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Marulan Gas Fired Power Project Community Reference Group Meeting 4

Date	Wednesday, 25 February 2026	Time: 5-7pm
Venue	Online via Teams	
Attendees	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 Alessandro Donagh-De Marchi (ADDM), Community Representative Dakota Gow (DG), Community Representative	Clr Bob Kirk, Goulburn Mulwaree Council Clr Christopher O'Mahony, Goulburn Mulwaree Council Cath Russell (CR), NSW Engagement Lead, EnergyAustralia Ian Black (IB), Project Director, EnergyAustralia Matt Poole – Project Manager
Invited	Upper Lachlan Shire Council Wendy Tuckerman Office (MP)	
Observers	Amanda Jones – Project Approvals Lead Simon Pilkington – Projects Engineer Emily Costello – Project Engagement Lead	
Apologies		

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Item	Discussion Point
1.	<p>Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country</p> <p>The Independent Chairperson opened the meeting, welcomed all attendees, and provided an Acknowledgement of Country. The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which the meeting was held, the Gundungurra people, and paid respect to their Elders past and present. The Chair also extended that respect to any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people present.</p> <p>The Chairperson welcomed Clr Bob Kirk and Clr Christopher O’Mahony, Goulburn Mulwaree Council as new members of the Committee.</p> <p>The Chairperson noted the Upper Lachlan Shire Council and Wendy Tuckerman Office (MP) have also been invited to be members of the CRG and Energy Australia continues to provide updates to them on the CRG discussions.</p>
2.	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Alessandro Donagh-De Marchi (ADDM), Community Representative to arrive late.</p>
3.	<p>Introductions</p> <p>Each member introduced themselves.</p> <p>The Chairperson thanked the members for their ongoing participation in the CRG.</p> <p>The Chair noted that the meeting was held online as a precautionary safety measure following a verbal threat by a landowner made toward an EnergyAustralia staff member.</p> <p>CRG discussed that where a landowner may be aggrieved, either due to the underground pipeline route or other matters, that they be provided with the opportunity to address the CRG directly, with the Chair to consider this option.</p>
4.	<p>Project snapshot</p> <p>A summary of where the project is up to was provided to members.</p> <p>The Marulan Gas Fired Power Station is proposed on EnergyAustralia-owned land off Canyonleigh Road. The project has been identified for development since 2009 and is declared Critical State Significant Infrastructure. An extension to the project timeframe has been granted from October 2024 to October 2026, with a revised deadline of late 2026 for completion and submission of the Modification Report, including supporting environmental and technical studies.</p> <p>Upcoming engagement and CRG milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• March 2026: Goulburn Show pop-up engagement; Business Impact Survey• April 2026: CRG Meeting #5 – review consultation materials for completed studies

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- Mid 2026: Multiple pop-up engagements; tour of Tallawarra Gas Fired Power Station
- August 2026: CRG Meeting #6 – prior to submission of Modification Report and studies
- Late 2026: Submission of the Modification Report with updated methodologies and technical assessments (reflecting NSW Government advice).

In discussion, a Member asked if an EIS would be undertaken. EnergyAustralia explained the current process is a Modification Report (as the project has an existing approval), and that it contains the same core elements as an EIS. EnergyAustralia confirmed the documentation will be exhibited for approximately 3–4 weeks and will be available to view on the NSW Planning Portal

A question was also raised about whether residents in Canyonleigh had been contacted to provide comment on the project. EnergyAustralia advised that engagement has included letterbox drops, door knocks in the area, and emails to contacts on file. EnergyAustralia welcomed suggestions of any additional residents who may wish to be contacted. A suggestion was made to hold a community pop up at the Canyonleigh Community Hall.

When asked about the timing for receiving bespoke visuals for neighbours, EnergyAustralia advised these are expected to be available around May, noting that design refinements are continuing and that visual impact materials will be released together (including photomontages, drone views and key viewpoints).

5. Terms of Reference

The group undertook a review of the Terms of Reference. Minor updates were made to reflect the group is continuing in 2026.

The group noted that there remains a vacant position on the CRG. The Chair also advised that an Expression of Interest (EOI) process will be undertaken to fill the current vacant position on the CRG, noting that applicants will be required to adhere to the CRG Code of Conduct.

6. Actions arising from meeting 3

#	Action Description	Status	Detail
1	Provide updates to CRG on the potential establishment of a project coordination group to coordinate energy projects in the Marulan area.	Closed	A coordination group has been established by Goulburn Mulwaree Council looking at a range of cumulative impacts from major projects (not just energy) including roads and waste management.
2	Provide update air quality modelling and noise modelling to the CRG.	Pending	Studies underway; findings will be shared when completed.

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3	Provide visualisation of the proposed plant, including stack height and night-time lighting impacts.	Pending	First visuals released in October. Continuing to work on individual landowner visualisations and stack heights. See action item 7.
4	Provide further information on acquisition rights for the pipeline easement (EnergyAustralia or State Government).	Closed	NSW Government recently released new regulations and guidelines for pipelines. Energy Australia is currently reviewing the new regulations and guidelines. Relevant links have been circulated through the Chairperson to CRG members.
5	Share outcomes of EnergyAustralia's environmental studies and data with councils and other agencies.	Ongoing	The Scoping Report outlined the various stakeholders which will receive outcomes of the environmental and technical reports. Where appropriate, EnergyAustralia has shared studies, such as the flood study for Canyonleigh Road with Council.
6	Update the local Facebook page to address questions about traffic movements for the delivery of large plant following project approval.	Closed	Facebook being used by the EnergyAustralia engagement team. Will happen, much later following project approval.
7	Provide a timeline on when a decision on the number and the height of the stacks will be made.	Closed	EnergyAustralia noted they are performing grid, market and capacity modelling now to confirm the size and capacity of the power station. This analysis will be ongoing through 2026. EnergyAustralia advised they are working with a scale of different heights. A decision on the size of the facility will be made around the Final Investment Decision for the project. Final Investment Decision occurs after a planning decision/outcome for the project.
8	Speak to members who were not in attendance at Meeting 3 to determine interest in	Closed	Actioned. All members have expressed an interest to continue.

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	continuing as part of the CRG in 2026.		
9	Forward all proposed 2026 meeting dates.	Closed	Emailed.
10	Contact Goulburn Mulwaree Council to reissue the invitation to participate in the CRG.	Closed	The CRG welcomes Councillor Bob Kirk and Councillor Christopher O'Mahoney
11	Review the CRG Terms of Reference and bring any suggested updates back to the group for discussion at the next meeting.	Closed	Minor amendments suggested.
12	Finalise unit configuration, stack number/height and aviation lighting after logistics, air quality and CASA assessments.	Closed	Combined with action 7.
13	Monitor Transgrid switchyard bay allocation and update CRG as other proponents progress.	Closed	Transgrid has responded to Energy Australia's connection enquiry. They have allocated EnergyAustralia bays 2 and 4. Connection is on a first come first served basis and EnergyAustralia's allocation could change. The Modification studies are assessing worst case/largest footprint.
14	Meet with TM on site to review locations along Canyonleigh Road prone to flooding	Closed.	TM and MP met.

7. What we are hearing and key questions

The following key points were raised by members during discussion:

- It was noted that EnergyAustralia's position on the new NSW pipeline regulations and guidelines will be discussed at the April meeting.

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- Members reported community feedback regarding the condition of Canyonleigh Road, which remains a key concern for local residents. Members noted that increased vehicle movements associated with multiple projects in the area are contributing to road deterioration and that the road requires more frequent attention and maintenance. Concerns were also raised regarding conditions on Carrick Road and Brayton Road. The proponent confirmed surveys have commenced along Canyonleigh Road.
- The proponent advised that traffic monitoring is underway, including surveying vehicle numbers using Canyonleigh Road.
- A Council representative advised they would take the feedback regarding local road conditions back to Council. It was noted that Council is aware of the cumulative impacts of development in the area (including impacts on roads, housing and the community), but specific detail on roadwork schedules or maintenance activities was not available at the meeting.
- Council representatives acknowledged the impacts on local roads and advised there is a regular program of grading, which can be adapted as required.
- EnergyAustralia advised it is engaging with Council at an administrative level and has established a developer coordination group to address cumulative impacts associated with State Significant projects. Canyonleigh Road is a key focus of this group, alongside other shared issues. EnergyAustralia noted outcomes and updates from these discussions will be reported back to the CRG as appropriate and may assist in managing consultation fatigue.
- A Member noted the value of direct communication between Council and proponents through the developer coordination arrangements. Energy Australia advised an update will be provided to the CRG on developer coordination discussions and key outcomes.
- A Member sought clarification on the status of road design work. The proponent advised the work is currently at a concept design stage and will require further coordination with Council regarding timing, ownership and responsibility, as well as input from other proponents to inform design development.

8. Ecological Studies

8.1 Assessment approach

EnergyAustralia outlined the ecological assessment framework that is being applied to the project. This includes evidence-based decision-making, involvement of independent experts, and a transparent process undertaken within a regulated approvals framework. It was noted that community input will be considered alongside environmental science. EnergyAustralia outlined the assessment sequence being applied as: Study → Identify → Avoid → Minimise → Manage → Offset (if required). EnergyAustralia also advised that a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) is being prepared to support the Modification Report.

8.2 Current studies underway

The meeting noted that year-long biodiversity studies are progressing. EnergyAustralia advised that a broad suite of technical assessments has commenced, including assessments relating to

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water, bushfire, greenhouse gas, socio-economic, soil, air quality, flooding, preliminary hazard, heritage, visual impacts, aviation safety and traffic.

8.3 Biodiversity findings and potential impacts

EnergyAustralia presented early biodiversity findings and potential impacts, including the identification of threatened ecological community plant community types, detection of threatened fauna species, and the potential presence of additional EPBC-listed flora and fauna species within the remote assessment area. It was also noted that one EPBC migratory bird species has been identified as having a low likelihood of occurrence, and that no significant impact is anticipated.

EnergyAustralia advised that, based on findings to date, the project has been referred to the Australian Government under the EPBC Act for determination of any assessment and management requirements.

In discussion, a Member asked whether the orchid identified on site had been described and assigned a threat classification prior to construction. EnergyAustralia advised that the orchid has been given an emergency threatened species classification in NSW, and that it is not currently listed under the Commonwealth EPBC Act. EnergyAustralia confirmed the orchid's location is known and that project design has been adjusted to avoid impacts, including changes to the road alignment.

EnergyAustralia advised that additional vegetation communities (including Yellow Box) are now included within the EPBC referral. It was also noted that the updated scoping work was undertaken using a conservative approach, as some sections of the pipeline route could not be accessed for on-ground survey due to land access limitations. EnergyAustralia noted that the remote assessment methodology requires a precautionary approach to potential species presence and impacts. EnergyAustralia also provided an overview of site walk methodology, including mapping of survey coverage.

8.4 Avoidance, mitigation and offsets hierarchy

EnergyAustralia outlined the intended impact management hierarchy, with avoidance and minimisation prioritised wherever practicable. Measures noted included layout changes, relocating infrastructure away from sensitive areas, reducing the project footprint, and timing works to avoid sensitive periods. Where impacts cannot be fully avoided, EnergyAustralia advised that construction and operational mitigation and management measures will be implemented. The use of biodiversity offsets was described as a last resort only, subject to regulatory oversight and independent assessment.

EnergyAustralia also advised it is exploring opportunities with the Australian National Botanic Gardens regarding potential propagation of the orchid.

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9. Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage Assessment

9.1 Approach and principles

EnergyAustralia emphasised that the cultural heritage assessment is intended to support recognition of living cultural landscapes and respectful stewardship of Country, rather than being undertaken as a compliance-only exercise.

9.2 Methodology

EnergyAustralia advised that the proposed methodology includes a desktop review of heritage registers and previous studies, consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs), and on-Country field surveys undertaken with RAP representatives. The program will also include archaeological survey work and, where required, targeted shallow hand excavation, supported by cultural values discussions with knowledge holders.

EnergyAustralia advised that consultation is underway with approximately 15 RAPs and that on-Country fieldwork with RAP representatives is scheduled for the first week of March 2026. It was noted that the fieldwork will be undertaken jointly by heritage specialists and RAP representatives.

10. Onsite activities

Energy Australia provided an update on current and upcoming on-site activities and outlined what nearby landholders and residents may observe.

10.1 Activities identified

EnergyAustralia advised that the following activities are occurring and/or planned:

- Drone (LiDAR) surveys and on-ground surveying along the Canyonleigh Road corridor, which may involve short-duration drone operations, survey vehicles and staff working near the road verge.
- Ongoing ecological surveys on EnergyAustralia-owned land and within the road corridor, involving small field teams and temporary vehicle stops.
- Property maintenance works on EnergyAustralia-owned land, including block maintenance and fence strengthening, involving maintenance vehicles, equipment and personnel.
- Aboriginal and cultural heritage field surveys involving heritage specialists and RAP representatives on Country.

10.2 Possible development application for a temporary site office

EnergyAustralia presented a potential development application for a small, fully removable temporary facility to support project and investigation activities. The proposed facility may provide office and meeting space, restroom amenities, and self-contained wastewater

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treatment. It was noted the structure would be modular/relocatable, would not require permanent foundations, and may be required for a period of up to two years.

EnergyAustralia advised that concept sketches have been provided to Council and that discussions are underway to confirm what planning approvals may be required.

11. Water Management Update

Energy Australia provided an update on the proposed water management approach.

11.1 Proposed stage water sources

The meeting noted that the proponent is considering a staged approach to water sourcing, including:

- on-site rainfall capture;
- a small licensed allocation from the Wollondilly River (with the water access licence approved), intended to enable collection of site water once the facility is operating;
- temporary trucking of potable water and/or treated wastewater (as an interim measure); and
- a long-term pipeline connection to the Marulan Sewage Treatment Plant, which was identified as the preferred primary source in the longer term and noted as a potentially beneficial outcome for the proponent, Council and the broader community.

It was also noted that back-up diesel fuel would be available for use if required, and the meeting referenced comparative water use figures to provide context for the project's annual water requirements.

A Member asked where the wastewater pipeline alignment would be located. The proponent advised the final alignment has not yet been determined, however early options being explored would avoid Canyonleigh Road and may follow existing corridors (including along Brayton Road and/or existing pipeline routes).

11.2 Truck movements

The meeting noted that truck movements are currently approved at up to 17 trucks per day. The proponent advised it is considering a temporary increase to up to 20 trucks per day, with trucking to cease once the long-term pipeline connection is operational.

11.3 River allocation context

The presentation noted the available allocation for the relevant water source is 5,111 ML, with the project's indicative requirement estimated at approximately 140 ML (around 2.7% of the available allocation). It was also noted that NSW water data indicates the allocation is significantly under-subscribed.

11.4 Rationale

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The proponent advised the staged approach is intended to minimise long-term reliance on trucking, provide operational flexibility and drought resilience, and support a reliable and lower-impact water supply strategy

12. Any other business

Engagement with the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) was discussed, with the proponent advising that preliminary discussions have been held. Members noted that bushfire preparedness and emergency response capacity, including resourcing for local facilities along Canyonleigh Road, is a key community issue. The proponent advised that it will continue to meet regulatory requirements for consultation with the RFS, and that more detailed engagement will occur once the project design has progressed.

EnergyAustralia advised the facility is expected to have an operational life of approximately 25 years, and that decommissioning and rehabilitation planning will be addressed as part of the broader business case and approvals assessment. EnergyAustralia noted that rehabilitation requirements are a specific consideration under relevant NSW Government requirements.

Flooding and access to the site were also raised an issue by members, particularly in relation to emergency access during flood events. EnergyAustralia advised it is assessing options to improve flood immunity, including raising sections of Canyonleigh Road (noting a reference design basis of a 1-in-100-year flood event). Members noted flooding and fire management are significant and interrelated concerns for the community.

Water supply options were discussed, and it was noted that the HSP option remains referenced in the scoping report; however, EnergyAustralia advised it does not intend to progress the HSP option within the Modification Report. It was also noted that only minor updates have been made to the scoping report.

In discussion regarding road impacts along Canyonleigh Road and the timing for repairs, TM requested that a BK provide a further update directly to them regarding road matters and outcomes of internal discussions. BK agreed to contact the Member to provide an update.

EnergyAustralia further detailed the proposed establishment of a Canyonleigh Road Developer Reference Group to support coordination among proponents using Canyonleigh Road, particularly given multiple projects progressing in the area. Proposed coordination topics include road planning and upgrade sequencing, alignment on fire management, ecology and environmental considerations, and the timing and flow of communications to residents.

13. Next meeting

- 29 April 2026

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No.	Originated	Action Item	Responsibility
Previous actions			
1	M1 A6	Provide updated air quality modelling and noise modelling to CRG.	EnergyAustralia
2	M1 A7	Provide visualisations of the proposed plant, including stack height and night-time lighting impacts.	EnergyAustralia
3	M1 A12	Share outcomes of EnergyAustralia's environmental studies and data with councils and other agencies.	EnergyAustralia
New actions			
4	M4 A1	Consider writing to the NSW Minister for Police regarding the verbal threat made to an EnergyAustralia staff member.	Chairperson
5	M4 A2	Consider inviting the person involved in the incident to address the CRG for up to 10 minutes to express their views.	Chairperson
6	M4 A3	Run an Expression of Interest (EOI) process to fill the vacant CRG position, noting applicants must adhere to the CRG Code of Conduct.	Chairperson
7	M4 A4	Provide an update to the CRG on the developer coordination discussions and key outcomes (including the proposed Canyonleigh Road Developer Reference Group)	EnergyAustralia
8	M4 A5	Provide a direct update to TM regarding Canyonleigh Road maintenance matters and outcomes of internal discussions.	BK
9	M4 A6	Discuss the EnergyAustralia's position on the new NSW pipeline regulations and guidelines at the April 2026 CRG meeting.	EnergyAustralia