

Meeting Record

Name	Mt Piper & Wallerawang power stations	Meeting Date	30 June 2016
Meeting / Subject	Community Reference Group	Recorded By	MB
	Meeting 36	Total Pages	6

Members:	Julie Favell, Jamie Giokaris, Sue Graves, Rob Cluff, Alex Preema, Jim Whitty	
EnergyAustralia	Julian Turecek	Acting Head of NSW
	Michelle Blackley	Support Services Leader EnergyAustralia NSW
	Peter Griffiths	Environment Manager EnergyAustralia NSW
	Sarah Neville	
Apologies	Boris Hunt, Ron Bidwell, Beverly Gilbert, Helen Riley	
Minute Taker	Michelle Blackley	Support Services Leader

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▪ Welcome to County

Acknowledgement of the traditional owners of the Land conducted by Julie Favell

▪ Customer Moment

Mr Turecek provided the customer moment by relating his discussions with Mr Cluff about becoming an EnergyAustralia customer. Mr Turecek has been staying at Black Gold Cabins. Mr Cluff confirmed that he has tested the offer against other providers and potentially will receive a good deal from EnergyAustralia.

▪ Business Arising:

List of plant species to be used in the biodiversity offset project at Thompsons Creek Dam is yet to be provided. We are awaiting report from consultant advising on the project.

The Feral Goats have been removed from Thompsons Creek dam but more have appeared since.

▪ Site Safety

Site Safety figures indicating year-to-date figures up to 31 May 2016 were displayed. So far this year we have maintained zero harm which is a good result for the sites. It has been 419 days since the last lost time injury at Mt Piper and Wallerawang.

▪ Market Update

The price of electricity will be increased by 10% from 1 July 2016 in accordance with IPART price setting.

We are seeing good improvement in the electricity prices due to:

- ⤴ Power Stations such as South Australia's Northern power station being retired,
- ⤴ Bass Link being unavailable due to the need for a long duration repair,
- ⤴ cold temperatures in winter,
- ⤴ NSW fleet has also recently suffered some outages,
- ⤴ population growth.

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South Australia is almost completely reliant on gas, wind and solar generation. This is causing some high prices for South Australian consumers as their demand is not fully serviced when the wind generation is low.

The average price has levelled and is starting to come up. We feel that a carbon tax of some type will be re-introduced to the market to attempt to achieve cleaner generation targets. If this were to happen, Hazelwood would be a prime candidate for closure as an older power station, low availability and generation achievements, less reliable and burns brown coal. For example Hazelwood produces 1.5 tonne of carbon emissions per kilowatt hour while Mt Piper produces 0.9 tonne and a gas generator such as Tallawarra produces 0.4 tonne.

In NSW, Liddell could also be under operational pressure due to lower availability and generation with less reliability.

■ Operational Update

Mt Piper coal deliveries have been significantly reduced due to Springvale's long wall shift. We have also been having problems with coal handling due to water retention in the coal from our stockpile which has caused a lot of work for our personnel.

We are planning for the upcoming Mt Piper Unit 1 Outage with the proposed works on:

- Turbine
- Boiler
- Air heater
- DCS Upgrade completion
- Plant Control Room ergonomic upgrade

Usually outages avoid the high Winter and Summer periods to ensure peak demand levels are met. Outages are usually conducted in the milder seasons of Spring and early Autumn.

We are about to announce an expression of interest program to re-purpose the Wallerawang power station site. We have discussed the expression of interest with local stakeholders such as the Lithgow City Council. We are seeking business development opportunities to re-purpose either all or part of the site. The expression of interest will be launched 1 July 2016 and closes 15 August 2016.

We advise that Channel 7 Prime News did get this story wrong last night as they attempted to get a scoop on the story. We cannot restart Wallerawang as a power station now with the equipment that we have already dismantled.

We can confirm that there are viable industries interested to use some of the facilities on the Wallerawang site. We have already had approaches for the rail siding, warehouse building, turbine hall and office areas. Of course the site has various buildings, communication network, security, water and power services.

EnergyAustralia would obviously save costs not having to dismantle some of the infrastructure on the site.

We are hoping for a quick process and have some agreements in place by the end of 2016. We will pick the best use for the site or combination of uses which will provide investment and employment opportunities for the local community.

The committee membership indicated their understanding for the need of a fair and transparent process while getting the best possible deal for EnergyAustralia and the State.

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Ms Favell asked about possible contamination issues for the site. The Committee were advised that there are different issues in different parts of the site. The Office of the Environment will manage the process of rehabilitation programs and contamination treatments.

The feedback we have heard thus far from the stakeholders we have discussed this with has been very positive.

Ms Favell asked about the proposed developments be compatible with residential areas. Any developments would need to go through a development application process which allowed for community input and appropriate review from the various government bodies.

Mr Whitty asked if purchase or lease was being proposed. Mr Turecek advised that it would depend on the expression of interest and the proponents' intended purpose and the number of different applications that may be considered.

Ms Favell asked if the manufacture of solar panels could be considered. It was expressed that it would be difficult for an Australian based manufacturer to compete with the products already on the market from India, China and Germany.

The dismantling work at Wallerawang continues with the second package for EA Auctions is 92% complete. The third package is being programmed at the moment.

Unit 7 Cooling Tower removal works are still under evaluation with Treasury. The last of the negotiations with for the proposed Owner's Engineer are being finalised.

■ Rail Unloader

There has been no change with the status of the rail unloader site with environmental monitoring and the agreement lease continuing. EnergyAustralia are continuing to assess all our options.

It was further discussed by the Committee that this rail unloader would have huge costs to upgrade bridges on the line and would need that these costs would all need to be considered before EnergyAustralia committed to the project.

■ Water Management

Oberon Dam currently at 54.65% which is a decrease from our last meeting. Our active storage is at 95.1% with Lake Wallace still spilling and Lake Lyell will soon spill. There is an amber algal alert for Lake Lyell.

A question was raised about the "ownership" of the water. It was explained that EnergyAustralia extracted and paid for the water under license from Department of Primary Industry – Water. These rights were not tradeable and were continually monitored.

■ Lamberts North

- The ash placement volume from March 2016 to May 2016 was 49607 tonne. The ash placement will continue through from now to August 2016.
- No complaints have been received or incidents recorded in the same period
- The 2014/15 Annual Environment Management Report was submitted March 2016.
- All conditions of the approval have been met
- The approved Biodiversity Offset Management Plan requirement of a flora and fauna survey has been conducted. Tree planting has been planned to commence by the end of 2016. The committee asked

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about the planting methodologies to be used and whether the Community Nursery could be involved in supplying the plants.

- **ACTION:** Further information to be supplied to the committee at the next meeting.

- **Joint EnergyAustralia NSW/Centennial Water Project**

EA and Centennial are continuing work on the Water Treatment Project. The project will transfer water from existing underground mine dewatering facilities for industrial reuse at the Mount Piper Power Station. The proposal includes for a new water pipeline from Springvale to Mt Piper and a new treatment facility to be constructed at Mt Piper.

A question was asked if Mt Piper would then use treated water only. Mt Piper have agreed to use all available treated water as the first priority. Any other demand for water will be met by existing supplies from the Cox's River catchment. The project will treat in the order of 30ML/day. The overall objective is to improve the water quality in the Upper Cox's River System.

The preliminary environment assessment is being finalised and will be submitted to the NSW Dept of Planning in the coming weeks.

Both Centennial and EnergyAustralia are currently consulting with key local stakeholders including Lithgow City Council and the general community. We would be keen to hear any feedback from this committee and the communities you all represent.

Ms Graves asked if there had been any consideration about the water discharge from Clarence Colliery which discharges into the Wollangambe catchment. The committee was advised this is not in the scope of this project.

Members of the committee expressed their belief that large amounts of water was available in the area due to mining operations and that the proposed water pipeline could carry this resource to Mt Piper from other areas with any unused treated water discharged into the natural water courses to the ecological benefit for the region and to feed into Sydney Basin catchment. It should be noted that the other water sources are outside of the scope of this project.

- **Sponsorship Process**

The committee were advised that all the successful applicants for the First Sponsorship Grants funding had been advised with some allocations already distributed to the recipients. An article will be put in the Lithgow Mercury to indicate the successful applicants and their projects.

The successful 2016 H1 Community Grants program applications were summarised for the Forum. ng this issue with the Lithgow City Council as they are the leaseholder of this area.

- **Infrasound Investigation**

We have shared our report with the complainant and we are awaiting their reply.

We have sought permission from the complainant to conduct some testing on their property. We will continue to keep the Forum and the complainant informed of our progress on this matter.

- **General Business**

The NuRock project development was followed up and explained again for those members who were unfamiliar with the business development proposal. The part funding for this project is being considered by EnergyAustralia for a smaller plant which would process up to 30 kilo tonnes of ash. Private investment is still being sought and does take time to get this sort of investment lined up to fund such a project.

The project is looking more favourable as a brand name builder is showing some interest in using the product due to its benefits in handling and its potential lower price.

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Also these blocks have been used in South Australia for some time showing little to no deterioration.

Ms Favell raised the funding issue for Trail Maps and Signage for the local area including an information sign to be installed at the tourist centre in Lithgow. An example is Hassan's Walls walk which has a wonderful view of the Hartley Valley.

ACTION: Michelle Blackley to ring Kellie Barrow of the Lithgow City Council to enquire into the funding proposal.

The committee was also advised of the Department of Planning development of new guidelines for establishing and maintaining Community Consultative Committees. The draft guidelines, the Toolkit including nomination forms, advertising advice, code of conduct, declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests with a page of frequently asked questions were given to the committee members. EnergyAustralia requested feedback on this approach and the proposal to merge Pinedale Mine Community Consultative Committee and the Mt Piper and Wallerawang Community Reference Group utilising the proposed processes.

All existing members were encouraged to seek membership on this new committee. It was proposed that the merge could occur in time for the planned November meeting. In the meantime the August meeting would go ahead under the existing process.

The immediate feedback was favourable but Ms Favell expressed some concern that the Pinedale committee was not entirely responsive to some complaints and questions that she has submitted.

ACTION: Sarah Neville to investigate this situation and provide feedback at the next meeting.

Mr Whitty raised a concern regarding the continuation of managing the water levels in Lidsdale Cut with Wallerawang's closure. In the past her farm had been flooded due to rising levels. The committee was advised that EnergyAustralia would continue to manage the water levels in Lidsdale Cut as part of its overall responsibility to manage the Wallerawang site. This issue was not something that can be walked away from and rehabilitation would need to include Lidsdale Cut water management into the future

It was noted that this water level would not be affected by the Springvale Water Pipeline project.

Other water management issues such as the Wallerawang Ash Dam are still covered under the Wallerawang DDR Project and would continue to be managed until rehabilitation of the area was put into effect.

Ms Favell reiterated that the Pinedale Mine questions needed to be answered and that Pinedale was not to be extended too close to neighbouring properties. In her opinion, 600 metres was not enough distance between Pinedale Mine and residents. Two subdivisions have been developed recently in the area, Karawartha Drive and View St and in her opinion, it was not reasonable to adversely affect these properties.

A request to reuse the Wallerawang Schoolhouse for the Wallerawang Lidsdale Progress Association Mens' Shed will soon be sent to EnergyAustralia for consideration.

A question was asked about the progress on the request to reuse some light poles and lights from Wallerawang power station unit 7 cooling towers for the Wallerawang Football Field. The committee was advised that the application was being considered by the DDR team and an answer would be returned shortly.

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Meeting closed at 6:40 pm.

■ **Next Meeting**

The date for the next Forum meeting is Wednesday 31 August 2016.

■ **Action List**

Initiated	Action	Progress
August 2015	List of plant species to be used in the biodiversity offset project at TCD	Awaiting Report
November 2015	Removal of Feral Goats from TCD	Completed
March 2016	Outage tour for November 2016 meeting	To be arranged and advised
March 2016	Tour of cooling tower dismantling works for May 2016 meeting	To be arranged and advised
June 2016	Ring LCC re Trail Maps and Signage Funding suggestion	Michelle Blackley report August Meeting
June 2016	Merging of Pinedale Community Consultative Committee and Wallerawang/Mt Piper Community Reference Group to be implemented	To be arranged and advised in August Meeting
June 2016	Response for Pinedale Mine Community Consultative Committee questions	Sarah Neville August Meeting
June 2016	Response for re use of Light poles and Lights for Wallerawang Football Field	Michelle Blackley Report August Meeting
June 2016	Response for use of Wallerawang Schoolhouse for Mens' Shed	Michelle Blackley Report August Meeting