



AGL NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING No. 25 HELD AT HUNTER REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS VIDEO-CONFERENCING ON THURSDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 10am

PRESENT	NAME	ORGANISATION
	Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chairperson
	John Simpson (JS)	Hunter Water Delegate
	Joanne Ferguson (JF)	AGL – Community Relations Coordinator
	John Moraitis (JM)	AGL – Environment Manager
	Kourosh Maleklou	AGL - Asset Manager for NGSF (<i>left at 11.01am</i>)
	Ken Page (KP)	Hunter Region Botanic Gardens
	Eric Sun (ES)	AGL – Tomago Battery Project
	Amelia O’Neill (AO)*	AGL – Environment Manager, Battery Project (<i>online</i>)
	Rob Cooper (RC)	AGL – Community Manager (<i>left at 11.01am</i>)
	Leisel Parmansche	AGL - Intern
	Brett Hoad (BH)*	Transport for NSW - Deputy Project Director M1 Extension to Raymond Terrace (<i>online</i>)
	Kate Drinan (KD)	Port Stephens Council – Natural Systems Coordinator
	Leigh Ridgeway (LR)	NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group & Worimi Board member (guest/observer)
APOLOGIES	Mayor, Cr Leah Anderson	Port Stephens Council
	Monica Porte (MP)	John Holland & Gamuda Australia - Community & Stakeholder Engagement Lead
	Robyn Parker (RP)	Tomago Aluminium
	Gus Brown (GB)*	Tomago Aluminium (alternate)
	Kevin Taylor (KT)	AGL – Head of Generation (Gas & Renewables)
	Arianna Henty (AH)	AGL – Snr Manager - Approvals
	Dianne Ball (DB)	Wahroonga Aboriginal Corporation
ABSENT:	Mike Cowell	Port Stephens Koalas (<i>new Managing Director</i>)
	Peter Gessling	Hunter Business Chamber

*Attended via video-conferencing.

The CDG meeting was opened at 10.03am.

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 Leigh Ridgeway, NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group and Worimi Board Member. 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.												
BUSINESS ARISING	<p>The minutes from the previous meeting held on 29 August 2024 were finalised and sent to members on 16 September 2024. There were two action items:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="475 383 1142 611"> <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 photographs of "pigs"</td> <td>KT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Add chair to the M1 Pacific Motorway Project Communications distribution list.</td> <td></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 photographs of "pigs"	KT	3	Add chair to the M1 Pacific Motorway Project Communications distribution list.		<p>1. Completed. Project approved 22/11/24. 2. Complete – included in presentation. 3. Complete. Chair now receiving updates.</p>
ITEM	ISSUE	BY WHOM												
1	Keep CDG informed about the proposed Tomago Battery pathway	AH												
2	Provide photographs of "pigs"	KT												
3	Add chair to the M1 Pacific Motorway Project Communications distribution list.													
CORRESPONDENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6/9/24 – Email to members with the draft minutes for review. • 16/9/24 - Email to members with the finalised minutes & presentation. • 4/10/24 – Email to members with the latest Community Update for the M1 Motorway project (Raymond Terrace) • 14/10/24 – Email to Remondis inviting them to join the CDG. • 15/10/24 – Email to members with the Transport for NSW Community Engagement Survey M1 Pacific Motorway extension to Raymond Terrace, if interested in participating. • 18/11/24 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice, Agenda & Correspondence Report for this meeting. • 26/11/24 – Email to members with reminder for this meeting. 	As provided with meeting notice – emailed 18/11/24 with 1 additional item.												
NEWCASTLE GAS STORAGE FACILITY GENERAL	<p>KM provided the NGSF Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major incident, MTIs or LTIs • Liquefaction commenced early September • Filling tank continues • Tank level 1,130 TJ • Ausgrid industrial action affects some maintenance works 	Slide 4												
ACTION ITEM 2 (PIGS)	<p>Action Item 2 from the previous minutes was to provide photographs of "pigs". A descriptive presentation was provided by KM, including photographs of the 3 differing types that clean and scrap the gas pipes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PIGGING = a method to clean or inspect the internal bore of pipelines ○ PIG = pipeline inspection gauge ○ The PIG is inserted into a 'pig launcher' and then travels along the pipeline to a 'pig receiver' ○ There are different types of PIGs that serve different purposes <p>JM commented that bacteria can accumulate on the sides of the pipeline which can cause deterioration. It took 52 minutes for each pig to complete the 5km line.</p>	Slide 5												

ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

JM commenced the Environmental Update with the Bush Fire Preparedness of the NGSF site:

- Fuel loads have decreased substantially from recent fire
- Asset protection zones are now cleared
- Bushfire accredited assessor has completed assessment and believes adequate preparation is in place
- Vegetation to the south and west (TAC land) was not burnt and may have a high fuel load
- AGL is progressing with having all vegetation on its property assessed
- Next emergency exercise may involve a forced escape through the fire trails to the south
- Fire detection cameras (Sensenet) are being trialled at another AGL site
- The cameras monitor a range of parameters (gases, particulate matter, thermal changes, smouldering matter, fires)
- If trial is successful, AGL will investigate applicability to NGSF and the surrounding area

AO provided an update on the results of the water monitoring undertaken on site:

- Groundwater and surface water sampling completed in accordance with the Operations Water Management Plan.
- September 2024 Monitoring Results:
 - within historic fluctuations
 - below the adopted analyte threshold criteria except for total chromium at MW14 and fluoride at MW16
- Review of ongoing monitoring program requirements to be completed
 - any changes must not increase the risk of environmental harm being caused but given data set (over 8 years of data) opportunity to refine monitoring frequency and analytical program.
 - any proposed changes will be socialised to the community group, esp. Hunter Water.

JS advised that Ausgrid has a bore near the septic tank facility, but testing has shown no leaks. JS & JM has been working with Ausgrid to try and sort out the elevated nitrogen plume from stormwater. There have been delays due to recent industrial relation at Ausgrid. Whilst the results are not a concern at this stage and are localised, AO is undertaking an audit of all chemicals held on site.

Slide 7-9

Slide 10

	<p>Medowie Offset Property</p> <p>JM recommenced his presentation, showing photographs of vegetation, trees, feral animals & security breaches.</p> <p>Medowie Offset Property:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report finalised and sent to BCT • Natural regeneration has progressed well • Carnivorous plant and various orchids were spotted by the ecologist • Deer continue to be an issue • Trailbikes are accessing a corner of the property <p>JM explained to LR where the location of the offset property was and ongoing issues with trespassing.</p> <p>LR advised that the Aboriginal Land Council has its own "Green Team" who carry out cool burns to get rid of debris. JM said that AGL hope to do theirs in April 2025.</p>	<p>Slides 11-15</p>
<p>COMMUNITY</p>	<p>Jo Ferguson provided a presentation on AGL in the community, showcasing sponsorships:</p> <p>Newcastle Hunters NPL T20 Over 300 players registered from the community played across 16 teams from various communities and backgrounds.</p> <p>2024 Deadly Awards Local Youyoong AECG annual Deadly Awards recognised the achievement of Aboriginal students who have excelled in fields of learning, sport or leadership. Staff who have made a special contribution were also honoured. Recipients included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 19 Primary Schools ➤ 5 High Schools ➤ 128 students recognised ➤ 3 Deadly Students Year 6, Year 10 & Year 12 received a laptop ➤ 2 Deadly Community Awards ➤ 2 Deadly Staff Awards <p>Dianne Ball – Executive Director of Wahrenonga Aboriginal Corporation JF recognised the important work provided by DB for her community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Dianne Ball was the first Aboriginal woman to graduate Year 12 in her country of Gumbangerri (Armidale). ✓ She moved to the Port Stephens in the mid 90's and co-founded the Wahrenonga Aboriginal Corporation in 1994 in response to local need. The organisation guides service users through 	<p>Slide 16</p> <p>See photographs of players</p> <p>See photographs of recipients</p> <p>Slide 19</p>

	<p>programs including emergency relief, family support, housing, employment and medical services. She is now Executive Director.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Order of Australia Medal (OAM), 2020 for service to the Indigenous community of the Hunter ✓ Member, Port Stephens West Local Health Committee. ✓ CEO of the Karuah Aboriginal Land Council. ✓ Deputy Chair, Awabakal Ltd. Awabakal provides health care, aged care and family services to Aboriginal people in the wider Newcastle region. ✓ Founding Member, Raymond Terrace Driver Training Program, which aims to help disadvantaged young people learn vital safe driving skills. <p>NGSF Christmas Giving (Annual Newcastle Toy Run)</p>	Slide 20
AGL UPDATE	<p>RC provided the AGL Update explaining how AGL are driving Australia's decarbonisation journey by connecting its customers to a sustainable future and transitioning its energy portfolio.</p> <p>Transitioning of AGL's Energy Portfolio with new firming capacity options under assessment and development. Explained that AGL is expanding its flexible asset options across asset classes with 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>Flexible Operations at Bayswater</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bayswater has been utilised for most of its life as a 'base load' power station, with the generating units operating as designed to a maximum of 660MW per unit. ▪ The changing electricity market requires a more flexible approach to generation. When renewables are supplying the market, Bayswater is now capable of lowering the minimum operating output. ▪ When renewables are not supplying the market, Bayswater can increase supply to meet demand. 	<p>Slide 22</p> <p>Slides 23 – 26</p> <p>Slide 27</p>
TOMAGO BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM	<p>ES presented on the recent approval of the TBESS state significant development approved by the Minister on 22/11/24. A two year process.</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). 	Slide 28 - 33

- 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

JF congratulated the project team, who have worked very hard to obtain this approval.

Tomago Battery Site Weed Management

Presented by AO

- Council notified AGL of an outbreak of a high priority weed (Groundsel Bush) - email on 30 Sept 2024
- Site inspection with Council, AGL and AGL engaged ecologist (Coolburn) undertaken on 8 Oct 2024
- Worimi Green Team engaged for weed control works:
 - slash at ground level after the flowering period and prior to seeding (Dec/Jan).
 - spot spraying plants within areas of vegetation that will not be cleared (exclusion zone)
 - Pampas Grass and Mother of Millions identified during site visit to be treated
- Ongoing monitoring and management to be included in Biodiversity Management Plan (condition of consent):
 - identify and treat any new plants in spring 2025.
 - plants will be destroyed once clearing for battery construction.

Schedule/Timeline for BESS

- Project approved 22/11/24
- Construction – Q2 2026 – 2028
- Operational from 2028.

Post Approval Requirements

Conditions of Consent includes the following requirements to:

Complete:

- a new access point off Old Punt Road
- an independent dilapidation survey
- detailed plans of final layout and notify of dates of commencement in Portal

	<p>Preparation of :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic management plan in consultation with TfNSW • Biodiversity Management Plan in consultation with BCS • Heritage Management Plan in consultation with Heritage NSW and Aboriginal stakeholders • Fire Safety Study in consultation with FRNSW and DPHI • Environmental Management Strategy to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary • VPA agreements with PSC. 	
<p>GENERAL BUSINESS</p>	<p>KP stated that the announcement of the battery project was well received and recognised the work undertaken by the AGL team, especially AH.</p> <p>JS commented on the positive work JM has been doing with weed issues on the site, especially Pampas Grass.</p> <p>JS stated that concerns have been raised with Transport for NSW in relation to the fire access. There has been illegal trespassing on Hunter Water land, which has led to two incidents of dumping, resulting in a fire destroying 80 ha of vegetation in September. It appears that illegal access has occurred as a result of contractors working on the M1 extension project. Police and PSC have been involved and Hunter Water is currently looking at ways to block off this area to keep vehicles and trail bikes out.</p> <p>LR advised that a recent clean-up by his group of the Stockton Dunes (38km in length), resulted in 20k tonnes of rubbish being collected. Generally from illegal campers. Discussions on availability of waste removal services.</p> <p>LR thanked AGL for its sponsorship of the Deadly Awards, saying his group wished to work with AGL in the future on other projects and to invest in apprenticeships for aboriginal kids.</p> <p>JM thanked AO for her work on the BESS project as well as JS for his assistance with Ausgrid.</p> <p>LR stated that he was interested in being a member of this CDG. LA responded that he was an important stakeholder in the area.</p>	<p>Action: LA to send LR nomination forms.</p>

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2025	<p>LA suggested a change in next year's schedule from Thursdays to Wednesdays due to a conflict with another AGL site. No objections raised. Still on a quarterly basis, the last week of the month at the HRBG, commencing at 10am:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Wednesday 26 February 2025 ✚ Wednesday 28 May 2025 ✚ Wednesday 27 August; and ✚ Wednesday 26 November. 	No objections.
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Meeting closed at 11.23am with LA thanking members for their contribution throughout 2024 and wishing all a safe and happy festive season.

ACTION ITEM

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Send nomination form to LR	LA