



AGL NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING No. 25 HELD AT HUNTER REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS VIDEO-CONFERENCING ON THURSDAY 29 AUGUST 2024 AT 10am

PRESENT	NAME	ORGANISATION
	Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chairperson
	John Simpson (JS)	Hunter Water Delegate
	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
	Eric Sun (ES)	AGL – Tomago Battery Project
	Amelia O’Neill (AO)*	AGL – Environment Manager, Battery Project
	Gus Brown (GB)*	Tomago Aluminium (alternate)
	Brett Hoad (BH)	Transport for NSW - Deputy Project Director M1 Extension to Raymond Terrace
	Monica Porte (MP)	John Holland & Gamuda Australia - Community & Stakeholder Engagement Lead
	Carlee Miller (CM)*	Santos – External Affairs Manager
	Andrew O’Neill (AO)*	CSR - Head of Corporate Property
APOLOGIES	Mayor, Cr Ryan Palmer	Port Stephens Council
	Mike Cowell	Port Stephens Koalas (<i>new Managing Director</i>)
	Kourosch Maleklou	AGL - Asset Manager for NGSF
	Robyn Parker	Tomago Aluminium
	Audrey Koosmen	Hunter Wildlife Rescue (NATF)
	Peter Gessling	Hunter Business Chamber
	Dianne Ball	Wahroonga Aboriginal Corporation

*Attended via video-conferencing.

The CDG meeting was opened at 10.07am.

Acknowledgement of Country – LA delivered the Acknowledgement of Country.

WELCOME	LA welcomed all attendees to the AGL Newcastle Gas Storage Facility Community Dialogue Group (CDG) and introduced Brett Hoad & Monica Porte. LA recognised those joining online and to assist asked all attendees to state their name and position on the CRG.	
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.

<p>BUSINESS ARISING</p>	<p>The minutes from the previous meeting held on 30 May 2024 were finalised and sent to members on 12 June 2024. There were two action items:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="475 275 1142 472"> <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>Write to Santos, Transport for NSW & John Holland inviting them to be represented on the CRG.</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	Write to Santos, Transport for NSW & John Holland inviting them to be represented on the CRG.	LA	<p>1. Moved to presentation.</p> <p>2. Complete – sent 14/6//24. Representatives here today.</p>
ITEM	ISSUE	BY WHOM									
1	Keep CDG informed about the proposed Tomago Battery pathway	AH									
2	Write to Santos, Transport for NSW & John Holland inviting them to be represented on the CRG.	LA									
<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5/6/24 – Email to members with the draft minutes for review. • 12/6/24 - Email to members with the finalised minutes & presentation. • 14/6/24 – Email to Transport for NSW & John Holland inviting them to provide representatives on this CDG. • 17/6/24 – Email from Transport for NSW accepting invitation and provide representative & alternate’s names and contact details. Acknowledged and sent previous minutes. • 17/6/24 – Email from John Holland accepting invitation and providing representative & alternate’s names and contact details. Acknowledged and sent previous minutes. • 19/7/24 – Email from T4NSW confirming delegates. (Distribution List updated) • 13/8/24 – Email to members with Meeting Notice for this CDG • 27/8/24 – Email from PSKH advising of new Managing Director, Mike Cowell. 	<p>As provided with meeting notice – emailed 13/8/24.</p>									
<p>NEWCASTLE GAS STORAGE FACILITY GENERAL</p>	<p>KT provided the NGSF Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major incident, MTIs or LTIs • Major maintenance activities in progress due to complete by mid-September • Send-out season complete • Tank level down to 465 TJ down from 1,450 TJ • 1st pigging campaign since completion of the plant • Pipe cleaned internally • Smart Pig – ILLI - ongoing • Ready for Liquefaction • Environmental activities and update in the following slides 	<p>Slide 4</p> <p>KT explained what a “pig” was. Action: Photos to be provided at next CDG.</p>									
<p>ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE</p>	<p>JM provided the environmental update for NGSF:</p> <p>Bushfire preparedness –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contractors have been onsite to oversee vegetation management for perimeter tracks • contractors will be assessing whether a burn should occur in April 2025 • organising drone imagery to assess bushland and provide before/after comparison <p>Environment update – water monitoring</p>	<p>Slide 5</p> <p>Slide 6</p>									


	<p>Latest monitoring report reviewed by AGL (Amelia/John). AGL has kept Hunter Water (John Simpson) aware of all findings:</p> <p>Increasing nitrogen at MW14 (still below thresholds):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaged with Ausgrid regarding concrete sewage tank at their facility nearby • Site inspection conducted with Hunter Water, Ausgrid and AGL • Plumbing tests to be carried out by Ausgrid (e.g. smoke test) to confirm if any leaks <p>Increasing dissolved chromium at MW14 (still below thresholds for hexalent)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unsure of the source • Have reviewed historical photographs and cannot ascertain source • Further monitoring in September 2024 <p>AGL has commissioned GHD to review the historical water monitoring results (7 years of data) and provide advice on tailoring the program</p> <p>AGL's instructions are that any changes must not increase the risk of environmental harm being caused or threatened</p> <p>GHD will look at the data and determine whether any changes can be justified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency of monitoring • Parameters that are monitored at each bore <p>Any proposed changes will be socialised to the community group, especially Hunter Water.</p> <p>JS did not raise any concerns on the NGSF water monitoring but mentioned that we need to consider risks to one of their main production bores to the north, due to the northern groundwater flow direction. Amelia will keep this in mind with upcoming NGSF Water Monitoring Review.</p> <p>Wetlands Vegetation removal has occurred to restore full functionality, large trees (Angophora) will be treated in-situ to avoid roots causing damage to liner</p> <p>Weeds No further sightings of Pampas Grass. AGL is preparing an Integrated Weed Management Plan to cover all sites including NGSF</p>	<p>Slide 7</p> <p>Slide 8</p>
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	<p>Medowie Offset Property All monitoring was completed for the year and a report will be produced soon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camera monitoring captured deer, but no cats or foxes this year • Security upgrades have occurred (gates, fences, locks) • Ecological monitoring completed (plots) • Weed surveys conducted 	
<p>COMMUNITY</p>	<p>Jo Ferguson provided a presentation on AGL in the community:</p> <p>Wahroonga Aboriginal Corporation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Donation of PS4 and additional controller to gift the youth space ➤ Donation of 10 redundant AGL work phones with purchase of 10 new chargers <p>Guparr Aboriginal Men’s and Youth Shed: A space where Aboriginal elders hope to encourage participation, create opportunities and change public perception while offering young people knowledge and guidance.</p> <p>Partnership with Hunter Region Botanic Gardens The Hunter Region Botanic Gardens is an environmental hub for the region supporting and educating many community groups, volunteers, schools and visitors from the Hunter and beyond.</p> <p>Achievements from funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Information and directional signage to enhance the visitor experience and to improve safety. ➤ Purchase of gazebos for events such as educational workshops, community activities, information booth on fair days and plant sales. ➤ Purchase of modern café furniture for the new outdoor area. ➤ Purchase of laptop to support volunteers in learning new digital skills and support administration of the garden's activities. ➤ Purchase of an urn and music equipment to support the community activities. <p>Projects planned for FY25:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Utility Project – purchase of a large storage tank and timing device for distribution of treated wastewater outside of peak visiting times. ➤ Shade Shelter – to build a community shelter in the palm garden for people to gather and enjoy the palms and rainforest setting with distant views to the wetlands. 	<p>Slides 9 - 11</p>

<p>AGL UPDATE</p>	<p>KT provided a briefing on – AGL’s FY24 Full-Year Results</p> <p>Strong earnings underpinning investment in the energy transition and returns to shareholders.</p> <p>Results Summary & Guidance:</p> <p>Embracing ESG – strong progress on our ESG focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Decarbonisation and portfolio transition ➤ Safety ➤ Gender equality and representation ➤ Reconciliation (procurement and recruitment) ➤ Community acceptance and social value ➤ Affordability <p>Transitioning AGL’s energy portfolio: Almost doubled the development pipeline to 6.2 GW1 , with continue focus on increasing optionality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued pipeline growth ➤ Delivering against targets ➤ Demonstrated progress <p>The development pipeline is accelerating, with new firming options added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ AGL continues to build a strong development pipeline that is diversified by technology and geography, enabling AGL to prioritise and sequence developments to respond to market signals ➤ Targeting earlier FID dates across the development pipeline to provide AGL with more energy procurement options ➤ AGL expects majority of firming capacity to be funded on balance sheet and majority of renewable generation capacity via joint ventures, partnerships and offtakes ➤ A portion or all of capital used to build wind projects is expected to be recycled <p>The acquisition of Firm Power and Terrain Solar significantly strengthens AGL’s development pipeline and options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Overview of acquisitions provided. <p>New firming capacity options under assessment and development: AGL is expanding its flexible asset options across asset classes – Pumped hydro, gas generation, next generation solar storage, coupled with an ambition to build and operate a leading battery portfolio in the NEM</p>	<p>Slides 12 - 23</p>
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	<p>Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro Project AGL and joint venture partner, Idemitsu Australia, welcomed the Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro project receiving Critical State Significant Infrastructure status from the NSW Government in July</p> <p>Significant progress across all three Energy Hubs including ten MoUs signed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hunter Hub ○ Torrens Island Hub ○ Latrobe Valley Hub <p>7.4 GW of flexible dispatchable capacity in operation or under construction places AGL in a strong position.</p> <p>Significant improvement in fleet performance, with higher availability and increased volatility captured</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Positive outcomes from increased investment in thermal fleet ○ Stronger volatility capture driven by higher thermal fleet availability. ○ Marginally higher generation volumes (normalised for Liddell Power Station closure in April 2023) 	
<p>TOMAGO BATTERY PROJECT</p>	<p>Key Project Details</p> <p>Project Capacity – 500MW / 2000 MWh (4 hours).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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. ○ Procurement process ongoing - targeting local suppliers <p>Schedule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AGL submitted the Response to Submissions to DPHI on 30/6/24. ○ Hoping to receive approval in September 2024 with construction to commence in Q2 2026-2028 and fully operational in 2028. 	<p>Slides 24 - 28</p>

	<p>Approvals Status</p> <p>Conditions of consent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •19/6/24 – AGL received Draft Conditions of Consent from DPHI •24/6/24 - AGL accepted the proposed conditions (however outlined some comments for consideration) <p>RFI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •19/6/24 - DPHI requested additional information re VPA and Old Punt Road access (NB: PSC discussions are ongoing) •5/5/24 -Biodiversity, Conservation & Science (BCS) provided recommendations •21/6/24 - AGL submitted response to BCS recommendations. •27/6/24 - BCS provided letter stipulating the need : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ for additional surveys to meet the requirements of the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) for inclusion in the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) for Small-flower grevillea, Leafless tongue orchid, Netted bottle brush, Singleton mint bush, Pterostylis chaetophora, Heath wrinklewort, Black-eyed Susan ➤ for additional surveys to meet the requirements of the BAM for Pale-headed Snake ➤ to develop species polygon for Large-eared Pied Bats and Eastern Cave Bats and generate associated credit liability ➤ to develop species polygon for Squirrel Glider and generate associated credit liability <p>BCS Remaining Actions:</p> <p>AGL will update of BAM and BDAR with assumed presence for species nominated by BCS and associated generation of credit liability to facilitate approval of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to complete additional post-approval surveys to ensure surveys conducted within suitable species survey window. The BDAR will be revised to incorporate findings of additional surveys including a reassessment of credit liability. Surveys to be conducted, as per BCS recommendations, and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Targeted flora surveys in western area for Small-flower grevillea, Leafless tongue orchid, Netted bottle brush, Singleton mint bush, Pterostylis chaetophora, Heath wrinklewort, and Black-eyed Susan. ○ Pale headed Snake with funnel trap. • Generation of polygon and credit liability for the Large-eared Pied Bats, Eastern Cave Bats and Squirrel Glider to meet BCS requirements. 	
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	No questions raised in relation to the BCS matters for Tomago.	
GENERAL BUSINESS	<p>BH advised of the new motorway interface with Old Punt Road. Design is now out. Not touching the pipeline. Working with Jemena & Ausgrid.</p> <p>MP commented that the design changes avoided the pipeline's relocation. Old Punt Road will need to be closed (long term temporary – 12 months). Will facilitate right turn out of Tomago to head north. Emergency access arrangements have been made.</p> <p>MP also advised that there is project communications distribution list. LA requested to be added to this, so she can forward information to CCC members.</p> <p>JS advised that Hunter Water has signed a 10 year energy supply agreement with AGL.</p> <p>AH commented on Williamtown Airport being invited to future meetings.</p>	Agreed. MP to add LA to distribution list.
NEXT MEETING	<p>HRBG, commencing at 10am:</p> <p> Thursday 28 November 2024.</p>	

Meeting closed at 11.32am with LA thanking members for their attendance and contribution.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Keep CDG informed about the proposed Tomago Battery pathway (ongoing)	AGL
2	Provide photographs of "pigs"	KT
3	Add Chair to the M1 Pacific Motorway Project Communications distribution list. (Complete)	MP

LINKS: AGL's Reconciliation Action Plan:

[Reconciliation Action Plan | About AGL](#)

Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro – NSW Planning Major Planning Portal:

[Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Project | Planning Portal - Department of Planning and Environment \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)