

**snowy**hydro

Hunter  
Power Project

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023

Good for prices. Good for jobs. Underpinning renewables.

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# CEO UPDATE

Welcome to the first Hunter Power Project community newsletter, designed to provide our community with project updates as we continue construction at the former Hydro Aluminium site in Kurri Kurri.

The Hunter Power Project will enable renewable energy sources like solar and wind to operate in the National Electricity Market (NEM) by providing dispatchable power that covers periods where the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine.

Investment in dispatchable generators, like the Hunter Power Project, is vitally important as Australia transitions to renewable energy which will ultimately benefit the environment and future generations.

The power station will comprise two heavy-duty, open cycle gas turbines (OCGT) which are the latest and most efficient turbines that the world's best manufacturers can offer.

The OCGTs will operate on natural gas, with a diesel back-up. Snowy Hydro is working closely with the Commonwealth to enable the Hunter Power Project to operate on hydrogen.

Diesel is available on-site as back-up for the extreme and rare cases where the NSW power grid needs it to keep the lights on.

Snowy Hydro's business is largely about providing on-demand energy products that allow other energy users to insure against price spikes.

*Dennis*

The Hunter Power Project will be a great addition to Snowy Hydro's business as we continue to support the transition of the NEM. I look forward to keeping you informed as we deliver this important project and become an ongoing contributor to the Hunter community.

The project is expected to be operational by [2024](#).

# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Snowy Hydro engaged UGL as the major works contractor for the Hunter Power Project in 2022. Together, the Snowy Hydro and UGL team have reached a number of significant constructions milestones already this year.

Over December and January, 200 20-metre-deep Continuous Flight Augerpiles, that will hold the foundations for the turbines and infrastructure, were constructed. The piles' installation involved pumping concrete through a hollow stem to fill the cavity while removing the auger and then immediately installing steel reinforcement cage into the fluid.

In late January, the first concrete pour for Gas Turbine 1 (GT1) was completed. The 18-hour pour started at 4am and included 220 concrete truck deliveries, approximately 1,500 cubic metre of concrete and the use of three local concrete batching plants.

The 3,700 tonne foundation for GT1 was quickly followed by the GT2 concrete pour in March. Unlike the first pour which was rescheduled twice during the hot January weather, the second pour took place in wet conditions.

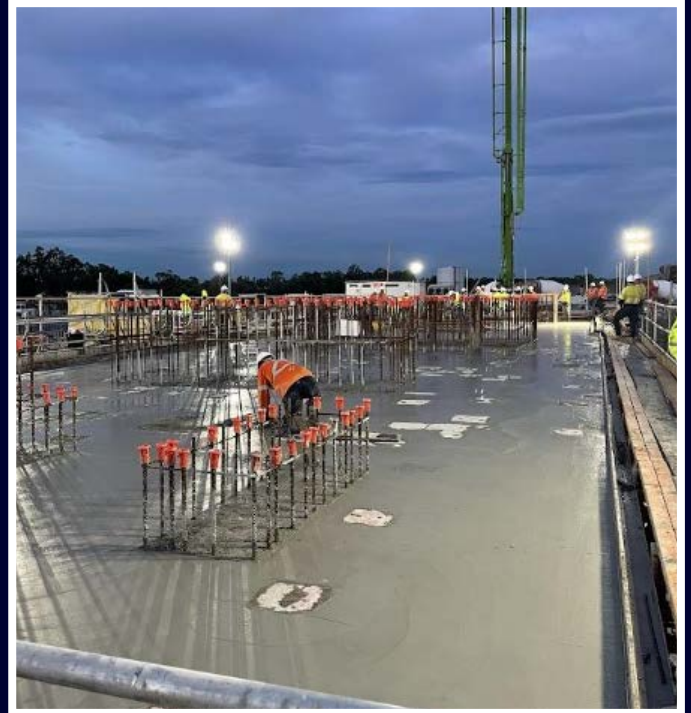
The team monitored the weather, ambient temperature at site, and tested concrete temperatures inside the concrete trucks and the local dispatch plants before and during the 18-hour pour. Continuous monitoring of the concrete slab continued for four weeks

following the pour to test compressive strength.

The Snowy Project team started on-site by working with the Kurri Kurri ReGrowth team and the Hydro Aluminium team to take ownership of the site following extensive rehabilitation work. Approximately 125,000 cubic metres of dirt and aggregates were moved to help build the foundations for the dispatchable energy generator that will help firm up energy security across NSW. The team contended with extreme wet weather from July to December 2022, which required extensive ground stabilisation work.



The Hunter Power Project will consist of two F-Class open cycle gas turbines, capable of operating on natural gas, diesel back-up and hydrogen.



Over 125,000 cubic metres of material has been moved to prepare for the 3,700 tonnes of concrete required for each gas turbine foundation.

## HUNTER POWER PROJECT QUICK FACTS

**\$120**

million invested in the community so far

**31**

companies on-site

**530**

employees on-site

**388,492**

total workforce hours

## ENVIRONMENT UPDATE

The Environmental Impact Assessment undertaken as part of the project's approvals in 2021 focused on the key areas of biodiversity, heritage, hazards, land, noise, air quality, transport, water, visual and waste impacts.

The team continues to liaise with our close neighbours for any out-of-hours work that has the potential to reach noise limits and noise monitoring is undertaken when required. Traffic management plans will be in place for any over size and over mass deliveries to site.

All Environmental Management Plans for the project are available at [hunterpowerproject.com.au](http://hunterpowerproject.com.au). Please contact 1800 570 529 if you have any questions about the environmental controls on site.

## UPDATE ON THE GAS LATERAL PIPELINE

APA is pleased to be partnering with Snowy Hydro to deliver the gas transmission and storage pipeline, the Kurri Kurri Lateral Pipeline (KKLP) project, and associated infrastructure that will connect the proposed Hunter Power Project to the existing Sydney to Newcastle pipeline.

APA is committed to working with the community and stakeholders to keep everyone informed about the proposed KKLP project. Please call 1800 804 893 (Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm), or email [kklp@apa.com.au](mailto:kklp@apa.com.au) to connect with the APA pipeline project team.

Please visit the APA website for further information about the KKLP project – [www.apa.com.au](http://www.apa.com.au) (click on “about APA”, “Our Projects”, “Kurri Kurri Lateral Pipeline Project”). An interactive map of the project is available on our website: [apa.mysocialpinpoint.com/kurri-kurri-lateral-pipeline](http://apa.mysocialpinpoint.com/kurri-kurri-lateral-pipeline).

## LOCAL TRAINEES

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE ON SITE

The project team is benefiting from a partnership with HVTC (formerly known as Hunter Valley Training Company) which provides jobs and training to around 1,000 people a year through its 10 branches across NSW.

HVTC trainees Hannah Phillips and Madeline McSevney are working with the Hunter Power Project commercial, project controls and contract administration teams over 18 months to complete their certification training in project management. Being involved in building a large-scale project from the ground up drew both Madeline and Hannah to join the Snowy Hydro team last year. Hannah and Maddie were recently recognised with HVTC Trainee of the Month awards. The project team are proud of these talented and hard-working trainees.



Hannah and Madeline have been recognised as exceptional trainees by HVTC and the Snowy Hydro team.

# COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

Snowy Hydro is committed to strengthening communities by supporting local community groups or initiatives working to build thriving sustainable communities.

Congratulations to all the community groups we have had the pleasure to support as part of our Hunter Power Project Community Grants and Sponsorship Program. So far, we have given out over \$200,000 worth of community grants to support local projects and events.

Eligible organisations and community groups can apply for funding of up to \$5,000. For more information, visit [hunterpowerproject.com.au](http://hunterpowerproject.com.au), email [communityconsultation@hunterpowerproject.com](mailto:communityconsultation@hunterpowerproject.com) or call 1800 570 529.







We have proudly supported the Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Festival for the past two years.



East Maitland Public School recently received a grant of \$5,000 to create a new outdoor classroom space with a native bush tucker garden.



The Kurri Kurri Men's Shed received a \$5,000 grant to purchase laptops and equipment for a computer training program. The program is delivering computer skills to those in the community who want to learn computer basics and access online services

# MEET OUR TEAM

## ISAAC STRACHAN – SNOWY HYDRO HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT LEAD

Born and raised in the Hunter, Isaac is responsible for ensuring that the Snowy Hydro team and all our on site contractors go home safe every night and remain injury free. Isaac also works with the site environment team to ensure that all the environmental management plans are adhered to on site.

“The best part about my job is being able to get involved in planning and developing work scopes that consider how workers will not be injured or made to work in an unsafe way,” Isaac says.

Isaac has been a part of the Snowy Hydro team for four years, and when he’s not at work, you will likely find him on a dawn bike ride or swimming at the beach before grabbing his morning coffee. As a new dad, he will need that coffee!



## CRISTINA LANG – UGL LIMITED SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISOR

When talking about personalities that fill whole rooms, it’s impossible for the team not to think about UGL Senior Environmental Advisor, Cristina Lang.

Cristina brings her vast and diverse experience from international projects and puts it to very good use at the Hunter Power Project. Since August 2022, Cristina has been tackling challenges with a unique view and gusto while making sure that the project complies with all the required and strict environmental standards.

“I love working at the project because it provides a great diversity of challenges and tasks, the team is absolutely amazing, and I get to work both at the office and outside doing what I’m so passionate about: taking care of our environment.”

The feeling is mutual, Cristina. It’s great to have you with us.



GOOD FOR JOBS.  
GOOD FOR PRICES.  
UNDERPINNING  
RENEWABLES.

IN THE HUNTER REGION

**600** direct construction jobs

**1,200** indirect employment opportunities

**20** operational and maintenance staff

ONCE OPERATIONAL

UP TO

**660MW**

generating capacity

**132kV**

switchyard

**2** heavy-duty,  
open cycle gas turbines

**37%** increase to the total peaking capacity (scheduled) in the NSW energy system

Expected to be operational **2024**

GOOD FOR  
THE ENVIRONMENT

The Hunter Power Project will underpin Australia's transition to a renewable energy future

NSW needs additional dispatchable power to facilitate and firm the growth of renewable energy

INDUSTRY ESTIMATES FOR EVERY

**2MW** of renewables

**1MW** dispatchable generation is required

**55-75%** NSW gas-fired generation has between 55 and 75% lower emissions than coal

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[hunterpowerproject.com.au](http://hunterpowerproject.com.au)