# Central West Pumped Hydro

## WATER ACCESS

The Central West Pumped Hydro Project (the project) is a nominal 325MW pumped hydro facility with approximately eight hours of storage capacity. A key element of pumped hydro is using water to generate renewable energy. Water access and licencing forms an integral part of the project's development and approval phase to ensure appropriate access to all water users in the community.

### THE FACTS

- The project requires an *initial once-off fill* of approx. 3.3 gigalitres (GL) of water. Ongoing, the project will need additional water over the life of the project, for any evaporation or seepage from the reservoirs. This is expected to be up to 400 meglitres (ML) per year.
- The most appropriate water source for the project is from the Fish River. This would be delivered via an underground pipeline to the lower reservoir.
- The initial once-off fill of approximately 3.3 gigalitres (GL) of water will occur gradually. This could take up to 12 months or more.
- Stringent water access conditions will be developed and implemented to protect other water users downstream and environmental flows.
- These conditions will see a 'commence to pump' rate determined to ensure the project will only extract water from the river when there is enough water available in excess of what is required to meet the needs of downstream users and ensure a healthy environmental flow of the river.
- The commence to pump rate is determined through catchment hydrologic (water) modelling using the DPE model for the Macquarie Valley and takes into account data from the river for the past 100 years, including the recent years affected by drought.
- Extraction of water will not occur when there is not the required level of flow in the river. These conditions will form part of our water licensing requirements.
- The Environmental Impact Submission (EIS) will provide the technical, independently prepared information to demonstrate how this will be achieved, including detailed hydrologic modelling results to inform conditions to ensure these outcomes.

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