

Environmental assessment of a proposal to extend Mt Piper Power Station

July 2009

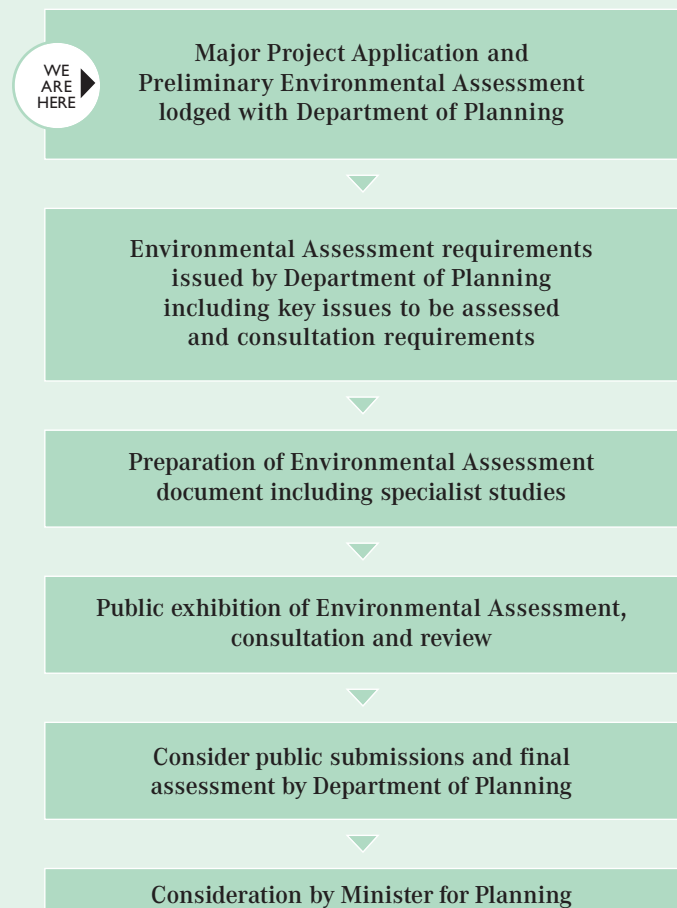
As part of the NSW Government's Energy Reform Strategy, Delta Electricity has initiated planning so that an additional 2000 megawatts of base load electricity generation capacity could be provided at the Mount Piper Power Station to meet future demand. This newsletter provides a summary of the project details and the environmental planning and assessment process. Comments on this project are welcomed and details of where to obtain more information are included in this newsletter.

Background

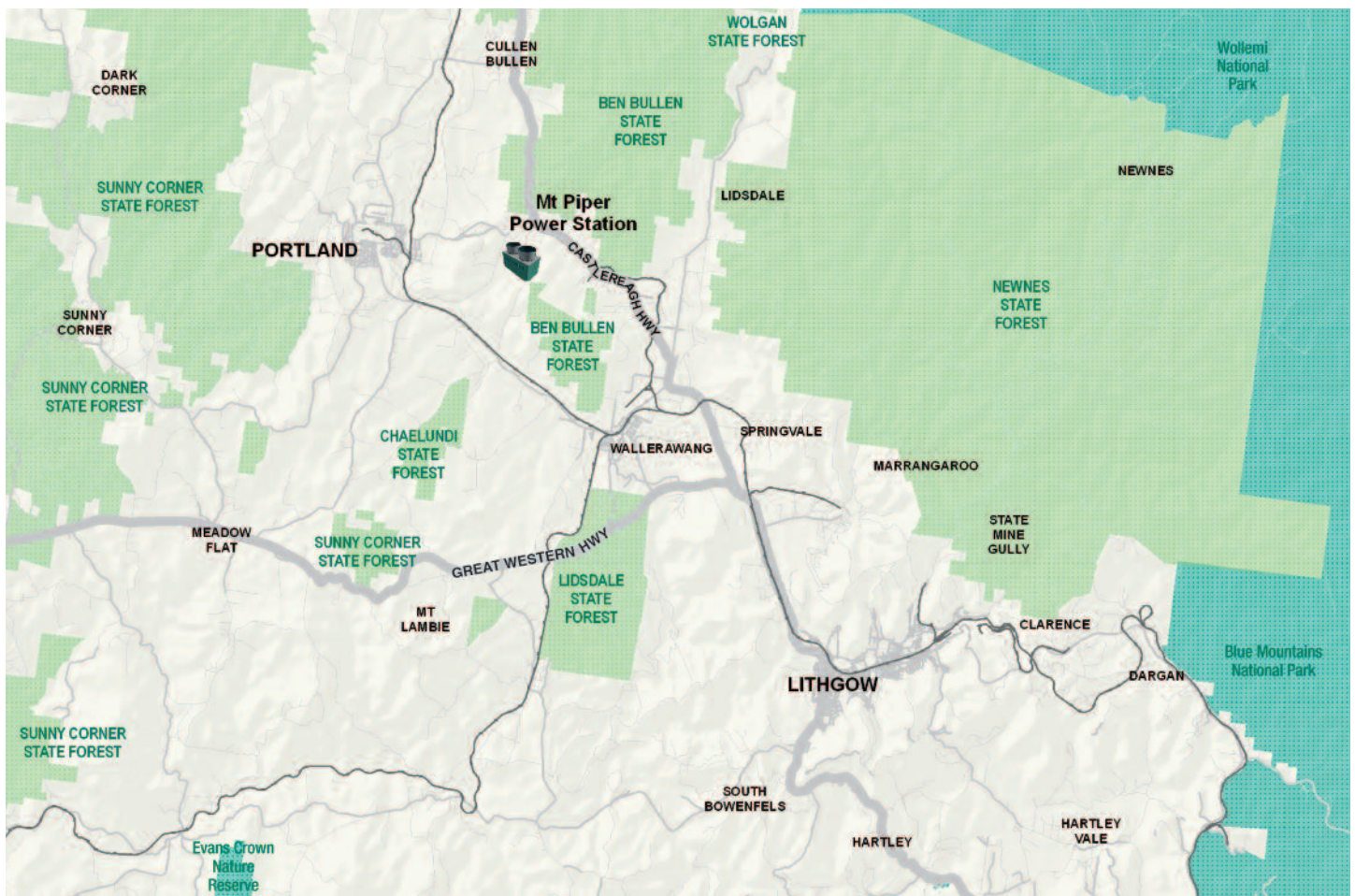
- Mt Piper is one of the NSW Government's Energy Development Sites which will help secure affordable electricity supplies and economic growth by encouraging private sector investment in the development of new base load power generation.
- In addition to the Mt Piper Extension site, Bayswater B in the Hunter Valley and Munmorah Power Station Rehabilitation on the Central Coast have been identified as 'dual fuel' sites. This means they can be fuelled by either/or both gas and coal consistent with the Government's fuel neutral policy.
- All three sites are in the early stages of the planning process, with the objective of the planning approvals being in place by December 2009.
- The current Mt Piper Power Station, consisting of two coal-fired steam turbine generators, was commissioned in 1992/93. These each have a capacity of 700 megawatts.
- Increasing capacity on the existing power station site would allow for the use of existing infrastructure and minimise impacts on surrounding communities and the environment.
- The Mt Piper Extension will also provide for carbon capture and storage technology installation once it becomes commercially viable.

Project assessment process

Delta Electricity has lodged a Major Project Application and a Preliminary Environment Assessment (PEA) with the Department of Planning seeking approval to construct an extension to the Mt Piper Power Station. The steps in the environmental planning and assessment process are outlined below.



Location of Mt Piper Power Station



Preliminary project details

- The Mt Piper Power Station extension project will provide up to 2000 megawatts of new generating capacity.
- This new capacity will be provided using the most technologically advanced fuel available – either ultra-supercritical coal technology or combined cycle gas turbines.
- Greenhouse gas emissions are a key issue and a comprehensive energy use and greenhouse gas emission assessment will be completed for the project.
- It is intended that Mt Piper will provide for carbon capture and storage technology for installation when it becomes commercially available.
- Dry cooling will be used to ensure that no water supplies are required beyond current water allocations for Mt Piper.
- Many of the existing facilities of Mt Piper Power Station will be utilised by the new units, minimising impacts on surrounding communities and the environment.
- The electricity output from the new units will feed into the national electricity market through the 500 kilovolt system operated by TransGrid.
- It is estimated that the construction of the new units will require a workforce of up to 950 personnel.
- A permanent workforce of up to 50 staff members will be required for ongoing operation and maintenance of the additional units.

Community consultation

Consultation with the community is an important part of the environmental assessment process. When completed, the environmental assessment will be exhibited for public comment by the Department of Planning.

For more information about the project, call the toll free project number **1800 257 484** or email mtpiperextension@de.com.au. The PEA can be viewed on the Department of Planning website at www.planning.nsw.gov.au and on the Delta Electricity website at www.de.com.au.