

Penny Sharpe

Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy
Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage
Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

**Media Release****NSW supports new long-duration storage projects to boost reliability of the energy system****Thursday, 27 February 2025**

The Minns Labor Government is taking further action to build a reliable, affordable energy system by supporting three new long-duration storage projects. The latest tender round – the largest of its kind in Australia – has for the first time selected a pumped hydro project, as well as two large-scale batteries.

Long-duration storage serves an important role in the electricity system, allowing renewable energy such as solar and wind to be stored and then released on demand when needed.

This helps smooth the supply of renewable energy around the clock, reducing price spikes and placing downward pressure on electricity prices over time.

The projects, under the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap, include:

- Two large-scale batteries, Stoney Creek Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in Narrabri and Griffith BESS in Yoogali.
- ACEN Phoenix Pumped Hydro Energy Storage, the first pumped hydro project to be successful in the Roadmap tender program, located near Lake Burrendong.

The projects will create around 900 construction jobs and 60 ongoing positions. They will also help to secure at least \$3.5 billion in investment in NSW's energy system, bringing new investment to regional NSW and underscoring NSW's place as a leading destination for energy industry investment.

Combined, the awarded projects represent 1.03 gigawatts or 13.79 gigawatt hours of energy storage capacity – exceeding the tender's indicative target of 1 GW.

When fully charged, the one gigawatt of long duration storage will contain enough energy to power more than half a million households for a day, ensuring a reliable supply of electricity is available during periods when the sun isn't shining, and the wind isn't blowing.

The successful projects can each continuously dispatch electricity for at least 8-hours. The Lake Burrendong project offers a storage capacity equivalent to around 15 hours duration.

With the addition of these projects, NSW has now locked in 40% of its long-duration storage by 2030 target, and more than 65% of the recently legislated 2034 target.

The tender is the fifth conducted by AEMO Services as Consumer Trustee under the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap.

Other projects that will support the stability and reliability of the grid that are due to come online in NSW soon include the Waratah Super Battery, the Smithfield Battery Energy Storage System and Stage 1 of the Eraring Big Battery.

Quote attributable to the Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Penny Sharpe:

“The Minns Labor government is delivering a reliable, affordable energy system that benefits communities and the economy.

“NSW is already powered by around 35% renewable energy. These projects will help ensure NSW households and businesses have access to affordable and reliable electricity as we continue transform our grid.

“These new projects will drive local and regional economies with jobs and investment, while also delivering a reliable energy system for the whole of NSW.”

Further information:

The awarded projects are:

Project Name	Technology	MW/MWh	Location	Equivalent Storage Duration	Target year of operation
ACEN Phoenix PHEs	PHEs	800 MW / 11,990 MWh	Lake Burrendong	~15 hours	2031
Stoney Creek BESS	BESS (Li-ion)	125 MW / 1,000 MWh	Narrabri	8 hours	2027
Griffith BESS	BESS (Li-ion)	100 MW / 800 MWh	Yoogali	8 hours	2027

About the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap

The Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap is a legislated plan to power the state with affordable, clean and reliable energy. The Roadmap will support the delivery of at least 12 gigawatts of new renewable energy generation and 2 gigawatts of long-duration storage by 2030.

About AEMO Services

AEMO Services, as the state’s independent Consumer Trustee, plans and secures long-term investment in new generation and storage infrastructure. A key role of AEMO Services is to deliver competitive tenders to fast-track projects with the greatest potential to help NSW meet its future electricity needs. The Consumer Trustee must prioritise the long-term financial interests of NSW electricity consumers.

What is ‘long-duration storage’?

Long-duration storage is any type of technology that can store electricity and then release it over a period of 8 hours or more. It will make sure we have a reliable supply of electricity available during periods when the sun doesn’t shine, for example overnight, or when the wind doesn’t blow. Examples of long-duration storage technologies include batteries, pumped hydro and compressed air.

What is pumped hydro?

Pumped hydro acts like a giant battery for the electricity system. It uses surplus renewable energy to pump water uphill, then releases the water back down the hill through giant turbines that generate electricity. Pumped hydro can provide large amounts of long-duration energy storage.

What is a BESS?

A Battery Energy Storage System combines large scale batteries with a battery management system, which monitors the discharge rate of each battery to ensure energy is dispatched at a steady rate, and a power conversion system, which converts the Direct Current energy that enters the battery, into Alternate Current energy.

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