MINUTES

Marulan Gas Fired Power Project

Community Reference Group

Meeting 5

Date	**Wednesday, 29 April 2026**	**Time: 5-7pm**
Venue	Meridian Café, Marulan	
Attendees	Deborah Palmer (DP), CRG Chairperson Christie Charlin (ChC), Community Representative Carlos Charlin (CaC), Community Representative (online) Tony Mulvihill (TM), Community Representative Geoff Kettle (GK), Stakeholder Representative (online) Alessandro Donagh-De Marchi (ADDM), Community Representative Dakota Gow (DG), Community Representative (online)	Clr Bob Kirk, Goulburn Mulwaree Council Casey Hart (CH), Community Representative Paul Culhane (PC), Upper Lachlan Shire Council Simon Arkinstall (SA) Upper Lachlan Shire Council Cath Russell (CR), NSW Engagement Lead, EnergyAustralia Ian Black (IB), Project Director, EnergyAustralia Matt Poole (MP) – Project Manager, EnergyAustralia (online)
Invited	Wendy Tuckerman Office (MP)	
Observers	Amanda Jones – Project Approvals Lead, EnergyAustralia Simon Pilkington – Projects Engineer, EnergyAustralia Emily Costello – Project Engagement Lead, EnergyAustralia	
Apologies	Clr Christopher O'Mahony, Goulburn Mulwaree Council	
Invited guests to present ahead of agenda items	Ben Cottle, Rodney Sieler, Dianne James	

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Item	Discussion Point
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 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. The Chairperson welcomed Casey Hart as new community representative following an open Expression of Interest process. The Chairperson welcomed Paul Culhane (Mayor – Upper Lachlan Shire) Simon Arkinstall (Planning – Upper Lachlan Shire), for whom this was their first meeting, although regular updates about the meetings have been sent to the Upper Lachlan Shire following each meeting. The Chairperson noted Wendy Tuckerman Office (MP), has also been invited to be a member of the CRG and Energy Australia continues to provide updates to her office on the CRG discussions.
2.	**Apologies** Received from Clr Christopher O'Mahony, Goulburn Mulwaree Council.
3.	**Introductions** Each member introduced themselves. During these introductions, several participants referenced broader community fatigue, cumulative development pressure in the region, and personal experience with previous infrastructure proposals. Early commentary highlighted the volume of energy-related projects occurring concurrently across the Upper Lachlan / Goulburn Mulwaree area. The Chairperson thanked the members for their ongoing participation in the CRG. The Chairperson highlighted the role of the CRG. The CRG is a voluntary forum established by EnergyAustralia to support open and informed dialogue with community members, councils and key stakeholders during the early planning phase of the project. Its role is to provide local and regional perspective on broad community priorities, values and concerns, and to help inform engagement and technical investigations. Its representatives have been selected following two open Expression of Interest processes and direct invitation to the Council and Local Member representatives. The CRG is modelled on the structure of the DPHI Community Consultative Committee guidelines, including an Independent Chair, representative membership, council and proponent participation, agreed Terms of Reference including a Code of Conduct and publicly available meeting summaries. The CRG is not a decision-making body and does not replace statutory consultation processes.

4. Invited guests

Following discussion at the February meeting, the Chairperson invited two landholders who may be impacted by the proposed underground pipeline to be delivered as part of the project to attend the beginning of the April meeting and speak directly with the CRG members about their concerns. The invite was extended to a third person who would be a neighbouring property to the pipeline. Extending these invitations was a suggestion from a CRG member and noted in the February minutes. This opportunity, while outside the remit of the Terms of Reference, was provided on this occasion as it may assist CRG members in understanding matters related to the pipeline.

Due to the timing of the invitation, two invitees advised that they were prepared to address the CRG. The third invitee advised that they could not present at this meeting and requested the opportunity to attend the next CRG meeting. The Chairperson acknowledged this request and confirmed that an invitation would be extended to this person for the August 2026 meeting.

To support the conversation, EnergyAustralia tabled two maps - one of all the alternative pipelines that had been considered over the past decade and the second a close-up of the alignment as it relates to the two properties.

The invited guests were asked to keep their presentations to approximately 10 minutes each. However, given the nature and complexity of the matters raised, more than 60 minutes were provided for the invited guests to outline their concerns and for discussion with CRG members.

The material presented by the invited guests was detailed and considered, and reflected their strong connection to their properties and their clear preference to retain their land in full, without disturbance or disruption from the project.

It was acknowledged that the proposed project is one of several projects being considered in the broader area, and that landholders are experiencing ongoing interest in, or approaches regarding, their land from a range of organisations. The invited guests emphasised that they do not wish to sell their properties or have parts of their land impacted by the project.

The key themes raised by the invited guests included:

- ongoing interest in their properties by third parties for this and related projects;
- concerns that engagement with landholders and their family members had not always been respectful, accurate or appropriately directed, including in relation to how correspondence was addressed and the use of preferred communication channels;
- concerns about the level, timing and transparency of consultation with landholders, particularly those impacted by the underground pipeline;

- questions about notification of the underground pipeline alignment and changes to easement requirements, including location, width and potential impacts on private land;
- requests for greater access to technical studies, assumptions and environmental assessment material;
- awareness of, and access to, submissions made to State and Commonwealth planning authorities;
- strong views about the proposed underground pipeline route, easement width and potential impacts on land use, including clear requests to avoid cutting across landholdings; questions about the environmental assessment methodology, including the accuracy of assumptions used where property access had not been granted;
- cumulative impacts of multiple developments in the region, including the need to avoid overlapping public exhibition periods so that stakeholders and the community have sufficient capacity to review project material and make submissions;
- questions about whether CRG meetings should be open to the public,
- timing of follow-up on commitments relating to property-specific matters; and
- questions as to why the February 2026 CRG meeting was moved online and the basis for that decision.

Some invited guests also raised matters of misrepresentation, historic grievances and dissatisfaction with previous engagement approaches. These matters were noted by the Chairperson.

EnergyAustralia representatives responded to several of the matters raised.

They provided an overview of the NSW planning framework, the assessment process and the conservative approach used in technical and ecological assessments. They explained that ecological studies are undertaken where access is available and that, where access is not available, assessments may apply conservative assumptions, including the assumed presence of certain ecological values.

EnergyAustralia also advised that underground pipeline alignment had been selected after multiple alignments were considered over the past decade impacted up to 40 landowners and that this proposed underground pipeline route has also evolved over time in response to a range of factors, including environmental constraints, land access, engineering and constructability considerations. It was noted that offset strategies may be refined or adjusted post approval, if required, as more detailed information becomes available.

The Chairperson intervened at several points to clarify the purpose of the discussion, return the meeting to the purpose of the discussion, manage conduct and remind participants the conversation needed to remain respectful and focused on the project.

The Chairperson acknowledged the concerns raised by the invited guests and noted the importance of ensuring that landholder issues are clearly understood and appropriately considered as part of the ongoing engagement and assessment process.

A difference of opinion between invited guests and EnergyAustralia regarding underground pipeline representation and engagement was acknowledged by the Chairperson and requested to be noted in the minutes.

The Chairperson acknowledged matters raised and noted the importance of ensuring landholder issues are clearly understood and appropriately considered. The Chairperson noted that the CRG is one mechanism for engagement with the local community and is not a forum where individual landholder issues are best discussed. The Chairperson encouraged the landholders to take up EnergyAustralia's invitations to discuss their individual concerns directly, noting that many of the matters raised were specific and immediate and would be best progressed outside the CRG meeting schedule.

The Chairperson reiterated that the CRG is not a decision-making body and that its membership is intended to represent a broad range of community interests in the project. It was noted community members are encouraged to raise issues with CRG members so that relevant matters can be brought forward for consideration at future meetings.

At the conclusion of the invited guests' agenda item, the invited guests left the meeting, in line with the agenda.

Following the invited guests' departure from the meeting, CRG members reflected on the matters raised and discussed the role and operating parameters of the CRG.

Members noted that the CRG is not a public forum and operates under agreed Terms of Reference. The CRG is intended to provide a representative forum for discussion about the project, rather than to operate as an open meeting or as a mechanism for resolving individual landholder matters.

Members also discussed that property-specific issues are more appropriately progressed directly between the relevant landholders and EnergyAustralia. The Chairperson offered to act as a conduit where this would assist, including by helping to clarify issues or support follow-up outside the CRG meeting framework.

The CRG also considered whether ongoing invitations should be extended to the invited guests to attend future meetings (beyond the commitment to one of the members to attend the August meeting for 10 minutes to present). Members did not consider this would be beneficial for either the individuals or the CRG at this time, noting the specific nature of the concerns raised and the need for those matters to be addressed through direct engagement with EnergyAustralia. It was also noted that there is one remaining meeting of the CRG in 2026 (in

August), after which time the modification report will be lodged. The Terms of Reference also call for a review of the CRG in early 2027.

The Chairperson committed to following up directly with the invited guests, providing them with a copy of the Terms of Reference, and offering to support connection with EnergyAustralia outside the CRG process.

5. Actions from previous meeting / Member updates

- These items were not discussed due to time constraints.

6. Communications and engagement update

Energy Australia provided an overview of communications and engagement activity undertaken since the previous CRG meeting. This included a project pop-up at the Goulburn Show, where the project team had more than 100 interactions with community members and stakeholders.

It was noted the pop-up provided an opportunity to share information about the project, answer questions, hear community views and identify issues requiring further explanation or follow-up. The engagement also provided an informal way for people to raise questions about the project, including in relation to timing, assessment work, the proposed underground pipeline, traffic, water, accommodation and community benefit sharing.

The discussion acknowledged that there is a high level of engagement occurring across the region in relation to several projects. CRG members noted that this can contribute to community consultation fatigue, particularly where stakeholders and community members are being asked to review complex material or participate in multiple engagement processes at the same time.

The CRG also discussed the challenge of cumulative impacts and overlapping engagement being undertaken by multiple proponents. It was noted that, where possible, proponents should be mindful of the timing of engagement activities and public exhibition periods, and seek to provide information in a clear, accessible and coordinated way so that community members have a reasonable opportunity to understand proposals and provide informed feedback.

7. Modification Report Preview

EnergyAustralia outlined the planned preview communications for the Modification Report, which will provide the community with early information about key assessment areas before the report is submitted. The preview communications are expected to cover topics including air quality, noise, visual impacts and the proposed underground pipeline.

EnergyAustralia advised that communications are planned for May and will include weekly pop-ups to provide opportunities for community members to speak with the project team, ask questions and better understand the assessment work being undertaken. Members suggested that EnergyAustralia consider holding some pop-ups in Marulan on Saturdays to improve accessibility for people who may not be available during standard weekday hours.

The timing of the Modification Report was also discussed. It was clarified that the October 2026 timeframe relates to the anticipated submission of the Modification Report. Following submission, the report would be subject to government adequacy checks before being placed on public exhibition. Members requested that EnergyAustralia continue to provide clear information about the project timeline, including when material will be available and how the community can access it.

Members also raised localised issues, including potential road impacts, and emphasised the importance of providing clear, timely and accessible information as the project progresses.

8. Workers' Accommodation

Energy Australia presented an update on the proposed Temporary Workers Accommodation Facility (TWAF), which is being considered to support the project's construction workforce. The presentation included an overview of the preferred site selection process, with Ambrose Road identified as the preferred location. It was advised biodiversity studies for the site had been completed and that planning and technical design work is continuing.

CRG members asked questions about how the facility would operate and how potential local impacts would be managed. Discussion included the importance of maximising local workforce participation where possible, including through employment targets, training pathways and workforce development opportunities for local residents and businesses.

Members also raised questions about potential visual, traffic and amenity impacts for nearby residents, including how the facility would be accessed, how worker movements would be managed, and whether buses would be used to reduce private vehicle traffic. The potential for cumulative impacts with other State Significant Development projects in the region was also discussed, particularly in relation to accommodation demand, traffic, workforce pressure and community amenity.

EnergyAustralia advised that it is engaging with other developers through a Developer Reference Group to better understand and coordinate around potential cumulative impacts. EnergyAustralia also noted that it is considering longer-term community benefit and legacy opportunities associated with the workforce accommodation planning. This includes how investment linked to the TWAF could provide broader or longer-term value for the local community beyond the construction phase.

In discussions about the main project site impact, EnergyAustralia advised that further work is being undertaken on visual impact assessments and neighbour information materials. These materials are intended to provide clearer information to nearby residents about the proposed facility, the assessment process, potential impacts and proposed mitigation measures.

9. Onsite activities

Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed.

10. Next meeting

- 26 August 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. Pending.	EnergyAustralia
2	M1 A7	Provide visualisations of the proposed plant, including stack height and night-time lighting impacts. Pending.	EnergyAustralia
3	M1 A12	Share outcomes of EnergyAustralia's environmental studies and data with councils and other agencies.	EnergyAustralia
4	M4 A1	Consider writing to the NSW Minister for Police regarding the verbal threat made to an EnergyAustralia staff member. Considered. No further action. Closed.	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. Invited to Meeting 5. Closed.	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. Actioned. Casey Hart has joined the CRG. Closed.	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) The group have met twice and shared upcoming engagement activities as well as discussed the Canyonleigh Road construction to see if a single solution could be developed. Closed.	EnergyAustralia
8	M4 A5	Provide a direct update to TM regarding Canyonleigh Road maintenance matters and outcomes of internal discussions. Action taken. Closed.	BK
9	M4 A6	Discuss the EnergyAustralia's position on the new NSW pipeline regulations and guidelines at the April 2026 CRG meeting.Ongoing.	EnergyAustralia
New actions			

10	M5 A1	Invite Ben Cottle to attend the August CRG for 10 minutes at the start to provide comments to the CRG. Pending	Chairperson
11	M5 A2	Follow up directly with invited guests, provide Community Reference Group Terms of Reference (TOR) and offer to act as a conduit between landholders and EnergyAustralia where appropriate	Chairperson
12	M5 A3	Continue direct engagement with affected landholders regarding underground pipeline and property-specific matters	EnergyAustralia
13	M5 A4	Progress neighbour information materials for workers accommodation	EnergyAustralia
14	M5 A5	Incorporate feedback on pop-up timing (including Saturdays in Marulan)	EnergyAustralia
15	M5 A6	Continue coordination with other proponents via Developer Reference Group	EnergyAustralia