



## AGL NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE GROUP

### MINUTES OF MEETING No. 20 HELD AT AGL's NEWCASTLE GAS STORAGE FACILITY, HEXHAM AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS VIDEO-CONFERENCING ON THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 10am

PRESENT	NAME	ORGANISATION
	Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chairperson
	Ken Page (KP)	Hunter Region Botanic Gardens
	Kourosh Maleklou (KM)	AGL - Asset Manager for NGSF
	Kevin Taylor (KT)	AGL – Head of Generation (Gas & Renewables)
	John Simpson (JS)	Hunter Water Delegate <i>[via video-conference]</i>
	Joanne Ferguson (JF)	AGL – Community Relations Coordinator
	Arianna Henty (AH)	AGL – Land & Approvals Manager
	Brock Lamont (BL)	Port Stephens Council - Strategy and Environment Section Manager
	Shane de Wit (SW)	Newcastle Airport Pty Ltd - Executive General Manager – Aviation <i>[invited guest &amp; observer]</i>
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Mayor, Cr Ryan Palmer	Port Stephens Council
	Robyn Parker	Tomago Aluminium
	Audrey Koosmen	Hunter Wildlife Rescue (NATF)
	Peter Gesling	Hunter Business Chamber Representative
<b>ABSENT</b>	Dianne Ball	Wahroonga Aboriginal Corporation
	Representative	Port Stephens Koalas

**The CDG meeting was opened at 10.13am.**

**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."

<b>WELCOME</b>	LA welcomed all attendees to the AGL Newcastle Gas Storage Facility Community Dialogue Group (CDG) being held on site. LA introduced SW, who was attending the CDG as an observer and invited guest.							
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	As listed above.							
<b>DECLARATIONS</b>	LA advised that she is an Independent Chairperson, approved by the Department of Planning engaged by AGL to chair this CDG.	<b>No changes to members' previous declarations.</b>						
<b>BUSINESS ARISING</b>	<p>LA reminded members that the Q4 (December 2023) meeting was cancelled due to a lack of numbers. The minutes from the Q3 meeting held on 5/10/22 were finalised and emailed to member on 20/10/22. There were two action items from that meeting:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>ITEM</th> <th>ISSUE</th> <th>BY WHOM</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Keep CDG informed of the sale of NGSF (ongoing)</td> <td>KT</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ITEM	ISSUE	BY WHOM	1	Keep CDG informed of the sale of NGSF (ongoing)	KT	<b>1 KT advised that there has been gas modelling undertaken over the last 6 months, relooking at strategies for the NGSF. Engaging with AEMO and</b>
ITEM	ISSUE	BY WHOM						
1	Keep CDG informed of the sale of NGSF (ongoing)	KT						

	<table border="1" data-bbox="472 342 1142 409"> <tr> <td data-bbox="472 342 571 409">2</td> <td data-bbox="571 342 991 409">Keep CDG informed about the highway upgrade (ongoing)</td> <td data-bbox="991 342 1142 409">KM</td> </tr> </table> <p data-bbox="472 450 962 479">No other business arising from members.</p>	2	Keep CDG informed about the highway upgrade (ongoing)	KM	<p data-bbox="1174 136 1358 286"><b>federal government for the long term viable future of this asset.</b></p> <p data-bbox="1174 327 1385 797"><b>2 KM advised that they have been speaking with Transport for NSW and should have a signed agreement by the end of this week. Acquisition of some land is necessary for the relocation of the pipeline near the corner of the Pac. Hwy.</b></p>
2	Keep CDG informed about the highway upgrade (ongoing)	KM			
<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	<ul data-bbox="472 808 1142 1294" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8/10/22 – Email to members with the draft minutes for review.</li> <li>• 20/10/22 - Email to members with the final version of the June minutes and presentation.</li> <li>• 28/11/22 - Email to members with the Meeting Notice, Agenda &amp; Correspondence Report for the Q4 December meeting.</li> <li>• 7/12/22 – Email to members with the cancellation of Q4 CDG due to lack of numbers.</li> <li>• 2/2/23 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice, Agenda and Correspondence Report for this meeting.</li> <li>• 20/2/23 – Email to members with the reminder for this meeting, video link and directions to site.</li> </ul>	<p data-bbox="1174 808 1369 898"><b>As provided with meeting notice – emailed 2/2/23.</b></p>			
<b>AGL UPDATE</b>	<ul data-bbox="472 1305 1142 1895" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KT provided a comprehensive update to members on AGL’s quarter year results, commenting on the Energy Market, underlying the net profit being down.</li> <li>• This has been impacted by Government interventions on coal and gas pricing, when it announced capping of export prices.</li> <li>• Major changes to the AGL board with four new members, bringing new views. There is an ambiguous program as AGL move away from coal with the earlier closures planned for Loy Yang, Bayswater &amp; Torrens Island power stations.</li> <li>• AGL is one of the leading solar developers and producers; working with shopping centres and hospitals to take advantage of large roofed areas.</li> <li>• Hydrogen power is being closely looked at as AGL consider replacing Liddell with a hydrogen facility.</li> </ul>	<p data-bbox="1174 1305 1326 1328"><b>Slides 22 - 25</b></p>			

<p><b>LAND &amp; APPROVALS UPDATE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AH informed the CDG about the proposed Tomago Battery, providing a detailed overview of the development application process.</li> <li>• Whilst AGL did get approval for the Newcastle Gas Fired Power Station, which has been placed on hold; they are moving to renewables so will decide which option they will proceed with. The proposed Tomago Battery project will be located in the same footprint, approximately 22 hectares.</li> <li>• The project is permissible with consent (State Significant Development).</li> <li>• It is not planned to lodge the DA under <i>Critical State Significant Development Infrastructure</i>, however, AGL has spoken with DPE who are aware of the pathway.</li> <li>• Currently engaging with stakeholder groups (Aboriginal Heritage, etc).</li> <li>• Consultants undertaking environmental, biodiversity and koala assessments.</li> <li>• KP suggested that Newcastle University be invited to use its thermal drones to assist with locating Koalas at night. PSC are currently using this technology, which has been accepted by the state government's Regional NSW Department, to map areas of Tomago.</li> <li>• BL commented on biodiversity, advising that a species of Froglet has been found in other Tomago areas.</li> <li>• KP commented on the 'vulnerable' grevillea (<i>Grevillea parviflora subsp. Parviflora</i>) identified; suggesting that the HRBG could assist with collecting cuttings and growing the plants off-site.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Slides 6 - 17</b></p>
<p><b>NEWCASTLE GAS STORAGE FACILITY – GENERAL</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KM advised that the EPA's Water Surface Management Team have been on site to audit on stream water collection. They were happy with what they saw.</li> <li>• There were a few very minor issues that were picked up and were able to be rectified on the spot.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Slides 19-20</b></p>
<p><b>NGSF COMMUNITY</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JF provided an update on the Round 1 – FY23 Local Community Investment Program.</li> <li>• Hunter Region Botanic Gardens - \$5000 contribution to growing the Palm Gardens.</li> <li>• Newcastle Fringe - \$5000 Primary Sponsorship.</li> <li>• Newcastle Show Honey making competition - \$2500.</li> <li>• Round 2 – FY23 of the Local Community Investment Program – has opened! Closing on Friday, 7 April 2023.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Slide 21</b></p>
<p><b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b></p>	<p>No general business.  <i>Note: AH will provide an update of the Tomago Battery DA lodgement process in August 2023.</i></p>	
<p><b>2023 MEETING DATES</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ <b>Thursday 25 May 2023</b></li> <li>✚ <b>Thursday 31 August 2023; and</b></li> <li>✚ <b>Thursday 23 November 2023</b>  <b>Commencing at 10am.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>KM commented that he was happy to hold future meetings on site.</b></p>

***Meeting closed at 11.08am with LA thanking members for their attendance and participation.  
Members then undertook a tour of the Facility under the guidance of KM.***

**ACTION ITEMS**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
1	Keep CDG informed of the sale of NGSF (ongoing)	KT
2	Keep CDG informed about the highway upgrade (ongoing)	KM
3	Keep CDG informed about the proposed Tomago Battery pathway	AH