Somersby Energy Reserve

Balancing the grid as renewable energy grows

Bridge Energy is proposing to develop the Somersby Energy Reserve at Somersby in NSW. The project will feature fast-start flexible gas generators that can respond within seconds, strengthening the electricity grid and ensuring reliable power when renewable supply is low.

Somersby Energy Reserve will be a fast-start peaking plant using high-efficiency gas engines. It will provide on-demand capacity to stabilise the grid during peak periods and support New South Wales transition to cleaner energy.

By firming weather-dependent wind and solar, Somersby Energy Reserve will help maintain reliability on hot summer evenings and calm winter mornings when wind or solar farms are not generating enough electricity to meet demand.

The facility will have a compact footprint and will be engineered to meet stringent environmental and noise standards. The project is currently in the planning stage and is expected to be operational by November 2027.

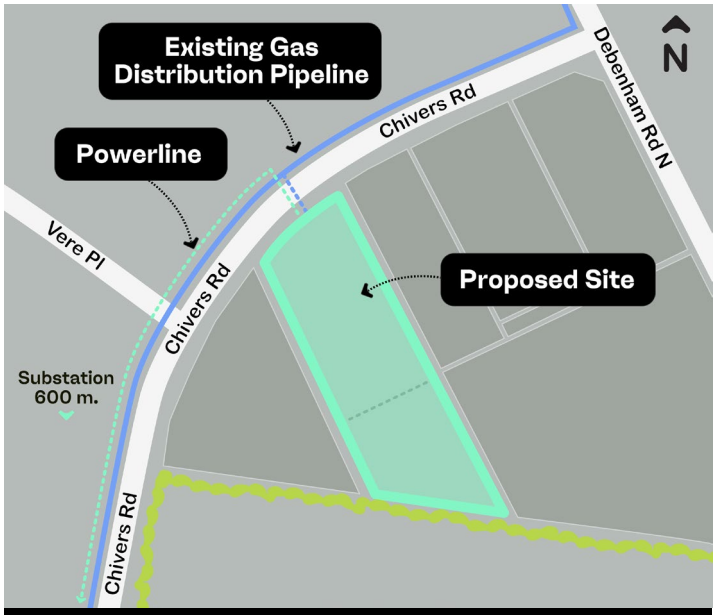
Community Consultation

Bridge Energy has initiated community consultation for the proposed Somersby Energy Reserve.

Community engagement is a critical component of the project's development, ensuring local residents and stakeholders can provide input and stay informed about the project's progress.

Community members who are interested in finding out more about the project are encouraged to reach out via our website below.

Project Location



Somersby Energy Reserve
is proposed to be located on a cleared industrial block of land close to the electricity network and a natural gas pipeline.

Planning and assessment

The Somersby Energy Reserve is considered State Significant Development and will be assessed by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

- Site selection and preliminary investigations ✓
- Initial concept and consultation — **We are here**
- Studies, technical assessments, design
- Environmental Impact Statement and Development Application submitted to DPHI for assessment
- DA and EIS on public exhibition for public comment
- Assessment by DPHI
- DPHI report and recommendation
- Project determination by either the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces or Independent Planning Commission

Concept of a similar project to the Somersby Energy Reserve, subject to a detailed design process.

Why Somersby Energy Reserve Matters

The NSW Minister for Climate Change and Energy has directed the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) to run a tender for up to 500 MW of firming and demand response capacity. The initiative will support the Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong region by addressing projected electricity shortfalls from 2027–28 as New South Wales transitions its energy system.

Part of the state's broader Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap, the tender aims to enhance energy security and attract continued investment in renewable generation. Projects such as the Somersby Energy Reserve will strengthen the grid and deliver reliable, flexible generation that complements renewables.

With its fast-start capability and firming services, the Somersby Energy Reserve will help maintain reliable and affordable electricity for NSW homes and businesses.

Indicative project timeline

Design and approvals are planned to take place in 2025 and 2026, with construction starting in 2026 and operations commencing in November 2027. Community engagement has commenced and will continue throughout the construction and operational phases.

Community engagement

2025	2026	2026	2027
Site selection	DA and grid and gas connection	Approvals received and construction starts	Operations commence

We want to hear from you!

Bridge Energy will be door knocking the local community in November to share project information, answer questions and to introduce the Somersby Energy Reserve team. Community members are encouraged to provide feedback through our website or by contacting us directly.

More information

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Website: bridgeenergy.com.au or scan the QR code