



AGL NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING No.16 HELD AT THE HUNTER REGION BOTANIC GARDENS AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS VIDEO-CONFERENCING* ON THURSDAY 16 DECEMBER 2021 AT 10am

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

The CDG meeting was opened at 10.07am.

Acknowledgement of Country - "AGL recognises the Traditional Owners of the lands on which they work and they pay their respect to their Elders past, present and emerging."

WELCOME	LA welcomed all attendees to the AGL Community Dialogue Group (CDG) and acknowledged all attendees joining the meeting via video-conferencing & those in person. LA introduced Kevin Taylor, Head of Generation at Bayswater who is moving into the role of Head of Gas & Renewables, which will include NGSF as part of his portfolio. KT was invited to provide some background to the CDG.	
APOLOGIES	As listed above.	
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 30/9/21 were finalised and emailed to member on 18/10/21. There were two action items from that meeting:	

	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="475 129 571 163">ITEM</th> <th data-bbox="579 129 986 163">ISSUE</th> <th data-bbox="994 129 1137 163">BY WHOM</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="475 174 571 264">1</td> <td data-bbox="579 174 986 264">Advise when next round of Local Community Investment Program is open.</td> <td data-bbox="994 174 1137 264">JF</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="475 275 571 360">2</td> <td data-bbox="579 275 986 360">Follow-up whether ground water monitoring reports have been submitted to Hunter Water.</td> <td data-bbox="994 275 1137 360">DM</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ITEM	ISSUE	BY WHOM	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	<p>1 Complete – emailed to members on 11/10/21.</p> <p>2 John Simpson confirmed that the reports have been submitted.</p>
ITEM	ISSUE	BY WHOM									
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									
CORRESPONDENCE	<p>No other business arising from members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11/10/21 – Email to members advising that the AGL Community Investment Grants Program is open for applications with the closing date being 8/11/21. 11/10/21 – Email to members with the draft minutes for review. 18/10/21 - Email to members with the final version of the June minutes. 29/11/21 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice & Agenda for this meeting. 14/12/21 – Email to members with a reminder for this meeting and the video link. 	<p>As provided with meeting notice – emailed 19/11/21 with 1 additional item.</p>									
NEWCASTLE POWER STATION UPDATE	<p>KT advised that there are no charges to the AGL’s position provided at the last CDG.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late last month AGL’s Newcastle Power Station project received conditional approval from the Federal Government (Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999) following approval from the NSW Government earlier this year. Recently, the NSW Government decided to help fund Energy Australia’s gas power station proposal in the Illawarra and the federal government announced an intention to fund Snowy Hydro’s gas power station project in Kurri Kurri. Last year the NSW Government announced a policy that will create a new body to invest in new projects, the Consumer Trustee. Once the Consumer Trustee is ready to invite proposals for a future funding round, AGL may look to this as a mechanism to build the Newcastle Power Station. Until then, this project is on pause. AGL will keep CDG informed of any changes. 	<p>See attached presentation.</p>									
NEWCASTLE GAS STORAGE FACILITY - GENERAL	<p>KM advised that AGL has completed different updates and critical activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major Shutdown completed Plant is ready for liquefaction Several plant critical improvements completed This includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MRL compressor Variable Speed Drive Hazardous Area equipment verification Control System upgrade Burner upgrade Valve replacement Major maintenance activities completed as planned There has been a few inspections and reviews on site with EPA, DPIE & Safework NSW. As a result, no major concerns were raised. PL42, EPA and MHF annual reports submitted 										

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid Antigen Testing introduced and ongoing at NGSF and continuing to mitigate any risks to employees, contractors and visitors to the site. <p>JS commented on the groundwater monitoring program and upgrades to the plant; advising that he has held good discussions with AGL. Possible concerns in relation to the demerger and when it plays out. KT advised that there have been positive discussions on site with the acknowledgement of the location of NGSF and the location of the sand beds are well known to ensure AGL don't have any impact on the water table around the facility. AGL will still remain engaged with stakeholders moving forward in relation to the demerger.</p> <p>KM confirmed that the septic tank has been decommissioned (emptied, washed and filled with sand). JS commented that he Hunter Water is aware of the corrective action, advising that it will take a couple of years to negate the nitrate plume. This will be monitored.</p>	
<p>LOCAL COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM</p>	<p>JF provided an update on the Local Community Investment Program – Round 1 FY 22. Recipients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunter Region Botanic Gardens- \$5,000 • Newcastle Fringe Festival - \$5,000 • Newcastle Honey Competition – \$2,500 <p>JF thanked KP for providing her with a tour of the HRBG that morning and acknowledged all the work that the volunteers do.</p> <p>JF advised that AGL hope to open up the Round 2 FY22 program earlier and hold it open for a longer period to enable organisations more time to submit applications for funding.</p> <p>KT informed the committee of JF's activities at Bayswater/Liddell in coordinating staff to volunteer for local community projects. AGL sponsors & supports staff to work one day a year, fully paid and JF organises some worthwhile assignments for them. KP stated that HRBG would be happy to be considered as candidates for this initiative.</p>	
<p>AGL UPDATE</p>	<p>KT provided an overview of AGL's new Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2021 – 2023, acknowledging the local land council areas in and around its project sites:</p> <p>AGL is playing its part in acknowledging two centuries of dispossession and marginalisation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; and repairing the relationship between Australia's First Nations peoples and other Australians.</p>	

	<p>AGL's vision for reconciliation is a unified and inclusive Australia where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are respected and have equal voice, rights and opportunities for prosperity.</p> <p>AGL's strategy includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embracing truth telling • Building trusted relationships • Recognising and respecting • Supporting employment, education, training and mentoring programs • Leveraging our procurement scope <p>AGL are meeting with the RAPs to establish a Steering Committee and Advisory Council.</p>	
DEMERGER	<p>KT provided an update on the demerger:</p> <p>AGL Energy Limited (AGL Energy) is progressing with plans for demerger to create two leading energy businesses with separate listings on the Australian Securities Exchange.</p> <p>Under the demerger proposal, 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. AGL Australia will retain the AGL brand.</p> <p>KT explained the background of the Accel Leadership Team.</p>	
GENERAL BUSINESS	<p>KP enquired whether the storage facility is still on the market. KT responded that discussions had been held with one entity, however, this has recently ceased. AGL are re-evaluating its position, but are still looking to sell the asset. KT committed to keeping the CDG informed on this subject.</p> <p><i>Post Script: KM advised that he will provide an update on the highway upgrade at the next CDG, stating that the works will affect the pipeline and AGL are in discussion with Transport for NSW to ensure all construction is safe and coordinated.</i></p>	

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022	<p>LA proposed that the CDG 2022 schedule be held quarterly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Thursday 3 March ✚ Thursday 9 June ✚ Thursday 8 September ✚ Thursday 8 December, at the Hunter Region Gardens, commencing at 10am. (COVID restrictions dependant.) 	
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Meeting closed at 10.44am with LA thanking members for their attendance and participation throughout 2021, wishing all a safe and happy festive season.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Advise CDG when Round 2 of Y22 Local Community Investment Program is open	JF
2	Keep CDG informed of sale of NGSF	KT
3	Update on highway upgrade and coordination between AGL and Transport for NSW.	KM