

Meeting Record

Name	Mt Piper & Wallerawang power stations	Meeting Date	8 March 2016
Meeting / Subject	Community Reference Group	Recorded By	MB
	Meeting 35	Total Pages	5

Members:	Julie Favell, Helen Riley	
EnergyAustralia	Luke Welfare	Head of NSW
	Michelle Blackley	Support Services Leader EnergyAustralia NSW
	Peter Griffiths	Environment Manager EnergyAustralia NSW
	Jennifer Cordina	Administrative Officer
Apologies	Boris Hunt, Jamie Giokaris, Ron Bidwell, Sue Graves, Beverly Gilbert, Rob Cluff, Alex Preema, Jim Whitty	
Minute Taker	Michelle Blackley	Support Services Leader

Meeting

▪ Welcome to County

Welcome to Country conducted by Helen Riley

▪ 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 removal of Feral Goats from Thompsons Creek Dam is being conducted at the moment. More information will be provided to the next meeting.

Notes from the November 2015 meeting will be put up on the website this week.

▪ Market Update

We are seeing an increase in the peak demand in the NSW market for the first time in several years. The average demand is maintaining the steady level we have been experiencing since 2013. It is believed that we have seen most of the expected market losses from some industry closures. We will see further loss when the car manufacturing plants close over the next 18 months.

▪ Operational Update

We are operating Mt Piper units at normal levels with both units currently in service.

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

- Turbine
- Boiler
- Air heater
- DCS Upgrade completion

This outage will be conducted around the time of the November Community Reference Group meeting. The Head of NSW suggested that a tour of some of the plant during the outage may be of interest to the forum members. The forum will be advised prior to the November meeting **ACTION**

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The Wallerawang DDR Project team are still working through Treasury to approve transactions and have decommissioning and dismantling plans approved in accordance with the conditions of sale of the power station.

EA Auctions are on site having almost completed the removal of condenser tubes and a second package of equipment is being prepared for removal. EANSW staff are conducting plant disconnections & dismantling on an ongoing basis.

Tenders have closed for Deconstruction works of the Unit 7 Cooling Towers and they are being evaluated by local and corporate staff at the moment. We may see the works start in April 2016. This project is being conducted under a development application which requires that EnergyAustralia continue to communicate with the community on the progress and upcoming stages of the works.

Unit 7 Cooling Tower removal works will be conducted under a Principal Contractor arrangement which will ensure the appropriate safety and security of the site while the works are underway.

A suggestion was put to have the Forum tour the cooling tower dismantling works during the proposed May meeting. **ACTION**

A process is under discussion within EnergyAustralia to prompt proposals regarding potential reuse of the Wallerawang power station buildings.

Ms Favell asked about the zoning of the land. She was advised that rezoning would be necessary dependant on the proposed use. Any proposal that comes to fruition would need to go through a development application process.

■ **Site Safety**

Site Safety figures indicating year-to-date figures up to the 29 February 2016 were displayed. So far this year we have maintained zero harm which is a good result for the sites.

■ **Rail Unloader**

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

■ **Water Management**

Oberon Dam currently at 58.08% which is a decrease from our last meeting. Our active storage is at 92.6% with Lake Wallace still spilling. There is a green algal alert for Lake Wallace and the Coxs River below Lake Lyell.

The annual channel maintenance flow release from Lake Lyell was conducted in February. This release imitates any flood events that could have occurred downstream from the dam given the rainfall events throughout the year above the dam. The trigger for these releases is dependent on the magnitude of the rain events throughout the year and if the dam has spilt significantly throughout the year. This is a requirement of our water usage license

■ **Lamberts North**

- No ash placement has occurred in Lamberts North from September 2015 to February 2016
- No complaints have been received or incidents recorded in the same period
- The Annual Environment Management Report will be submitted later this month.
- All conditions of approval have been met

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- Biodiversity Offset Management Plan has been approved by Department of Planning & Environment
- Flora & Fauna survey has been completed and we are awaiting the report to inform the Tree planting that is planned for later this year.

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

EA and Centennial are cooperating to jointly develop and build a new pipeline and water treatment facility. This proposed solution follows careful investigation of the options by consultants and the project will achieve improved water discharge quality and provide environmental benefits.

The proposal includes a new pipeline from Springvale to Mt Piper and a new treatment facility constructed at Mt Piper. Treated water from Springvale mine, which would otherwise be discharged into catchment areas, can be put to beneficial use in the power station. Any excess water produced by the water facility will ultimately improve water quality in local rivers.

A Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) is being finalised and will be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning in the coming week or so.

Both Centennial and EA, as joint proponents, are consulting with key local stakeholders including the local council and yourselves. If you have any feedback we would be keen to hear your views or comments.

Questions were asked by the Forum about:

- The technical aspects of where the pipeline was going and where the water would end up. .
- Disposal of any waste:
- who owned any discharge
- Development approval process. Commercial arrangements of the joint project. .

The Forum was advised that the development was still in the preliminary stages.

Members of the Forum thought this would provide a good environmental outcome particularly for local water quality. The forum expressed that it would be good to get the quality under 200 microsiemens. The Head of NSW advised that this was unlikely due to the historical disturbances throughout the region.

■ **Sponsorship Process**

We showed some photos of the Wibit inflatable water park that has been installed on Lake Lyell by the Recreation Park owners. This installation attracts more tourists to the area and local families can enjoy the park. The Forum agreed but advised this is another reason to protect the water quality to ensure it is safe and clean for all users.

The 2016 Community Grants program applications were summarised for the Forum. Feedback was received regarding the community benefits relating to each application. The next steps of making funds available for the nominated projects will be initiated.

All applicants will be advised directly and a media release will be sent out to the local community about the successful applications.

An issue has been raised regarding the proliferation of reeds in Lake Wallace near the Boating Clubs pontoon. We will be raising this issue with the Lithgow City Council as they are the leaseholder of this area.

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■ Infrasound Investigation

We have received a preliminary report from the recent infrasound testing around Mt Piper. We will be sharing this information with the complainant tomorrow. We will also be conducting further testing with both units in operation. The date of the testing is weather dependent.

We will also be seeking permission from the complainant to conduct some testing on the property. We will continue to keep the Forum and the complainant informed of our progress on this matter.

■ General Business

The NuRock project development is still awaiting financial information from the proponent.

Ms Favell raised an issue about the extension of the Pinedale Exploration License being extended to October 2016 without prior community consultation. The community Forum was advised after the extension had been put into effect. Ms Favell has written to the Minister and the Managing Director regarding her concerns. The process was not inclusive at all and she believes this is unacceptable as the Pinedale is quite close to the community and two subdivisions of Lidsdale.

Ms Favell also remarked on the recent advertising relating to the Castlereagh Coal development application for Invincible Mine. Will this supply coal to Mt Piper? Forum advised that we will have to see how the development progresses but we have no involvement in this project to date.

Ms Favell advised the Forum that the hamlet of Blackman's Flat will soon be lost. The conditions of sale of the houses included a requirement to remove the houses 90 days after sale. If the houses were not sold the houses had to be demolished after the 90 day period expired. This period has just recently passed. Ms Favell believes that the houses will be removed or demolished in the near future.

The Forum suggested that it might be time to refresh the membership of the Forum to involve further members of the public in the communication process with EnergyAustralia. The Head of NSW will look into how this can be done. **ACTION**

Meeting closed at 7.00 pm.

■ Next Meeting

The date for the next Forum meeting is Wednesday 25 May 2016. This meeting may include a tour of the dismantling works of the U7 Cooling Towers at Wallerawang.

■ 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	In Progress
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
March 2016	Refresh Forum membership	To be arranged and advised