



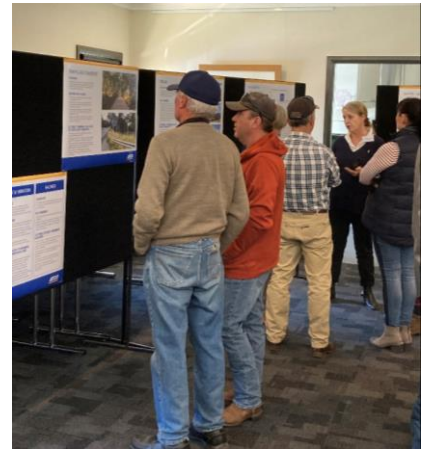
## Central West Pumped Hydro Project

### COMMUNITY UPDATE – October 2022

Welcome to the October edition of Central West Pumped Hydro Project (CWPH) e-newsletter.

Thank you to everyone who attended the recent CWPH Community Open Days at the end of September. We hosted sessions in the Bathurst, Yetholme and O’Connell communities. It was great to welcome more than 100 people over the three days. We very much appreciate the time people took to learn more about the project, ask questions, raise concerns and provide feedback.

The open days are a really important element of the project, and provides our team the opportunity to share progress, provide information about the studies being carried out, and to listen to the community feedback to inform the ongoing design of the project.



We are always keen to hear how best to engage with local communities and how you would like to be kept up to date about the development of the CWPH Project in the future. As we plan for the next community information sessions, we would like your input on what works best for you. We invite you to complete a quick questionnaire to help us plan future sessions. You can access the survey [HERE](#).

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### ATCO's 2023 Communities Fund

The ATCO Communities Fund invites eligible community groups and not for profit organisations to apply for sponsorships of up to \$10,000 to assist with local community projects and initiatives that align with ATCO's focus on Healthy, Sustainable and Prosperous Communities. It was encouraging to receive a strong level of interest in the 2023 ATCO Communities Fund from so many wonderful local initiatives over the past month.

The assessment process is now underway and we look forward to announcing the successful applicants early in 2023.



## An update on the Environmental Impact Statement

The development of the EIS is progressing well, and the project team is in the process of finalising some of the required studies and compiling the report.

At this stage, the submission of the EIS to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) will be made in late 2022. Once the DPE confirms or validates that the EIS meets various requirements to enable it to enter the planning system, the EIS will be available for public exhibition via the DPE website.

We anticipate the exhibition period will commence in late January or February 2023, well after the Christmas and New Year period. The public consultation period will be open for at least 28 days.

We will ensure that the dates of the public consultation period and the progress of the EIS through the assessment process are shared via this newsletter and on our website.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is much more than a process for obtaining an environmental permit or licence. It aims to minimise, avoid or offset the environmental and social impacts of a proposed development project.



## EPBC Referral

A referral under Federal environment legislation (*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*) was submitted to the Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water to confirm if the proposed project may have the potential to have impacts on some federally listed fauna species.

The public notification period for the CWPB EPBC Referral is now open, closing on 2 November 2022. You can review the Referral [HERE](#).

ATCO is expecting that the outcome of the EPBC Referral will be a Controlled Action.

Due to a bilateral agreement between the Federal Government and NSW Government, the potential impacts to the species of concern would then be assessed by the NSW Government under the EIS process.

The information associated with the relevant assessments will be available in the EIS for comment during the public exhibition period.

## A message from the Project Director, Timothy Knill

While we welcome public scrutiny of our plans for the development of the Central West Pumped Hydro project, we firmly reject some of the recent claims made about our plans by some local community groups.

There are no plans to 'industrialise' the landscape, we are definitely not 'blasting away' Mount Tennyson, and our water management plans ensure that the local water supply will be maintained throughout the construction and operation of the project.

Whilst it is true that ATCO is a Canadian company, ATCO has operated in Australia for over 60 years and currently employs more than 700 people within Australia across all of its Australian businesses.

As mentioned above, we are close to finalising the EIS for the entire project. The EIS and supporting reports will be made publicly available so that members of the local community can see that many of the recent claims are simply wrong and quite misleading.

To date, we have experienced that many of the community's concerns can be alleviated or addressed through open and transparent discussions with members of the ATCO team. We welcome the opportunity to meet with any member of the community to have a meaningful discussion.

Please feel free to visit the local office at 1-52 Keppel St Bathurst to speak to a ATCO team member or email [centralwesthydro@atco.com](mailto:centralwesthydro@atco.com) to arrange a meeting.

**Timothy Knill**  
**Senior Project Director, CWPH**  
**ATCO**

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## Thank you!

Thank you to everyone for your contribution, feedback and interest in the CWPH Project. For more information, please visit the CWPH website at [www.atco.com/cwph](http://www.atco.com/cwph) or reach out to us at [centralwesthydro@atco.com](mailto:centralwesthydro@atco.com)

ATCO's Office at 1-52 Keppel Street, Bathurst is open from Monday - Thursday during business hours. We look forward to welcoming you and having a chat.