

Meeting Record

Name	Mt Piper & Wallerawang power stations	Meeting Date	30 November 2016
Meeting / Subject	Community Reference Group	Recorded By	MB
	Meeting 38	Total Pages	6

Members:	Julie Favell, Rob Cluff, Helen Riley, Alex Preema, Jim Whitty, Jamie Giokaris	
EnergyAustralia	Malcolm Murphy	Head of Mt Piper
	Michelle Blackley	Support Services Leader EnergyAustralia NSW
	Ralph Gunness	Wallerawang DDR Project Leader EnergyAustralia NSW
	Coleen Milroy	Acting Environment Specialist EnergyAustralia NSW
Apologies	Boris Hunt, Ron Bidwell, Beverly Gilbert, Sue Graves	
Minute Taker	Michelle Blackley	Support Services Leader

Meeting

■ Welcome to Country

Welcome to Country was conducted by Helen Riley.

■ Business Arising:

Introductions were conducted for both Malcolm Murphy and Ralph Gunness both newcomers to the Community Reference Group meetings.

■ Market Update

Mr Murphy advised that Hazelwood Power Station in Victoria's La Trobe Valley had announced their pending closure. This will have the impact of bumping up demand in the short term. However a shadow over the future of the smelter at Portland Victoria exists which would have the impact of reducing demand across the market. Smelters use considerable power but also have the added benefit of stabilising the power as they act like a capacitor on the grid.

The stabilising of the supply will fall to baseload generators which burn gas or coal more and more. Across the world some new methods of stabilisation include installation of small nuclear plants in the UK and Germany is installing some new coal fired stations. This process of stabilisation is quite topical at the moment after the storm event in South Australia taking out the power supply across the state.

Of course, a lot of manufacturing plant such as General Motors making the last Holden in Australia through the week will have a major flow-on effect across the users in our market. All this change in supply and demand across the market indicate there will be interesting times ahead.

■ Operational Update

Mt Piper

Both units are currently in service

Unit 1 Outage has recently completed a 6 week outage. Some problems were experienced with the air heaters and fan shaft alignments which necessitated another minor outage in the last week. These issues now appear to be fixed. The successes during the outage include the upgrade of the Automatic Voltage Regulator (AVR) and Digital Control System (DCS) were completed within time and budget and have been

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approved by AEMO the market regulator. Leading up to Christmas the unit and DCS will continue to go through tuning to optimise the operation of the unit.

The redesign of the Plant Control Room (PCR) to facilitate the new DCS and improve the ergonomics for the plant based personnel went extremely well with the shift personnel being appreciative of the modernisation and the improved layout of the main control centre for the power station.

Wallerawang Repurposing Project

As you know from our previous meetings, the Wallerawang Repurposing expressions of interest closed 15 August 2016. We have received 21 enquiries and 14 formal EOI applications. After assessment, 4 proposals are being progressed. The proposals cover manufacturing, transport and recycling activities.

These prospective projects are highly commercial in confidence. They present some interesting future prospects for the region and the employment in the Lithgow area.

Wallerawang DDR

Our discussions with Treasury continue to ensure the appropriate approval of our planning processes and activities for the continued dismantling of the site but also the ongoing operation of key systems.

EA Auctions equipment packages are being processed with the second package now complete. The third package is almost completed and the fourth package is being programmed.

The deconstruction of the Unit 7 Cooling Towers has been approved by Treasury and further information will be presented on this topic below. Jim Whitty asked about the method of deconstruction and was advised that it would be dismantled mechanically from the top down. Julie Favell asked about the Unit 8 Cooling Tower and was advised that currently a program of cleaning the water in the basin was underway and the cooling tower would not be dismantled until late in 2018.

DDR Owner's Engineer, Aurecon has started at Wallerawang and has been collecting data and advising us on future work packages.

Dismantling of Unit 7 Cooling Towers

The work to remove the Unit 7 Cooling Towers will start in mid- December. This work package will take 6 to 8 weeks to complete. Most of the major work will occur over a two week period within the program.

The work will be conducted on weekdays between 8am and 5pm.

Some impacts may be experienced during this time and include:

- Noise
- Dust
- Changing traffic conditions

EnergyAustralia's contact details relating to this project will be distributed by letterbox drop to neighbours and advertised in the media. We will also be using the 2790 Facebook page and SMS alerts to advise neighbours and other community members of any changes in the immediate area around the Unit 7 Cooling Towers.

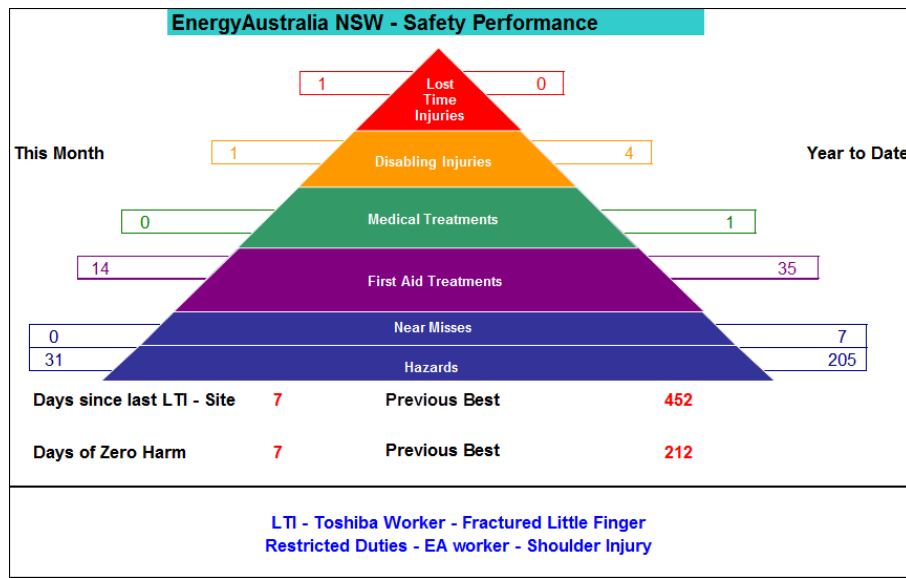
Any issues please contact us on 6354 8111 or community@energyaustraliansw.com.au

Rob Cluff raised some ideas that were expressed to him from members of the community about potential re-use of the Unit 8 Cooling Tower. One idea was to use the tower as an abseiling tourist attraction. Mr Murphy advised that a proponent would need to purchase the site and run this as a commercial interest

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within its own right. The other idea was to use the tower as a water reservoir. It was thought that the tower would not have the structural strength to hold the volume of water.

Site Safety



Mr Murphy advises that Safety was a very important focus for EnergyAustralia. Site Safety statistics indicating our year-to-date safety performance up to 31 October 2016 was displayed. It was explained that the more activity we have reported in identifying hazards and near misses the lower the figures will be in the higher levels of the safety triangle. This means our staff, contractors and visitors are less likely to require first aid treatments or suffer any injuries.

The incidents listed below the triangle were described to the group. The safety statistics from the outage were also highlighted and some details provided as set out below.

- 57 Outage related incidents
 - 1 Lost Time Injury
 - 2 Disabling Injuries
 - 2 First Aid Treatment
 - The remainder were minor instances or near misses
- 20 Compliance audits conducted with zero non-conformances found
- 40 Safety Walkdowns
- 521 Safety Observations
- 744 Take 5's

Infrasound Investigation

The group were again advised that the Unit 1 Report was provided to complainant. EnergyAustralia are still awaiting a response from the complainant to advise if they are satisfied with the proposed methodology for further testing on Unit 2 and then both units together.

A further complainant has raised similar concerns and this being investigated.

EnergyAustralia will continue to formally respond to any questions raised by either complainant.

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Explanations of what infrasound was were provided. The group were advised that it was noise below 20 MHz which can't be heard but was more felt by some people. People who perceived this noise range complained of such problems as issues with sleep, headaches, tingling sensations and a sense of buffeting.

Julie Favell advised that she thought there was a new Industrial Noise Policy which mentioned Infrasound which might be worth EnergyAustralia reviewing.

Jim Whitty asked if measurement at the complainant's residence had been offered and Coleen Milroy advised that EnergyAustralia had made this offer and was awaiting the complainant's response.

Julie Favell explained that calcification of the oesophagus had also been attributed to infrasound. She could not explain the connection but advised she had heard of this.

■ 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 our options.

Jim Whitty opined that he thought the proposed rail unloader would never happen due to the costs to upgrade the trestles and bridges on the Mudgee line to carry the increased load and traffic volume. Malcolm Murphy asked about the previous use of the line and Mr Whitty advised it was used for general freight and passenger trains in the past but had been closed for quite some time.

■ Water Management

Oberon Dam's level has increased to 99.53%. Our Total Active Storage is at 98.3% with:

- Lake Lyell at 100% and spilling sporadically,
- Lake Wallace at 109.4% and spilling,
- Thompsons Creek Dam at 95.4%.

A Green Algal Alert applies to Lake Lyell for Blue Green Algae.

■ Lamberts North

- Ash Placement Volume from September to November 2016 is 11,547 tonne.
- Ash placement will not occur from December 2016 to February 2017 as the ash will be placed in the Mt Piper repository during this time.
- Ash placement in Lamberts North will recommence March 2017
- No complaints have been received
- No incidents have been recorded
- 2015-2016 Annual Environment Management Report for Lamberts North Ash Repository is currently in draft under review before submission to

Julie Favell asked for clarification about the two repositories and Ms Milroy advised the location of the repositories which were adjacent to each other but were managed as separate facilities due to the consent approvals being separately approved at different times and under their own requirements.

Julie Favell asked about the Mt Piper statistics. Ms Milroy advised that these could be supplied if required.

Jim Whitty asked if there was a Lamberts South Area. Ms Milroy advised that there was such an area but it was unlikely to be used in the short to medium term.

■ Joint EnergyAustralia NSW/Centennial Water Project

The Requests for Price for water plant and pipeline continues with the three preferred tenderers.

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The EIS public display period is now complete with some 200 responses received most of which were form letters. EnergyAustralia are now preparing to respond to the community input.

The Dept of Planning has completed their “adequacy” review.

Ongoing commercial/financial/legal negotiations are being discussed between the Consortium members while technical design interactions continue to be developed within the Consortium.

Alex Preema asked about the pumping arrangement from Thompsons Creek Dam and was advised it was likely to be decreased and that the water discharged to Thompsons Creek Dam would be treated in the desalination process being proposed within the scope of works for the project. Mr Preema felt this would improve the fishing at Thompsons Creek Dam as trout are attracted to any current and will congregate in that area.

■ **Community Engagement Program 2016**

The second round of the 2016 Sponsorship Grant Programs has recently closed. There is \$20,000 available for distribution in this program. The details of the 13 applications were discussed amongst the group and it was agreed to send out all the details of the applications to the members requesting their preferences to be made known.

ACTION: Michelle Blackley will action this immediately to ensure the funding can be approved and disbursed before the end of 2016.

All the applicants will be advised of the decision and a media release will be published for the wider community to be advised of the successful applicants in the second round of funding for 2016.

Media release on successful applicants will be sent out early in the New Year.

Auntie Helen Riley discussed the Mingaan Aboriginal Corporation application and should photographic evidence of some of the damage that had been done at the indigenous heritage site of Maiying Marragu over the years. The other group members expressed support of this application as they had in the previous meeting. Julie Favell expressed that it is important to look after indigenous heritage as it is for European heritage.

Julie Favell also advised that the nearby swampland adjacent to Maiying Marragu had also become a rubbish dump even though it was a registered ecological protected area with the State and Federal Governments.

■ **Merging of Community Consultation Committees.**

The merging of the Mt Piper/Wallerawang Community Reference Group and the Pinedale Community Consultative Committee was revisited to advise the group of the approved guidelines and some changes that were put into effect since the previous draft of the guidelines. The finalised guidelines from the Dept of Planning were provided to the members. These changes include:

- An independent Chairperson from a pool to be established by the Dept of Planning,
- Up to 7 community representatives,
- 1 Council representative
- Up to 3 EnergyAustralia representatives including a staff member from the Environment Team,

EnergyAustralia is formally submitting a written request to Dept of Planning to merge the committees and once we have approval the Dept of Planning will select a Chair from the pool.

EA will facilitate the selection of the members with the Chair.

In accordance with the new Guidelines community representatives must

- be current residents within the LGA
- Demonstrate involvement in local community groups and/or activities

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- Have knowledge and awareness of the subject and related issues of concern for the community
- Be able to represent and communicate the interests of the local community
- Be willing to adhere to the committee's code of conduct.

There is obviously a lot of work that needs to be put in place before the formation of the new consultative committee can be implemented. We hope to have this in place for the May 2017 meeting. Once again the members were encouraged to apply for the new Committee.

Julie Favell expressed her concern about the an non-local Chair being nominated by the Dept of Planning and asked if the existing committees could have some input into the potential nominees for the position. Other members were more accepting of a non-local Chair and felt that independence was an important factor as well as the ability to manage meetings and the committee members appropriately.

ACTION: Michelle Blackley offered to seek some advice on this issue.

■ General Business

Helen Riley raised the issue that since Angus Place Mine and Tip closed that a lot of rubbish dumping is occurring on the Reserve. The Lithgow City Council needs to take some action on this issue.

Alex Preema provided a list of issues related to Thompsons Creek Dam including:

- *Presence of large number of kangaroos, including numerous big bucks is responsible for breaches of the perimeter fences thus allowing egress of other animals – goats and cattle.*
- *The appearance of numbers of cattle in the dam precincts has resulted in damage to the soft banks and exposed foreshore which have been chopped up by the heavy cloven animals. This has resulted in trip and stumble hazards for anglers negotiating the foreshores and water's edge.*
- *The cattle have also been observed on the rock wall adjacent to the earthen bank at the eastern end of the wall.*
- *There are a number of discarded grease cartridges in the vicinity of the eastern end of the wall. Obviously contractors working on the wall didn't have any respect for the environment and didn't see the need to clean up their rubbish after completing their work.*

*The above issues have been outlined in the interests of improving the amenities and safety of the Thompsons Creek Dam precinct to all users.*¹

Jim Whitty raised the issue of repairs to the creek traversing Ms Grace Wilkinson's property neighbouring Lidsdale Cut in Lidsdale. The method of repair was discussed and Michelle Blackley will follow up the work. Mr Whitty also passed on Ms Wilkinson's thanks to EnergyAustralia for continuing to operate and maintain the pump to keep the water ingress on her property from Lidsdale Cut to a manageable flow.

ACTION: Michelle Blackley to follow up the delivery of the work package.

Julie Favell advised that the notes from the meetings over the last year are still not available on EnergyAustralia's website.

ACTION: Michelle Blackley to address this issue

Julie Favell expressed that the Pinedale Mine Community Committee did not inform the neighbours of the mine of the meeting minutes and were not inclusive of neighbour related issues. She also felt that it was difficult for the neighbours to get a copy of the minutes as the Committee advised they would not send them directly and that email was not available. This meant the only option was to go to the Library to get a

¹ Excerpt from document provided by Alex Preema dated 30 November 2016

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copy. Coleen Murphy advised that any complaints and enquiries could be direct through Mt Piper and Wallerawang's contacts for investigation.

Julie Favell asked if there was any further action to be taken about establishing the Lithgow City Council proposed tip including the use of EnergyAustralia land for access to the tip on the land adjacent to the Mt Piper Ash Repository. Michelle Blackley advised that no contact had been made with the Council on this issue for many years. The Council had approached Mt Piper quite some time ago about the use of the land but they never formally sought access for the land in question. Ms Favell advised that the void proposed to be used for the council tip was filling with water. She was wondering about the future of this proposal given that the Council was closing all the village tips.

Ms Favell further advised that the Centennial land known as "Cooks Dam" held water with high salinity. A measurement of 5000 microsiemens was believed to indicate the salinity level. She felt that this should be dealt with by Centennial.

Michelle Blackley asked Ms Favell about the demolished houses in Blackman's Flat and what was the future for the hamlet. Ms Favell advised that Centennial was putting through an overhead haul road to connect to the private haul road in the area. The residents were bought out and their relocation costs covered by Centennial but three households still remained in the hamlet. The impact of the new haul road on the remaining residents would still need to be considered.

Julie Favell advised the group of some of her responses to the EnergyAustralia survey, including the need to include the community in any new EnergyAustralia developments, maintain a good sustainable balance for both industry and the community and that she felt EnergyAustralia had an ace up their sleeve if they could develop some sort of local industry to support renewable generation. As an example the manufacture of solar panels could provide employment in the area and training for apprentices in the renewable industries. She acknowledged that coal had been the backbone of the Lithgow area for over 100 years but the transition to renewables was changing the face of the electricity industry and the future needed to be planned now. This would also assist the future growth of Lithgow. Unfortunately she said Mt Piper could close at any time if it was no longer profitable.

Ms Favell believed that the people of Lithgow felt insecure about the town's future. While the town enjoyed cheaper housing prices there was little incentive for young people leaving school to find local employment.

Alex Preema expressed his concern about the future employment opportunities generally and thought that high technology could be a future direction for potential growth.

Jim Whitty didn't believe the Lithgow Region was viable for alternative generation methodologies such as wind and solar because of the prevailing weather conditions.

Julie Favell added that if solar and wind were not viable then maybe battery storage development could be an option for local employment in the future within the energy industry.

Jim Whitty asked about EnergyAustralia's apprenticeship program and was advised that 6 additional apprentice positions have just closed and the applications are currently being evaluated. That will bring EnergyAustralia's total number of apprentices to 12 in 2017.

Meeting closed at 7:00 pm.

■ Next Meeting

The date for the next Forum meeting is Wednesday 22 February 2017. Alex Preema suggested that we have a celebration at the last meeting in the current format. This was agreed across the committee.

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■ **Action List**

Initiated	Action	Progress
March 2016	Tour of cooling tower dismantling works for May 2016 meeting	To be advised
June 2016	Merging of Pinedale Community Consultative Committee and Wallerawang/Mt Piper Community Reference Group to be implemented	In Progress
June 2016	Response for Pinedale Mine Community Consultative Committee questions	Sarah Neville investigating.
June 2016	Response for use of Wallerawang Schoolhouse for Mens' Shed	In Progress
November 2016	Send letter to committee members with information about Round 2 Applications for Community Grants Program	Michelle Blackley Committee Members to respond
November 2016	Seek advice on the current Committee members having some input into the Dept of Planning's nominees for the future independent Chair	Michelle Blackley to advise
November 2016	Meeting Notes to be put on EnergyAustralia's website.	Michelle Blackley to follow up with the Social Enterprise team