



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)	AGL – Head of Generation (Gas & Renewables)
	Joanne Ferguson (JF)	AGL – Community Relations Coordinator
	John Moraitis (JM)	AGL – Environment Manager
	Arianna Henty (AH)	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 <i>[arrived after meeting close]</i>
	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

*Attended via video-conferencing.

Attempted to log into Teams, however, was unable to join due to computer problems.


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:	

	<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 about the proposed Tomago Battery pathway</td> <td>AH</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Provide Acronyms Sheet to CRG members.</td> <td>LA</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>No other business arising.</p>	ITEM	ISSUE	BY WHOM	1	Keep CDG informed about the proposed Tomago Battery pathway	AH	2	Provide Acronyms Sheet to CRG members.	LA	<p>1. Moved to presentation.</p> <p>2. Complete – sent 20/3/24.</p>
ITEM	ISSUE	BY WHOM									
1	Keep CDG informed about the proposed Tomago Battery pathway	AH									
2	Provide Acronyms Sheet to CRG members.	LA									
CORRESPONDENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15/3/24 – Email to members with the draft minutes for review. 20/3/24 - Email to members with the finalised minutes & presentation. 15/5/24 – Email to members with Meeting Notice for this CDG 24/5/24 – Email to members requesting RSVPs for this meeting. 	As provided with meeting notice – emailed 15/5/24.									
NEWCASTLE GAS STORAGE FACILITY GENERAL	<p>KM provided the NGSF Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major incident, MTIs or LTIs Send-out maintenance activities completed in May No major issues found Tank is 95% full – 1,400 TJ Ready for Send-out Liquefaction maintenance activities planned from June to August 2024 <p>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 to stop the work until correct process gets underway.</p>	Slide 4									
ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE	<p>JM commenced by saying that it was good to attend the CRG in person, as usually he is participating online. JM went on to provide the Environmental Update:</p> <p>Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bushfire preparedness Wetlands Weeds Water monitoring Emergency drill <p>Bushfire preparedness has commenced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset protection zones assessed Perimeter tracks assessed Preliminary fuel load assessments in surrounding area will be conducted shortly Work orders onsite for: clearing leaves and gutters, checking escape routes. <p>JM commented that it has been reportedly >20 years since the last bushfire, so there is a large fuel load mass, which needs to be calculated. Possible burn-off in April 2025 if approval is granted. Consultation with the CDG and other stakeholders would occur in the planning phase.</p>	<p>Slide 5</p> <p>Slide 6</p> <p>Slides 7</p>									

	<p>Botanic Gardens: <i>"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.</i></p> <p><i>Thank you AGL on behalf of the 200 volunteers at Hunter Region Botanic Gardens – Susie Satorie, Director Business Services at Hunter region Botanic Gardens."</i></p> <p>Newcastle Fringe Festival – A Big Thank You to Principal Sponsor for 2024 <i>"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."</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wahrenonga Aboriginal Corporation • Newcastle 2024 • Toy Run NPL T20. 	
<p>AGL UPDATE</p>	<p>KT provided a briefing on - Happenings Around AGL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>Slides 15 & 16</p>
<p>TOMAGO BATTERY PROJECT</p>	<p>Key Project Details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Capacity – 500MW / 2000 MWh (4 hours). • Providing grid stabilising generation and electricity storage. 	<p>Slides 17 - 21</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>AH advised still trying to gain approval. AGL has addressed agency submissions and responded to DPHI.</p> <p>CS commented that Santos are proposing to go straight through the project site with its underground pipeline.</p> <p>CS suggested that Transport for NSW, John Holland and Santos be invited to join the CRG. Agreed.</p> <p>AGL New Team members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Manager – Carina Steinbakk • Environment Manager – Amelia O’Neill 	LA to contact each organisation.
GENERAL BUSINESS	JM asked GB whether Tomago Aluminium had 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 represented on the CRG	LA