

# Marulan Gas Fired Power Station

## Community Reference Group

### 26 August 2026 - Meeting 6 - Update

#### What is the CRG

The Community Reference Group (CRG) brings together residents, stakeholders, council representatives and EnergyAustralia. It provides a forum to share information about the Marulan Gas Fired Power Station project, raise questions and ensure community feedback is considered as planning continues.

#### What was discussed?

##### Presentation from an invited guest

Jim McBirnie attended on behalf of landholder Ben Cottle, who would be directly affected by the proposed underground gas pipeline. Mr McBirnie outlined concerns about impacts on Mr Cottle's working cattle property, the consultation undertaken to date and whether an alternative pipeline route had been adequately considered.

Potential impacts raised included disruption to cattle yards and farm operations, construction traffic, dust and noise, reduced flexibility in the future use of the property, and longer-term operational noise and lighting. Mr McBirnie requested that a route further south be reconsidered, noting that Mr Cottle did not accept the proposed pipeline crossing his property.

EnergyAustralia explained that route selection had considered environmental impacts, the number of affected landowners, existing easements and property boundaries, constructability, pipeline stability and overall route length. EnergyAustralia confirmed the issues raised would continue to be considered through the assessment and engagement process.

##### Project update, communications and engagement

EnergyAustralia outlined the proposed modification and the role of the power station in providing fast-start electricity generation when renewable output and stored energy are insufficient. Gas would be the primary fuel, with diesel used only as an emergency backup. The project would supply the National Electricity Market and was expected to operate around 10–15 per cent of the time.

EnergyAustralia reported that 111 engagement activities had been undertaken, including engagement with 18 of 28 near neighbours and all four pipeline landowners. The most frequently discussed issues were truck movements and road upgrades, visual amenity, noise, environmental impacts and cumulative impacts from other developments.

Members said community members wanted information but could not always attend weekday activities or regularly check the project website and social media. They supported a mix of webinars, public meetings, newsletters, community noticeboards and face-to-face pop-ups. Positive feedback was provided about the project team's presence at the Goulburn Show. EnergyAustralia agreed to provide its October engagement schedule to members for comment.

Road conditions and cumulative traffic were also discussed, particularly on Canyonleigh Road. Council representatives emphasised the need to coordinate road maintenance, approvals and construction impacts

across several proposed projects. EnergyAustralia advised it was continuing discussions with councils and other developers.

## Modification Report preview

EnergyAustralia presented a preview of the proposed Modification Report and supporting technical assessments. The modification would increase generating capacity from 800 MW to 1.43 GW, allow up to four open-cycle gas turbines, increase the project area, extend the approval lapse date to 2031 and introduce gas storage and a temporary workers accommodation facility.

Landscape and visual assessment considered eight representative viewpoints. Members expressed concern about the potential visibility of up to four stacks, the effect on valued rural views and the difficulty of interpreting technical images. EnergyAustralia advised the assessment used a 45-metre stack height as the maximum, but the final height may be lower. Members requested clearer information about turbine configurations, receiver sensitivity and the overall effect on individual properties.

Noise modelling indicated that assessed receivers would comply with the 35 dB(A) rural residential operational noise trigger level. Members noted that compliant project noise could still be noticeable against very low rural background levels, especially at night. They requested plain-English explanations and comparative diagrams showing existing background noise and predicted project noise.

Peak construction was forecast to generate approximately 126 heavy-vehicle trips each day, as well as oversize and over-mass deliveries. Proposed measures included widening and sealing part of Canyonleigh Road, shuttle buses from the workers accommodation facility, a Traffic Management Plan, a Driver Code of Conduct and school-zone controls. Members raised road-widening concerns, school bus safety, passing opportunities and the cumulative effect of traffic from other projects.

EnergyAustralia advised that construction dust would be managed through standard controls and that the air-quality assessment considered adverse weather conditions and relevant pollutants. Members asked about health impacts and EnergyAustralia noted that there would be a full assessment detailed in the Modification Report.

Operational water demand was estimated at 103–130 megalitres each year, with total construction demand of approximately 181 megalitres. Preferred sources included harvested stormwater, licensed extraction from the Wollondilly River and recycled water from local sewage treatment plants. The assessment concluded the project would have a neutral or beneficial effect within the drinking-water catchment.

The project was expected to employ up to 400 full-time-equivalent workers during peak construction and up to 10 during operations. The proposed accommodation facility off Ambrose Road would provide up to 400 single rooms and shuttle transport to the project site.

## Public exhibition and next steps

The Modification Report was expected to be lodged by the end of October 2026. Once placed on public exhibition by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, anyone could make a submission through the NSW Major Projects Portal. Exhibition was expected to run for at least 28 days, after which EnergyAustralia would respond to submissions and key themes in a Response to Submissions Report.

A final investment decision by EnergyAustralia is anticipated in 2027.

## Actions and next meeting

EnergyAustralia agreed to provide the October engagement schedule; advise members when lodgement and exhibition timing is confirmed; prepare accessible information on noise and visual assessment; provide further detail on road approvals and traffic management; and share an example of how operational air-quality monitoring data may be reported.

The next CRG meeting will be held online in November 2026, with the date to align where possible with the public exhibition period.

For more information visit: [www.marulangasfiredpower.com.au](http://www.marulangasfiredpower.com.au) or email: [community@energyaustralia.com.au](mailto:community@energyaustralia.com.au)