

# Meeting note

## EnergyAustralia Lithgow CCC

<b>Date</b>	03 December 2018	<b>Time</b>	5:00pm – 7:00pm
<b>Chair</b>	Brendan Blakeley	<b>Recorder</b>	Alexandra Krautil, Elton Consulting
<b>Attendees</b>	Jamie Giokaris, CCC member Julie Favell, CCC member (via phone) Jill Cusack, CCC member James (Jim) Whitty, CCC member Robert Cluff, CCC member Lauren Stevens, Lithgow Council Ben Eastwood, EnergyAustralia Michelle Blackley, EnergyAustralia Steve Marshall, EnergyAustralia Wayne Gaynor, EnergyAustralia	<b>Apologies</b>	Alex Preema, CCC member Clr Joe Smith, Lithgow Council CCC Representative Aunty Helen Riley, CCC member

Item	Discussion Point
1.	<b>Welcome and introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» The meeting commenced at 5:45pm following a site tour to view the new water treatment plant.</li><li>» Brendan Blakeley welcome all participants, noting apologies.</li><li>» Julie participated in the meeting via phone link and at times had difficulty hearing.</li></ul>
2.	<b>Review of notes from meeting two</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» Brendan called for comments on the previous notes. <i>Rob suggested comments from CCC members should be attributed to respective members rather than being anonymous.</i></li><li>» CCC members agreed.</li><li>» <b>ACTION:</b> Attribution to be used in meeting minutes for CCC member comments.</li><li>» Brendan raised the possibility of Mick Hanly, Mt Piper’s Communications and Engagement Officer, becoming a permanent observer of the CCC, and asked if CCC members agreed.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; EnergyAustralia (EA) is allowed three representatives on the Committee, however it could be worthwhile for Mick to attend to get an understanding of community perspectives and be able to follow up on these.</li><li>&gt; CCC members agreed for Mick to become a permanent observer of meetings.</li></ul></li></ul> <p><u>Answers to questions/actions arising from October meeting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» Q - Alex: Could you provide more detail on the changes to access to water arising from the bank stabilisation works proposed for Thompsons Creek Dam?</li><li>» A: Michelle noted:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; The project is to address erosion issues on the dam foreshore,</li><li>&gt; Access to the water will be closed on commencement of the works until construction is complete. This is to ensure public safety.</li><li>&gt; These changes will be communicated to the public early next year.</li></ul></li><li>» Q - Alex: Clarification on the rocks expected size:</li></ul>

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- > A: cross section illustrating the proposed dam works was shown.
  - > The rocks will be approximately 300 - 500mm (occasionally 1 metre) on the steep embankment underneath, and 100mm – 250mm on the flatter exposed slope close to the water's edge.
  - » Q - Jim: Clarification on the source of the rocks:
    - > A: Michelle explained the contractor undertaking the works has advised that at this stage the rocks will be sourced locally from Marangaroo.
  - » Q - Alex: Clarification on process to stabilise the bed:
    - > A: Work involves shaping the surface on the steep embankment and applying geo textile (engineering membrane) and aggregate and larger rock over the whole surface.
    - > The aim of this is to create an embankment bed that will better handle wave movement.
    - > Please refer to p. 7 of the attached presentation for a diagram of the layout and elevations.
  - » Michelle noted in relation to access to the water for anglers, it will be a challenge getting over the bigger rocks, particularly for those with mobility issues.
    - > EA staff will engage with angling groups to manage this change.
    - > It is hard to build a specific path as fishermen prefer not to have designated spots to fish, but a plan will be prepared in consultation with fisheries moving forward.
  - » Brendan asked to clarify when works are expected to commence.
    - > Michelle responded earth moving equipment will be moved to site in the third week of January, with loads of rocks being brought into the site from February to March.

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### 3. **Site update from EnergyAustralia**

- » Steve provided a general site update, covering a range of topics.

#### Site Safety:

- » Steve noted the month of October was successful in relation to safety.
  - > There were only three first aid treatments which were all effectively handled on site.
- » Please refer to p. 9 of the attached presentation for safety performance details.

#### Update – Water Management:

- » Ben provided an update on water management, noting Oberon Dam level has decreased to 49.99%, meaning Bathurst Council has proposed additional restrictions on Oberon Dam.
- » Total Active Storage of Mt Piper's main three water storage facilities is at 86.6% with:
  - > Lake Lyell at 82.3%
  - > Lake Wallace at 110.6%
  - > Thompsons Creek Dam at 89.8%.
- » Lake Wallace continues to spill.
- » Green alerts for Blue-green Algae at Cox's River below Lake Wallace. This indicates algae has been detected, but is not at a level of any risk.
- » A planned flood release will occur from Lake Lyell from Monday 10 December to Thursday 13 December. This fulfils a requirement to manufacture a flood event in the creek if the flow does not reach capacity in Coxs River below Lake Lyell.
  - > The increased release for this will be 800ML during the daytime peak flow.

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> This needs to occur almost every year, and was undertaken at a similar time in 2017.

*Julie asked if EA plans to notify the community of this release. Julie and Jim noted children play around the river so could be at risk if the water's rose unexpectedly.*

- » Michelle confirmed there would be an advertisement in the Lithgow Mercury and on the local radio.
- » Ben noted the release involves a staged increase in water levels over a four-day period rather than a sudden large flow.

#### Market Update:

- » Steve discussed the 12-month rolling average in demand graph, highlighting as in prior discussions that after 2008 the market climbed heavily with a recent flattening out of average demand.
  - > There is an increased push in the market of renewables – this is described as a 'duck curve', with renewables typically kicking in during the middle of the day, meaning there is less demand for baseload power over this time however the station needs to be able to ramp up the supply of power particularly for the morning and evening peaks.
- » Refer to p. 13 of the attached presentation for 12-month rolling average demand details.

#### Operations (Site) Update – Mt Piper Operations:

- » Steve explained since the slight extension of the major outage for previous work as discussed in the October meeting, Mt Piper 1 (MP1) has been out of service twice for boiler tube repairs.
  - > As a precaution MP1 was taken out for longer than needed to ensure there were no safety implications. With these outages MP1 has not met its reliability target.
- » Mt Piper 2 (MP2) has however been very reliable, running very well during the outage and subsequent periods that MP1 has been out of service.
- » Fuel handling has been problematic, with coal quality deteriorating in recent weeks.
- » Stockpile levels are reducing due to the lack of reliable supply from Springvale.
  - > Mt Piper is still experiencing issues related with the reliance on one mine, as the current coal deliveries from Springvale have presented ongoing handleability problems. Mt Piper has not had a delivery from Springvale for around 10 days.
  - > Continual planning is underway to improve handleability of Springvale coal.
  - > It is particularly important for Mt Piper to conserve coal leading into summer.
- » Continued planning is similarly underway for future upgrades to improve plant flexibility and unit efficiency.

*Julie asked what is the plan in case the station runs out of coal?*

- » Steve responded as stockpiles begin running low EA will try to value generation differently to ensure they cannot run out. This would include focusing on the morning peaks and evening peaks where the market is there, and trying to generate less in the middle of the day and overnight. By doing this and changing how they value the MWs generated, EA can maximise the coal they do have.

*Julie asked could Mt Piper purchase coal from elsewhere?*

- » Steve responded such decisions are commercial and made outside the Mt Piper site, but options are being explored.
  - > Clarence is limited by their development consent on the amount of coal they can transfer to Mt Piper by road. They are unsure how much could be received if such a contract existed.

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- > Ben noted reducing Mt Piper's reliance on a single source is one of the key drivers for the rail unloader.
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#### 4. Project updates from EnergyAustralia – existing and planned

##### Pinedale Mine update:

- » Ben noted there has not been a lot of change since the October meeting. The site is in a holding pattern while EA explores different options moving forward.
- » Yarraboldy continues to be in care and maintenance while its future is assessed. Rehabilitation is progressing in areas where mining is complete.
  - > There has been a positive outcome for rehabilitation efforts, with the SLR study indicating soil has achieved benchmark levels.

*Julie asked whether as Ben stated there has been an improvement in the soil, does EA now acknowledge there was an acid mine draining problem?*

- » Ben responded that this does not link with an acid mine draining problem. This soil improvement refers to standard soil parameters in rehabilitated areas.
  - > Baseline samples were taken six years ago, and every year for the last five years there has been an improvement through the application for example of lime and mushroom compost. In this way, there is no analysis of acid mine drainage specifically, only soil productivity.
- » Exploration Lease 7621 update – desktop assessment is continuing with a renewal application to be submitted to extend the term.

*Julie asked to clarify if the Exploration License is being renewed?*

- » Ben responded yes – the license has been renewed.

*Julie asked if EA planned to inform the immediate neighbours in the area about the renewal?*

- » Ben noted this is only the renewal of the existing license, not an extension/increase of any mining or application areas, it's an extension of time of the existing exploration license.

*Julie suggested people should still be informed about the renewal as she is unsure if they will know what an exploration license is and what it means, so it should be explained. Julie also asked for a map showing the area size and further details including whether it will be open cut at the next meeting.*

- » Ben clarified the license is only to secure the ability to explore on the area, the renewal application in no way means EA has put forward a plan for extraction.
- » **ACTION:** EA to present information at the February meeting explaining what an exploration license is and a map of the licence area.

##### Mt Piper Turbine Upgrade

- » Steve highlighted EA have received Board approval to proceed with the turbine upgrade.
  - > This decision factored in the remaining operational life of the existing plant being now halfway and the comparison of the benefits from replacing parts or upgrading to something newer.
  - > The upgrade will allow additional MWs to be generated for the same coal burn. This effectively means the difference in power generated is essentially carbon free MWs, and will be delivered at a lower installation cost than wind power per MW.
  - > A formal press release will go out during December in relation to this.
  - > Refer to p. 18 of the attached presentation for detailed drawings of the turbine upgrade.

*Jim asked whether the blades had been previously updated to become more efficient?*

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» Steve responded yes, they had previously installed new blades which improved efficiency at the time.

*Brendan asked what the timing for the upgrade will be?*

» Steve explained it will likely occur during the next major outage cycle, which will be due sometime in 2020.

*Rob asked will this then become the cheapest form of power generation per MW?*

» Steve noted this will be a form of scheduled generation which can be delivered into the market as and when it is needed. It is more reliable than wind, which is dependent on external factors, or solar which has a 25% capacity. He noted EA had a portfolio approach to generation.

*Jim asked Steve to clarify what was shown in the drawings of the generator turbine on the presentation slide?*

» Steve explained the drawings show the entire turbine train. Upgrades will occur within the machine as it currently exists. This is why it is so cost effective. The external appearance will remain unchanged, only the type and configuration of the blades will change.

#### Wallerawang DDR – General update

» Wallerawang Re-purposing:

- > EA plans to proceed with demolition of the site as the repurposing proposals to date have not resulted in feasible projects ready to proceed.
- > Opportunities could still arise to repurpose Wallerawang in the future as the site has available land, a rail siding and is close to a high-voltage electricity connection.
- > EA will continue to engage with proponents where appropriate, and when information can be provided to the public, the CCC and broader community will be advised.

*Jim asked about the developer featured on television recently who stated he could spend \$1 billion on Wallerawang, however the project would not be viable if EA removes the buildings. Have EA been in discussions with this company?*

» Steve noted they have had a range of people looking at the site for a long time, and that specific company has not submitted anything formally.

*Julie noted it seemed the proposal asked to keep the existing infrastructure and offered money but did not actually offer a concrete plan. Julie asked to clarify whether other options had been explored.*

» Steve confirmed companies including that which Jim mentioned have been in discussion with EA, and that EA remains open to proposals which are feasible and complementary to energy generation.

*Julie asked whether there is a timeline for moving to the next step? She noted the community has been waiting a long time for something to occur at the site.*

» Michelle responded:

- > The EA staff members present are not able to share this information as it is commercially in confidence.
- > EA will only be in a position to share information when proponents come to them with formal arrangements and they agree to information being made public – to date there have not been any feasible or formal options for Wallerawang.
- > EA have had a number of companies look at the site along with treasury and government officials.

*Jim asked whether there is a time limit on how long EA is prepared to wait for any such viable proposals?*

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» Michelle noted:

- > EA is in the process of writing the demolition tender to get the process moving forward, but it will be made flexible enough to allow for fine tuning if a viable proposal was found for potential repurposing.
- > If a proposal is feasible and reaches a point when it can be spoken of then the CCC and broader community will be consulted.
- > Michelle asked CCC members to please spread the word to not enter the Wallerawang site under any circumstances due to safety concerns.

*Jim asked to clarify whether there is a timeline for how long companies have to offer proposals?*

- » Steve highlighted there is no fixed end date at this time. EA is doing as much as possible at the current time and focusing on dealing with making sure the site is safe and there is no unauthorised public access.
- » Michelle reiterated that before any work could begin the proponent would need to undertake an EIS and secure a DA. The team would facilitate consultation with the CCC at such a time.

*Rob asked if it was due to such a safety concerns that the social club was recently unavailable?*

- » Michelle responded this was due to a water supply problem. When this is fixed, the club will return to being available for public use.

Wallerawang DDR – Ash Dams Area Rehabilitation:

- » Ben provided a summary of the status of ash repository rehabilitation works at the different ash dams including Sawyers Swamp Creek Ash Dam (SSCAD) and Kerosene Vale Ash Repository.
  - > SSCAD is still currently full of water, and must be managed in accordance with the Dam Safety Act. EA have not discharged any water from SSCAD this year primarily due to dry conditions, and there has been no additional surface run off.
  - > A closure and rehabilitation plan has been drafted by Aurecon and EA is currently reviewing final drafts. They intend to submit the plan to the relevant stakeholders, including the CCC and regulators in the first quarter of 2019.
  - > This plan will include discussion of the delisting of SSCAD, ground water quality, surface water quality as well as strategies for the dam's future.

*Jim asked whether works on this plan related to people he had recently seen walking around the area of the creek which runs through the Wilkinson's farm – were these people from EA? Jim confirmed that the two people seen were not wearing high viz clothing.*

- » Michelle and Ben noted they do not think these people were EA staff or contractors if they were not wearing high viz clothes, but will check and get back to Jim and the landowner.

» **ACTION:** Michelle to follow up on this matter.

*Julie asked who will be responsible for the ash repository and whether EA intended to sell the land?*

- » Ben responded the responsibility will remain with whoever owns the land and holds the planning approval for the area. This is presently EA and the company has no intention to sell the land at the present time.
- » Please refer to p. 23 of the attached presentation for a detailed summary of the status of the ash repositories.

Rail Unloader project update:

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- » Steve provided an update on the application to modify the existing 2009 planning approval:
    - > The [one public submission](#) and [government agency submissions](#) have been made available on DPE's website.
    - > EA provided a '[response to submissions' report](#) to DPE.
    - > The s75w is now being assessed by DPE.
    - > The original proposal was an 8 million tonne per annum unloader receiving coal primarily from the west. The modified plan is now an augmentation of the power station's current supply, with 4-5 million tonnes per annum and the ability to receive coal from both directions.
    - > DPE will make a determination following the completion of the assessment.
  - » Please refer to p. 26 of the attached presentation for a summary of the proposed changes to the rail unloader design, which were communicated at the October CCC meeting.

*Julie asked whether upgrades will need to occur to the wider rail line to receive coal from the west, and whether for this reason the unloader will only receive coal from the east to begin with?*

- » Steve responded there are various talks of upgrades, the unloader itself can take coal from both directions. The upgrades are a matter of ongoing discussion.

#### Lamberts North Ash Placement Project – update:

- » Ben reported the ash placement volume from September to November 2018 was 132,346 tonnes.
  - > Ash placement will continue at Lamberts North in December 2018, January and February 2019 until the next meeting.
  - > No complaints have been received and no environmental incidents have been recorded since the last meeting.
- » Ben discussed the Independent Environmental Audit that was conducted in October 2018 and was sent to CCC members for comment.
  - > The draft report is being prepared and is required to be submitted back to DP&E before Christmas. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
  - > Brendan noted there was an audit requirement to consult with the Chair of the CCC. He asked that if members had any relevant feedback, he would pass it on to the consultancy undertaking the audit.
  - > Ben noted the audit covers a long period, with the last audit being undertaken in 2014.
- » 2017-18 Annual Environment Management Report developed and sent to DP&E.
  - > This will be uploaded to the EnergyAustralia website after confirmation of acceptance is received from DP&E.
  - > **ACTION:** Send link to report out to CCC members when uploaded to the website.

#### Community Engagement Program:

- » Michelle thanked CCC members for their feedback on the applicants. She noted that around half of the recipients that applied fully met the criteria, and those that have been awarded funds clearly did so.
    - > There has been discussion with others whose applications were less clear to determine more information about the project. As an example, some projects asked for portions of funding but did not explain where further funding would come from, meaning the project may not go ahead despite funding from EA.
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- » Round 2 of Community Grants have been awarded to:
    - > Rydal Show Society – PA system,
    - > Beehive Re-Creative Centre – ergonomic seats,
    - > Lithgow High School – Mandiyaba Yadhya (Possum Dream) sister speak program,
    - > Wallerawang Lidsdale Progress Association – new year’s event,
    - > Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum – plaques to commemorate factory workers,
    - > Lithgow Tidy Town – laneway program,
    - > Science at the Local – Lithgow – working to get STEM into schools.

*Jim asked if the Lithgow High School – Mandiyaba Yadhya (Possum Dream) is a selective program and only included a small number of pupils?*

- » Michelle explained her understanding is the program aims to bring cultural education to other students, as well as those with an Indigenous background.
- » Round 1 of the 2019 Community Grants program will commence in March 2019, with advertising beginning in February 2019.
- » When advertising is live, information will be sent to the CCC group, and members are encouraged to send through their networks to spread the reach of the program.
- » Round 2 of the 2019 Community Grants program is anticipated to commence in October 2019 (pending final confirmation).
- » \$30,000 will be available for each of the rounds.

Mt Piper Energy Recovery Project:

- » Ben highlighted the project options are under assessment. EA have taken trips overseas with local engineers to understand the technologies used and applied in Europe which could be introduced to Australia.
  - > Details are currently being finalised around the engineering process, and these will form the basis of the scope of Environmental Assessment Studies to be undertaken.
  - > A recent challenge came in the principal contractor RCR going into liquidation two weeks ago. This was the principal engineering firm on the project who were responsible for the detailed design. This has caused a slight impact in terms of the process and timing.
  - > The timing had been pushed out a little due to the change in size and scope of the proposed plant. The background baseline study work has been completed, and when the final detailed design is known EA will inform the CCC of the remainder of studies and assessments required.
  - > This will ramp up in 2019 as EA work through the planning approval process which will require a range of studies and engagement with the community and stakeholders.
  - > The assessments so far indicate the project is technically and economically viable and should proceed to the detailed EIS stage.
  - > Michelle noted the EIS is scheduled for completion mid-2019.
  - > **ACTION:** Energy Recovery Project will be a strong focus of discussion at the next meeting to allow CCC members to build up knowledge and provide feedback for the EIS.

*Julie noted she remains against the project. She referenced the recent EPA discussion paper the [NSW Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Strategy](#), and highlighted that burning of waste should not be the first choice, instead we should be focusing on reducing and reusing waste and creating job opportunities through this.*

**ACTION:** Include link to this policy document in minutes.

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- » Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
    - > Steinmuller Babcock Environmental (SBE) have been selected as the technology provider.
    - > The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARS) have been received and an independent consultant (ERM) has been appointed to prepare the EIS.
    - > The SBE reference plants and technical capability is part of the EIS assessment to ensure that EfW Policy and relevant regulatory requirements will be met.
    - > The EIS is scheduled for completion by mid-2019.
  - » Ongoing community and stakeholder consultation will be undertaken. The current focus is to make the community and stakeholders aware of the project. Further consultation will be undertaken as part of the formal EIS process and before it is submitted to DPE.
  - » Previous consultation included the Mt Piper Open Day on 15 April 2018 and a community information day on 22 November 2018. These events provided information and updates to the public on this and other Mt Piper projects.
  - » If the project receives development approval it could be operational in 2022.
  - » EIS and planning approval update:
    - > As previously communicated, SEARs were assessed for the project in 2017 and updated in mid-2018. Refer to p. 36 of the attached presentation for details.
    - > Preliminary and baseline studies have been completed by the independent consultant ERM, and further information from the technology provider is required for the next stage of the EIS. This work has commenced and is expected to be complete by early/mid 2019.
    - > The EIS will be a public document, and all stakeholders to the project may review and provide feedback to the EIS when it is exhibited by the DPE.

## **5. Projects in focus:**

### **Water Treatment Plant**

- » Wayne provided an update on the Water Treatment Plant in addition to the tour at the beginning of the meeting.
  - » Veolia and their sub-contractors have increased their work force, with work now concentrated on civil works, including installing mechanicals and electricals within the water treatment facility itself. Preparation is being made to take bigger machinery in.
  - » Work on the interface areas between the Water Treatment Facility and the Power Station equipment has begun, and will continue for next few months.
    - > This involves burying 9.4km of pipework to meet up with the EA ponds and plant to allow the transfer of water between the facility and Mt Piper's equipment.
  - » The next big step in development is the pre-commissioning phase and plans for this are under development.
    - > This involves QA audits and checks to ensure the plant can run effectively alongside Mt Piper with no negative impacts on either.
  - » The first of the major Reverse Osmosis plant units is expected to arrive within the next week, with another two arriving before Christmas and the last arriving in January 2019.
  - » Hydrotesting is progressing on the main transfer pipeline – this involves 14km of pipeline which has been divided into six zones.
    - > The first five zones have been worked on, and work is now well underway in the final zone which includes laying pipe.
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- > The remainder of the pipeline is being tested, which involves passing the same water from one zone to the next without releasing anything out of the pipe.

*Jim asked if this hydrotesting is what has been occurring on Wolgan Rd? He noted community members have asked him to check what these works were.*

- » Wayne confirmed yes, the testing of each section has been occurring along Wolgan Rd.

*Julie asked who owns the water once it goes into the pipeline?*

- » Wayne responded it still comes under the ownership of the principal contractor which is Veolia. The idea behind the testing is that when finished, the same water will be pumped from one section to another until it reaches the station. It will then be taken and treated through the facility.

*Jim asked whether the water originally came from Springvale?*

- » Wayne confirmed yes, the water originally came from Springvale.

*Julie noted that it is a great project and good that it is occurring, however she has concerns related to water levels in Lake Wallace when 35 ML is being taken from Springvale, this is water that will not flow into Coxs River or Lake Wallace. She asked if there is a requirement to treat the water to background level and release to ensure there are no impacts to environmental flow and recreation?*

- » Wayne explained at this point in time LDP9 will be turned off on 30 June 2019, meaning 35 ML of water from Springvale will not be released into Coxs River.
- » Ben noted that in the original proposal any surplus treated water of appropriate quality would have been released into Coxs River, however this was not supported by community groups, so now surplus water will be transferred to Thompsons Creek Reservoir.

*Julie commented:*

- » *that although some community groups disagreed, local groups should be taken into account along with the bigger picture to ensure a flow is achieved that reaches the natural background level.*
- » *that water authorities should be acting on the flow decreasing to Lake Wallace. Over time there has been continual surface flow from underground mining and there is no way of knowing how much have been lost to aquifers from this. The substructure of the water is unknown, meaning it is also unknown how long it takes to come to the surface and be able to flow again.*
- » EA agreed this is something that should be considered by the Department.

*Jim asked whether using water from Springvale will lower Mt Piper's reliance on Oberon Dam?*

- » Ben confirmed yes, this will lower the Station's reliance on Oberon Dam.

*Jim asked whether this water supply will be sufficient to run the Mt Piper power station without any water from Oberon Dam?*

- » Steve responded the station will still require some water from Oberon as the quality of water needs to be balanced.

*Rob asked to clarify the situation that has occurred prior to now – In his view the situation was - There was a need to do something with the water coming from Springvale, the two companies came together to create a plan to do this. Local community groups did not support water being released back into the river after going through the facility, but nor were the implications of reduced water flow in the river fully worked through.*

- » Ben responded that this is correct in that no approval has been given to put treated water back into Coxs River.
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- » Steve noted that it is worth considering that Wallerawang power station previously always extracted water from Lake Wallace during operation, however this has now ceased.
  - » Brendan asked to confirm the estimated time of the water plant being fully operational and delivering water to Mt Piper power station?
    - > Wayne responded commissioning of electrical work will begin in early March, with mechanicals being completed by April. Commissioning will continue until 30 June 2019.

## 6. General discussion

- » Brendan called for any general discussion or questions to be tabled.
 

*Julie asked if the CCC could be provided with a species list for the ash repository once the management plan is prepared, along with what existing shrub and grass species are colonising naturally in the area?*

    - » **ACTION:** response to be provided at the next CCC meeting.

*Julie asked about the water quality of the LDP9 Springvale water discharge going into the SSCAD area. If circumstances mean this has to be reduced, is water from SSCAD piped to Wallerawang to be dosed for PH?*

    - » Ben confirmed yes, water from SSCAD is piped to Wallerawang to be PH corrected. He also clarified LDP9 bypasses the ash repositories, it does not enter any ash repository areas.

*Julie asked if the water is only dosed for PH, or if anything else is done?*

    - » Ben confirmed the water is PH corrected which assists in some metals being removed from the water, but not all.

*Julie asked to clarify what metals are not removed?*

    - » **ACTION:** response to be provided at the next CCC meeting.

*Julie asked about whether the ground water chlorides detected in the Mt Piper ash repositories as noted in the last meeting have been listed?*

    - » Ben responded an independent ground water assessment is being undertaken by ERM consulting.
    - » He clarified this relates to the series of ground water bores in place around the ash repositories, some of which have shown elevated levels of chlorides which have increased over time.
    - » Generally, these are trace element levels, but are used to indicate whether brine is present which is associated with ash. The heightened levels indicate a potential of mobilisation, which was originally predicted in the EIS in 2000.
    - » The levels are however slightly higher than anticipated, which triggered the investigation currently being undertaken. A briefing will be held with regulators the EPA, DPE and NSW Water in December 2018, in addition to one earlier in April 2018. This will include a briefing and sharing of ERM's factual reports on ground water and surface water results.
    - » **ACTION:** EA to provide a further update on results of this in the next meeting.

*Julie asked about the water running from LDP6 through Pine Dale Mine into the Blue Lagoon which borders on a children's camp and runs into Coxs River. She is having a meeting with the EPA to discuss concerns about the nature of discharge in the creek which runs past properties and the camp. People may use the water without considering its source, which depending on its contents could lead to health problems. EA has previously responded they do not discharge, but as it is on EA land, do you take responsibility?*
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*Jim seconded this question, concerned with the chance of people, particularly children, swimming in the area.*

- » Ben responded that Pine Dale Mine does not actively discharge in the location and would be interested in hearing the outcomes of Julie's discussion with the EPA.
- » **ACTION:** Julie to provide update to the CCC at the next meeting after her discussions with the EPA.

*Rob raised issues with weeds growing around the foreshore of Lake Wallace which is affecting accessibility for groups such as dragon boaters and children around the foreshore. He has seen a machine used by Hawkesbury City Council which cuts and removes such weeds and was effectively used on the Hawkesbury River.*

- » Ben asked for clarification of which area specifically is being strongly affected.

*Rob clarified particularly the dragon boating and canoeing area.*

*Jim agreed the area needs looking at and noticed weeds have overgrown an area where a recreational beach used to be. This was an asset to the area and is leading to a loss of opportunity for people to enjoy the area.*

*Julie also agreed, noting the Hawkesbury River had been greatly improved through the machine as it was previously choked with weeds and within a couple of months was cleared and removed.*

*Jill noted many caravans also visit and it is a popular place so should be improved.*

- » Ben noted EA does not have management of the foreshore so this should potentially be directed to Council.

*Lauren confirmed Lithgow City Council manage the foreshore, with EA managing the water.*

- » Ben noted he is happy to support movement for this issue.
- » **ACTION:** Lauren to look into who has management of the various parts at Lithgow City Council and report back to the CCC at the next meeting.

*Rob raised having seen in the media falsification of Power Station carbon and other emissions, and asked whether EA would consider offering an education program of some sort for schools and the community to clarify what is and is not pollution from station's?*

*Jill and Jim agreed and asked if EA could undertake some publicity to ensure both sides of the story are told.*

- » Michelle responded EA's corporate communication's unit look after explaining what EA does in relation to operational, environmental and market concerns. At a site level we publish all data in relation to what we are required to publicly report to various authorities.
- » Michelle noted Catherine Tanna has been in the media discussing the need for a balanced approach to power generation in the future and the benefits of a mixed portfolio in relation to managing costs, reliability etc.
- » **ACTION:** provide link to [education section of website](#) offering fact sheets.
- » Brendan called for any further general business. He confirmed if anything for review or discussion comes up prior to the next meeting, the earlier members can send this through the better. There will be a two-week cut off prior to the next meeting for questions to be provided with a response.

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## 7. Draft 2019 meeting schedule

- » The 2019 meeting dates will be:
  - > 25 Feb
  - > 27 May

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> 26 Aug

> 2 December.

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**8. Meeting close**

» The next CCC meeting is scheduled for Monday 25 February 2019.

» Meeting was closed at 7:00pm.

3 December 2018

# **EnergyAustralia** **Lithgow Region Community** **Consultative Committee**

Steve Marshall  
A/Head of Mt Piper

# Agenda



1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Walk to View Water Treatment Project
3. Review of Notes From Meeting Two
4. Site Update from EnergyAustralia
5. Project updates from EnergyAustralia – existing and planned
6. Projects in focus:
  - Water Treatment Plant
  - Lamberts North Ash Dam Environmental Audit 1 Feedback
7. General Discussion
8. Draft 2019 Meeting Schedule
9. Meeting close

# **Welcome and Introductions**



# **Review of Notes from Meeting One**

# Answers to Questions/Actions Arising from October meeting

## Response to Questions – Thompsons Creek Dam



### **Confirm impact of works on access to water**

*Access to the water will be closed on commencement of project until construction is complete.*

### **Clarification on the rocks expected size**

*The rocks will be approximately 300 – 500mm (occasional 1metre) on the steep embankment and 100mm – 250mm on the flat foreshore.*

### **Clarification on source of the rocks**

*The contractor undertaking the works has advised, that at this stage the rocks will be sourced from Marangaroo.*



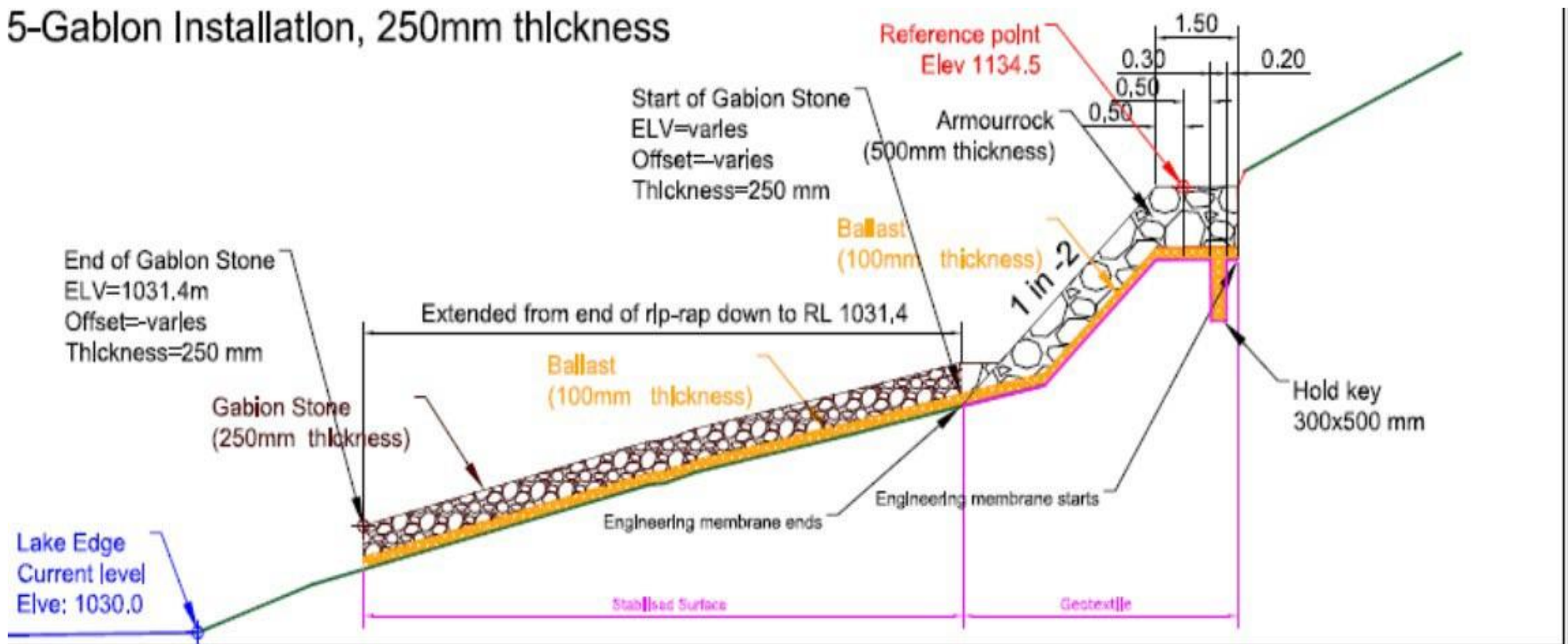
# Response to Questions – Thompsons Creek Dam



## Clarification on process to stabilise the eastern creek bed

The work involves shaping the surface on the steep embankment and applying geo textile (engineering membrane) and aggregate, in accordance with the design, over the whole surface.

### 5-Gablon Installation, 250mm thickness



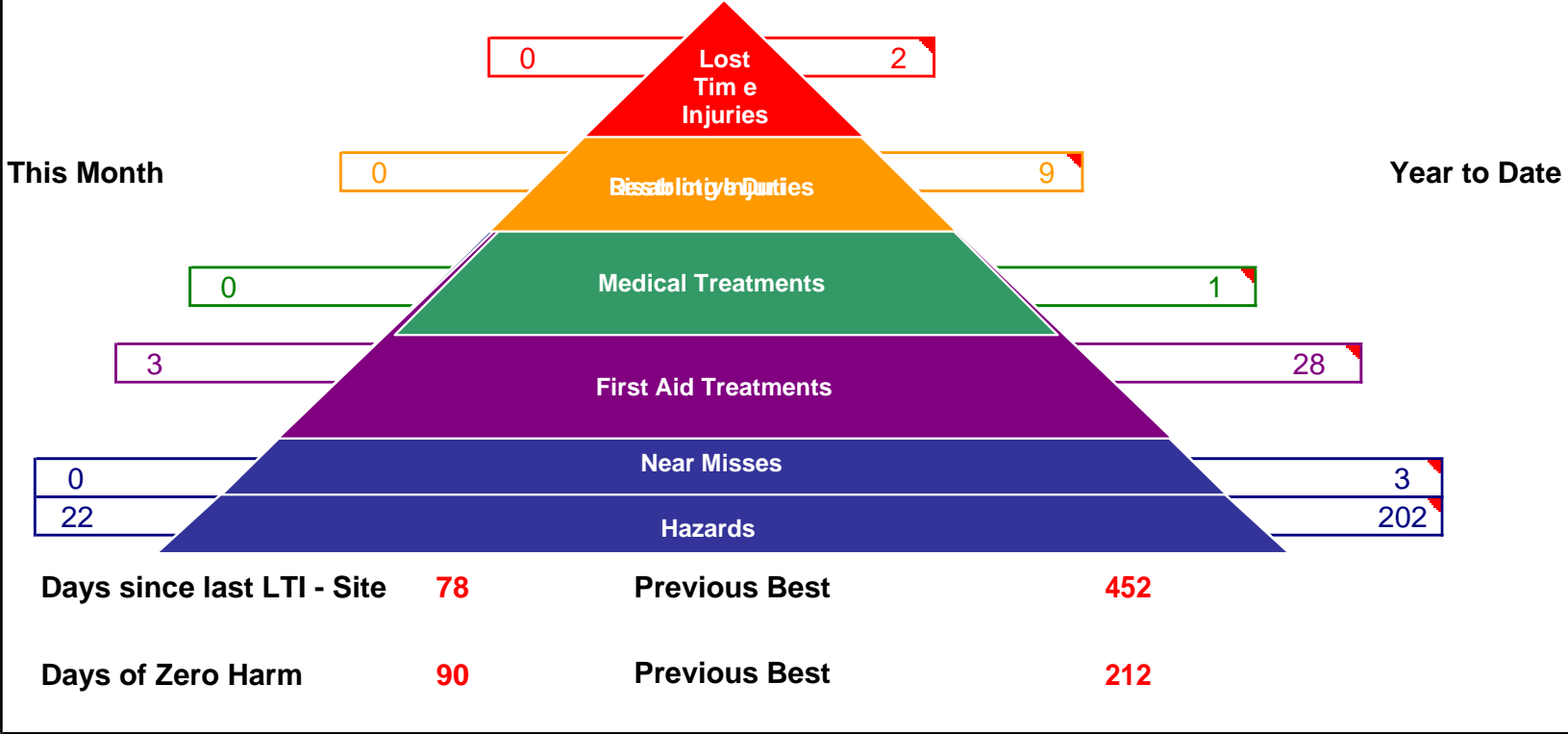
# Site Safety

# Site Safety



October

## EnergyAustralia NSW - Safety Performance



# Update - Water Management

# Update on Water Management



- Oberon Dam level is at 49.99% (decrease)
- Total Active Storage is at 86.6% with:
  - ◆ Lake Lyell at 82.3%
  - ◆ Lake Wallace at 110.6%
  - ◆ Thompsons Creek Dam at 89.8%
- Lake Wallace continues to spill
- Green alerts for Blue-green Algae at Coxs River below Lake Wallace.



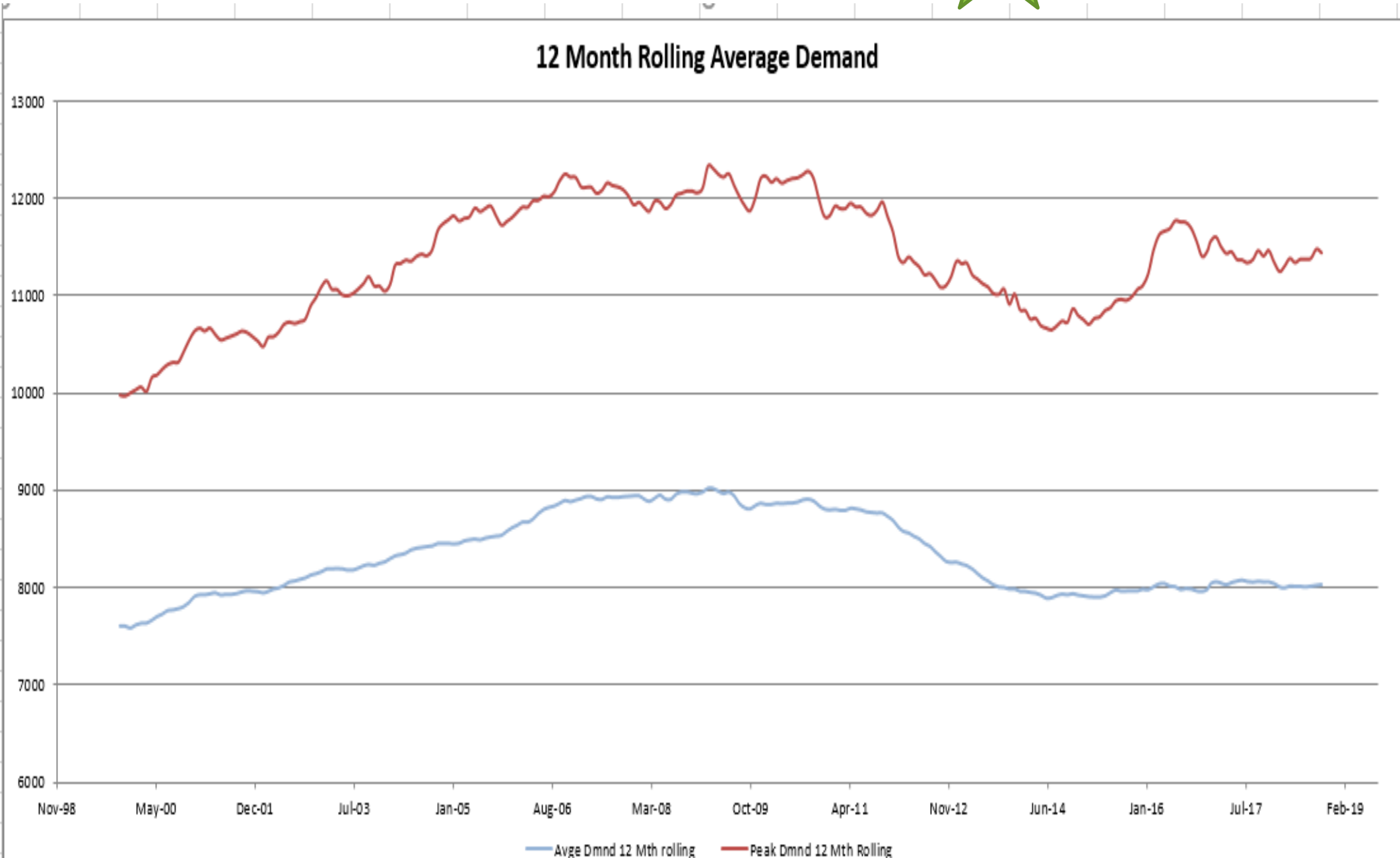


# Market Update

# Market Update



### 12 Month Rolling Average Demand



# Operations (Site) Update

# Mt Piper Operations



- MP1 has been out of service for boiler tube repairs.
- MP2 has been running reliably for the period that MP1 has been out of service.
- Fuel handling problematic with coal quality deteriorating in recent weeks.
- Stockpile levels are reducing due to lack of reliable supply from Springvale.
- Continued planning is underway for future upgrades to improve plant flexibility and unit efficiency.



## Pinedale Mine Update



### Yarraboldy project update:

- In care and maintenance while future is assessed.
- Progressing rehabilitation in areas where mining is complete,
  - SLR study indicates soil has achieved benchmark levels,
  - Positive outcome for rehabilitation efforts.

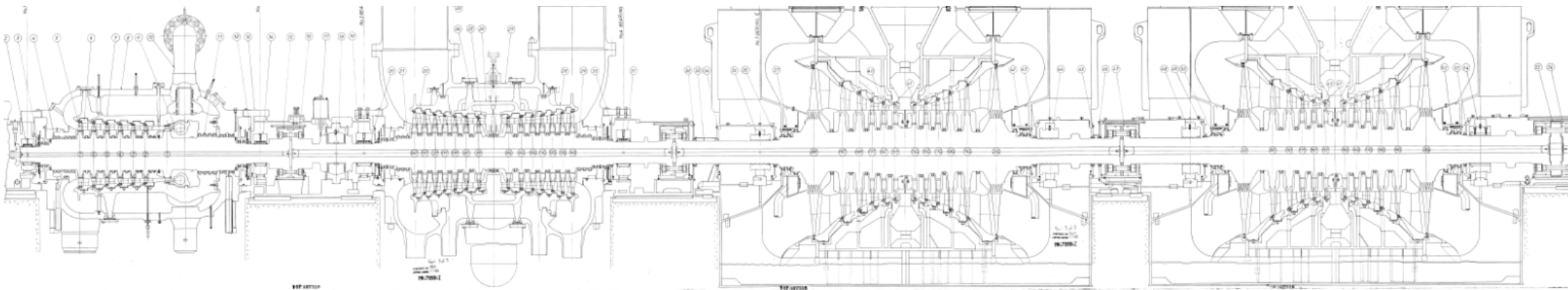
### Exploration Lease 7621 update:

- Desktop assessment continuing,
- Renewal application to be submitted to extend term.

# Mount Piper Turbine Upgrade

## Mount Piper Turbine Upgrade - Current Status

- Mount Piper have received board approval to proceed with the turbine upgrade.
- Additional MW will be generated from the Mount Piper turbines, for the same coal burn.
- Carbon Free MW.
- Lower Cost per MW installed than wind.



# Wallerawang DDR

General Update



## Wallerawang Re-purposing



- EnergyAustralia plans to proceed with demolition of the site as repurposing projects to date have not resulted in projects ready to proceed or the proposals have not been realistic,
- There should be opportunities to repurpose Wallerawang in the future: the site has available land, a rail siding and it's close to a high-voltage electricity connection,
- We will continue to engage with proponents where appropriate,
- When information can be provided to the public we will advise the committee and the broader community.



## Wallerawang DDR

- Alternative power system is in the process of installation
- Security upgrades are planned
- A Demolition Tender is in the final stages of preparation:
  - Some flexibility is intended within the tender to allow for potential repurposing



# Wallerawang DDR

Ash Dams Area Rehabilitation

# Ash Repository Rehabilitation



WORK STREAM	RECENT PROGRESS	UPCOMING ACTIVITIES	OVERALL STATUS
<b>SSCAD WATER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lines and pumps installed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electrically connect pumps at SSCAD</li> <li>• Prove Caustic Injection Plant</li> </ul>	Compliant
<b>CLOSURE AND REHABILITATION PLAN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Plan prepared by Aurecon</li> <li>• Joint meeting held with EPA, DPE, NSWTE and EA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DPE to confirm position regarding dewatering SSCAD</li> </ul>	Delays to Closure & Rehabilitation Plan due to further water treatment likely required.
<b>CAPPING MATERIAL APPROVAL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Approval has been granted by Dpt Planning and Environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post approval works required:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- installation of signage (complete)</li> <li>- Review of OEMP (complete)</li> <li>- Preparation of Operational Transport Mgt Plan, submitted to LCC &amp; RMS (complete)</li> <li>- Notify Department before commencement</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Post approvals documentation finalised Contractor safety and Environmental Management Plan to be finalised
<b>NEW ASBESTOS REPOSITORY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EIS has been reviewed and is being finalised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EIS finalised and to be submitted to Lithgow City Council</li> </ul>	Progressing

# Update Rail Unloader Project

## Rail Unloader - Current Status



- Since the last CCC meeting, in relation to the modification application of the 2009 planning approval:
  - The one public submission and government agency submissions have been made available on DPE's website
  - EA provided a 'response to submissions' report to DPE
  - The s75w application is now being assessed by DPE
- DPE will make a determination following the completion of the assessment
- See the next page for a summary of the proposed changes to the rail unloader design (as previously communicated)

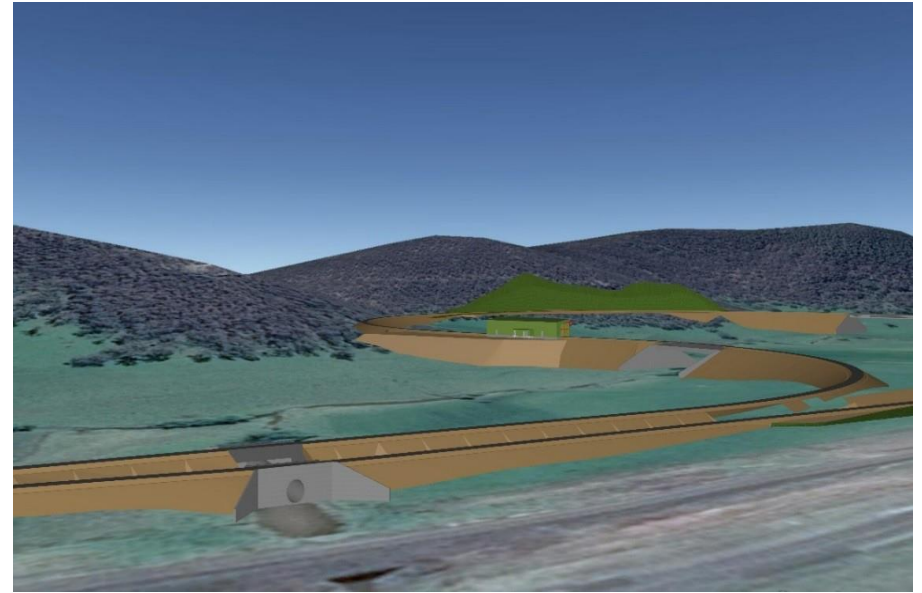
# Recap: Modified Rail Unloader Design



Aerial view

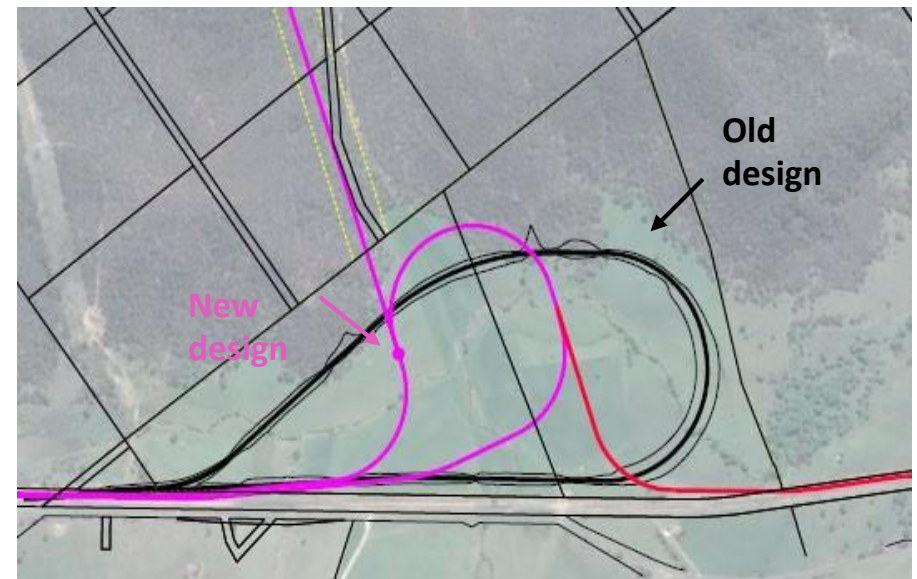


Pipers Flat Road view



The proposed modification includes:

- realignment of the rail line to reduce earthworks and reduce the height of the embankment
- relocation of the rail dump hopper to remove an intermediate coal transfer station and conveyor
- the addition of a second connection to the main rail line and a spur line to provide operational flexibility
- an additional conveyor and rill tower near the power station
- removal of trains provisioning buildings



# Update – Lamberts North Ash Placement Project



# Lamberts North Ash Placement Project Update



- Ash Placement Volume
  - September to November 2018 was 132,346 tonne
  - Ash Placement will continue at Lamberts North in December 2018, January and February 2019,
- No complaints received,
- No incidents recorded,
- Independent Environmental Audit conducted in October 2018,
- 2017-18 Annual Environment Management Report developed and sent to DP&E.





# Update - Water Treatment Project



# Joint EANSW/Centennial Water Treatment Project



- Veolia and their sub-contractors have increased their work force so as to focus on the mechanical and electrical portions of the plant
- The interfaces areas work between the WTF and the Power station equipment has begun and will continue for the next few months
- Plans are being developed for the pre-commissioning phase
- The first of the major Reverse Osmosis plant unit is on the water and expected early December with another two arriving before January 19.
- Hydrotesting is progressing on the main transfer pipeline and work is well underway in the final Zone.

# Community Engagement Program

# Community Engagement Program 2018



Round 2 of the Community Grants have been awarded to:

- Rydal Show Society
- Beehive Re-Creative Centre
- Lithgow High School – Mandiyaba Yadhaa (Possum Dream)
- Wallerawang Lidsdale Progress Association
- Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum
- Lithgow Tidy Town
- Science at the Local – Lithgow

Thanks to the Committee for their assistance with this process.

## Community Engagement Program 2019



- Round 1 of the 2019 Community Grants program will commence in March 2019, with advertising commencing in February 2019,
- Round 2 of the 2019 Community Grants program is anticipated to commence in October 2019 (to be confirmed),
- \$30,000 is available for each of the rounds.

# Mt Piper Energy Recovery Project



# Energy Recovery Project Development Update



## Studies indicate the project is technically and economically viable

Studies concluded the project should proceed to the development stage and seek development approval.

## Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- Steinmuller Babcock Environmental (SBE) has been selected as a technology provider.
- SEARS have been received and an independent consultant (ERM) has been appointed to prepare the EIS.
- The SBE reference plants and technical capability is part of the EIS assessment to ensure that EfW Policy and relevant regulatory requirements will be met.
- EIS is scheduled for completion by mid 2019.

## Community and stakeholder consultation ongoing

- Current focus is to make community and stakeholders aware of the Project.
- Following on from the Mt Piper open day on 15<sup>th</sup> April, celebrating 25 years of operation, a Community Information Day was held on Thursday, 22 November at the request of Council.
- These opportunities provide information and updates to the public on this and other Mt Piper projects.
- More consultation will be part of the formal EIS process and before it is submitted to Dept of Planning & Environment (DPE).

## Commissioning

- If the project receives development approval it could be operational in 2022.



# EIS and Planning Approval Update



- To recap, the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) were issued for the Project in 2017 and updated in mid 2018. The areas of study are:
  - Community & Stakeholder Engagement
  - Strategic and Statutory Context
  - Air Quality and Odour
  - Human Health Risk
  - Waste Management
  - Soils and Water
  - Traffic and Transport
  - Noise and Vibration
  - Biosecurity
  - Hazards and Risk
  - Visual
  - Greenhouse Gas and Energy Efficiency
  - Flora and Fauna
  - Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
  - Bushfire Risk
  - Contributions
  - Social and Economic
- Some preliminary and baseline studies have been completed by the independent consultant (ERM), further information from the technology provider is required for next stage of EIS. This work has commenced in parallel with preliminary design work, and is expected to complete by early/mid 2019.
- Community and stakeholder consultation and feedback throughout the project is an important input to the EIS assessment and the means by which matters important to individuals, stakeholders and the wider community interests are considered.
- The EIS will be a public document and all stakeholders to the Project may review and provide feedback to the EIS when it is exhibited by the DPE.