



Liddell Update

16 February 2023



Recycling a power station

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A trip down memory lane

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Welcome to the second edition of our Liddell Newsletter, we hope you are enjoying the stories about Liddell and our people, and that the information about closure of the Power Station is valuable to our community.

A key part of our closure program is connecting with former employees and this month a real highlight has been welcoming them back for guided site tours. On page five you can read what the experience meant to retired engineer Steve Ireland who first visited the station as a 14 year-old in 1972.

Sustainability is also a focus of our closure program and the steps being taken to prioritise recycling as much of the power station as possible makes for interesting reading, on page four.

We're also pleased to have launched a partnership with Arts Upper Hunter that will see artists from across the region create works inspired by Liddell Power Station. Artists keen to be involved are invited to submit an Expression of Interest and you can read more on page seven.

If you have questions or know of anybody who'd like to join our mailing list please contact liddellinfo@agl.com.au and don't forget, further information relating to Closure and Transition, including fact sheets on Decommissioning/Demolition, the Liddell Ash Dam and our approach to People and Culture can be found on [our website](#).

Closure, decommissioning and demolition timeline

| | |
|------------|---|
| April 2022 | Closure of Unit 3 |
| April 2023 | Closure of Units 1, 2 and 4 |
| May 2023 | Decommissioning begins (approx. 6 months) |
| Early 2024 | Demolition begins (approx. 2 years) |

Warm regards,



Len McLachlan
General Manager – Bayswater & Liddell

Jillian Welzel – charging on

After 35 years working in the electricity game you'd be forgiven for thinking that enthusiasm for turning up each day might be starting to wane. Not the case for Jillian Welzel.

Starting as a 16-year-old office assistant at the Electricity Commission of NSW, Jillian spent time in the legal team before studying Social Work at university. Since then she's worked in various roles in Human Resources and at a number of sites. She's currently leading the People support workstream for the closure and transition of Liddell Power Station where she's worked since 1997. For Jill there are mixed emotions as closure date nears - excitement for what the future holds tinged with sadness for the end of an era.

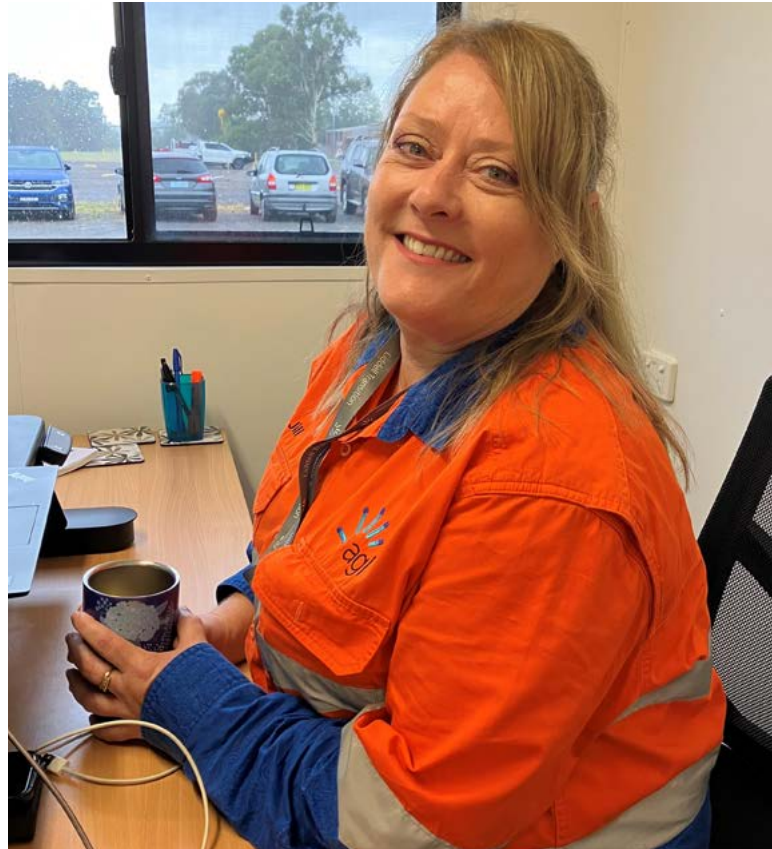
"The pride and passion that people have for the plant makes you want to be a part of it... Liddell people just get in and do what it takes to keep the station running," Jillian said.

Above all though, it's the pride in the essential service that Liddell Power Station provides which keeps Jillian motivated after all these years.

"I'm really proud of working for AGL, a company keeping the lights on in people's homes. Most people just don't think about it when they flick a switch."

None of that changes for Jillian as closure approaches. In her Transition Lead role, she's working to ensure the transition to life beyond the Liddell gates is smooth whether it be via redeployment to Bayswater, retirement or learning new skills for future jobs.

"It's making sure people leave Liddell proud of what they have achieved, ensuring they find meaningful work after Liddell and that they're set up for success."



She's also working hard to identify what skills will be needed for the future, and says working this out might require looking to the past.

"I would love to be a part of bringing the future industry here and to do that we need to skill, re-skill and upskill people so they are ready."

"People forget that AGL has been around for 185 years; we're a pretty versatile company and we've adapted to plenty of change over the years. Ensuring a smooth and safe closure and transition is the latest challenge we need to rise to and we're very aware that providing certainty is important throughout this process. People today want to know where their grandkids are going to live and work so they can stay a family unit. I'd like to think we could do that for the community so that people can stay in the region and they don't have to move away."

For further information on Jill's work please visit [click here](#).

Recycling a power station



Driving along the New England highway between Muswellbrook and Singleton with the giant stacks of Liddell Power Station rising in the distance, it's a fair stretch to imagine the materials being repurposed into schools and hospitals of the future, but that's the goal for the team in charge of decommissioning and demolition.

Aiming for a recycling rate of >90%, Project Manager of Liddell Demolition Chris Druery says keeping an open mind to what might be possible has been central to their planning process.

"The easy thing to do is just to pay someone to come and take everything away, but our mindset has been to re-purpose and re-use as much as we can," Chris said.

"Steel was always something we were going to recycle, and the concrete will be crushed and used onsite to fill the voids and pits and for site levelling, but we've looked at everything and thought 'what can we turn it into?'

"Conveyor belts are a good example; we've got 14kms of rubber ply belt that can now be repurposed to go into erosion control on beaches or fence lining on farms instead of going to landfill.

"We also have over 300 lead acid batteries we use as part of our electrical protection systems, these can be stripped down so the lead can be recycled.

"The removal of waste oils provides one of the best opportunities for recycling, with an estimated 1.4 million litres of oil at Liddell.

"Waste oils in general can be recycled and reused in various industries and applications, however the 860,000 litres of transformer oil at Liddell provides the most exciting potential for the future.

"Over 90% of the oil in our transformers can be collected, filtered and re-used in new transformers built for new applications like grid scale batteries."

While the process is a bit more labour intensive, hitting then exceeding the target of 90% is a goal the team are keen to meet.

"It's a bit of extra work but it's worth it for the community and for AGL. We live here, we're raising kids here and we want them to grow up in a good place to live that doesn't have waste lying around.

"Building our program keeping sustainability at the forefront of our minds has opened us up to new and exciting possibilities for Liddell.

"Our purpose through this process is to consider what the legacy of Liddell could be, imagine if we could repurpose the materials into schools and hospitals for our community," Chris said.

For further information on the decommissioning and demolition process please [click here](#).



A trip down memory lane

A steady stream of former employees have been making their way through the gates of Liddell Power Station in recent weeks, with AGL providing an opportunity for one final look before the scheduled closure on Friday 28 April.

AGL Macquarie General Manager Len McLachlan said honouring the legacy of the workers has been a priority leading into closure.

“Since the station opened more than 50 years ago thousands of employees have taken great pride in the role they’ve played to provide an essential service to the people of NSW. That shared responsibility has created many great bonds and connections between our people over the years and they look back on their time here with very fond memories,” McLachlan said.

“Giving our former employees an opportunity for one last look around ‘Lady Liddell’ is an important part of the closure process and it’s been lovely to see so many familiar faces on site once again.”

Steve Ireland, was one of the first to return to his old stomping grounds and said it was a great trip down memory lane.

“I was 14 years old when I first went to Liddell Power Station. It was 1972 and I was in an old brown holden with my father and we just drove in off the highway – no gates, no security checkpoints – we parked under the

turbine hall and walked up the stairs. Dad knew all of the operators and we got to see it very early on in its life,” Steve said.

After that early exposure to life at Liddell, Steve worked as an engineer (1987- 91) before going on to work in an executive role for AGL Macquarie for nearly 20 years.

“Seeing it at the end was an emotional time. There’s a lot of sentiment; it’s similar to seeing an old grandstand of your favourite footy field knocked down. We spent a third of our waking hours there - and there were some who’d rather be there than at home - and a great bonhomie built up. There were great adventures, plenty of excitement and plenty of fun. It was like a rugby league game – you’d go out together and try and achieve something. It was a real team environment where everyone did their best.”

Nostalgia for the good old days hasn’t tempered Steve’s views for what’s yet to come.

“Liddell as a power station has had its day and I think there’s a bright future ahead. It’s got big power infrastructure; there’s the switch yard, good flat land, water, the highway and the rail line provides direct access to the port. You really could do all sorts of things.”

The tours will continue to run three times a week until closure and any former employees who’ve not yet locked in a time can email: celebrateliddell@agl.com.au.



Good times with Group21

The Upper Hunter has long been a Rugby League stronghold, and with many of our staff and their families heavily involved in the Group 21 competition, it's been a natural fit for AGL to be a long term supporter of the representative program.

This connection has been a great sense of pride for one of our longest serving employees Janelle Chapman (36 years!!), and one of our newest: Karen Patton (6 months!). Both women are stalwarts of the Singleton Greyhounds and recently completed their Level Two Sports Trainer qualifications which sees them on duty strapping, assessing injuries and providing support for the under 16s boys' and under 17s girls' teams.

"Knowing that the company that I work for is part of something that I love on the weekends and that supports kids across our district means a lot to me," Karen said.

"Working so closely with teenage girls and boys, to be in their circle and to feel trusted is really special. When

you give them your time, they give you their respect and I treasure that. I've done some mental health first aid courses so hopefully being part of their lives I can help pick up on any signs if they're struggling off the field."

Group 21 Juniors Vice President Kevin Lomax says the support of AGL is greatly valued.

"For several years AGL has been there, contributing in every way imaginable to support our local youth. They have contributed financial, physical and material support whenever needed and they've never baulked once at the chance to contribute to our regional community."

Any other community or sporting groups in need of support can apply for funding [here](#) and enquiries about our sponsorship program can be directed to Community Relations coordinator Jo Ferguson (joanne.ferguson@agl.com.au).

Artists invited to capture Liddell Transformation



Thanks to an innovative partnership between AGL and Arts Upper Hunter, artists are being offered a unique opportunity to create new works to mark the historic closure of Liddell Power Station.

Six artist “residencies” will be offered, which will start from March and run up to the station’s retirement on 28 April and will continue as the site is transformed into an industrial energy hub.

All forms of creative - painters, sculptors, videographers, sound artists, blacksmiths, performers, glass blowers, photographers and musicians - are invited to apply for the residencies by submitting an Expression of Interest by Friday 24 February.

“There are so many ways artists could respond to Liddell’s evocative industrial landscape or to the decarbonisation journey that AGL is undertaking,” said Arts Upper Hunter Executive Director John O’Brien.

“We’re also hoping some of the artworks will reflect the great sense of pride that exists amongst the past and present workforce for the role they’ve played in supplying power to NSW for more than 50 years.

“It is also an opportunity to delve into the unique culture of the place, the individual responses to working there and to the future. It really is an amazing set of industrial buildings; walking through is like visiting a huge abstract sculpture or a giant film set.”

General Manager Len McLachlan said this is an exciting project for AGL Macquarie which has a proud history of supporting community organisations.

“AGL is pleased to be welcoming the Upper Hunter artistic community on site at Liddell to mark the retirement of the power station and I expect we’ll see some truly incredible works produced through our partnership with Arts Upper Hunter,” McLachlan said.

Further information on how to apply for a Liddell WORKS residency can be found at: www.artsupperhunter.com.



Coming Up:

If you're keen to find out more about the closure and transition of Liddell Power Station, AGL's Director of Transition Brad Williams will be the guest speaker at Business Singleton's next breakfast on Thursday 23 February at 7am. Tickets are available [here](#).

We'll also be hosting an information booth and joining in the fun at Rock'n the Brook - a free concert featuring James Reyne and supported by James Blundell in Muswellbrook on Saturday 4 March. Further information on the concert is available [here](#).

Contact

If you see anyone from Liddell around town, make sure to say hello or, give us a call on 1800 039 600 or send an email to liddellinfo@agl.com.au.

