



AGL NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING No.15 HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS VIDEO-CONFERENCING ON THURSDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 10am


PRESENT	NAME	ORGANISATION
	Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chairperson
	Alison James (AJ) [Guest]	Department of Employment (federal)
	Peter Gesling (PG)	Hunter Business Chamber Representative
	Kourosh Maleklou (KM)	AGL - Asset Manager for NGSF
	Mayor, Cr Ryan Palmer (RP)	Port Stephens Council
	John Simpson (JS)	Hunter Water Delegate
	Joanne Ferguson (JF)	AGL – Community Relations Coordinator
APOLOGIES	Ken Page (KP)	Hunter Region Botanic Gardens
	Robyn Parker (RoP)	Tomago Aluminium
	Arianna Henty (AH)	AGL – Snr Land & Approvals Manager
	David Mudd (DM)	Environmental Business Partner – NSW Gas Operations
	Audrey Koosmen (AK)	Hunter Wildlife Rescue (NATF)
ABSENT	Carmel Northwood	Port Stephens Koalas
	Dianne Ball	Wahroonga Aboriginal Corporation

The CDG meeting was opened at 10.05am.

WELCOME	LA welcomed all attendees to the AGL Community Dialogue Group (CDG) and acknowledged all attendees joining the meeting via video-conferencing, thanking them for participating in this forum. LA introduced Jo Ferguson, Community Relations Coordinator from AGL Macquarie's Team who will filling in for Marina Draper who has left AGL.										
APOLOGIES	As listed.										
DECLARATIONS	LA advised that she is an Independent Chairperson, approved by the Department of Planning engaged by AGL to chair this CDG.	No changes to members' previous declarations.									
BUSINESS ARISING	The minutes from the previous meeting on 1/7/21 were finalised and emailed to member on 15/7/21. There were two action items from that meeting: <table border="1" data-bbox="470 1798 1141 2027"> <thead> <tr> <th>ITEM</th> <th>ISSUE</th> <th>BY WHOM</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Advise of size and species of additional planting required on the Offset Area by the Biodiversity Trust.</td> <td>MD</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Send CDG a link to AGL's website, which provides a full</td> <td>MD</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ITEM	ISSUE	BY WHOM	1	Advise of size and species of additional planting required on the Offset Area by the Biodiversity Trust.	MD	2	Send CDG a link to AGL's website, which provides a full	MD	David Mudd has responded, advising that the species to be planted will be native, consistent with the surrounding open forest community. Size was not specified in the audit report, however AGL is in
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	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>copy of the ASX media release regarding the AGL demerger. Complete – sent with minutes 15/7/21.</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>No other business arising from members.</p>	copy of the ASX media release regarding the AGL demerger. Complete – sent with minutes 15/7/21.		<p>the process of engaging an external consultant to develop a revegetation plan which will be submitted to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust for review & approval. This revegetation plan is due for submission within the 2021-2022 monitoring period.</p>
copy of the ASX media release regarding the AGL demerger. Complete – sent with minutes 15/7/21.				
CORRESPONDENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8/7/21 – Email to members with the draft minutes for review. • 15/7/21 – Email to members with the final version of the June minutes, the presentation and link to AGL’s media release for the demerger (Action Item 2). • 28/7/21 – Email from Marina Draper advising that she is leaving AGL and providing contact details for Catherine Mooney. • 29/7/21 – Email to MD thanking her for her assistance with the CDG and wishing her all the best in her future endeavours. • 15/9/21 - Email to members advising that the CDG will be held via video-conferencing, providing the link to participate as well as the, correspondence report and agenda for this meeting. • 28/9/21 – Email to members with a reminder for this meeting. 	<p>As provided with meeting notice – emailed 15/9/21 with 1 additional item.</p>		
NEWCASTLE POWER STATION UPDATE	<p>KM advised that there has been no change to the Power Station proposal. AGL have been speaking to the government, however, at the moment the power station is on the back burner and they are not moving ahead on the project in the near future.</p>	<p>There was no formal presentation. Questions asked and answered throughout KM's verbal presentation.</p>		
NEWCASTLE GAS STORAGE FACILITY - GENERAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KM advised that AGL have decided to place the NGSF asset up for sale and are currently going through the de-merger (as advised at the previous CDG). • AGL are speaking with interested parties and once this asset’s future is known, it will be shared with CDG members. • KM advised that AGL are almost finished the SENDOUT with the tank going down from 1500 terajoules to 350 terajoules. • Liquefaction – Filling the tank will start early in November 2021. Currently undertaking preparation works for this liquefaction phase including routine and pro-active maintenance. 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID has been the biggest issue to manage at this stage. A lot of effort has gone into protecting the Core crew, to ensure the plant and staff are safe by minimising contact. The support team go into the new building, which is kept separate; as well as accessing it via a separate entrance, temperature checks, etc. • One of the positive outcomes is that KM understands that AGL are the second business in NSW to introduce rapid antigen testing, which is undertaken 3 days per week on site. This is much quicker than waiting for standard COVID pathology testing results. The results from the rapid testing are received in 7-15 minutes. A negative result means that staff are able to commence work activities immediately. If a false positive test is shown, then staff are to remove themselves from site and obtain more detailed testing/medical attention. This policy is for staff, contractors and visitors going to site. 	
NEWCASTLE GAS STORAGE FACILITY – ENVIRONMENTAL	<p>As DM was an apology, KM provided the environmental update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The projects EPL Annual Return has been submitted to NSW EPA and AGL has complied with all license conditions for the 2020-2021 reporting period. • Results from the FY21 groundwater monitoring program indicated an increasing trend in nitrates within the north-western area of the site. While this trend had not exceeded the sites adopted nitrate threshold limit, it did warrant the need to investigate. • The investigation revealed that a septic tank used during construction activities had not properly been decommissioned, despite completion handover paperwork. Accordingly, it has now been, emptied, washed out, treated and will be filled with sand to ensure it is appropriately decommissioned. • Six-monthly water sampling recently completed as per the project’s requirements. Awaiting results to finalise investigation, anticipated outcome is that nitrate levels have stabilised. • Offset Audit – management of vegetation continues as planned and AGL is on track to meet the requirements of the BCT Audit undertaken earlier in the year. 	

LOCAL COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM	JF advised that the Local Community Investment Program – Round 3 FY 21 should be open this week. AGL will sponsor the Newcastle Fringe Festival again, however, still have \$13,000 to spend on community projects, so are keen to receive applications from relevant organisations.	Action: JF to advise LA when applications are open for dissemination to CDG members.
AGL UPDATE	<p>As advised at the last CDG, AGL are demerging into new entities. AGL Energy will become Accel Energy Limited, an electricity generation business focused on the accelerating energy transition.</p> <p>Accel Energy will demerge a new entity, AGL Australia Limited, a multi-product energy-led retailing and flexible energy trading, storage and supply business.</p> <p>This includes the sale of the NGSF asset and this sale is likely to occur over the next few months and should be finalised by 1/7/22 (end of financial year).</p> <p>JS asked if this action would be via the open market. KM confirmed that it wouldn't be an open market and that AGL is currently in talks with a selected number of interested parties.</p> <p>JS commented that Hunter Water would be very interested in knowing who the successful operator would be as in the past Hunter Water has worked very closely with AGL to ensure the protection of ground water in the area. Whilst Hunter Water was not happy with the location of the facility, it was important to ensure continuity of the catchment's protection. JS understands the market sensitivity and confidentiality around these business dealings, however, wants Hunter Water to be involved at the first available opportunity.</p> <p>JS also stated that he hadn't received the latest groundwater monitoring report from AGL and would be interested in looking at the Nitrogen results to further understand the issue.</p>	Action: Follow-up if reports have been submitted to Hunter Water.
GENERAL BUSINESS	Nil.	
NEXT MEETING	 Thursday 9 December , at the Hunter Region Gardens, commencing at 10am. (COVID restrictions dependant.)	LA to confirm.

Meeting closed at 10.29am with LA thanking members for their attendance and participation via video-conferencing.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Advise when next round of Local Community Investment Program is open.	JF
2	Follow-up whether ground water monitoring reports have been submitted to Hunter Water.	DM