

Meeting Record

Name	Mt Piper & Wallerawang power stations	Meeting Date	7 December 2017
Meeting / Subject	Community Reference Group	Recorded By	MB
	Meeting 42	Total Pages	9

Members:	Rob Cluff, Julie Favell, Alex Preema, Jim Whitty	
EnergyAustralia	Malcolm Murphy	Head of Mt Piper
	Michelle Blackley	Support Services Leader
Apologies	Beverly Gilbert, Helen Riley, Jamie Giokaris, Sue Graves, Ben Eastwood	
Minute Taker	Michelle Blackley	Support Services Leader

Meeting

■ Welcome to Country

Acknowledgement of Country was conducted by Julie Favell.

■ Business Arising:

The Action Table was reviewed by the committee. The update is in the Action Table at the end of these notes.

■ Market Update

The demand levels were displayed and explained by Mr Murphy. Increases in demand due to Summer temperatures. The average increases were not so dramatic as the peaks are smoothed over the displayed period.

Mt Piper is focused on supplying the maximum generation during period of high demand. It is recognised across the market that energy supply will be tight particularly in Victoria no that Hazelwood is not operating. NSW is of less concern. Tallawarra is available to assist during the peaks as a gas generator on call. The Committee understood that a balanced transition was necessary across the generation industry towards renewables but something had to be done about the price to the customer.

■ Operational Update

Mt Piper

Both units are currently in service and operating reliably. The units have not been run to full capacity due to Centennial's longwall change. These events affect the quality of coal available to Mt Piper. We have also had boiler tube leaks with both units experiencing 4 days of outage.

Both units had completed their major outage cycles in the last 14 months. No further major outages have been scheduled for the next three years only minor outages will be conducted. Of course, this maintenance is planned to offset the deterioration of plant over time.

Now that the major works have been completed, air heater and turbine performance testing will verify the benefits of the upgrades.

The upgrade of the Digital Control System (DCS) is now complete but further work is required to update the coal and water treatment plant is still taking place. These works will fully modernise the plant and assist staff with less repeated routines on the plant.

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Wallerawang Repurposing Project

As stated in previous meetings, EnergyAustralia are continuing to work with the 4 proponents for the repurposing projects. This process will take quite some time. The proposals cover manufacturing, transport and recycling activities. As we have expressed before, these projects are highly commercial in confidence and little can be advised at the moment. EnergyAustralia are providing their full support to the repurposing concept with dedicated staff working on it.

When any information can be provided to the public we will advise this Committee. There are memorandums of understanding agreed and they are progressing along but that is all we can say.

The committee expressed that the community had high expectations and if these were not fulfilled EnergyAustralia may experience negative response. It is important to keep jobs in Lithgow and the repurposing is a way to do this.

Mr. Murphy advised that there were no guarantees but that EnergyAustralia were working with the State Government and assisting the proponents with information for project feasibility. The community should hear something before any development applications came out for comment. Some of the projects have good potential.

Wallerawang DDR

EA Auctions are stripping out equipment for packages 5 and 6.

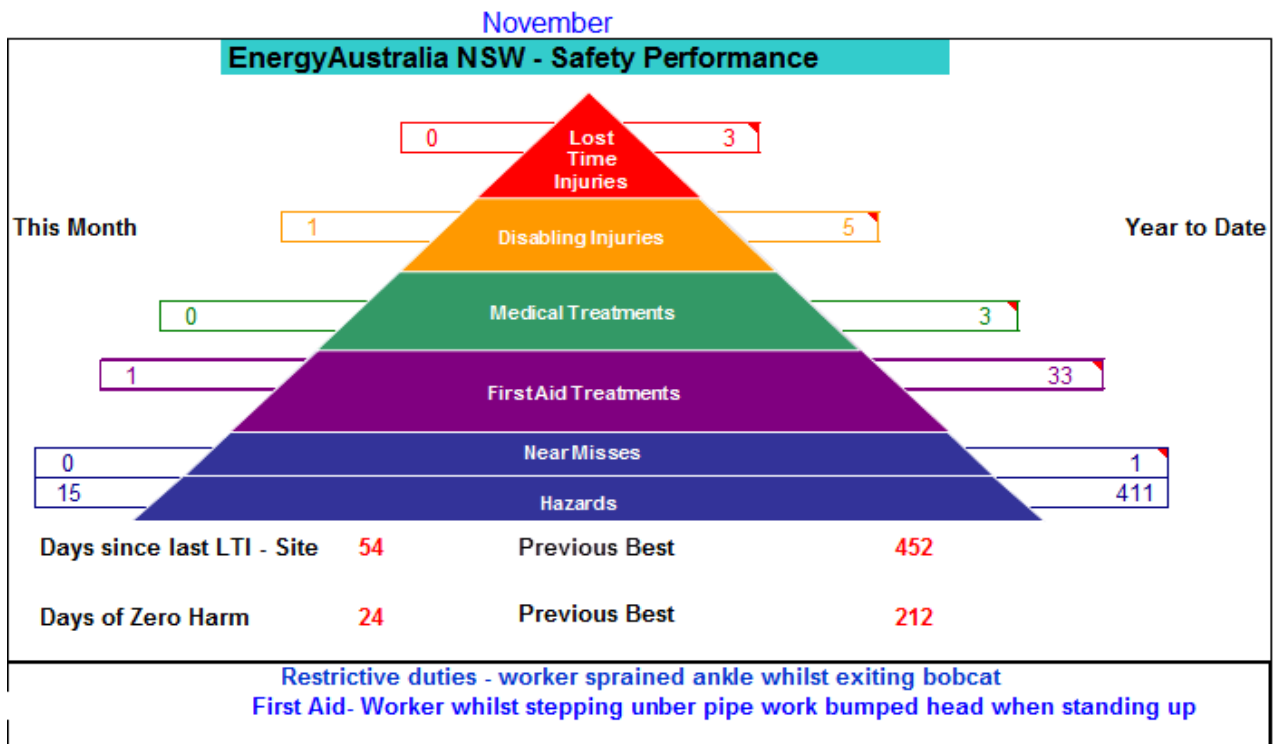
Asbestos assessments are ongoing and their inspections are carried out in advance of work teams entering work locations. A question regarding where the asbestos was being placed once identified. The committee were advised it was going into the existing asbestos repository. Julie Favell discussed the DA now open for public comment for the new asbestos repository and stated she preferred the material stayed on site. Questions were put regarding operation, historical information, and responsibilities. The EPA governed the repository being operated appropriately. The registration of the repository ensured that any history relating to the operation of the repository was not lost in the future. The operational requirements included bagging, depth of layers of protection, fencing and types of fill that can be used for capping.

Aurecon is working on alternate power options to allow for the pumping of ash pumps and they are continuing to work on the demolition plans. EnergyAustralia staff continue to conduct the environmental monitoring that is required under the site license. This requires some equipment to be powered.

Final rehabilitation options are under consideration for the Ash Dam areas - Kerosene Vale Ash Repository and Sawyers Swamp Creek Ash Dam. This centres around capping, drainage controls and water treatment. Julie Favell opined that the ash should be considered for recycling or reuse but if it had to be capped then native grasses and shrubs should be used. The Lithgow Community Nursery may be of assistance with seed.

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- Site Safety



The November 2017 safety statistics were shared with the Committee. The hazard numbers are high as we work to capture hazards to stop more severe injuries. The worker with the sprained ankle was cleaning up coal spills related to the coal handability issues and required physiotherapy. While EnergyAustralia is not entirely satisfied with the results this period included the outage. The site had an extra 500 to 600 people on site during this period.

Infrasound Investigation

We will continue to keep in contact with the complainants relating to their issues with infrasound however we have received the following from the EPA:

As Mt Piper has no confirmed source of low frequency noise (LFN) over which the EPA has jurisdiction and no regulatory action is currently being considered, and taking into consideration that the level of noise is below audibility thresholds, the lack of scientific evidence of impact on populations at low levels, no apparent evidence of impact across the community, no evidence that the noise is atypical and no evidence that potential noise sources regulated by the EPA are not meeting regulatory requirements mean that it is highly unlikely that the LFN would be assessed as offensive for purposes under the Act.

- Rail Unloader

EnergyAustralia are acting on our development application for the rail coal unloader. An engineering company has been engaged to do the feasibility, design and specifications for the rail coal unloader's construction. It is clear that Mt Piper's major risk is its sole source of coal. Even if Angus Place were to open it only has an expected life of 15 years. Mt Piper's operation life is documented to 2043.

Jim Whitty asked if the government were going to assist with this major project. Julie Favell opined that legislation could be changed like they did recently for Springvale Mine's water situation. She also asked if Invincible Mine coal could be used. Manildra was in the news lately trying to reopen the mine. Malcolm

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Murphy advised that Manildra was using Invincible's coal for its own operations and no discussions with government had been held to date regarding this project.

Environmental monitoring on the site continues.

Agistee and tenant have left the property.

■ Water Management

- Oberon Dam level decreased to 79.59%. The dam level has decreased 10 % points since the last meeting.
- Total Active Storage is at 89.9% with:
 - Lake Lyell at 90.3%
 - Lake Wallace at 110.6%
 - Thompsons Creek Dam at 87.8%
- Lake Wallace continues to spill
- Green Alert for Blue Green Algae at Lake Wallace and for Coxs River below Lake Wallace

The recent heavy rain event is not included in these figures.

■ Lamberts North

- Ash Placement Volume
- June to November 2017 was 249,211 tonne
- Ash Placement will continue through to 2018,
- No complaints received,
- No incidents recorded,
- No non-compliances,
- 2016-17 Annual Environment Management Report was submitted to NSW Dept of Planning and Environment on 30 November.
- The Report is available on our website.
- The Biodiversity Offset Area has been established with
 - The area has been fenced,
 - Tree planting has been completed with 500 plants planted by EA staff and the rest by our contractor,
 - Approximately 2000 plants were used,
 - Local provenance plants were used, largely sourced from the Lithgow Community Nursery.
 - Further planting of the 5 Ha will be staged over several years

■ Joint EnergyAustralia NSW/Centennial Water Project

The final contract has been executed and awarded to Veolia and they have established on site at Mt Piper. The project manager has been appointed, Mr Iain McGregor.

The project will be completed by June 2019. The committee asked some questions regarding how the pipeline was going to work. Veolia will build own and operation the pipeline and charge a service fee to EnergyAustralia and Centennial for the processing of the water and the use of the pipeline. The construction has yet to begin but in a few months, activity will be seen on the plateau.

Working relationship with Centennial is going well.

The 4Nature Appeal was dismissed due to a change legislation.

Action: Iain McGregor and Wayne Gaynor to come to next meeting and provide an update on the project.

Action: Conduct a site visit to show the committee the project progress.

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■ Community Engagement

Community Grants Program 2017

Mrs Blackley advised the Committee that the second round of Community Grant applications were now submitted. The program was deemed successful as we responded to current community programs and projects, we had input from this committee and we were better informed about community needs. EnergyAustralia have budgeted to conduct the same program next year with a further \$60,000 being made available. The below table sets out all the recipients for 2017.

Recipients
Capertee Progress Association
Greater City of Lithgow Arts Council
Lithgow Bears RLC
Lithgow Public School
Mitchell Conservatorium of Music Lithgow
Wallerawang Branch of Central Acclimatisation Society
Portland Colts Football
Lithgow City Tennis Club
Lithgow Tidy Towns
Wallerawang/Lidsdale Progress Association
Lithgow Library Zone
Barton Park Arboretum

EnergyAustralia thanks the Committee for their assistance in distributing the funding across the Lithgow community.

Merging of Community Consultative Committees

The merging of the Mt Piper/Wallerawang Community Reference Group and the Pinedale Community Consultative Committee has progressed. As the Committee is aware Our formal request for committee amalgamation has been approved by Dept of Planning.

The Chair has been selected by the Dept of Planning - Mr Brendan Blakeley
The new Committee membership will be advertised in the New Year and the Chair will select the membership from provided information in accordance with the CCC guidelines.

EnergyAustralia encourages the current members to apply. We will advise all sitting members and provide applications to those who seek re-nomination. EnergyAustralia thanks all the members past and present of the current committee who have provided advice and assistance for over 10 years to Wallerawang and Mt Piper power stations.

We sourced some information about the new Chair to share with the Committee. He has experience and expertise in:

- community and stakeholder engagement
- Facilitation of engagement processes
- Dispute Resolution
- Urban Strategy and City Visioning
- Consultation processes
- Evaluation and Review of projects
- Extensive expertise with complex consultation projects and large scale engagement processes
- Trained Mediator

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■ Energy Recovery Project

Further advice regarding the Energy Recovery Project was provided to the Committee. The feasibility study mentioned at the last meeting has shown that the project is technically feasible.

Some technical data regarding the throughput of the equipment:

- The plant will consume approximately 200,000 tonnes of RDF per year in a dedicated boiler.
- The steam generated will be injected into Unit 2, and will be converted into a total of 220,000 to 240,000 megawatt hours per year of electricity. This equates to the electricity used in about 40,000 homes.
- 80,000 megawatt hours per year of the above can be classed as renewable energy
- For the same amount of electrical output, the project will result in a net reduction of greenhouse gases of over 200,000 tonnes per year compared to the existing coal boiler and landfill emissions.

The environment assessment requirements for the project are set out in SEARS and define the detailed reviews and studies that need to be conducted as part of the Environment Impact Statement (EIS). The Consultants have been contracted to perform EIS assessments. The assessments for the EIS have been initiated with traffic and preliminary ecological studies currently underway. The information will be lodged with the Dept of Planning and as part of the process the community can ask questions and make submissions for the departments consideration of the project.

The project will use existing proven technology and comply with NSW EPA's Energy from Waste (EfW) policy and regulations which include limits for noise, odour and air emissions.

Further details of Refuse Derived Fuel were provided:

- It is derived from the 'red' bin; non-recyclable/dirty paper, plastics (e.g. LDPE), disused linen etc.
- ~2/3 the energy content of coal
- ~1/3 is classed as biomass, eligible for RECs/LGCs
- Landfill levy in NSW \$135/tonne
- RFD is tightly specified

Recently a project using similar technology was approved for use at Berrima cement kiln by Boral. The Global Renewables Facility at Eastern Creek has been developed by Re.Group. This facility Processes 220,000 tonnes per annum Municipal Waste and capable of producing 60-70 kilotons per annum of RDF. Re.Group signed MoU with EA on 20.09.16.

Questions were asked about the site location of the proposed plant and these were answered by Mr Julian Turecek who is managing the project for EnergyAustralia. The land proposed was also proposed for Units 3 and 4 of Mt Piper but this project will not go ahead as building more coal fired projects in the current times is just on economic. The fuel is not available for a further two units. Other

Mr Murphy noted that this would be a huge investment in Mt Piper and would provide more jobs for the local area. The project will not impact on the amount of coal provided by Springvale and later Angus Place. It will supplement the fuel that is already used.

Question was asked why this material can't be used directly by the current Mt Piper units. Committee was advised that the environment legislation relating to energy from waste would not allow it and the Mt Piper mills are not designed to handle the material. However, putting the energy stream into the existing Mt Piper unit reduces capital costs.

Rob Cluff opined that the project seemed to have merit but emissions must be monitored. Mr Turecek advised that the proposed plant was deemed carbon neutral given the offset of landfill emissions and including transport emissions.

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Alex Preema asked about the nature of the RFD material. As it is not organic, what basic elements were in the fuel. The answer was that carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen were present and would be broken down under high temperature of approximately 850 Degrees C at a minimum. Mr Preema asked about the presence of Chlorine and was advised that the maximum amount would be less than 1%. The Committee was advised that emission toxicity was not an issue as they were everywhere in European cities and towns. Plastic on low temperature fires would have emission issues but all contaminants are destroyed at the high temperatures this plant would use. Flue gases are neutralised by activated charcoal and wet lime filtration.

Julie Favell asked why a similar project did not get approved in Sydney. The proposed project in Blacktown was banned by their Council due to the proximity to homes.

ACTION: EnergyAustralia to provide further information on the process for waste streams and the Chemistry involved in the emissions and ash. Michelle Blackley to organise another speaker to attend the meeting who could provide details and potentially an independent opinion on the project.

General Business

The Committee requested to have some information presented about the pumped hydro project.

Meeting closed at 6:55 pm.

Next Meeting

The date for the next Forum meeting is to be advised.

Action List

Initiated	Action	Progress
June 2016	Merging of Pinedale Community Consultative Committee and Wallerawang/Mt Piper Community Reference Group to be implemented.	In Progress – November Meeting
June 2016	Response for use of Wallerawang Schoolhouse for Men's' Shed	Complete
February 2017	Investigate if the front grass at Wallerawang can be mown more often and potentially use the UnitingCare program	being considered once contract expired contact Jodie Stewart
February 2017	Investigate if the reeds in Lake Wallace can be removed.	In Progress
June 2017	Assess the feasibility of a Rugby League field being placed under the dry coal storage area	In Progress
June 2017	EnergyAustralia to provide more information to media on the progress of the repurposing and DDR at Wallerawang	In Progress Provide list of media each meeting
June 2017	EnergyAustralia to contact the Lithgow City Council regarding the Energy Recovery Project	complete
August 2017	EnergyAustralia to review the available information from the hydrogeological surveys and advise if it could be shared.	In Progress
August 2017	Second Round of the Community Grant Funds to be distributed	complete

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Initiated	Action	Progress
August 2017	EnergyAustralia to organise another speaker to attend the meeting who could provide details and potentially an independent opinion on the project.	complete
August 2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact to be made with Corporate regarding assistance with the solar panels for Hoskins Church and other local charitable and community organisations such as the Small Arms Factory Museum. 2. Discussion relating to expanding local alternate energy pilot programs between EnergyAustralia and ARENA. 3. Investigate the use of the Sports and Social Hall at Wallerawang as a Training Centre to develop local skills required to install alternate energy equipment. This could assist in the transaction of local workers of the coal mining and coal based power generation industries. 4. Investigate the possibility of setting up a supercharge Tesla station at Wallerawang. 5. Investigate the utilisation of low flow water turbines in EnergyAustralia normal operations 6. Consider the use of Sports and Social Hall as a cultural centre including tourism 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete 2. Completed, Corporate contacts provided 3. Included in Property Review 4. In progress 5. Complete 6. New
December 2017	Presentation on the pumped hydro project	New