

Tarraleah Redevelopment Project Update

June 2023



An update on the status of the proposed Tarraleah redevelopment and the findings of community engagement to date.

For over 80 years, Tarraleah has been one of Tasmania's most important power schemes and an icon of the Derwent Valley. Tarraleah is part of Hydro Tasmania's *Battery of the Nation* vision which is about upgrading the existing hydropower system and adding new pumped hydro in the future.

Project overview

Our feasibility study showed the Tarraleah scheme could be redeveloped to increase capacity and flexibility – all valuable requirements in a future energy market. The Tarraleah redevelopment would include new pressurised tunnels and a pipeline to convey water from Lake King William. A new power station with a capacity of ~190 MW would be located adjacent to the existing Tarraleah Power Station in the Nive Valley. Construction of the Tarraleah redevelopment is anticipated to take four years, with a peak construction workforce of up to 250 people. Figure 1 provides an overview of the proposed project layout.

The project requires environmental approval from the Tasmanian and Federal governments, and a development permit from the Central Highlands Council. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared to support these applications and we'll be consulting with the community and stakeholders through the EIS process.

This is all part of our work to reach a Final Investment Decision, which is a commercial assessment of the project's viability.

Update on project approvals

Approvals for a future redevelopment includes Commonwealth, state and local government approvals processes.

In March 2023, we lodged a referral to the Commonwealth government under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). We are progressing the preparation of environment and development applications to support the State and local government project assessment process. The environmental assessments will be made available to the public for review. Further information on the project approvals process and the EPBC Act referral is available on our project page: <https://connect.hydro.com.au/reimagining-tarraleah>

You can also review the information here: <https://epbcpublicportal.awe.gov.au/all-referrals/>

We will keep you updated as we progress our approvals and let you know when there are further opportunities to comment.



Proposed Tarraleah redevelopment project layout

1 LAKE KING WILLIAM INTAKE

We are constructing a new intake structure and 1 km tunnel as part of a program of upgrade works. This work suits a range of future scenarios for the Tarraleah scheme including redevelopment.

2 HEADRACE PIPELINE

Water would be conveyed under pressure from Lake King William to the new power station via a new 4.2 km headrace pipeline.

3 HEADRACE TUNNEL

A 12km long tunnel, passing under the village and into a new Tarraleah Power Station.

4 SURGE TOWER

A new surge tower, about 70m high, would be required. An underground surge shaft would be constructed to control water pressure in the headrace and power tunnels.

5 NEW POWER STATION

Power will be generated by a new higher capacity station and switchyard located next to the existing Tarraleah Power Station.

6 TRANSMISSION CORRIDOR

About 16km of new transmission line is needed to connect the new power station to the existing Liapootah to Palmerston transmission line located to the east.

7 LYELL HIGHWAY

Building the new tunnel will require spoil to be stockpiled. Construction planning has minimised the need to transport spoil on public roads. Most will be stockpiled near access portals. Some spoil from the tunnel and new power station site will be transported along the Lyell Highway to a permanent stockpile area about 3 km away.

8 MOSSY MARSH AND NO. 2 PONDS

These storages will play a lesser role as the pressurised tunnel would bypass them. Water from Derwent Pumps and surface flow through Mossy Marsh would be pumped from No. 2 Pond into the scheme.

9 WORKFORCE ACCOMMODATION VILLAGE

New workforce accommodation is proposed to be co-located with the existing Tarraleah village.

10 NO. 1 CANAL

This canal will be decommissioned.

11 TARRALEAH POWER STATION

The existing station and hillside penstocks would be decommissioned and retained, following consultation with Heritage Tasmania and other stakeholders.

Impacts and opportunities

Major projects can have both positive and negative effects on people and communities. It is important for us to hear how the community feels about the proposed project and work on how we can address concerns, issues and opportunities. In our consultations to date, some of the impacts and opportunities raised by the community are:

Traffic on the Lyell Highway

Area of interest: impact of construction traffic.

Construction will generate additional traffic movements on the Lyell Highway and short delays. A Traffic Impact Assessment is underway to quantify potential impacts on the road network and identify how impacts can be managed.

Workforce accommodation

Area of interest: future use of Tarraleah village and accommodation for the construction workforce.

We recently purchased the village and it will remain open to the public until its full capacity is needed for the construction workforce, alongside new accommodation. During construction, there will be changes in access in and around the village.

Access to lakes for recreation

Area of interest: impact on water-based recreation activities.

There will be no change to existing public access to lakes in the Tarraleah scheme for activities such as fishing and boating. For safety and operational needs, a new exclusion zone will be created around the new Lake King William intake.

Storage levels and river flows

Area of interest: potential impacts on the Derwent River and lake storage levels.

We've done extensive water modelling, including modelling of River Derwent flows and water levels of scheme storages. The existing operational range of storages will not change. Hydro Tasmania is investigating flow releases below Clark Dam, to maintain downstream environmental values.

Benefits sharing

Area of interest: building economic, social and environmental resilience.

We're committed to ensuring local communities and businesses can benefit from the project. Social procurement and local content requirements are being developed and we're working with

community, business and government stakeholders to identify initiatives that could provide economic, social and environmental benefits. We encourage you to get involved!

World Heritage values

Area of interest: potential impacts on the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA).

A range of studies has shown the project won't significantly impact the natural and cultural heritage values of the TWWHA. We've done a visual impact assessment to look at how infrastructure (such as the surge tower) will sit in the landscape and how the construction footprint may be viewed from the TWWHA. Overall, the visual impact is considered low.

Wildlife

Area of interest: potential increase in risks to wildlife due to increased traffic movements.

This was identified as a potential impact as part of our studies and we will adopt measures to minimise impacts on all wildlife through our environmental mitigation strategies.

Cultural heritage

Area of interest: respecting and listening to Tasmanian Aboriginal communities.

We are very interested in acknowledging and respecting the cultural heritage values and connections of First Nations peoples to the area. We are working to develop culturally sensitive ways of listening to, working with First Nations peoples, and planning for outcomes in this important area.

Historic values

Area of interest: history of the scheme and what is planned for the original Tarraleah assets.

Working closely with Heritage Tasmania, the community and stakeholders, we're looking into how heritage buildings and assets might be re-used in future to ensure heritage values are protected and preparing a decommissioning plan for infrastructure no longer required.

Talking with the community – have your say!

Thank you to everyone who has already shared their views on Tarraleah's future. Now, we're keen to hear from the broader community through our survey on the things you care about and what the possible impacts of the project – positive and negative – might be. Your answers will help us consider and address potential impacts of the project on your way of life, and how you visit and experience the district around the Tarraleah scheme. Follow the QR code to the right of this section to participate in the survey.

If there's a particular place you want to tell us more about, head to our 'pin map' on our project page to let us know what you value, where your concerns are and share your ideas!



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