



Hunter News

March 2024



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Next Generation Joins Bayswater

An exciting new career journey has started for eight apprentices and four VET trainees who joined Bayswater Power Station earlier this year.

Bayswater has a long tradition of developing skills and trades for the future and Ian Baldwin who has overseen apprentice training at Liddell and Bayswater for nearly nine years says it's an exciting time to be entering the industry.

"There are so many opportunities for anyone starting out in a trade or gaining formal training and our latest intake will be well positioned to be part of the energy transition towards a low carbon future," Ian said.

The electrical and mechanical apprentices spent their first two weeks completing site safety and



workshop inductions before transferring to Muswellbrook TAFE for the Mining and Energy Skills Program in February and they'll return to site full-time from mid-June.

The VET traineeship intake was boosted from two to four participants this year and they'll all complete a Certificate in Business Administration.

Applications for the 2025 intake will open in May 2024, anyone looking for further information about the apprenticeship and traineeship programs can contact ian.baldwin@agl.com.au.



Liddell Update



A focus on sustainability during the decommissioning of Liddell Power Station has delivered some inspiring outcomes.

With decommissioning work now more than 90% complete, the Liddell Transition team has managed to recycle or re-use 2,646T/KL of potential waste. These figures include the repurposing of more than 45kms of conveyor belt, more than 800,000 litres of transformer oil and more than 150,000 litres of turbine oil. On a smaller scale, alternate uses and new homes have also been found for everything from fabric filter bags, bearings and office furniture.

Decommissioning work is scheduled for completion in May and AGL continues to work with relevant regulatory bodies in our application for NSW State Significant Development Approval to safely demolish Liddell Power Station. A determination is expected late this year and the timeline for demolition will be confirmed at that point.

Significant progress has been made on the rehabilitation of Liddell Ash Dam with 92 hectares now capped to a safe, stable and non-polluting state. AGL is working closely with a number of Upper Hunter based First Nations businesses during this process, with nearly \$1 million injected into Indigenous procurement to date.



Liddell Battery Early Works Underway

Since confirming late last year that the 500MW two-hour duration, grid scale battery project will proceed, construction planning and preparation works are now well underway for the Liddell Battery.

Fluence has been appointed as the major contractor and will start mobilizing on site from June. The \$750 million project is expected to take two years to build with significant targets set around the employment of apprentices, local procurement – including 95% of steel being sourced locally (Australia and New Zealand) - and working with First Nations businesses. At the peak of construction more than 150 workers will be involved in the project.

“This is the first large-scale firming project for the Upper Hunter region and AGL is pleased to be leading the way,” said Project Manager Chirag Kakadiya.

“Pre-construction activity has started, geo-technical investigations are underway and we’re pleased the project will offer so many opportunities for local employment and businesses.

“It’s a flagship project for our area and for AGL, and after many years of discussions we’re excited to be rolling up our sleeves and getting on with the job.”



50 Years at Liddell

Our people took time out to honour the phenomenal contribution of Dallas Cunneen who celebrated 50 years working at Liddell last month.

After starting as a 16-year-old mechanical trade apprentice in 1974 Dallas went on to gain a Mechanical Associate Diploma and his unrivalled knowledge of Liddell has been a huge asset to the Transition team during the decommissioning phase.

"I feel I grew up with Liddell - sharing the same history through the decades including the high expectations and demands associated with a base load station," Dallas said.

When it came to the retirement of Liddell last year, Dallas was given the opportunity to remove the third of Liddell's four units from service.

"This was an emotional moment as I felt that over the years, Liddell had always been there working away, as Liddell staff left or

retired. Walking around the station in the final weeks before the station was taken out of service permanently, I sadly came to think of Liddell as retiring with age and leaving all of us behind to move on."

Asked what keeps him energised and keen to come to work after 50 years, Dallas said every day is different. "I enjoy continually learning from the work on station plant and system processes and the interactions with strongly supportive technical teams as well as supervision of a multi-trade skilled team facing daily challenges ranging from electrical, mechanical and chemical processes."

The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro Energy Storage project were issued by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure on 13 February 2024 which will enable the project to prepare the EIS (Environmental Impact Statement).

Following lodgement of the Project Scoping Report in December 2023, the Department consulted with government agencies to prepare the SEARs, which specify the requirements for the Project's EIS. [The SEARs are available for viewing on the NSW Government Planning Portal.](#)

Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro Pty Ltd is a joint venture, between AGL and Idemitsu Australia. The Project is exploring an innovative model whereby an existing mine void at Idemitsu's Muswellbrook Coal mine acts as the lower reservoir and nearby Bells Mountain is proposed as the location for the upper reservoir for a pumped hydro system that will provide up to 500 megawatts (MW) of electricity generating capacity and up to eight hours of energy storage.

In 2022, Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro Pty Ltd, was awarded \$9.45 million funding under the NSW Government's Pumped Hydro Recoverable Grants Program to advance development



Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro SEARs Issued

studies to a stage where the project is ready for investment.

The grant funding is being used to complete a targeted geotechnical due diligence program, detailed project design and connection studies to prepare the project for an investment decision.

A development application for geotechnical works at Muswellbrook Coal was approved by Muswellbrook Shire Council at the 27 February Ordinary Meeting. A second development application for geotechnical works at the proposed upper reservoir has been submitted, for the consideration of Council at the 26 March Ordinary Meeting.

For further information contact Melissa Cleary - Manager, Community Relations (NSW)
Mcleary2@agl.com.au

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Some of our dog-loving employees used their Volunteer Day to share their expertise and muscle for much needed building work at Dog Rescue Newcastle's Fullerton Cove Shelter recently.

Working under the supervision of Red the two-year-old kelpie, the team had a big day on the tools - digging trenches and building paths and a greenhouse.

All AGL employees are entitled to an annual volunteer day and any community organisation in need of a work force to assist with projects is encouraged to reach out to our Community Relations Manager Jo Ferguson (joanne.ferguson@agl.com.au).

AGL Out and About

In other community news Arts Upper Hunter has launched a terrific new website: www.liddell.works to showcase the creative program that seeks to honour the legacy of Liddell and capture its transformation. The site includes artist profiles and a sneak peak of some of the amazing works being created for the LiddellWorks exhibition that will run at Muswellbrook Regional Art Gallery and Singleton Arts and Cultural Centre from June.

On the weekend AGL joined in a panel hosted by Arts Upper Hunter discussing 'After Liddell'. The event was a feature of this year's Scone Literary Festival and AGL's Rob Cooper joined Dr Penny Dunstan, Dr Patrice Newell and Catherine Hickson in some robust conversations about the future of the Hunter Valley.

AGL is a proud sponsor of the Energy Hub at the 2024 Upper Hunter Show in Muswellbrook and we are inviting anyone interested in learning more about our operations to call in to our information booth on **Friday 15 and Saturday 16 March**. We'll have representatives from our Hunter Energy Hub team sharing details on the Liddell Battery, Liddell Transition team members providing updates on Liddell closure, apprentices sharing details of their experiences working with AGL, and we'll have plenty of interactive displays to show how energy is made.

Contact

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



Members of our Bayswater Leadership team and our Cultural Diversity and First Nations Committee took a trip to Baiame cave at Millbrodale recently to deepen understanding about Wonnarua culture. Uncle Warren Taggart was very generous in sharing his knowledge and his gift for storytelling was appreciated by all in attendance.