductions**

Each member introduced themselves. Kylie Cochrane provided an overview of their role project providing communications and engagement support.

The Chairperson thanked the members for their ongoing participation in the CRG.

4. **Actions arising from meeting 2**

#	Action Description	Status	Detail
1	Keep local councils and local MP informed by providing CRG meeting notes and project updates	Closed	Regular updates now part of business-as-usual
2	Provide updates on establishment of a project coordination group to coordinate energy projects in the Marulan area	Ongoing	Group established by Goulburn Mulwaree Council reviewing cumulative impacts including roads and waste
3	Provide update air quality modelling and noise modelling to the CRG	Pending	Studies underway; findings will be shared when completed
4	Provide visualisation of the proposed plant, including stack height and night-time lighting impacts	Ongoing	Initial renders released 17 Oct; neighbour-specific views progressing
5	Provide further information on acquisition rights for the pipeline easement (EnergyAustralia or State Government)	Pending	NSW Government developing new guidelines; to be shared when finalised

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6	Share outcomes of environmental studies and data with councils and other agencies	Ongoing	Studies shared where appropriate (e.g. Canyonleigh Road flood study)
7	Continue targeted community engagement via local Facebook groups, noticeboards and community newsletters	Closed	Occurring as a matter of course
8	Change agenda to include section “What we are hearing and key questions”	Closed	Implemented in Meeting #3 agenda
9	Share “Managing Tallawarra with the community” with CRG members and post online	Closed	Published online from 1 Nov 2025
10	Update Facebook page response re traffic movements for delivery of large equipment	Pending	Will occur once logistics confirmed
11	Follow up with contractors re property access protocols (gates)	Closed	Close-Gate protocol implemented; fencing upgrades underway

### 5. What we are hearing and key questions

This agenda item has been added so community feedback and priorities are considered upfront and help shape the conversation in each meeting.

During the discussion, members noted that the community is generally supportive of the project when information is clear and accessible. Members highlighted that reconstruction of Canyonleigh Road is of particular interest to the local community. Update provided under item 10.

The CRG noted that Facebook and local community groups remain the most effective channels for sharing information, though some residents are still unaware of the updated project page. Members also reinforced the value of plain-language diagrams and comparison visuals (such as stack height relative to nearby towers or other recognisable structures) to help explain the project to the broader community.

EnergyAustralia provided an update on the proposal and planning process. The project is currently in the detailed studies phase, with environmental and technical investigations underway to help refine the design. These studies will continue into early 2026.

The findings will be shared with the CRG and broader community from mid-2026 to ensure people can review the results and discuss community benefits.

A detailed Modification Report is expected to be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment in late 2026. It will then be placed on public exhibition in 2027 for community feedback.

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The CRG were interested to understand the number of stacks being delivered by the project, noting the visualisation shows 4 stacks. Energy Australia noted that planning approval is based on the total capacity of the plant rather than the number of stacks, meaning the final configuration may vary. The current assumption is that there would be no fewer than four stacks, with a height of around 45 metres, although this may change depending on air quality requirements, unit sizing and transport logistics.

EnergyAustralia explained that significant logistics work is underway to assist in determining unit sizing— including assessing bridge clearances and rail transport options — to determine whether larger single units can be transported to site. It was noted that there are trade-offs to consider: larger units may help reduce emissions and noise, while smaller units can provide greater operational flexibility but may increase the total number of components. A final decision will be made once further studies are completed.

Aviation lighting requirements are still under assessment by CASA, and no decision has yet been made on whether warning lights will be necessary. The project team also outlined potential visual treatments for the stacks, including toned finishes to help reduce visual contrast with the surrounding landscape. Further design work will be undertaken as the proposal progresses.

EnergyAustralia committed to providing a timeline on when a decision on the number and the height of the stacks will be made.

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### 6. **CRG in 2026**

The Chairperson thanked CRG members for their valuable contributions throughout 2025, noting that their local knowledge has played an important role in shaping the project so far. It was noted the group was originally established for one year. EnergyAustralia thanked members for their contributions both sharing information with the CRG and representing the interests of the community at the meetings. EnergyAustralia noted how essential the CRG will continue to be — both in guiding decision-making and in helping local communities stay informed as the project evolves.

Members were asked to confirm their participation in 2026. The forward program includes meeting in:

- February
- April
- Additional benefit-sharing conversations are planned for mid-2026,
- August.

All members present confirmed their continued participation in 2026. DP to reach out to members who were not present to confirm their participation in 2026. DP to forward all proposed 2026 meeting dates.

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Members also discussed the importance of having Council representation on the CRG. DP and EnergyAustralia will contact Goulburn Mulwaree Council to reinforce the invitation to participate in the CRG.

DP will review the CRG Terms of Reference and bring any suggested updates back to the group for discussion at the next meeting.

### 7. **Visualisations of the project**

EnergyAustralia presented updated visual renderings to help the group understand how the proposed facility may appear within the surrounding landscape. These images had been released publicly in October.

The images illustrated that only a small number of properties are likely to have views of the plant, and in most cases this would be limited to the upper section of the gas turbine. The turbine itself is currently expected to be around 40 metres high, which is similar to — or lower than — the existing 40–50 metre transmission towers in the area.

The modelling suggests that daytime visibility would be modest, and any night-time lighting can be carefully managed through design to reduce visual impacts. Additional landscaping and tree planting are also planned to support natural screening and maintain the area's rural vistas.

Members commented that the visualisations were useful for understanding the potential real-world effects of the project on local views and outlooks.

While discussing the visualisations, EnergyAustralia also provided an update on substation and network coordination. The existing switchyard includes two busbars and central bays that have historically been reserved for this project. Access to these bays is managed on a first-come, first-served basis, and while expansion is possible in future, this would depend on project timing and available capacity. A large central area has also been set aside to allow for a potential future 500 kV switchyard. The connection for the Marulan project will be integrated with both existing and proposed solar and battery facilities in the region, with further details to be confirmed as ongoing grid studies progress.

### 8. **Update on water management**

EnergyAustralia provided an update on water management for the project, noting its commitment to using water wisely, respectfully and efficiently. The gas-fired power station is expected to require approximately 140 mega-litres of water each year, with the system designed to reduce water use during drought periods, even if that means a temporary reduction in electricity generation.

Two priority water sourcing options are currently being explored. The first (Viable Option 1 as outlined in meeting 2) involves a wastewater pipeline from the proposed Marulan Wastewater Treatment Plant, which would recycle water, reduce the need for water trucking, and support growth in the township by enabling reuse of treated wastewater. This option offers a high level of drought resilience.

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The second option (viable option 4 as outlined in meeting 2) is a combination approach, using rainwater harvested on-site, a small licensed allocation from the Wollondilly River and a limited amount of wastewater trucking when needed. The allocation being considered from the river represents only a very small portion of the available licensed volume – around 2.7 per cent – and would provide additional flexibility in operations during dry periods.

EnergyAustralia confirmed that both community benefit and environmental protection remain key factors in selecting the preferred water supply option.

EnergyAustralia also advised that some water used in the plant would be recycled internally until minerals and salts build up over time. To safely manage this “blowdown” water, evaporation ponds may be used on site to allow water to evaporate naturally, leaving salts behind for controlled disposal.

Members noted limited wider community interest in the water options, but some felt that Option 1 could offer benefits by helping address wastewater challenges in the area.

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### 9. **Update on ecological studies**

EnergyAustralia provided an update on the ecological studies currently underway. A year-long biodiversity program is being carried out across the project site and along Canyonleigh Road to ensure seasonal variations and local wildlife are fully understood. Early findings have recorded sightings of threatened bird species, including the Glossy Black-Cockatoo and the Gang-gang Cockatoo. The Members discussed that these results are already informing design decisions, with a strong focus on avoiding and minimising impacts wherever possible.

Alongside biodiversity work, a broad suite of other technical studies has commenced. These include assessments relating to water, bushfire behaviour, soil quality, air quality, flooding, greenhouse gas emissions, visual impacts, heritage, aviation safety and preliminary hazard analysis.

Regulatory approvals are progressing in parallel with this work. A Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) is being prepared for the NSW planning pathway, and a referral under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act is also underway to ensure protection of matters of national environmental significance.

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### 10. **Exploring Canyonleigh Road**

The CRG received an update on road access and the potential need for upgrades along Canyonleigh Road. EnergyAustralia acknowledged that road upgrades are a high-priority concern for the local community. With three major infrastructure proposals planned in the area, EnergyAustralia highlighted the risk of having multiple, staggered upgrades that could cause prolonged disruption for residents. Instead, the project team is advocating for a coordinated approach — a single road upgrade, delivered once, to a standard that safely supports both community use and industry requirements.

This approach would involve shared design and co-investment by the different project proponents, along with improvements to drainage, culverts and the road base, and sealing the

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road to ensure durability and safety. By coordinating construction, the duration of disruption for road users could also be significantly reduced.

Members were informed that a multi-project coordination group, led by Goulburn Mulwaree Council, is being established to consider roads and water planning across the area. EnergyAustralia confirmed it is an active participant in this group. Further traffic data will be required to inform the planning and design process.

EnergyAustralia noted that local community support will be an important factor in progressing this collaborative solution.

CRG members expressed strong support for this collaborative approach, noting that it reflects community priorities and is likely to provide the most efficient and least disruptive outcome for residents.

Flooding issues along Canyonleigh Road were also raised, with specific locations identified as being prone to inundation during heavy rainfall. EnergyAustralia offered to meet onsite with TM to better understand local flooding impacts and ensure they are appropriately considered in future planning.

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### 11. **Any other business**

An update on potential construction workforce accommodation was requested. EnergyAustralia advised that accommodation for approximately 350 workers would be. Discussions regarding 3 possible site locations are underway; however, details cannot yet be shared due to privacy and commercial-in-confidence considerations.

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### 12. **Next meeting**

- 25 February 2026
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No.	Originated	Action Item	Responsibility
<b>Previous actions</b>			
1	M1 A2	Provide updates to CRG on the potential establishment of a project coordination group to coordinate energy projects in the Marulan area.	EnergyAustralia
2	M1 A6	Provide updated air quality modelling and noise modelling to CRG.	EnergyAustralia
3	M1 A7	Provide visualisations of the proposed plant, including stack height and night-time lighting impacts.	EnergyAustralia
4	M1 A8	Provide further information on acquisition rights for the pipeline easement (EnergyAustralia or State Government).	EnergyAustralia
5	M1 A12	Share outcomes of EnergyAustralia's environmental studies and data with councils and other agencies.	EnergyAustralia
6	M2 A10	Update the local Facebook page to address questions about traffic movements for the delivery of large plant following project approval.	EnergyAustralia
<b>New actions</b>			
7	M3	Provide a timeline on when a decision on the number and the height of the stacks will be made.	EnergyAustralia
8	M3	Speak to members who were not in attendance at Meeting 3 to determine interest in continuing as part of the CRG in 2026	Chairperson
9	M3	Forward all proposed 2026 meeting dates	Chairperson
10	M3	Contact Goulburn Mulwaree Council to reissue the invitation to participate in the CRG.	Chairperson/EnergyAustralia
11	M3	Review the CRG Terms of Reference and bring any suggested updates back to the group for discussion at the next meeting.	Chairperson

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12	M3	Finalise unit configuration, stack number/height and aviation lighting after logistics, air quality and CASA assessments.	EnergyAustralia
13	M3	Monitor switchyard bay allocation and update CRG as other proponents progress.	EnergyAustralia
14	M3	Meet with TM on site to review locations along Canyonleigh Road prone to flooding.	EnergyAustralia