

Lamberts North Ash Repository Modification 1 fact sheet



The Mt Piper Ash Placement Project allows for the safe and sustainable disposal of ash produced by the Mt Piper power station. This fact sheet provides an overview of the proposed changes to EnergyAustralia's approved ash management practices at Mt Piper Lamberts North Ash Repository, which will result in more efficient operations and improved environmental outcomes.

Background

Mt Piper power station, owned and operated by EnergyAustralia, can generate enough energy to meet the needs of some 1.2 million homes in New South Wales every year.

The power station is critical to maintaining a reliable, affordable electricity supply, particularly at times of peak demand. It provides stability while other sources of power like wind and solar are integrated into a modern energy system.

Mt Piper is also an important part of the local community, providing direct and indirect employment for around 300 people and supporting multiple community initiatives and charities.

Current ash management

Coal ash is a by-product of electricity generation at Mt Piper power station. It is typically made up of bottom furnace ash (usually wet) and fly ash (dry). Ash produced by Mt Piper can either be sold and reused as an ingredient for cement-based products, or it can be stored in a purpose-built repository.

Ash is currently safely stored onsite at Mt Piper in two approved and operational repositories: the Mt Piper Ash Repository (MPAR), and the Mt Piper Ash Placement Project that consists of two ash repository areas: Lamberts North Ash Repository (LNAR) and Lamberts South Ash Repository (LSAR). The MPAR was developed in the mid 1990's, while the repositories associated with the Ash Placement Project were established in 2012. Since operation commenced, they have been maintained under strict compliance with the Environment Protection Authority guidelines.

Proposed modification

As the MPAR is reaching its approved capacity, EnergyAustralia is planning to transition those ash management activities into the LNAR.

EnergyAustralia is proposing some modifications to the approved practices already in place at the LNAR to ensure continued sustainability, efficiency and safety.

The proposed design changes include:

- the staged installation of a liner within the currently approved LNAR. The liner will be placed at the bottom of the ash placement area, and ash mixed with brine will be placed above the liner instead of directly above ash mixed with water. This improved separation of ash will allow for better recovery and reuse of the ash mixed with water, where possible
- the staged installation of lined multipurpose storage ponds to store any excess water onsite, allowing it to be treated and reused
- minor adjustments to the approved LNAR footprint to support these proposed activities, considering existing and proposed surrounding interactions.

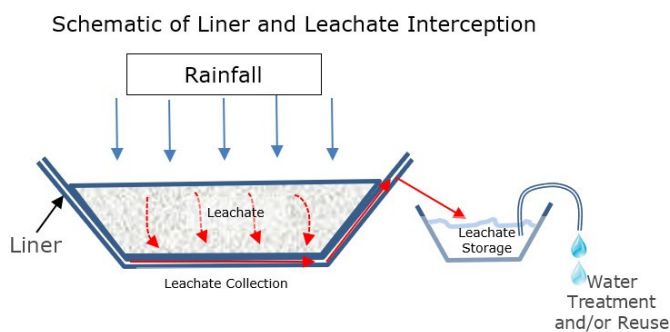
These improvements, and the resulting new practices, will make LNAR, and by extension Mt Piper power station, more sustainable and efficient. While ash is a by-product of Mt Piper's current operations, EnergyAustralia is committed to containing and managing it in the safest, most secure way that protects the surrounding environment. These proposed changes will ensure we continue to do so, well into the future.

All other activities and operations associated with LNAR, including operational hours, will remain as approved under the existing Project Approval.

After the LNAR reaches its maximum capacity, it will be lined with a low permeability cap. Soil will be placed above the liner within which low growing vegetation will be established.

Benefits of proposed modification

- **Improved environmental risk management:** the new liner will ensure any excess water/runoff from the ash is safely contained on site. There will also be increased site groundwater monitoring.
- **Using less water:** any excess water can be treated and reused for essential operations of Mt Piper such as irrigation and dust suppression, reducing the demand for freshwater resources.
- **Less waste:** improved separation practices will result in more ash that is suitable for reuse, avoiding the need for it to be contained.
- **Future-proofing:** less ash stored onsite will increase the LNAR's longevity, reducing the need for more repositories down the line and ensuring safe containment for many years to come.

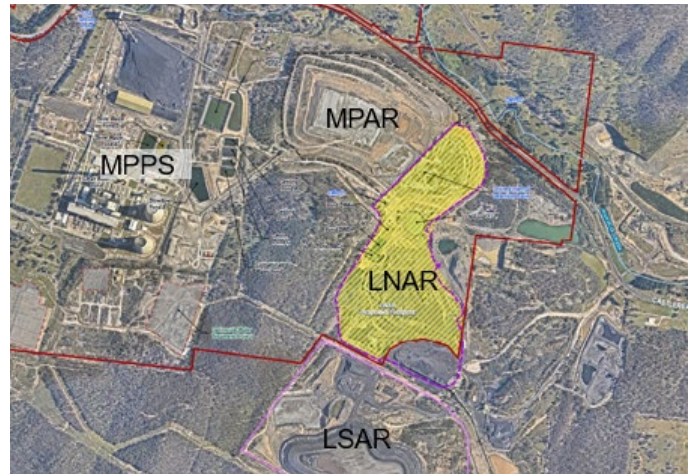


Above: Compaction of ash mixed with water at LNAR

Get in touch

If you'd like to know more, please contact us at contactus@energyaustralia.com.au or (02) 6354 8111

Information about the project is also available at energyaustralia.com.au/mtpiperprojects



Above: Location of LNAR (yellow hatch)

Next steps

To support these proposed changes, EnergyAustralia is modifying its Mount Piper Power Station Ash Placement Project Approval (PA 09_0186) with the Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment (DPIE).

EnergyAustralia consulted with relevant regulators, including Department of Planning, Industry and Environment throughout March and April 2021.

We're now informing the community and inviting their input into this proposal. Members of the public who would like to view our proposed changes in greater detail are encouraged to access the Department's Major Project website at: <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/41576>

About EnergyAustralia

EnergyAustralia is a leading energy retailer and generator with 2.4 million accounts across eastern Australia. We supply energy to our residential and business customers from a modern energy portfolio, underpinned by coal and gas power plants, as well as renewable energy sources.

We operate Australia's largest energy sector carbon offsets program, with more than 1.6 million tonnes of CO₂e already fully offset and accredited by Climate Active. Under our offsets offering, more than 250,000 of our customers receive carbon neutral electricity and gas at no extra cost.

EnergyAustralia recognises its Mt Piper power station and Lake Lyell is on the traditional Country of Wiradjuri peoples and respects and acknowledges their continued connection to Country and culture.