

## AGL NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE GROUP

# MINUTES OF MEETING No. 24 HELD AT HUNTER REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS VIDEO-CONFERENCING ON THURSDAY 30 MAY 2024 AT 10am

PRESENT	NAME	ORGANISATION		
	Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chairperson		
	Kourosh Maleklou (KM) AGL - Asset Manager for NGSF*			
	Kevin Taylor (KT)	(T) AGL – Head of Generation (Gas & Renewables)		
	Joanne Ferguson (JF) AGL – Community Relations Coordina			
John Moraitis (JM)  AGL – Environment Manager  Arianna Henty (AH)  AGL – Snr Manager - Approvals		AGL – Environment Manager		
		AGL – Snr Manager - Approvals		
	Ken Page (KP)	Hunter Region Botanic Gardens		
	Carina Steinbakk (CS)	AGL – Project Manager, Battery Project		
	Dianne Ball (DB)	Wahroonga Aboriginal Corporation [arrived after meeting close]		
	Amelia O'Neill (AO)	AGL – Environment Manager, Battery Project		
	Gus Brown (GB)	Tomago Aluminium (alternate)		
APOLOGIES	Mayor, Cr Ryan Palmer	Port Stephens Council		
	John Simpson (JS)	Hunter Water Delegate		
	Robyn Parker (RP)	Tomago Aluminium		
	Audrey Koosmen (AK)#	Hunter Wildlife Rescue (NATF)		
ABSENT	Representative	Hunter Business Chamber		
	Representative	Port Stephens Koalas		

<sup>\*</sup>Attended via video-conferencing.

#### The CDG meeting was opened at 10.07am.

**Acknowledgement of Country** – KT delivered the Acknowledgement of Country. Recognising National Reconciliation Week and provided a brief history of Aboriginal voting rights, the Marbo decision and the need to improve policies to build more positive relationships.

WELCOME	LA welcomed all attendees to the AGL Newcastle Gas Storage Facility Community Dialogue Group (CDG) and introduced Carina Steinbakk & Amelia O'Neill. LA asked all attendees to state their name and position on the CRG to assist those joining on line.	
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 held on 29 February 2024 were finalised and sent to members on 20 March 2024. There were two action items:	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>#</sup> Attempted to log into Teams, however, was unable to join due to computer problems.

	ITEM	ISSUE	BY WHOM	1. Moved to
	1	Keep CDG informed about the proposed Tomago Battery pathway	AH	presentation.
	2	Provide Acronyms Sheet to CRG	LA	2. Complete – sent
		members.		20/3/24.
	No othe	er business arising.		
CORRESPONDENCE	15/3/24 – Email to members with the draft minutes for			As provided with
	review. • 20/3/24 - Email to members with the finalised minutes &			meeting notice – emailed 15/5/24.
	presentation.			emanea 15/5/24.
	15/5/24 – Email to members with Meeting Notice for this			
	CDG			
	• 24/5/24 – Email to members requesting RSVPs for this meeting.			
NEWCASTLE GAS		vided the NGSF Update:		Slide 4
STORAGE		·		
FACILITY	No major incident, MTIs or LTIs			
GENERAL	Send-out maintenance activities completed in May			
	<ul> <li>No major issues found</li> <li>Tank is 95% full – 1,400 TJ</li> </ul>			
	Ready for Send-out			
	Liquefaction maintenance activities planned from			
	June to August 2024			
	KM stated that he was in contact with road contractors,			
	John Holland and Transport for NSW, requesting plans,			
	so he can see how close the activities go to the pipeline. Could be potentially dangerous if too close. Managed			
		the work until correct process gets i	_	
ENVIRONMENTAL		menced by saying that it was good		Slide 5
UPDATE	CRG in person, as usually he is participating online. JM			
	went on	to provide the Environmental Upda	ате:	
	Prioritie	es:		
	Bushfire preparedness			
	• Wetlands			
	• Weeds			
	<ul><li>Water monitoring</li><li>Emergency drill</li></ul>			
	EITIE	ergency arm		
	Bushfire	e preparedness has commenced:		Slide 6
		Asset protection zones assesse	d	
		Perimeter tracks assessed		
		Preliminary fuel load assessment     Surrounding area will be send up		
		<ul><li>surrounding area will be condu</li><li>Work orders onsite for: clearing</li></ul>	-	
		gutters, checking escape routes		
	JM com	mented that it has been reportedly	>20 years	
		e last bushfire, so there is a large fu	-	Slides 7
		eeds to be calculated. Possible burn	•	
		approval is granted. Consultation w		
	and oth phase.	er stakeholders would occur in the	pianning	
	I priase.			

	Wetland ponds – vegetation management	Slide 8
	Reeds trimmed via mechanical methods	Since 0
	<ul> <li>Confirmed floating oil boom is in contact with water</li> </ul>	
	Reviewed work orders for pond maintenance	
	Neviewed work orders for porta maintenance	
	Pampas grass observed onsite mid-March and was	
	reported to the local control authority (Port	
	Stephens Council)	
	Pampas grass spreads by seed and rhizomes	
	Was completely removed and bagged for disposal	
	Will monitor the area going forward AGL is	
	preparing an Integrated Weed Management	
	Program across its assets.	
	Water monitoring conducted in March 2024	Slide 9
	Report will be emailed to:	
	<ul> <li>Hunter Water (John Simpson)</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Port Stephens Council (Kate Drinan)</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Dept of Planning and Env</li> </ul>	
	Report concludes no significant impacts to ground	
	and surface water, however:	
	o Elevated chromium at MW15 (toxic	
	hexavalent is low)	
	<ul> <li>Elevated nitrate at MW15 (instead of MW14)</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Elevated fluoride at MW19 (instead of MW16)</li> </ul>	
	Next round of sampling in September by GHD	
	Emergency Drill Exercise	Slide 10
	Emergency drill carried out in March 2024	
	Strong participation onsite	
	Scenario involved a large diesel spill from a truck	
	rollover at NGSF's front gate near Old Punt Road	
	with diesel travelling to the wetland area between	
	the site and Hunter River	
	Findings:	
	Need ability to block culverts (ordered sandbags,	
	have plywood ready)	
	Be aware that response to spills in Hunter River may	
	not be immediate o Updated the Pollution Incident	
	Response Management Plan	
COMMUNITY	Jo Ferguson provided a presentation on AGL in the	Slides 12 - 14
	community:	
	November I as an T20	
	Newcastle Premier League T20  Formed from the absence of competitive cricket	
	Formed from the absence of competitive cricket	
	opportunities in the Hunter region during winter.	
	320 players and 16 teams across the Hunter region.	
	Volunteering at Dog Rescue Newcastle Fullerton Cove	
	Shelter	
	\$30K supporting our Hunter community Hunter	
	Region	
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**Botanic Gardens:** "We are so thankful AGL supports our strategic plan to grow, conserve and promote plants and support the Hunter community through education and wellness in this amazing natural outdoor space. You're funding over the years, much of which has supported the upgrades of theme gardens has highlighted how sustainable our plants can be. I am particularly pleased Marc gave you a tour of the Palm garden as this AGL funded upgrade inspired so many. Thank you AGL on behalf of the 200 volunteers at Hunter Region Botanic Gardens – Susie Satorie, Director Business Services at Hunter region Botanic Gardens." Newcastle Fringe Festival -A Big Thank You to Principal Sponsor for 2024 "We are thrilled to announce that AGL has once again come onboard as a principal sponsor for the 2024 Newcastle Fringe Festival! AGL has been a proud sponsor of the Newcastle Fringe Festival for five consecutive years, and their continued support has been instrumental in our growth and success. We are incredibly grateful for their partnership and their belief in our festival's vision. Thank you, AGL, for your ongoing support and dedication to the Newcastle Fringe Festival. Together, we are making a positive impact on the Hunter arts scene and creating lasting memories for festivalgoers." Wahroonga Aboriginal Corporation Newcastle 2024 Toy Run NPL T20. KT provided a briefing on - Happenings Around AGL **AGL UPDATE** Slides 15 & 16 Discussion with NSW Government re NGSF Earnings Guidance Offshore Wind – Gippsland Skies Consortium Have been granted licence to explore Pottinger Energy Park (Between Hay & Deniliquin) Renewable Energy Project comprising of wind turbines, solar panels and battery. Australian Energy Market Operator – Electricity Statement of Opportunities 2024 Update Provided information on delays with renewable energy projects and roll out of transmission lines. NSW Government Agreement with Origin Energy on Eraring Power Station. Extended from 2025 to 2027. **TOMAGO Key Project Details:** Slides 17 - 21 **BATTERY PROJECT** Project Capacity – 500MW / 2000 MWh (4 hours). Providing grid stabilising generation and electricity storage.

	Transmission line from the battery project site to	
	either the 132kV Transgrid substation (north) or the	
	330kV Transgrid substation (south).	
	Connection to an existing switchyard, including	
	minor works to connect the Battery to the preferred	
	neighbouring substation.	
	AGL Community Grants Program to be initiated by	
	project operation date in 2028.	
	AH advised still trying to gain approval. AGL has	
	addressed agency submissions and responded to DPHI.	
	CS commented that Santos are proposing to go straight	
through the project site with its underground pipeline.		
	CS suggested that Transport for NSW, John Holland and	LA to contact
	Santos be invited to join the CRG. <b>Agreed.</b>	each
	, <b>,</b>	organisation.
	AGL New Team members:	
	Project Manager – Carina Steinbakk	
	Environment Manager – Amelia O'Neill	
GENERAL	JM asked GB whether Tomago Aluminium had	
BUSINESS	progressed with its fire trails and bushfire preparedness.	
	GB advised no, however, he would move to follow this	
	up. JM will contact GB to discuss further.	
NEXT MEETING	HRBG, commencing at 10am:	
	♣ Thursday 29 August 2024.	

# Meeting closed at 11.07am with LA thanking members for their attendance.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Keep CDG informed about the proposed Tomago Battery pathway (ongoing)	AGL
2	Write to Santos, Transport for NSW & John Holland inviting them to be	LA
	represented on the CRG	