Meeting Minutes

EnergyAustralia Lithgow CC

Date	**30 July 2018**	**Time**	5:00pm – 7:00pm
Chair	Brendan Blakeley, Elton Consulting	**Recorder**	Georgia Heighway, Elton Consulting
Attendees	Jill Cusak, CCC member Jamie Giokaris, CCC member Robert Cluff, CCC member James (Jim), Whitty, CCC member Alex Preema, CCC member Aunty Helen Riley, CCC member Clr Ray Thompson, Lithgow Council CCC representative Lauren Stevens, Lithgow Council Ben Eastwood, EnergyAustralia Malcolm Murphy, EnergyAustralia Geoff Gay, EnergyAustralia	**Apologies**	Julie Favell, CCC member Michelle Blackley, EnergyAustralia

Item	Discussion Point
1.	**Site induction** » Members of the CCC watched a safety video and signed an induction form.
2.	**Welcome and introductions** » Aunty Helen Riley opened the meeting with a welcome to country. » Brendan Blakeley the Chair welcomed attendees. » Apologies: Julie Favell from the Lithgow Environment Group.
3.	**CCC induction process** <u>CCC guidelines and Code of Conduct</u> » The Chair asked attendees for the Code of Conduct and Declaration of Pecuniary Interest forms that had been emailed to them prior to the meeting. The forms were collected. » The committee worked through the various items within the Code of Conduct. » The Chair opened the room to questions regarding the CCC guidelines and Code of Conduct. No questions were raised. » He noted that his role to ensure: > there is open and constructive communication between CCC members and EnergyAustralia > that discussion remains focussed on the scope of various EnergyAustralia projects within the region > that all members have equitable opportunities to share their views > he helps the group shape meeting agendas and discussion items > that meetings are kept to time.

- The Chair opened the room up to questions about the expectations of CCC members towards his position as Chair. He encouraged members to feel very welcome to provide feedback on how he performs his role at any time.
- *A question was raised about the scope of the CCC.*
- The scope was outlined as primarily focussing on all of EnergyAustralia's operations and projects in the Lithgow area, including;
  - Mt Piper and Wallerawang Stations
  - planning for related infrastructure and associated projects
  - the ash dams and repositories
  - Pinedale Mine
  - environmental performance.

Conflicts of interest

- The Chair noted that conflicts may be real or perceived and that declarations of interest would be a standing item at each meeting.
- *Robert Cluff raised the point that it can be challenging for people who may have a conflict of interest to voice their concerns.*
- The Chair acknowledged this concern and explained that this particular guideline is important in encouraging accountability and transparency during CCC meetings. He noted that:
  - a conflict may not necessarily exclude participation in the group or in discussions
  - at times it may entail a person standing back from participating in discussions about a particular agenda item or project
  - at times it is precaution to simply ensure transparency.
- The Chair declared that:
  - he and Georgia were being paid by EnergyAustralia to support the CCC in accordance with the requirements for independent Chairs outlined in the CCC Guidelines
  - he is also independent Chair of EnergyAustralia's Tallawarra Community Liaison Group.
- Confidentiality may be required with particular discussion items. Where this is the case, prior to the discussion the need for confidentiality and the reasons why it is required will be noted. As per the Code of Conduct, the expectation is that requests for confidentiality will be respected. If this presents a difficulty for any member it is best that the person excuses themselves from the meeting session, subject to confidentiality.

Importance of feedback from CCC members

- The Chair:
  - encouraged CCC members to not only bring community concerns, ideas and suggestions to these meetings but also take back information provided through the CCC to their neighbours and fellow community members
  - explained that CCCs work best when members act as a conduit between the operator /proponent (in this case EnergyAustralia) and the broader community

- noted that the committee is not a decision-making body, however they are a very key pathway for EnergyAustralia to receive feedback and disseminate information about their operations in the area
- emphasised that the CCC was only one way that EnergyAustralia engages with local communities.

» *Jim Whitty noted that in his experience EnergyAustralia is very responsive to community queries and feedback.*

» *Clr Ray Thompson also noted EnergyAustralia has maintained a positive relationship with Council and commented that he does not have to wait for a long time for a response if he contacts the station directly.*

Feedback processes:

» Brendan encouraged committee members to contact the Mt Piper Station number if there were immediate pressing issues in between meetings.

» Phone (02) 6354 8111 (24 hours) or 1800 756 968 (24 hours)

» Email: community@energyaustraliansw.com.au

» Questions relating to more strategic matters should be forwarded to the Chair to be logged for discussion at the next meeting.

» If outside of the meeting schedule there is a matter that a member believes is of sufficient urgency and importance to warrant either a response to the group from EnergyAustralia or an extraordinary meeting of the CCC, members are encouraged to contact the chair via the CCC email ealithgowccc@elton.com.au and he will call them back to discuss.

» *Rob Cluff asked if the members of the CCC would be happy to share their email addresses. No concerns were raised with the sharing of email addresses.*

Chairs addendum: Please note individual interactions between CCC members on CCC related matters via email outside of meetings will be subject to the Code of Conduct.

Meeting procedures

» The Chair noted that while meetings would be very structured they were also not run overly formally and allowed for discussion to flow.

» If there is not enough time for a response to all questions or EnergyAustralia is unable to provide a detailed response in the meeting, these will be taken on notice and dealt with in a variety of ways, including:

- clarification via the meting minutes
- through an update in between meetings (if an urgent or straightforward matter)
- or at the next meeting.

» The Chair:

- noted that meetings were the actual forum for the CCC. For the sake of structure and fairness to all members, the preference was to have the bulk of discussion occur within meetings and not via email correspondence in between meetings. However, if EnergyAustralia feels there is information the CCC should be aware of more immediately, the Chair will send out an update email.

- reiterated the importance of the question tracker log. The question tracker document is useful as it provides a way of documenting relevant questions raised by CCC members before and during meetings rather than trawling through the minutes. Where questions are provided two weeks in advance of a meeting the log will be sent to EnergyAustralia to enable them time where possible to prepare a response before the meeting.

» In ending the induction session, the Chair asked members to state in their own words "what effective communication looks like".

» *Responses included:*

- *listening to the concerns of local community members*
- *ongoing consultation is important*
- *allowing a diversity of opinions to be heard*
- *being inclusive*
- *transparency and staying on the topic*

4. **Site update from EnergyAustralia**

Safety performance on the site for the month of June: Malcolm Murphy

» Injuries and incidents have been low and EnergyAustralia is pleased with current trends.

» Where issues have been identified the causes of these incidents have been reviewed and procedures implemented to reduce the likelihood of recurrence.

» Safety remains a key priority for all people working on site.

Water Management: Malcolm Murphy

» Given the current drought there has been a decrease in the Oberon Dam level. Other sources are all at good levels.

» While EnergyAustralia has an allocation to take water from Oberon Dam, once it reaches a particular level, limitations will apply.

» Once the water treatment project is up and running it will significantly reduce reliance on water from Oberon Dam.

» *Jim Whitty asked if the dam could reach a level that prevented it from being used as a source of water.*

» **ACTION:** EnergyAustralia to provide details.

Ash Placement Areas

» There have been no complaints and no incidents on this site since its commencement.

» *Jim Whitty asked if the ash placement would end in June or be ongoing.*

» Ben clarified that the ash placement process was ongoing.

» *Jill Cusak asked if the Ash Placement site could ever be repurposed to include buildings.*

» Ben said that it is not a preference of EnergyAustralia that these sites be repurposed in this way.

» Malcolm added:

- Some ash is being sold off to make cement and this is a long-established reuse of this material.

- EnergyAustralia is also working with a company called Nu-Rock to look at turning ash into a useful building material for infrastructure projects. This process looks at using ash to make bricks. While Nu-Rock's work was promising it takes a long time for the materials they make to be tested and ready for market.
- When the ash area is complete it will be capped off and rehabilitated with vegetation as per the Closure Plan.

Market update: Malcolm Murphy

- There has been a lot of variability in demand and supply. This has had a major impact on how EnergyAustralia generates energy at Mt Piper.
- The variability is in part due to how EnergyAustralia integrates baseload power with a growing proportion of renewables from solar and wind into the overall generation mix.
- EnergyAustralia is currently looking into how Mt Piper can be more flexible in accommodating and responding to this variability.
- In terms of demand; peak demand is increasing but overall demand is not rising as quickly. This means we need to be better attuned to dialling up and dialling down our generation at Mt Piper.
- *Rob Cluff noted:*
  - *his disappointment that the cost of energy was so high in a country that was abundant in coal resources*
  - *his view that renewable energy is not able to sustain the current demand for baseload electricity.*
- *Jill Cusak asked about the feasibility of putting two more generation units on the site at Mt Piper, particularly given the circumstances of Liddell Power station's closure.*
- Malcolm Murphy responded that while this was an option under the original plans for the site, there are no proposals to put in any additional generators at this stage, as these would not be economically feasible. Malcolm commented that the energy market was dynamic and changing every day. He also stated that wholesale generation costs were not the only factor in rising power prices.
- *Clr Ray Thompson noted the loss of industry due to high energy prices, which was an issue of concern for Council.*
- *Jim Whitty commented that it would be useful for the CCC to have information about how supply and demand affects the cost of energy, other factors impacting on the market and the ability of the system to be more flexible.*
- The Chair noted that there may be greater clarity around a number of these issues should the National Energy Guarantee be decided upon later this year. This is something that could perhaps be presented to the CCC at another meeting.
- *Clr Ray Thompson requested that if EnergyAustralia was to have an expert address the CCC it would be good if this person could tie in a presentation to Council.*
- Malcolm stated EnergyAustralia would be happy to arrange this.

5. **Project updates from EnergyAustralia – existing and planned**

Mt Piper operation

- Both units on the site are operating reliably.

- EnergyAustralia is currently looking for ways to improve flexibility and efficiency in providing electricity.
- Issues with the reliability of single source coal continue to present challenges for materials handling equipment throughout the plant.

Pinedale Mine Update

- Is in care and maintenance mode.
- Is progressing rehabilitation in areas where mining is complete.
- Monitoring indicates that rehabilitation outcomes are positive.

Wallerawang Repurposing and DDR

- Geoff explained that EnergyAustralia is looking at repurposing Wallerawang. These projects cover manufacturing, transport, recycling and energy from waste. These projects are also commercial and in confidence. When information can be provided to the public, EnergyAustralia is keen to advise the CCC about the nature of these projects.
- Stripping out of the station is well underway with remaining equipment packages being salvaged.
- Security and safety are being ramped up on site following a recent break in.
- An alternative power arrangement is being reviewed as power to the site will be disconnected soon.
- EnergyAustralia is also currently engaging a third party to see how the buffer land can be used for potential development of the site and to create a buffer strategy.
- Ben gave an overview of the proposal to import Capping Material for the Sawyer Swamp Creek Ash Dam and the Kerosene Vale Ash Repository
- Draft Project Approval conditions have been issued by DPE.
- It is a 2-year long project to cap the Wallerawang Ash Repository with material from the construction of tunnels in Sydney. Control measures include:
  - a maximum of 100 trucks per day;
  - must use State Highways only, cannot use local roads in the Lithgow LGA;
  - signage to be installed on Castlereagh Hwy;
  - operational Transport Management Plan to be developed;
  - updating the existing Operation Environmental Management Plan.
- Ben will be in a better position to cover these issues more thoroughly at our September meeting.
- A Development Application is likely to be submitted to Lithgow City Council in August/September of 2018 to demolish parts of the station and also cover an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for asbestos disposal on site.
- *Jim Whitty commented that asbestos is an issue of concern for the community and would need to be handled very carefully. He encouraged EnergyAustralia to communicate thoroughly with neighbours about how asbestos would be safely handled.*
- *There was question about whether the 100 trucks a day was a maximum movement cap or a reflection of the likely number of truck movements.*

- Malcolm stated that it was a maximum cap and the numbers of truck movements were likely to fluctuate significantly. He also confirmed that the draft approval for truck movements relating to this project was for working days and not weekends.

Rail Unloader Project

- Geoff provided an overview of the Rail Unloader Project which enables coal to be supplied from multiple sources by rail.
- Images were shown of a rail unloader design that is a modification to what was originally approved.
- The modified rail unloader design will:
  - operate more efficiently than the original design
  - have reduced environmental impacts
  - avoid an identified heritage item.
- Environmental studies have been completed and Community/Stakeholder engagement is currently in progress for the Rail Unloader project.
- A summary of the specialist environmentalist studies to be undertaken was provided.
- *Jim Whitty raised the issue of the dust impacts of this project.*
- Geoff noted that this is anticipated to be less than what was envisaged in the approved scheme as the volume of coal to be handled will be lower.
- *Jamie Giokaris raised the issue that during the previous planning process notification of neighbours wasn't satisfactory as the consultants relied on newsletters being left at gates etc. A lot of community members do not have mailboxes and perhaps it might be a good idea to send updates to people's PO boxes rather than their mailboxes.*

Water Treatment Project

- The project is running to schedule.
- A site visit will be arranged for later in the year.

Community Engagement Program

- 2018 1st Round Sponsorship Grants have been endorsed by the previous committee. Around $30,000 of requested funds are being processed for distribution.
- The second round will be advertised 7 August and will close 3 September. This will allow the CCC to review the submissions at our next meeting.
- EnergyAustralia is working with Council to host a public meeting focusing on the station's operations and the various projects under consideration.
- The meeting is anticipated to be held in the next month.
- The group felt it would be important to provide an overview on all the projects and issues raised at this CCC meeting.
- The Chair noted that if there were any other suggestions regarding topics for the Council meeting CCC members could email them to him at LithgowCCCgroup@elton.com.au and he will pass them onto the meting organisers. He also offered to notify the group once the date was known.

Energy Recovery Project Development Update

- Consultation with both community and Council will commence shortly.

- This will follow with a very detailed Environmental Impact Statement that will be prepared over the next year with a view to lodging the EIS late in 2019.
- The updated SEARs for the Energy Recovery Project have been issued and require many issues to be addressed through detailed studies and reports including:
  - 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
- EnergyAustralia has engaged specialist consultants ERM to prepare an EIS which will include all relevant studies and simulations to adequately assess and address the SEARs requirements.

6. **Discussion**

- The Chair passed on a series of comments and questions raised by Julie Favell on behalf of the Lithgow Environment Group and some residents within the area. A brief summary of the responses is provided within the minutes with a more detailed response furnished by EnergyAustralia included in Appendix 2.
  - *Julie noted her disapproval with the current Feasibility Study for RDF (Refuse Derived Fuel) and her view that this is not the best method reduction of rubbish. She notes inconsistency with the EPA Waste Avoidance Policy 2001 hierarchy which clearly shows:*
  - *that burning of waste is not the first preference for elimination of waste*
  - *reduce and recycle should be the first preference, with the NSW government currently following the European Government's new direction for a circular economy*

  Julie also notes:
  - *there is clear evidence of the excessive amount of energy required for the process used for the end product to burn*

- *by burning rubbish, it reduces the number of jobs that would be available compared to recycling*
- *health related issues that may present to neighbouring properties, meaning immediate neighbours, Wallerawang, Pipers Flat, Cullen Bullen and Portland*
- *Opposition to the increase in truck movements and impacts on local residents as well for tourists using the Castlereagh Highway.*

- Malcolm and Ben responded as follows:
  - EnergyAustralia agree that energy from waste is not the first preference for the treatment of waste
  - This project will only use a refuse derived fuel (RDF). RDF is a solid fuel processed and produced from unrecyclable waste, like plastics and linen. The waste used to produce RDF would otherwise end up in landfill. The project is not diverting any waste stream away from recycling and not reducing employment in recycling. There are well established markets for recycled material and therefore no economic incentive to divert recyclable material to the energy recovery project
  - The RDF will be produced in NSW EPA licensed processing facilities from waste where the recyclable material has already been removed, consistent with the waste hierarchy
  - The project is consistent with the application of the waste hierarchy in NSW and the European Union and recycling strategies
  - Australian jurisdictions (including NSW, VIC, WA and the ACT) have moved to enable and encourage the development of modern best practice energy recovery from waste facilities.
  - In March 2014 the NSW EPA released the *NSW Energy from Waste Policy Statement* after extensive consultation in industry and other interested groups
  - Converting unrecyclable waste into RDF to capture high levels of energy is preferred in the NSW and European Union waste hierarchies to landfilling this waste. Accordingly, the energy recovery project is fully consistent with these waste hierarchies
  - The production of RDF is governed by the NSW EPA's energy from waste policy and general environmental controls on things like emissions, air quality, human health and odour
  - Issues related to potential health impacts on neighbours and truck movements will be addressed in the EIS in particular through the following reports:
    - Air Quality and Odour
    - Human Health Risk
    - Traffic and Transport

Julie also asked the question:

- *How does the RDF proposal reconcile with) the Eastern Creek proposal of over 500,000 tonnes of rubbish which was rejected by residents, members of state and federal parliament, Blacktown Council, NSW Western Health, and NSW Planning and Environment? Upper House Inquiry says no to Incinerator with a final current PAC now closed.*

- Malcolm and Ben responded:
  - There are some key differences between the two proposals
  - Our energy recovery project is not an incinerator and doesn't involve burning unprocessed mix waste which occurs in incinerators

- It involves subjecting a processed solid fuel (RDF) to a high temperature combustion to produce steam to support the coal fired process. This is a critical difference from the Next Generation proposal at Eastern Creek
- The Eastern Creek proposal was for a stand-alone energy from waste plant on an undeveloped site in a densely populated residential area. Our energy recovery project is being integrated into an existing power plant which is already governed under strict licensing by the NSW EPA to protect the local community from environment and human health impacts
- The Next Generation proposal was based on 552,000 tonnes of waste with ours at 200,000 tonnes (less than half of the Next Generation proposal) of RDF
- We are proposing a higher level of quality control over and limitations on the kind of waste that can be used to produce RDF, than we understand the Next Generation proposal was based on.

Julie further raised concerns regarding:

- *cumulative impacts, given the known excessive cumulative impact zone already exists with:*
  - *approx. 200,000 tonnes of exposed coal at any given time on site Mt Piper*
  - *20 million tonnes of fly ash Mt Piper*
  - *capacity holding for coal at Western Coal Services in excess of 800,000 tonnes of coal*
  - *known temperature inversions and the topography of the area and where we live is a draw zone with mountain ridge flowing past our home and then towards Wolgan Valley.*
- Malcolm and Ben responded:
  - It is a regulatory requirement imposed by the Department of Planning and Environment that cumulative impacts are understood and addressed
  - The indicative Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) includes an obligation that "an assessment of the potential impacts of all stages of the development, including any cumulative impacts, taking into consideration relevant guidelines, policies, plans and statutes" be conducted
  - At this stage the question will be taken on notice until the technical assessment of cumulative impacts has been completed for the EIS.
- *With this current study will there be a guarantee that the result in zero emissions, if not then I object to this standard? Will there be scrubbers in this unit and will it have 24/7 monitoring on site if not then I object to this standard? Will they be cleaned to ensure that not excess will be emitted and how often? If not then I object with this standard. What guarantee will there be for the immediate residents in the case of failure/break down on any part of the emission process if not then I object to this standard?*
- Malcolm and Ben responded:
  - Emissions cannot be completely avoided in any process involving combustion
  - They can be minimised and controlled through best practice technology, standards and management
  - These will meet European Union standards which are more stringent than those imposed by the NSW EPA
  - Our emission controls will include 24/7 monitoring and the use of scrubbers. We will ensure that scrubbers are cleaned and maintained as part of the infrastructure management and emissions control regime

- EnergyAustralia will take on notice the question about the frequency of scrubber maintenance as basic maintenance schedules will be provided by the manufacturer at a later stage during the design process.
- There will an automatic shut-down of the energy recovery process if there are mechanical or other failures. This will be designed to ensure that no breaches of the emissions control regime can occur.
- The EIS will also include an assessment of possible equipment failures and related potential impacts.

» *Could Energy Australia please advise of the current licence requirement for mercury emissions and if there is how often is required to report? If not 24/7 monitoring on site then I object to this standard. The same question applies if the committee could be advised of all of the emissions, the licence limits or no licence limits and how often are each of the emissions monitored?*

» Ben responded
- Mercury is required to be monitored annually.
- Mercury is required to be reported in the following ways:
  1. Published on the EnergyAustralia website within 14 days from receiving the result;
  2. Reported to the EPA in the EPL Annual Return by 1 March each year. The Annual Return is published on the EPA website.
  3. Reported to the EPA under the National Pollutant Inventory which is due by 1 April each year.

Chair's addendum:

1. https://www.energyaustralia.com.au/about-us/energy-generation/mt-piper-power-station/mt-piper-epa-reports
2. https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/licensing-and-regulation/licensing/environment-protection-licences/load-based-licensing/annual-returns-and-load-data
3. https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/licensing-and-regulation/licensing/environment-protection-licences/national-pollutant-inventory

» *Could EnergyAustralia please advise if there has been action on my concern/complaint to EPA Bathurst with the current discharge from Western Coal Services into Wancoal Creek, Nuebecks Creek and Blue Lagoon as those locations are all on Energy Australias owned/managed areas? Julie's concern and complaint is:*
- *that the current discharge of electrical conductivity Centennial Coals report show it reached a level of 6,000+ ms and other heavy metals included in this flow, and that people who border on that property, creek line and Blue Lagoon may be accessing that water for their own use, without the knowledge of Energy Australia.*
- *In the same case of the Blue Lagoon which borders on a children's/youth camp which is frequented consistently.*

» *Julie has asked for immediate action due to her concerns if this water is being accessed. This should include health signs and advising residents until such time that Western Coal Services implements a RO plant until the STWP has been completed and that all discharges from Western Coal Services will be connected to this pipeline.*

» Malcolm responded as follows:
  > EnergyAustralia is not able to respond to issues pertaining to another business.
  > Enquiries about this matter need to be directed to the EPA and/or Centennial Coal

The Chair asked if there was any other business for discussion. No questions were raised.

7. For the next meeting

» The Chair
  > requested that EnergyAustralia prepare a few slides including an aerial view that could provide a snapshot and overview of operations within the two stations sites and relevant surrounding mines and coal infrastructure. This would help orientate all members to the projects covered under the scope of the CCC.
  > encouraged questions be emailed to him at minimum two weeks prior to the next meeting.

  Chairs Addendum: If you have questions please prioritise them remembering that there are 8 non EnergyAustralia members of the CCC and the meetings only run for 2 hours.

  > asked members to nominate topics or projects for the group to discuss.

» *Topics suggested were:*
  – *Energy Policy and the National Energy Guarantee,*
  – *the Wallerawang buffer lands project,*
  – *Asbestos removal and storage*
  – *the RDF project.*

» The Chair thanked members for their suggestions and noted that time will be allocated to cover these topics in greater depth over the next few meetings.

8. Meeting Close

» Brendan thanked all members for their interest in the various projects and participation on the CCC and noted he looked forward to working with and supporting the group over the next few years.

» Meetings are currently scheduled for:
  > Monday 3rd July
  > Monday 24th September
  > Monday 3rd December

» The meeting was closed at 7:06pm

30 July 2018

Energy*Australia* Lithgow Region Community Consultative Committee

Malcolm Murphy
Head of Mt Piper

EnergyAustralia
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Agenda

1. Site induction
2. Welcome and introductions
3. CCC induction process
   - Code of conduct
   - Conflicts of interest
   - Liaising with community members
   - Group communication between meetings
   - “In our own words” – expectations of Chair, expectations of each other and expectations of EnergyAustralia
4. Site update from EnergyAustralia
5. Project updates from EnergyAustralia – existing and planned
6. Agenda setting “What aspects of EnergyAustralia’s Lithgow operations do CCC members want to learn more about”
7. Meeting schedule for 2018
   - Monday 30 July
   - Monday 24 September
   - Monday 3 December
8. Meeting close

Welcome and Introductions

CCC Induction Process

- Code of Conduct
- Conflicts of Interest
- Liaising with community members
- Group communications between meetings
- “In our own words” – expectations of Chair, expectations of each other and expectations of EnergyAustralia

Site Safety

EnergyAustralia
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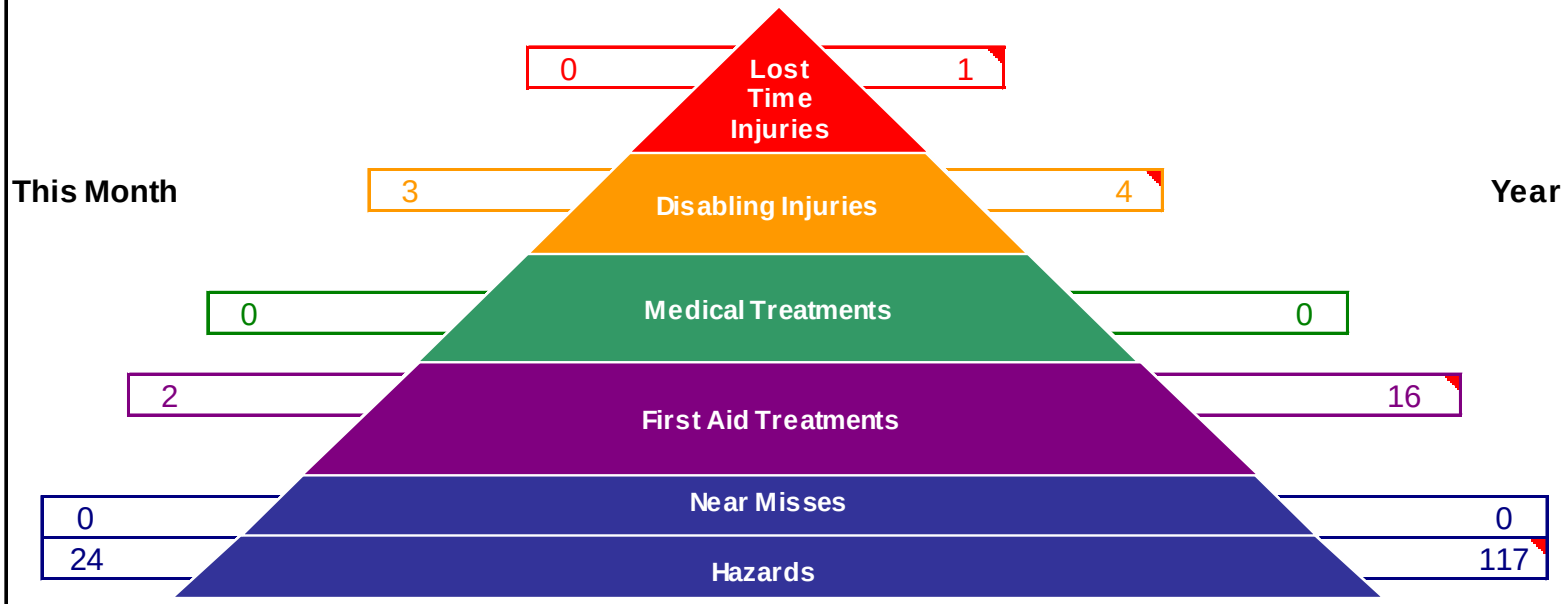
Site Safety

June

EnergyAustralia NSW - Safety Performance



Days since last LTI - Site	173	Previous Best	452
Days of Zero Harm	15	Previous Best	212

Update - Water Management

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Update on Water Management

- Oberon Dam level is at 57.25% (decrease)
- Total Active Storage is at 84.0% with:
  - Lake Lyell at 85.6%
  - Lake Wallace at 110.6%
  - Thompsons Creek Dam at 79.9%
- Lake Wallace continues to spill
- Amber Blue-green Algal Alerts at Lake Lyell

as at 20 July 2018

EnergyAustralia

Market Update

EnergyAustralia
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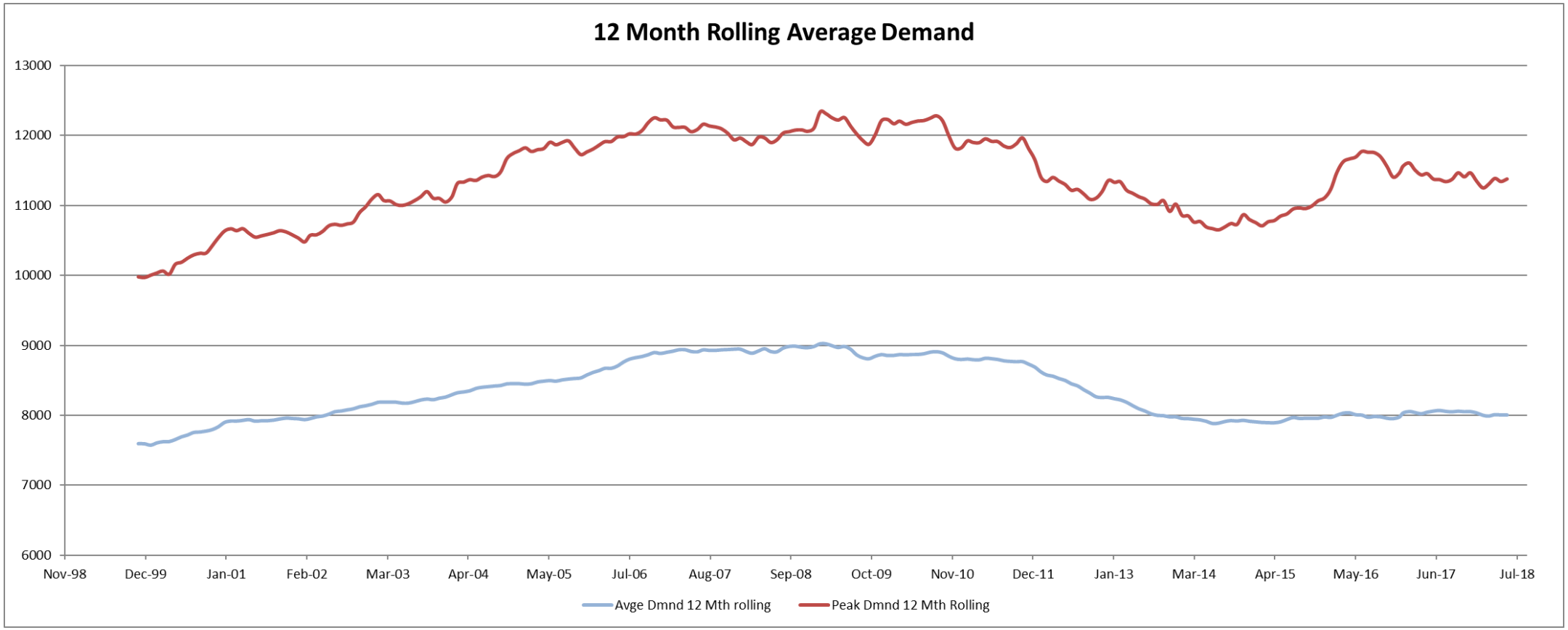
Market Update



Operations (Site) Update

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Mt Piper Operations

- Both Units are operating reliably, with coal handleability issues being experienced on both units at present
- A minor outage is being organised for Unit 1 to be conducted during Spring
- Plant projects are underway to minimise effects of coal handleability on unit performance
- Preliminary planning is underway for future outages to improve plant flexibility and 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

Wallerawang DDR

General Update

EnergyAustralia
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Wallerawang Re-purposing

- EnergyAustralia continues to work with 6 proponents for repurposing projects,
- This work will take some time,
- The projects cover manufacturing, transport and recycling, and energy from waste,
- These projects are commercial in confidence,
- When information can be provided to the public we will advise the committee.

Wallerawang DDR

- EAA Power remaining equipment packages are concurrently being salvaged.
- Initial Asbestos Assessments for salvaged plant have been completed, work is ongoing as additional gaskets are made available for inspection
- Alternative power system has been designed
- Security upgrades are planned
- An initial review of buffer land for potential development has been completed, the process is underway to engage a third party to prepare a divestment strategy.

Wallerawang DDR

Ash Dams Area Rehabilitation

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Importation of Capping Material to SSCAD & KVAR

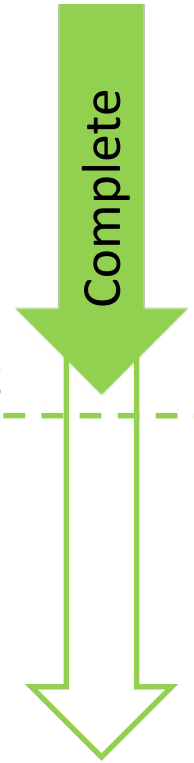
- Draft Project Approval conditions have been issued by DPE
- 2 year project to import capping material to Wallerawang Ash Repository from outside Lithgow Local Government Area (LGA)
- Control Measures include:
  - Maximum of 100 trucks per day;
  - Must use State Highways only, cannot use local roads in the Lithgow LGA;
  - Signage to be installed on Castlereagh Hwy;
  - Operational Transport Management Plan to be developed to address, minimising traffic impacts, complaints mgt, scheduling, emergency management and a driver code of conduct;
  - Update the existing Operation Environmental Management Plan

Wallerawang Ash Repositories – Closure & Rehabilitation

Key Considerations:

- NSW Planning Approval considerations
- Detailed technical assessments:
  - Regional groundwater model
  - Geotechnical assessment
  - Rehabilitation and final landform options assessment

- Develop draft Closure and Rehabilitation Plan
- Stakeholder Consultation
- Approval of Closure and Rehabilitation Plan
- Implementation
- De-register SSCAD Dam from *Dam Safety Act*



Ash Area: Environmental Site Management

- Asbestos Disposal
  - A draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared and is currently under review. It is anticipated that this will be submitted to Lithgow Council in August/September 2018.

- Station Area
  - A draft Statement of Environmental Effects for the demolition of the Wallerawang Power Station has been prepared and is currently under review. It is anticipated that the Development Application will be submitted to Lithgow Council in August/September 2018.

Update Rail Unloader Project

EnergyAustralia
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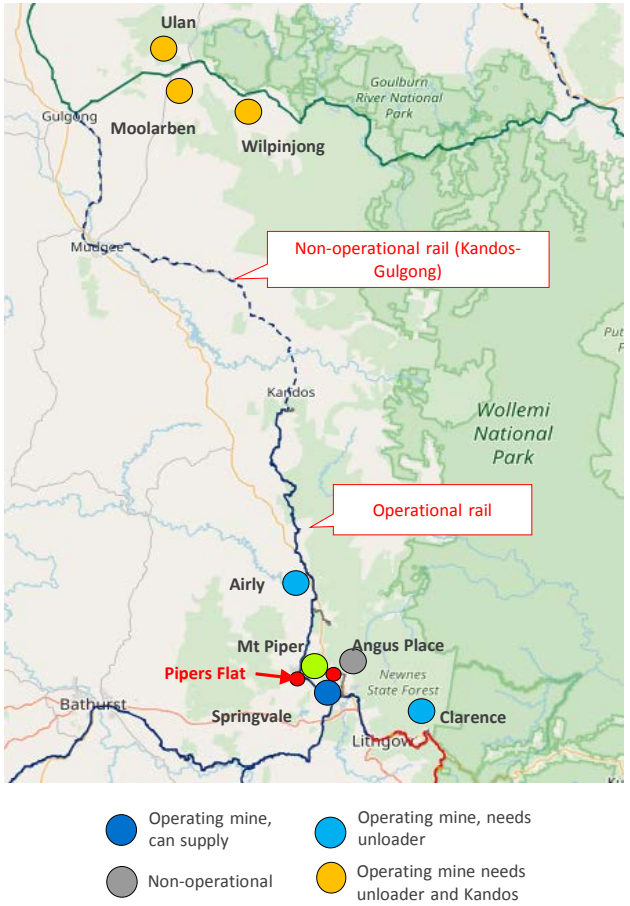
Recap: rail unloader project

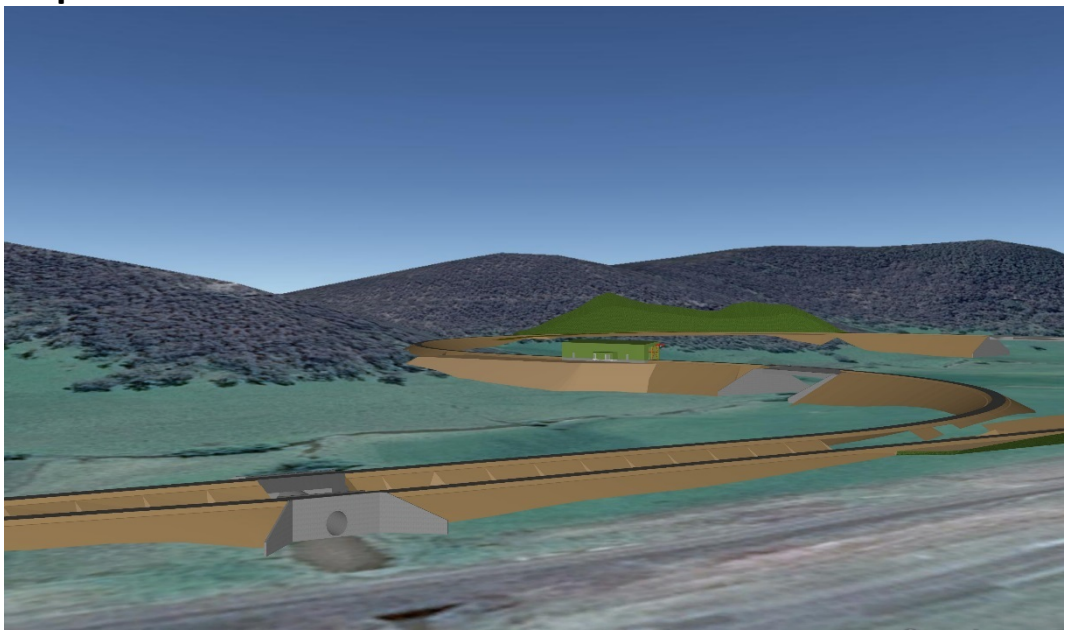
- Historically, multiple mines have supplied Mt Piper
- Springvale is now the only source of coal to 2024
  - Single source mine risk
- Prefer to source local coal but Angus Place is subject to approvals and Centennial investment decision
- A rail unloader is required to increase fuel supply options
  - Nearby mines, eg Clarence or Airly
  - Further mines, eg Ulan region
- Project planning approval received in 2009
  - Rail loop
  - Conveyor to Mt Piper power station
- EnergyAustralia is seeking to modify the approved design of the rail unloader



Modified rail unloader design

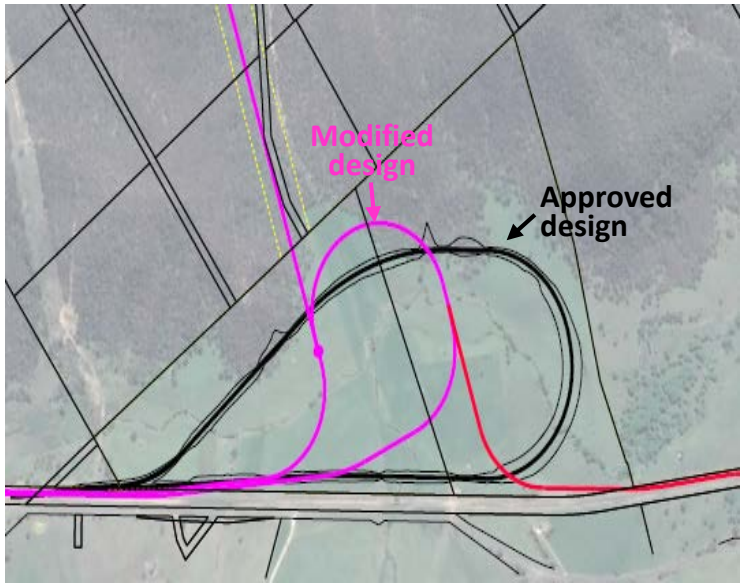
Aerial view

Pipers Flat Road view



Modified rail unloader design

- EnergyAustralia proposes to reduce the environmental impact and improve operational efficiency of the project
- 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
- Environmental studies have been completed
- Community/stakeholder engagement in progress



Environmental impacts of revised design

- Brief summary from specialist environmental studies

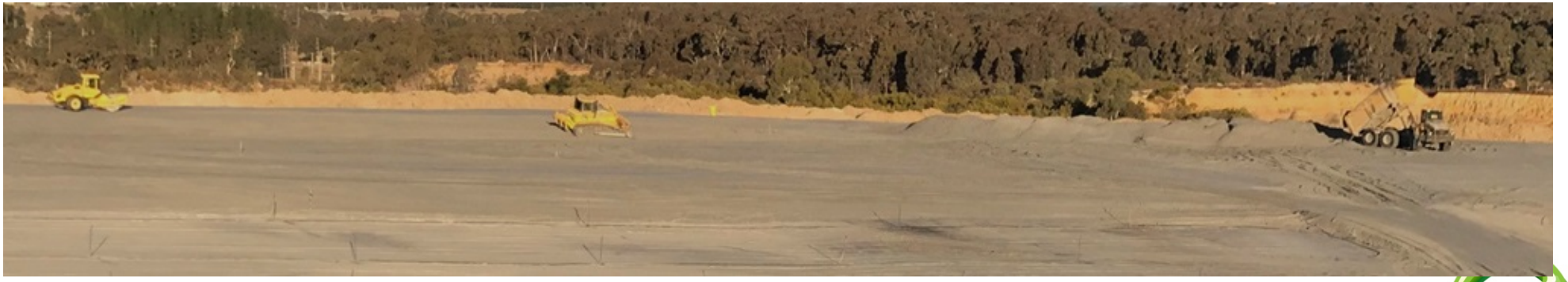
Environmental factor	Impact	Comments
Noise and vibration	Overall reduced impact	Operational noise requirements satisfied at all receivers Construction noise requirements satisfied at all receivers except one and during tamping Consultation/mitigation measures to address construction noise impacts
Air quality	Reduced impact	Reduced truck movements during construction and lower coal throughput
Biodiversity	No Change	Little or no change in the amount of native vegetation disturbance
Aboriginal heritage	Overall reduced impact	Known Aboriginal heritage site no longer affected Potential archaeological deposits to be assessed/salvaged prior to construction
Surface water	No Change	The revised layout will have the same impact on surface water as the original proposal
Visual	Reduced impact	Slight reduction as rail loop better conforms to natural topography and train provisioning building has been removed
Historic heritage	No Change	Revised design avoids historic heritage site
Traffic and transport	Reduced impact	Significantly less truck movements to the site during construction

Update – Lamberts North Ash Placement Project

EnergyAustralia
LIGHT THE WAY

Lamberts North Ash Placement Project Update

- Ash Placement Volume
  - March to June 2018 was 126,500 tonne
  - Ash Placement will continue through to August 2018,
- No complaints received,
- No incidents recorded,
- No non-compliances,
- 2017-18 Annual Environment Management Report development to commence in September.



EnergyAustralia

Update – Water Treatment Project

EnergyAustralia
LIGHT THE WAY

Joint EANSW / Centennial Water Treatment Project

- Veolia and their Sub-contractors presence is increasing on site,
- Project moving from civil phase to mechanical construction phase,
- Major concrete pours have been all but completed,
- Long lead time items starting to arrive on site,
- First community newsletter sent to residences,
- Further newsletters have been sent out to show progress,
- Pipeline construction is well underway.

Community Engagement Program

EnergyAustralia
LIGHT THE WAY

Community Engagement Program 2018

- 2018 1st Round Sponsorship Grants have been endorsed by the previous committee.
- The requested funds totalling $29,345 are being processed for distribution.
- The second round will be advertised 7 August and will close 3 September.
- This Committee will review the submissions at our next meeting.
- The second round will distribute up to $30,000 to the local community.
- Planning for the public meeting with Council's assistance. Do you have any topics you wish raised?

Mt Piper Energy Recovery Project

ReGroup

EnergyAustralia
LIGHT THE WAY

Energy Recovery Project Development Update

Feasibility assessment completed in 2017

- Concluded that the project engineering was technically & financially feasible.
- Recommended that the project proceed to development stage and seek development approval.

Community and stakeholder consultation

- Current focus is to make community and stakeholders aware of the Project.
- Gathering feedback and suggestions from community member before we start the formal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- More consultation will be part of the formal EIS process and before it is submitted to Dept of Planning & Environment (DPE).

Technology Partner selection ongoing

- An extensive and competitive process is under way to select the most suitable technology partner to deliver the Project
- Reference plant and technical capability is main criteria in selection to ensure EfW Policy and relevant regulatory requirements are met.
- Expected to complete selection process early in 2nd half 2018 and begin preliminary design work.

Commissioning

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

Re.Group

EIS and Planning Approval Update

- A Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirement (SEARs) was issued for the Project in 2017 and updated in mid 2018. Some changes and updates to SEARs requirement based on latest regulatory requirements:
  - 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
- An independent consultant (ERM) has been selected to prepare an EIS which will include all relevant studies and simulations to adequately assess and address the SEARs requirement above.
- Some preliminary and baseline studies have been completed, further information from technology provider is required for next stage of EIS – expected to complete by early 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.

Responses to the questions asked by Julie Favell

General response

Thankyou Julie for your questions. We are grateful to you for dedicating the time to ask them. These kinds of questions help us to better understand community concerns and ensure we are doing everything we can to address these issues. We are committed to ensure that the energy recovery project does not pose any significantly new risks to the environment, human health, community amenity and other important matters.

To achieve this we are endeavouring to ensure that the energy recovery project applies the world's best possible technology and management solutions. Ultimately the project can only proceed if it satisfies the strict regulatory requirements of the NSW Environment Protection Authority (NSW EPA), Department of Planning and Environment (NSW DPE) and other regulatory authorities. These regulations exist to ensure against harm to the environment and human health.

When assessing the energy recovery project it is important to consider that Mt Piper is an operating power station governed by an existing strict licensing regime. The power station has tremendous support in the local community which EnergyAustralia is very proud of and thankful for. EnergyAustralia would not support any new infrastructure or operations at the power station which compromised the existing licensing regime or increase the risk to environmental or human health.

To ensure standards beyond the requirements of existing regulations, the regulatory authorities may impose conditions on any development approval. We would encourage the community to seek these conditions where necessary to reduce their concerns. We are happy to work with you, the Community Consultation Committee and the community generally on exploring and designing development approval conditions that help to alleviate community concerns. There will be opportunities to do this during the public exhibition of our Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The EIS will clearly and transparently provide all the information about the technology and management deployed by the energy recovery project, its potential impacts and what our proposed solutions are to address any impacts. The potential environment, human health and any other impacts of the project will be subject to independent scientific assessment and the results of these investigations will be included in the EIS for public scrutiny.

Before reaching any judgements about the project and its impacts we would encourage the community to absorb the technical and other information in the EIS. We expect the EIS to be prepared in time for release by mid-2019. The detailed technical and scientific analysis that must accompany an EIS takes time to properly and carefully obtain.

Some of the questions you have asked cannot be properly answered until we have the technical and other detail that will be included in the EIS. Accordingly we will need to take those questions on notice and respond to you more fully when we have the information.

However, in the meantime we have provided as much detail as we can to respond to your questions.

Question 1:

Known excessive cumulative impact zone already exists with approx. 200,000 tonnes of expose coal at any given time on site Mt Piper: 20 million tonnes of fly ash Mt Piper: capacity holding for coal at Western Coal Services in excess of 800,000 tonnes of coal. Known temperature inversions. Topography of the area and where we live is a draw zone with mountain ridge flowing past our home and then towards Wolgan Valley.

Response

The impact of the energy recovery project, including cumulative impacts when considering existing operations at the power plant will be assessed in the EIS. It is a regulatory requirement imposed by the Department of Planning and Environment that this occur. For example the specific direction which the Department of Planning and Environment has given to the project as part of the indicative Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) includes an obligation that "an assessment of the potential impacts of all stages of the development, **including any cumulative impacts**, taking into consideration relevant guidelines, policies, plans and statutes".

At this stage we must take your question on notice until the technical assessment of cumulative impacts has been completed for the EIS.

Question 2:

I still do not approve of the current feasibility study for RDF (Refuse Derived Fuel) and do not think this is the best method reduction of rubbish. (a) EPA Waste Avoidance Policy 2001 hierarchy which clearly shows that burning of waste is not the first preference for elimination of waste. Reduce and recycle or first preference with the NSW government currently following the European Government new direction with a circular economy. There is clear evidence of excessive amount of energy with the process used to for end product to burn, equally by burning rubbish it reduces the number of jobs that would be available compared to recycling.

Response

We absolutely agree that energy from waste is not the first preference for the treatment of waste. Our priority is to recycle wherever possible and this is why this project will only use a refuse derived fuel (RDF) manufactured from unrecyclable waste. The RDF will be produced in NSW EPA licensed processing facilities from waste where the recyclable material has already been removed, consistent with the waste hierarchy.

We'd like to take this opportunity to clarify the purpose of the energy recovery project and also provide some detailed information about how and why the project is consistent with the application of the waste hierarchy in NSW and the European Union and recycling strategies.

More detail is provided below but in summary:

- EnergyAustralia has formed a joint venture with Re.Group to propose the building of a new boiler at the power station which can turn refuse derived fuel (RDF) into energy. The boiler would produce steam to support and improve the efficiency of the coal fired process.

- Re.Group is an Australian company leading the safe conversion of non-recyclable, inorganic, recyclable and organic waste into reusable products for farming, building and other safe uses.

- RDF is a solid fuel processed and produced from unrecyclable waste, like plastics and linen. The waste used to produce RDF would otherwise end up in landfill. As a result the project is not diverting any waste stream away from recycling and not reducing employment in recycling. There are well established markets

for recycled material and therefore no economic incentive to divert recyclable material to the energy recovery project.

- Converting unrecyclable waste into RDF to capture high levels of energy is preferred in the NSW and European Union waste hierarchies to landfilling this waste. Accordingly the energy recovery project is fully consistent with these waste hierarchies.

- The NSW Government's Energy from Waste (EfW) policy is designed to support the waste hierarchy by providing a regulatory framework for projects which can successfully capture high levels of energy from waste. The EfW policy restricts the kinds of waste that can be used to produce energy to ensure that there is no diversion from the other higher order priorities in the NSW waste hierarchy.

- RDF looks and feels like a dry, fluffy product. RDF is not wet unprocessed mixed waste like we see in garbage trucks. It is commonly used in the European Union and United States to create energy.

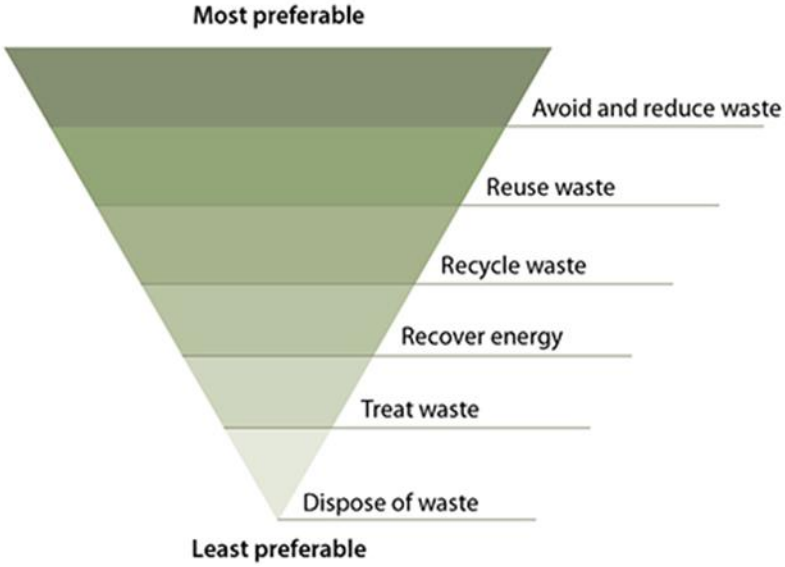
- All the RDF proposed to be used at Mt Piper would be produced by waste management facilities which are fully licensed by the NSW EPA.

- The production of RDF is governed by the NSW EPA's energy from waste policy and general environmental controls on things like emissions, air quality, human health and odour.

Overview of waste hierarchy

In many OECD nations, policy approaches to dealing with the waste that societies generate are commonly governed by a waste hierarchy which prioritises waste management objectives. The European Union and Australian jurisdictions, including NSW, for example base their waste management policy settings on the waste hierarchy.

Figure 1: The NSW waste hierarchy



The waste hierarchy is consistent with the theory of a circular economy where (1) the amount of waste generated is avoided or reduced and (2) waste that is generated is recovered and reused as optimally as possible. The balance between these two objectives relies on the appropriate economic incentives to achieve (2), but not in ways that discourages the effort to achieve (1).

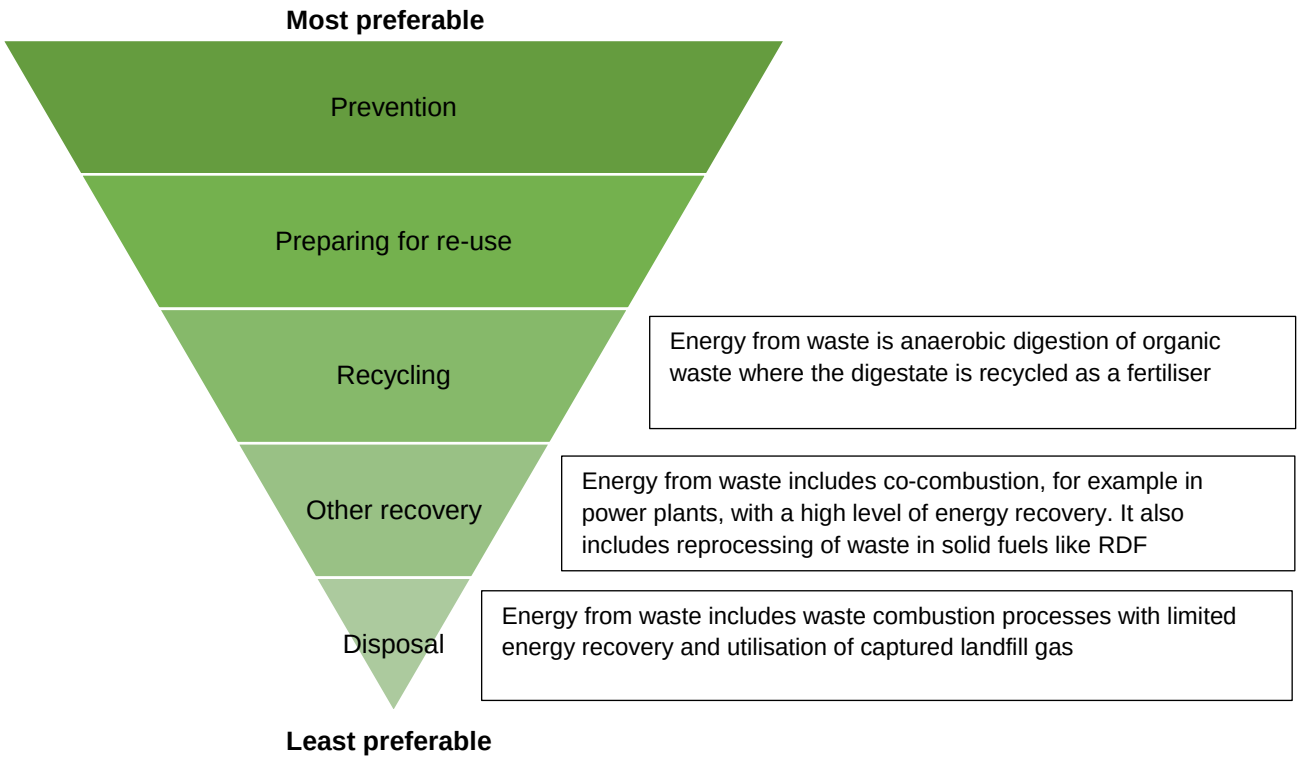
Within this context energy recovery from waste projects can play a role to achieve (2) without compromising commitments to (1) and deliver benefits for the energy sector. For example, they have the potential to contribute to Australia's renewable energy targets, reduce carbon emissions and divert waste away from landfill. They also have the potential to improve the energy mix in Australia by supplementing wind and solar production through baseload generation[1].

The European Union approach

The European Commission (EC) recognises the contributory role that energy recovery from waste has in achieving the objectives of a circular economy and it supports policies and practices within members states of the European Union (EU) that can unlock the economic value of energy recovery from waste without discouraging the effort to prevent waste altogether[2].

The EC integrates the available waste to energy processes with its waste hierarchy to assess the capacity of each waste to energy process to deliver the kind of energy recovery it considers to be valuable in achieving the objectives of the circular economy. This enables the community, regulators and markets to prioritise support and investment for the most appropriate waste to energy projects.

Figure 2: The European Commission waste hierarchy and energy recovery[3]



Within this EC context the proposed energy recovery project would be classified as 'Other Recovery' in the waste hierarchy because it is producing a solid fuel from unrecyclable waste and applying it in an existing

[1] https://www.pwc.com.au/publications/pdf/energy-from-waste-april-2017.
[2] European Commission. Communication from the commission to the European parliament, the council, the European economic and social committee and the committee of the regions - the role of waste-to-energy in the circular economy. COM/2017/0034 Final. 2017. http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/waste-to-energy.pdf
[3] Ibid

combustion process (power plant) to recover a high level of energy – enough to improve the efficiency of the coal fired process.

As a result, deriving energy from waste (EfW), as an alternative to landfilling waste, is widely and increasingly practised in Europe and the United Kingdom. It is worth noting that:

- The use of bioenergy and/or EfW represents 2.4% of energy use in Europe but only 0.9% in Australia[4]. Strict European Union regulation about the combustion and emissions control systems for EfW has stimulated new complying technologies which has enabled an uptake in EfW.

- The United Kingdom government assessed the costs and benefits of EfW in 2014 and based on the conclusions of that assessment affirmed its support for EfW[5]. This has assisted the increase in EfW usage in the UK which has tripled from 3.28 million tonnes in 2008 to 9.96 million tonnes in 2016[6].

- RDF is a routinely traded commodity between the UK and mainland Europe.

- The NSW Government's EfW Policy[7], which was developed after extensive public consultation, is designed to apply international best practice and the Project is intended to do the same.

The NSW approach

The Australian waste industry encompasses collection, transportation, processing, recycling and the disposal of unwanted by-products from commercial, industrial and domestic household activities. *The Inside Waste Industry Report 2014-15* shows 53.5 million tonnes of waste was generated across Australia in 2013-14, of which 21.5 million tonnes (40%) was disposed to landfill while 31.9 million tonnes (60%) was recycled[8].

The economic value of waste-related activities in Australia is estimated to be $14.2 billion per year[9].

The per capita rate of waste generation in NSW is one of the highest in Australia, and the most populous state accounts for more than one-third of total national waste generation. In 2013-14, 18.9 million tonnes of waste was generated in NSW alone, with 6.5 million tonnes of that (34%) disposed to landfill[10].

Consistent with the waste hierarchy Australian jurisdictions (including NSW, VIC, WA and the ACT) have moved to enable and encourage the development of modern best practice energy recovery from waste facilities. This has occurred in response to overwhelming international evidence that modern energy from waste facilities can provide improved resource recovery outcomes[11], and represent a very low risk to human health and the environment.

In March 2014 the NSW EPA released the *NSW Energy from Waste Policy Statement* after extensive consultation in industry and other interested groups.

The NSW Energy from Waste (EfW) Policy was developed to help enable the State's vision of increasing resource recovery rates beyond current levels. In January 2015, the EPA released the NSW *Waste Avoidance*

[4] *The Australian Bioenergy and Energy from Waste Market*, Clean Energy Finance Corporation, 2015
[5] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-from-waste-a-guide-to-the-debate
[6] http://www.tolvik.com/wp-content/uploads/UK-EfW-Statistics-2016-report-Tolvik-June-2017.pdf
[7] Available at https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/waste/waste-facilities/energy-recovery
[8] Inside Waste Industry Report 2014-15 (http://www.ben-global.com/Waste/insidewastereport.asp)
[9] Ibid
[10] NSW Environment Protection Authority
[11] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-from-waste-a-guide-to-the-debate

and Resource Recovery Strategy 2014–2021, which sets targets to increase recycling and diversion from landfill.

The Government's resource recovery targets are shown in the chart below, compared to the historical diversion performance for each of the key waste streams.

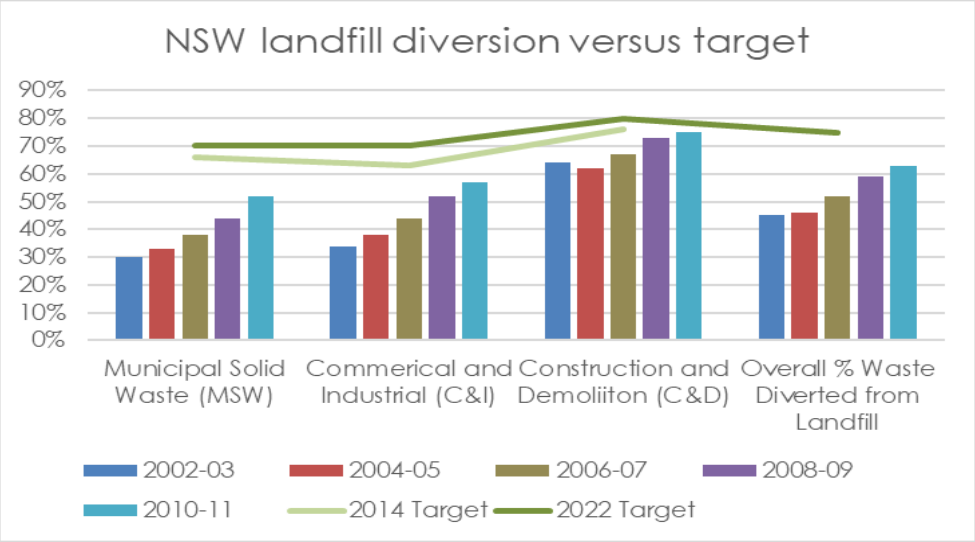


Figure 3: NSW Government resource recovery targets 2014-2021

As well as this clear regulatory framework that supports efforts to increase resource recovery, the NSW Government applies a levy on waste disposal. The Landfill Levy specified under Section 88 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (*POEO Act*) is the NSW Government's principal tool to encourage resource recovery, by *"providing an economic incentive to reduce waste disposal and stimulate investment and innovation in resource recovery technologies".*

The proposed energy recovery project responds to the regulatory targets of the NSW Government and the economic incentives created by the Landfill Levy to find alternatives to landfill for unrecyclable waste. It does this because it relies on the production of RDF from unrecyclable waste that would otherwise end up in landfill.

The NSW EfW Policy has two primary objectives:

- **Ensure minimal risk of harm to human health and the environment**, which is chiefly achieved through standards applied at the EfW facility, specifying combustion conditions and requiring 'best available technology' is used for emissions control.

- **Ensure 'higher order' waste management options are not undermined**, which is mainly achieved through the introduction of Resource Recovery Criteria that restrict the maximum percentage of the waste stream that can be directed to energy recovery, based on the type of waste and style of collection system used.

The proposed energy recovery project is consistent with these objectives because:

- It would seek to apply the most modern energy recovery processes and emissions control technology;
- It is part of an existing power plant and it cannot create environment, human health and other risks which increase the risk profile of the power plant;
- The RDF which would be used in the proposed energy recovery project cannot be manufactured from a waste stream unless best practice recycling has been conducted first; and
- The production of RDF and proposed energy recovery project must be licensed by the NSW EPA.

The combination of complying with all these features means that there is **no** risk that the energy recovery project proposal can act to create markets for waste which does not otherwise exist or discourage the higher priority objectives of the waste hierarchy such as waste avoidance and reduction.

The concept and achievement of a circular economy where waste is avoided and reduced relies on the capacity of industry and infrastructure to cost effectively recover, recycle and reuse waste to a maximum extent. The energy recovery project provides this opportunity, particularly for waste that is unrecyclable.

The energy recovery project is also an optimal opportunity to integrate an energy from waste solution within the established energy industry to improve the efficiency and carbon footprint of legacy assets. This is consistent with the objectives of a circular economy and the NSW waste hierarchy which serves to implement those objectives.

Question 3:

Not to remove health related issues that may present to neighbouring properties, meaning immediate neighbours, Wallerawang, Pipers Flat, Cullen Bullen and Portland. Equally I oppose to the increase of trucks to the local residents. Castlereagh Highway is a tourist highway and is not likely to be viewed by visitors as a welcoming entrance for their visit to Lithgow.

Response

These are important issues which we take seriously. The EIS obliges us to ensure that the energy recovery project meets the regulatory requirements for a range of key issues including:

(a) general emissions impact and control
(b) odour impact and control
(c) human health impact and control
(d) greenhouse gas emissions impact and control
(e) traffic and transport impact and control
(f) soil and water impact and control
(g) noise and vibration impact and control
(h) compliance with NSW energy from waste policy
(i) socio-economic benefit
(j) heritage, biosecurity, visual, ecology impact and control

Until the detailed technical assessments are completed for these issues we aren't able to provide you with a detailed response and we will need to take your questions on notice. However, we will make sure our team preparing the EIS and technical studies carefully considers what you've raised.

Question 4:

There needs to be a 24/7 monitoring system on site for all emissions, not selective of limited licence requirements by government. The current legislation is inadequate and 12 months of 24/7 for all emissions to be carried out prior.

Response

EnergyAustralia has committed to the installation of a Continuous Emissions Monitoring System in the stacks at Mt Piper by December 2018.

Consistent with the regulatory requirements of the NSW EPA including in its Energy from Waste (EfW) policy, the energy recovery project will be subject to specific and additional emissions monitoring 24 hours a day, seven days per week.

As we understand, the monitoring required by the EfW policy is based on what is technically viable to monitor, meaning that the policy requires online monitoring for emissions where the technology exists, and regular sampling and testing for everything else.

If there are specific emissions that you are concerned about that are not included in the EfW policy, please let us know and we will investigate whether additional monitoring is possible.

We wish to be open with the results of the monitoring, and we would like advice from the community on how best to share the 24/7 monitoring with local stakeholders, Options could include a website or signage at the entrance of the site and/or other options the community may suggest.

We would be interested in your further feedback on these issues and would be happy to discuss your views in more detail. Please advise us a suitable time for this to occur.

Question 5:

Eastern Creek proposal of over 500,000 tonnes of rubbish was rejected by residents and members of state and federal parliament Blacktown Council , NSW Western Health, and NSW Planning and Environment: Upper House Inquiry says no to Incinerator with a final current PAC now closed. NSW Parliamentary Inquiry.

Response

We are aware that the Independent Planning Committee (IPC) has recommended against the proposal by Next Generation to develop an energy from waste plant at Eastern Creek. We will review the findings of the IPC to learn any lessons that we may need to consider when preparing the EIS for our project.

However, there are some important issues you raise which we can take this opportunity to clarify.

- Our energy recovery project is not an incinerator. We are not burning unprocessed mix waste which occurs in incinerators. We are subjecting a processed solid fuel (RDF) to a high temperature combustion process to produce steam to support the coal fired process. This is a critical distinction from the Next Generation proposal.

- The Next Generation proposal at Eastern Creek was for a stand-alone energy from waste plant on a greenfield (undeveloped) site in a densely populated residential area. Our energy recovery project is being integrated into an existing power plant which is already governed under strict licensing by the NSW EPA to protect the local community from environment and human health impacts.

- The Next Generation proposal was based on 552,000 tonnes of waste, whereas our energy recovery project relies on 200,000 tonnes (less than half of the Next Generation proposal) of RDF.

- We are proposing a higher level of quality control over and limitations on the kind of waste that can be used to produce RDF, than we understand the Next Generation proposal was based on.

Question 6:

With this current study will there be a guarantee that the result in zero emissions, if not then I object to this standard? Will there be scrubbers in this unit and will it have 24/7 monitoring on site if not then I object to this standard? Will they be cleaned to ensure that not excess will be emitted and how often? If not then I object with this standard. What guarantee will there be for the immediate residents in the case of failure/break down on any part of the emission process if not then I object to this standard?

Response

Unfortunately emissions cannot be completely avoided in any industrial or natural process involving combustion. Emissions occur each day for example from motor vehicles, aircraft, marine vessels and many production processes. Even natural events such as bushfires create significant emissions, which is one reason that the primary industries sector is exempt from being included in Australia's global commitment to reduce carbon emissions.

Nevertheless, the extent and nature of emissions can be substantially minimised and effectively controlled through the application of best practice technology, standards and infrastructure management. We intend to apply these best practice approaches to the energy recovery project as much as is practically possible. For example the extent and nature of emissions from the energy recovery project will meet standards prescribed by the NSW EPA **and** the European Union, which are more stringent than those imposed by the NSW EPA.

Our emission controls will include 24/7 monitoring and the use of scrubbers. We will ensure that scrubbers are cleaned and maintained as part of the infrastructure management and emissions control regime. We will need to take your question about the frequency of scrubber maintenance on notice as basic maintenance schedules will be provided by the manufacturer at a later stage during the design process. We will amend these schedules if needed to comply with the best practice emissions control standards and management we are committed to.

The emissions control systems will include failsafe mechanisms to ensure an automatic shut-down of the energy recovery process if there are mechanical or other failures. This will be designed to ensure that no breaches of the emissions control regime can occur.

The EIS will also include an assessment of possible equipment failures and related potential impacts. This assessment will be made publicly available as part of the release of the EIS.

Question 7:

Could Energy Australia please advise of the current licence requirement for Mercury emissions and if there is how often is required to report? If not 24/7 monitoring on site then I object to this standard. The same question applies if the committee could be advised of all of the emissions, the licence limits or no licence limits and how often are each of the emissions monitored?

Response

Emissions monitoring and frequency are outlined under Section M2.2 of Environment Protection Licence (EPL) 13007 for the Mt Piper Power Station. An extract from the licence is included below.

Mercury is required to be monitored annually. Licence concentration limits are described under condition L3.2. The licenced concentration limit for Mercury is 0.2 milligrams per cubic metre.

Mercury is required to be reported in the following ways:

- Published on the EA website within 14 days from receiving the result;

- Reported to the EPA in the EPL Annual Return by 1 March each year. The Annual Return is published on the EPA website.
- Reported to the EPA under the National Pollutant Inventory which is due by 1 April each year.

POINT 2,3

Pollutant	Units of measure	Frequency
Carbon dioxide	percent	Yearly during discharge
Chlorine	milligrams per cubic metre	Yearly during discharge
Copper	milligrams per cubic metre	Yearly during discharge
Dioxins & Furans	nanograms per cubic metre	Yearly during discharge
Dry gas density	kilograms per cubic metre	Yearly during discharge
Hydrogen chloride	milligrams per cubic metre	Yearly during discharge
Mercury	milligrams per cubic metre	Yearly during discharge
Moisture content	percent	Yearly during discharge
Molecular weight of stack gases	grams per gram mole	Yearly during discharge
Nitrogen Oxides	grams per cubic metre	Quarterly during discharge
Oxygen (O2)	percent	Yearly during discharge
Solid Particles	milligrams per cubic metre	Yearly during discharge
Sulfuric acid mist and sulfur trioxide (as SO3)	milligrams per cubic metre	Yearly during discharge
Sulphur dioxide	milligrams per cubic metre	Quarterly during discharge
Temperature	degrees Celsius	Yearly during discharge
Total Fluoride	milligrams per cubic metre	Yearly during discharge
Type 1 and Type 2 substances in aggregate	milligrams per cubic metre	Yearly during discharge
Velocity	metres per second	Yearly during discharge
Volatile organic compounds	milligrams per cubic metre	Yearly during discharge
Volumetric flowrate	cubic metres per second	Yearly during discharge

Question 8:

Could Energy Australia please advise if there has been action on my concern/complaint to EPA Bathurst with the current discharge from Western Coal Services into Wancoal Creek, Nuebecks Creek and Blue Lagoon as those locations are all on Energy Australias owned/managed areas? My concern and complaint is that the current discharge of electrical conductivity Centennial Coals report show it reached a level of 6,000+ ms and other heavy metals included in this flow and that people who border on that property, creek line and Blue Lagoon may be accessing that water for their own use, without the knowledge of Energy Australia. In the same case of the Blue Lagoon which borders on a childrens/youth camp which is frequented consistently. I have asked for immediate action due to my concerns if this water is being accessed erect health signs and advising residents until such time that Western Coal Services implements a RO plant until the STWP has been completed and that all discharges from Western Coal Services will be connected to this pipeline.

Response

EnergyAustralia apologises but we are unable to advise on any issues that are pertaining to another business. Your enquiry should be directed to the EPA and/or Centennial Coal. We hope you obtain the information you are seeking from these sources.