



Legal Notice: Please note that this document is only a reflection of the comments, questions and conversations that occurred during the meeting. All comments captured have been paraphrased.

Project	Newcastle Gas Storage Facility	From	Barbara Campany
Subject	Community Consultative Committee	Tel	9239 7283
Venue/Date/ Time	Wednesday 4 th July, 2012 Hunter Region Botanic Gardens 11:00am – 12:30pm		
Copies to	All attendees		

Attendees	Apologies
David Hough (DH)– Newcastle City Council	Sue Hogan (SH)– Project Support
Audrey Koosman (CCC)– Native Animal Trust Fund	
Clr Geoff Dingle (GD)– Port Stephens Council	
Peter Rains (PR) – Tomago Caravan Park	
Marc Fitton (MF) – Tomago Aluminium Company	
Amy Spadaro (AS)– Port Stephens Council	
Ashleigh Killingly (AKI) – Hunter Water	
Jan Noble (JN) – Hunter Region Botanic Gardens	
Aaron Clifton (AC) – CCC	
Tim Knill(TK) – Project Manager	
Naomi Rowe (NR) – Community Relations Manager - AGL	
Arianna Henty (AH) – Land and Approvals Manager - AGL	
Gino Bortolotto (GB) – Project Construction Manager - Worley Parsons	
Shawn Capararo (SC) – Ecobiological	
Barbara Campany (BC) – Facilitator (GHD)	
Dominic Nolan (DN) – Facilitation Support (GHD)	

Topic	Action
Barbara Campany Welcome by facilitator; acknowledgement of Garuaghal people of the Worimi Nation; introduction of CCC members and AGL project team.	
1. Objectives of the CCC meeting and general overview of the NGSF Project.	
▶ BC – Expressions of interest for the CCC went out to neighbouring communities. Letter box drops were sent out to Old Maitland Road, Hexham and to residents in Tomago. So far no responses.	
▶ CCC – If someone contacts us about joining, who do we direct them to?	
▶ NR – Let AGL know and we'll get in contact with them.	
▶ BC – Observers are also welcome and there are protocols in place to accommodate this process.	
TK – AGL's expectations/general overview:	



- ▶ AGL will continue to update the website and will also be installing a webcam on site so the community can see the construction process from the website.
- ▶ AGL are required to respond to project enquiries within 48 hours (to date there have been 25 enquiries through email).
- ▶ The Environmental Management Plan along with the other relevant documentation will go up on the website shortly.
- ▶ Construction notifications will go out to the local community prior to any major works. Newsletter will be published every three months.
- ▶ **CCC –Caravan park notice board was offered as a distribution point for construction notifications.**
- ▶ AH – AGL will also use the notice board at the entrance of project site office at Hexham.

TK – AGL’s expectations/general overview (cont.):

- ▶ AGL to build facility on land purchased from Tomago Aluminium comprising of two access corridors and a single pipeline over the Hunter River, to the Jemena gas receiving station.
- ▶ AGL propose a low pressure pipeline to supply Tomago Aluminium. A small sub-station will be built on site in order to connect the facility to the power grid.
- ▶ Stormwater pipeline will be constructed and will run into one of the local waterways.
- ▶ Clearing works to commence once federal approval has been received (State approval granted 10 May 2012).
- ▶ **CCC – Question regarding how much land will be used.**
- ▶ AH – Approximately 33.3 hectares
- ▶ **CCC – Concern that the pipeline going into Tomago Aluminium hasn’t been approved yet.**
- ▶ TK – AGL will be working with the Department of Planning (DP&I) to develop a suitable route.
- ▶ AH – The pipeline was envisaged in the original planning however a route to the Tomago site has not yet been determined. It is not on a critical path.

TK – Why is AGL building the gas storage facility?

- ▶ Newcastle is on the end of the existing gas network and home to a lot of large gas users. The demand for gas will grow and AGL intends to use the pipeline more efficiently. The gas will be stored in summer (low demand time) and reinjected in winter (peak time). All the gas will be cooled to -168 degrees Celsius and stored as a liquid (taking up less than 1/60th of the space). It will be turned back to gas using gas burners.
- ▶ **CCC – Question regarding sources for population prediction (Referring to page four of presentation – attached to the minutes).**
- ▶ TK –Data was supplied by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO).
- ▶ **CCC – Question regarding the energy requirements for converting liquid gas back to its original form.**
- ▶ TK – The facility will be a substantial energy user. Most of the equipment will be run with electricity. There will be approximately 1% efficiency loss. Still more efficient in terms of storage capacity.



2. Project update including timeline and 3 month forecast

TK – Project timeline:

- ▶ The project went on Public Exhibition in July 2010 and received state approval on 10 May, 2012.
- ▶ Land purchase was finalised last month.
- ▶ Federal approval expected by the end of July and Environmental Protection License imminent. Approval for Environmental Protection Licence is imminent.
- ▶ Finalising the Environmental Management Plan with DP&I. Submittal by the end of the week. The turnaround period for DP&I is usually a month.
- ▶ Works on the facility, tank and pipeline to start early 2013. Commissioning date is April 2015. The life of the facility is 30 years.
- ▶ **CCC – Question regarding workforce numbers**
- ▶ TK – 300 short term jobs with 15 permanent positions during operations.
- ▶ **CCC – Question regarding educating contractors about injured wildlife.**
- ▶ TK – All staff on site will attend an induction covering health and safety, flora and fauna and indigenous heritage as outlined in Flora and Fauna Management Plan (prepared by Ecobiological in conjunction with AGL).
- ▶ AGL is consulting with the Local Aboriginal Land Council with regard to input into the indigenous heritage part of the induction.

AGL to commit to consulting with the Native Animal Trust Fund in regards to the flora and fauna issues covered in the site inductions. Will further discuss at Flora and Fauna meeting (July 26)

1. CCC Protocols, Terms of Reference (ToR) and meeting minutes

- ▶ Members must share information with the people and groups they represent, as well as bring forward any questions or concerns. All of the information and reports made available in these meetings will be published on project website.
- ▶ As stated in the ToR, members should not speak to the media on behalf of the CCC. Requests by media to attend CCC meetings will be a decision made by AGL.
- ▶ **CCC – Request for ToR to document how AGL will communicate to the broader community regarding CCC meetings (e.g. advertorials)**
- ▶ AGL will advertise to the broader community two weeks prior to each meeting. Those interested will be asked to register.
- ▶ **CCC – Car pooling can also be arranged from the caravan park.**
- ▶ **CCC – Question regarding attendance at community open days?**
- ▶ AH – No one came to the event in Hexham and eight came to the one at the Tomago Bowling Club.
- ▶ **CCC – Question regarding road closures.**
- ▶ AC - There will be movements along the northern access road during the first stage of the project. More information will be available in the Community Engagement Plan (available on project website shortly).
- ▶ **CCC – Question whether meeting minutes will be available to the public?**
- ▶ GHD will prepare the minutes. They will be distributed via email

Action: Update TOR to include Newcastle City Council

Action: ToR to state that an open invitation will be placed in the local paper two weeks prior to each CCC meeting

Action: AGL will email draft minutes to CCC members (hard copy upon request) 2 weeks after each meeting. CCC comments to be completed within 2 weeks of receiving the minutes. Minutes will be confirmed at next



(hard copy upon request) to members as a draft two weeks after each meeting. Members will have two weeks to include input. Draft minutes will then go online and will then be confirmed at the next meeting,

- ▶ Members to hold off distributing minutes until all input and feedback has been finalised and minutes reissued.
- ▶ Agreement for CCC members' names and organisation titles to be on minutes (not email addresses).

meeting.

Members will not distribute minutes until they are confirmed at the next meeting (reminder will be included in email)

2. General update on flora and fauna management – presentation by Ecobiological – Shawn Capararo

- ▶ Ecobiological was commissioned to conduct an ecological impact assessment in 2009-2010.
- ▶ Coastal Sand Apple – Blackbutt Forest and the Seaham Spotted Gum – Ironbark Forest were found to cover the most area.
- ▶ The Swamp Mahogany – Paperbark Swamp Forest are an endangered eco community. Approximately one hectare will be impacted by the access road. Overall impacts include the removal of approximately 19 hectares of native vegetation.
- ▶ Over 314 species of plants have been recorded, approximately 40 of which are exotic. One threatened plant was recorded, the Earp's Gum. Nine threatened species of fauna including five types of bat, lorikeet, the New Holland Mouse, and a number of squirrel gliders. Koalas are also present in the area.
- ▶ The access road has been modified. Removal of 60 Earp's Gum reduced to four.
- ▶ A number of koala feed trees have been identified. The team has marked out their primary and supplementary habitats. Some of their primary habitat will be removed during the project.
- ▶ AGL has acquired approximately 113 hectares for offset which will be protected and managed under conservation agreements.
- ▶ **CCC – Question regarding the current state of the land acquired for offset**
- ▶ SC –The forest has a history of timber extraction but is essentially in good condition. Small areas will require rehabilitation, however most of the area will be able to rehabilitate naturally.
- ▶ Other mitigation measures include delineation of boundaries as well as pegging out and formally barricading areas. There have also been successful attempts to propagate the Earp's Gum with the Hunter Botanical Gardens.
- ▶ Over 350 hollow bearing trees will be removed from the Tomago site. Each hollow-bearing tree has been marked, identified to species and rated according to size and style of hollow. Hollow bearing trees will be left standing for a minimum of two nights following clearing of surrounding vegetation to let the hollow-dependent fauna naturally move away from the area.
- ▶ **CCC – Question regarding nestbox installation**
- ▶ SC – No nest boxes will be provided. Some hollow logs will be relocated to the new locations within the confines of the area
- ▶ **CCC – Some animals have permanent habitats and there is more opportunity for AGL to look into further options.**
- ▶ AGL – At this point it's not part of AGL's management plan to install nest boxes. AGL will relocate a certain amount of hollow bearing logs with potential for more to be relocated.



- ▶ **CCC –Would like to see nest boxes on site and on adjoining land (e.g. in the trees along the pipeline)**
- ▶ **CCC – Will the hollows being relocated be those harvested from trees and reinstalled up in live trees, or will it be only ground logs in the new locations?**
- ▶ AC – AGL have permission to clear a 30 metre easement for the pipeline and will be clearing that full area. Locations for hollow bearing logs will be decided upon by the onsite ecologist.
- ▶ **CCC – Question regarding AGL’s action plan for when fauna is found in a hollow tree**
- ▶ SC – The tree will be marked and left standing for two days. On site ecologists will be directing the clearing team. A soft fell approach will be used whereby marked trees will be left for two nights allowing wildlife to relocate. All fauna leaving the site will be recorded and monitored. Local vet will be notified if injured wildlife found.
- ▶ **CCC – Request for AGL to consult with Tomago Aluminium and Hunter Water with regard to placing hollows within trees on their property**
- ▶ **CCC – Request from Native Animal Trust Fund for AGL to keep the original hollows that injured fauna are found in.**
- ▶ AC – Requests will be discussed at the upcoming flora and fauna meeting. Other mitigation measures will include trapping the week before clearing, reinstating topsoil and mulch and supplementary plants.

Action: AGL to investigate into whether harvested tree hollows can be installed within trees on neighbouring land.

AGL to report back on actions from the flora and fauna meeting back to the CCC.

3. General business

- ▶ AGL to amend ToR for confirmation at next meeting.
- ▶ ToR should state that any presentations will be put on the AGL website.
- ▶ Further comments about the ToR can be made to BC during the week and she will pass details onto AGL.
- ▶ Barbara will send her contact details to CCC members.
- ▶ Tokens for the carpark – AGL will cover costs.
- ▶ Potential items for the next meeting’s agenda include:
 - Water quality, management and monitoring
 - Fire management
 - Feral animal management
- ▶ Any further ideas for next the meeting agenda can be sent to Barbara.
- ▶ AH – AGL are working with Port Stephens Council and RMS to have signs with project contacts and information put up in the area.
- ▶ Alternate members – CCC members to nominate an alternative representative in the event they are unable to attend a meeting.
- ▶ Calendar dates for the next 18 months were distributed to members. Botanic Gardens to confirm availability of venue for these dates.
- ▶ Meeting closed 13:05

AGL to distribute Flora and Fauna presentation to CCC.

Barbara to provide her contact details to the CCC.

Action: Botanic Gardens to confirm to AH availability of venue for proposed meetings dates

Next meeting – Thursday 4 October, 2012