



# Hunter News

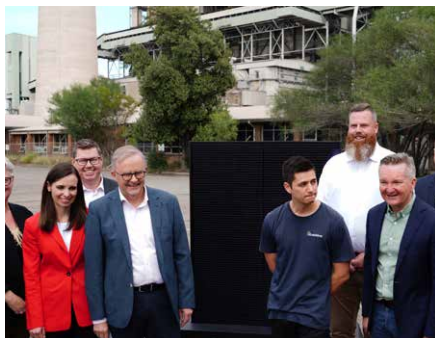
June 2024



## Now More Than Ever

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## Prime Minister visit to Liddell Power Station

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## Coming Up

The LiddellWORKS Major Exhibition will open in June, and AGL is looking forward to providing updates to our community at upcoming Business Breakfasts.

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## Now More Than Ever

**Accomplished journalist, TV presenter and proud Gamilaroi woman Brooke Boney delivered a compelling keynote address to a packed house at Bayswater Power Station to mark National Reconciliation Week.**

Born and bred in Muswellbrook, Brooke emphasized the importance of engaging in respectful conversations about race 'Now More Than Ever', encouraging everyone to take time to listen to other perspectives and highlighting the collective benefits of helping those in need.

Brooke's mother and sister joined her at Bayswater for her speech, as did female First Nations students from Muswellbrook South Public School, Muswellbrook High School (both of which she attended), and Singleton High School.

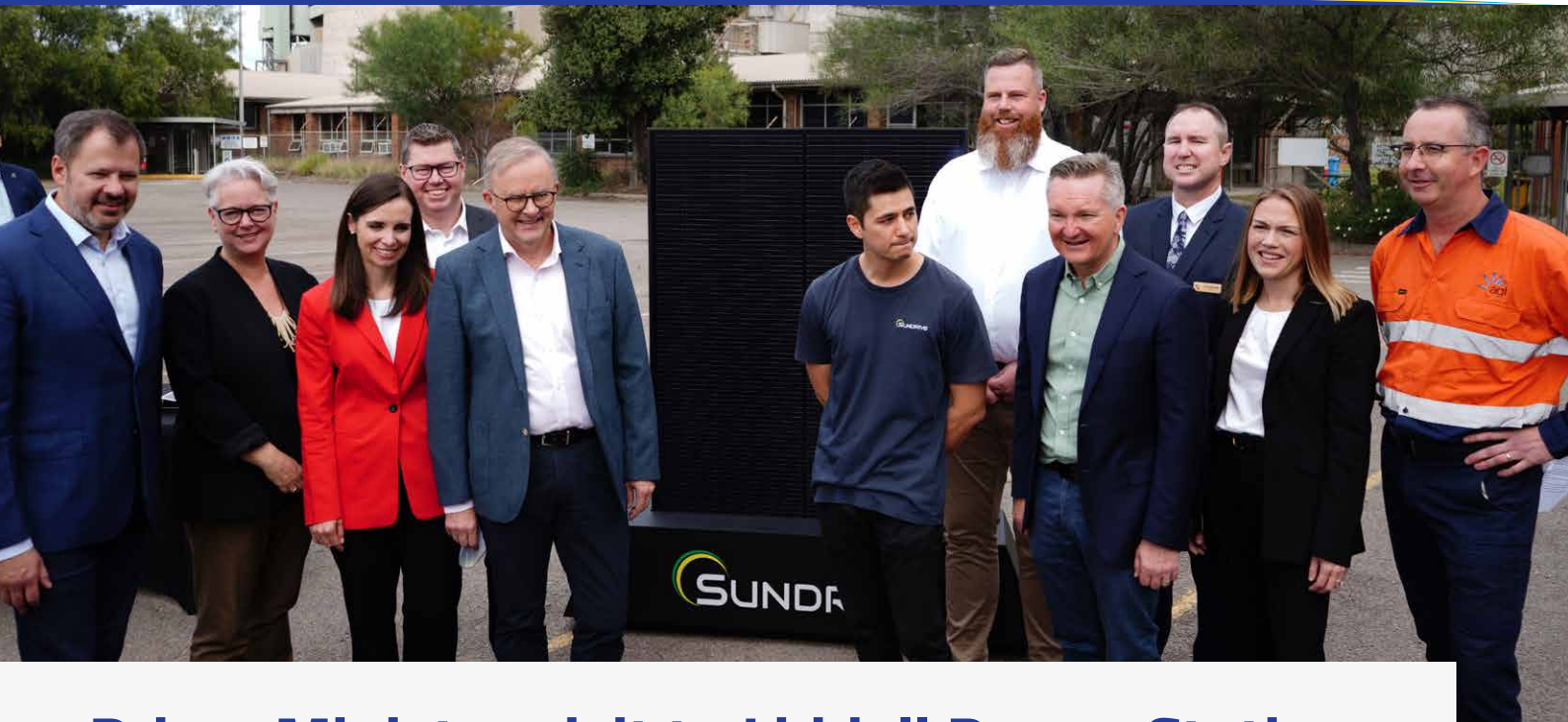
The students also had an opportunity to meet with female employees from Bayswater Power Station who shared details of their roles at AGL and their career pathways.

Bayswater General Manager Len McLachlan said it was a rewarding day for everyone involved.



"While we are making good progress towards delivering on our Reconciliation Action Plan, Brooke's messages provided a timely reminder of the importance of delivering on these goals," Len said.

"It was great to be able to include students in the activities so they could hear Brooke's story as well as some of the stories of our people and broaden awareness of the career opportunities available locally."



## Prime Minister visit to Liddell Power Station

**In late April AGL welcomed Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Federal Minister for Energy, Chris Bowen, to Liddell Power Station for the announcement of a \$1 billion fund to support solar manufacturing in Australia including in the Hunter Region.**

Joining them was our local MP Dan Repacholi, NSW Minister for Industry and Science Ed Husic, NSW Minister for Energy and Climate Change Penny Sharpe and NSW Minister for Domestic Manufacturing Courtney Houssos.

On the day AGL also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with solar technology company SunDrive to explore the development of a solar PV manufacturing facility at our Hunter Energy Hub. The advanced manufacturing facility - which is expected to be the first of its kind in Australia - demonstrates industry confidence in partnering with AGL in our Energy Hub vision.

The visit has triggered significant interest in the Hunter region's capacity to support Australia's vision to become a renewable energy superpower.

"The Prime Minister's visit has placed the Hunter Energy Hub firmly on the radar of companies in need of the infrastructure and skills that are available at the site and that our community can offer," said Head of Hunter Energy Hub Seth Pathiyil.

"Since then we've had multiple companies reach out to learn more and while the process is long and complex these are all significant steps towards setting the site and our community up for a sustainable and prosperous future.

"The MoU with SunDrive adds to the list of projects planned for the site. We have also signed development MoUs with NuRock to investigate the feasibility of utilising their waste recycling technology to convert coal ash into construction bricks and with Renewable Metals to investigate establishing a lithium battery recycling facility on site."

Anyone seeking further information about the Hunter Energy Hub can message: [hunterenergyhub@agl.com.au](mailto:hunterenergyhub@agl.com.au).

## 'Making Stuff Better' at AGL



**A committee at Bayswater with a very clear brief to 'Make Stuff Better' has achieved remarkable results in their efforts to reduce single-use water bottles on site. By providing every employee with a large, high-quality water bottle, the initiative has led to an impressive 82% reduction in single-use water bottle consumption.**

Jo Ferguson, who spearheaded the initiative, emphasised the environmental impact of plastic bottles: "Plastic bottles are a major contributor to the global pollution crisis. From extraction to manufacturing, transportation, and disposal, the life cycle of these bottles generates a significant carbon footprint."

Despite an increase in water consumption due to a hot summer and a major outage that brought hundreds more people to the site, the committee has successfully decreased the use of plastic water bottles by at least 200 per day. This commitment reflects a collective concern shared by everyone involved.

The 'Make Stuff Better' committee has also achieved positive outcomes in grease management, improvement of vehicle access systems and increased efficiencies for work permit procedures.



## Adapting To A Changing Energy Market

**Muswellbrook Probus creates opportunities for retirees to connect socially and its members were recently given a unique insight into how Bayswater Power Station is adapting to a changing energy market during a talk by our Head of Performance and Flexible Operations George Hague.**

Through investment in upgrading the unit controls, replacement of the turbines and strategic management of the boiler systems Bayswater has improved its ability to increase and more specifically decrease generation loads to accommodate the amount of renewable energy entering the market.

In peak times Bayswater has successfully trialed operating units as high as 700MW and as low as 170MW. "When Bayswater was built nearly 40 years ago each unit was designed to operate at its 660MW capacity all day every day. With solar and wind now supplying large volumes of power throughout the day we needed to find a way to be able to operate with greater flexibility," George said.

"Our team has effectively re-designed the way we operate the power station to ensure we can better respond to supply and demand which also has a positive impact on our emissions and financial outcomes.

"The transformation that we're going through requires collaborative efforts from policy makers and industry leaders, but it also requires engagement with local communities, and I really enjoyed sharing what we're doing with the group at Probus.

"Many in the audience worked in or around the energy sector and I think they appreciated the opportunity to learn more about our industry's transition and to ask questions.

"There's no doubt the energy transition is a challenging time for our elders as they consider what it means for them and also what it means for the future of their children and grandchildren. It's important that we keep them involved in the conversation."

## Apprenticeships Applications Now Open



**Applications for the next intake of apprentices for Bayswater Power Station are now open. Six positions are available and as part of AGL's Reconciliation Action Plan, one of the roles will be dedicated to a First Nations applicant.**

Apprenticeships are being offered across the electrical, mechanical and fabrication trades.

Bayswater Maintenance Team Leader and proud Kamilaroi and Darkinjung man Mitch Pritchard leads our First Nations and Cultural Diversity Committee and is a highly enthusiastic advocate of the opportunities that come through an apprenticeship.

"I was a 17-year-old from Denman with no real idea of what I wanted to do so I thought an apprenticeship would be a good stop-gap," Mitch said.

"Ten years later and I'm in charge of a team at a major industrial site, managing multi-million-dollar budgets and dealing with complex engineering, maintenance and plant matters. I've been given the opportunities to sit on panels and committees and speak at conferences.

"The job has also given me and my family a great lifestyle – I've travelled the world, I've bought a house, I've got a nice car. An apprenticeship is a great avenue to a better life.

"I've also felt totally supported as one of our First Nations employees because AGL 'walks the talk' when it comes to Reconciliation. The support and structure is in place for Indigenous applicants to flourish and we've got a Bayswater Mob starting to meet regularly. Our voices are heard and opinions are appreciated."

Further information on the apprentice program can be found [here](#).

## AGL In The Community

**Like so many regional communities, sport is the glue that binds many together in the Upper Hunter, and AGL is proud to play a role as major sponsor of Group 21 Junior Rugby League.**

Participation has grown significantly since we first began sponsoring, driven largely by a substantial increase in female players, and we're delighted to have extended our partnership for a further six years. Many of our employees are also heavily involved as volunteers and supporters of the junior league clubs in their towns.

In recent months we've also been out and about in the community providing support for the Upper Hunter Show, the Denman Diesel Rust and Dust Truck and Machinery Show and many of our people used their volunteer day tree planting with Landcare on the shores of Lake Liddell. Our decommissioning team were also pleased to donate around 30 of the old clothes lockers from Liddell to Koora Services so they can secure tools and personal belongings in their workshop in Muswellbrook. Koora provides training and employment for people with a disability and are regular visitors to site doing our lawn and grounds maintenance.



Students enjoying the AGL exhibit at the Upper Hunter Show.



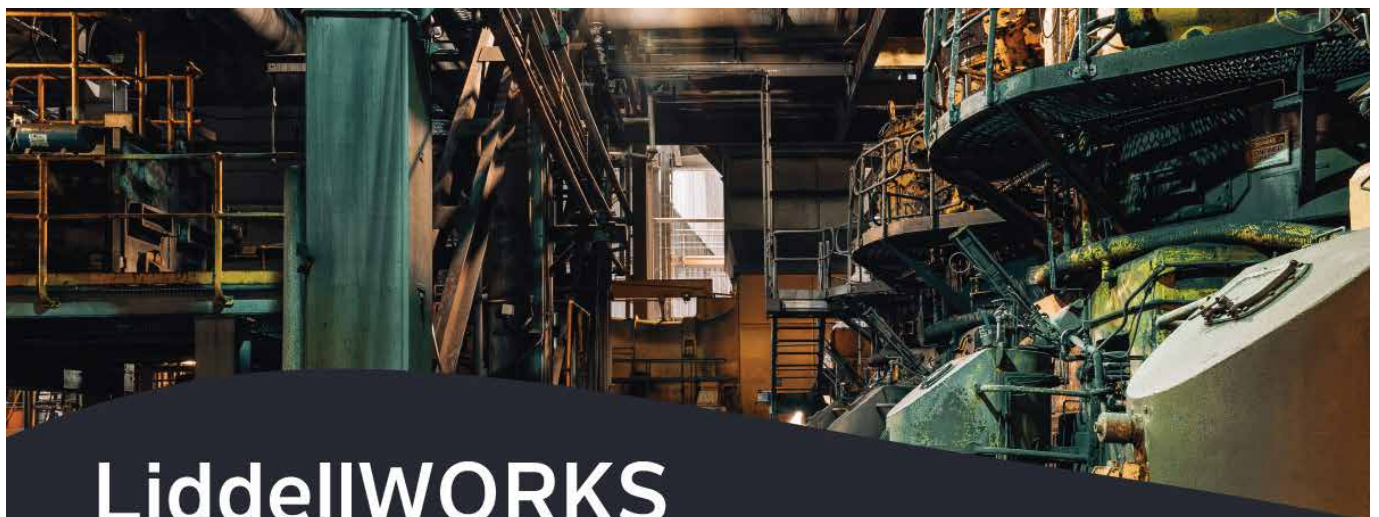
## Coming Up

▪ **LiddellWORKS Exhibition** - A major exhibition showcasing works from the creative program to mark the closure of Liddell Power Station will run across Muswellbrook Regional Art Gallery from Saturday 8 June and at Singleton Arts and Cultural Centre from Friday 14 June. The joint initiative between AGL and Arts Upper Hunter includes portraits, photography, sculptures, musical compositions and videography that tell the story of Liddell – honouring the history and capturing its transformation.

▪ **Business Breakfasts** - AGL is looking forward to providing updates to our community at the following events:

Tuesday 2 July – Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry Breakfast

Thursday 25 July – Business Singleton Breakfast



## LiddellWORKS

Sixteen artists entered the iconic power station in its last days, to create remarkable work that explores the legacy and transformation of the site and its people.

TimBLACK MarkBROWN SuellynCONNOLLY PennyDUNSTAN AnnaRANKMORE  
Andrew FRENCH-NORTHAM ToddFULLER HuwJONES FionaLEE WillMAGUIRE  
RachelMILNE RebeccaRATH KirriTOOSE FranWACHTEL LisaWISEMAN KaraWOOD

### Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre

EXHIBITION | 6 Jun - 3 Aug 24

OPENING EVENT | Sat 8 Jun, 4pm

### Singleton Arts + Cultural Centre

EXHIBITION | 8 Jun - 11 Aug 24

OPENING EVENT | Fri 14 Jun, 6pm



LiddellWORKS arts UPPER HUNTER

muswellbrook regional arts centre



SINGLETON ARTS + CULTURAL CENTRE



Image © Anna Rankmore



# Contact

If you'd like further detail about any of AGL's activities in the Hunter, please contact:  
[aglhunter@agl.com.au](mailto:aglhunter@agl.com.au)