



AGL NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE HUNTER REGION BOTANIC GARDENS, HEXHAM ON THURSDAY 5TH MARCH 2020 AT 10AM

PRESENT	NAME	ORGANISATION
	Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chairperson
	Ken Page (KP)	Hunter Region Botanic Gardens
	Ernesto Calderon (EC)	AGL – Community Relations Manager
	Arianna Henty (AH)	AGL – Senior Land & Approvals Manager
	Cr Paul Le Mottee (PLM)	Port Stephens Council alternate delegate
	John Simpson (JS)	Hunter Water Delegate
	Dianne Ball (DB)	Wahroonga Aboriginal Corporation (<i>arrived at 10.28am</i>)
GUEST	Carolyn Chenery (CC)	Department of Employment (federal)
APOLOGIES	Andrew Smith	Worimi Aboriginal Land Council
	Robyn Parker	Tomago Aluminium
	Cr Ryan Palmer	Mayor - Port Stephens Council
	Peter Gesling	Hunter Business Chamber Representative
	Trevor Anderson (TA)	AGL's Operations Manager for NGSF
	Andrew Carman (AC)	AGL – Power Station Project Manager
	Nicola Gardner	AGL - HSE
ABSENT	Audrey Koosmen	Hunter Wildlife Rescue (NATF)
	Carmel Northwood	Port Stephens Koalas

The CDG meeting was opened at 10.11am.

WELCOME	<p>LA welcomed all attendees to the AGL Community Dialogue Group (CDG) and re-introduced Carolyn Chenery, Delivery and Employer Engagement Branch of the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment.</p> <p>LA acknowledged the passing of Geoff Dingle, a community representative on this CCC and ex-Port Stephens Councillor.</p> <p>A package of documents was provided to all members by EC, including a hard copy of the presentation and summary of applications for Q1 2020 – Local Community Investment Program. LA noted that there were 10 applications being presented by organisations at the end of this CDG meeting.</p>	Note: Name change of Australian Government Department.
APOLOGIES	As listed.	
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	No action items from the previous meeting.	
CORRESPONDENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13/12/19 - Draft minutes to members for review. 20/12/19 – Email to members with the finalised minutes. 10/1/20 – Email to CDG members advising that the Community Grants Program was being advertised and inviting community groups to apply. 22/2/20 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice, Agenda & Correspondence Report for this meeting. 	As provided with meeting notice – emailed 22/2/20.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3/3/20 – Email to members with the updated agenda for this meeting. 	
NEWCASTLE POWER STATION PROJECT	<p>EC commenced the AGL presentation with AC's apologies and an overview of the Newcastle Power Station Project.</p> <p>AH informed the CDG that the Project Manager is currently assessing tenders and considering estimates. She provided a summary of the submissions received during the exhibition phase of the development application, the issues raised and consultation with government agencies.</p> <p>Workstream Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The application is a controlled activity under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act due to the location of the Ramsar Wetlands, accordingly it has been referred to the Department of Environment & Energy (Federal). RAAF have made a submission regarding possible plume rise effect on aircraft due to the location of the project to Williamtown Airport and Military Base. AGL has engaged a civil aviation consultant to address this matter. Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) provided comments regarding its proposed M1 Motorway extension through the project site. Biodiversity offsets will be required (15.5ha of native vegetation for squirrel glider habitat and 3 x federally listed Earps Gum for koala habitat. Biodiversity credits will be purchased and easements are currently being negotiated. AH advised PLM that easements were being delayed with PSC's legal team and asked if he would assist in making enquiries on AGL's behalf to expedite, as the project is deemed Critical Infrastructure Development by DPIE and the timeline is very short. <p>Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EIS was placed on public exhibition in November 2019 and closed in December 2019. 26 submissions were received (9 in support, 5 in objection & 12 were neutral/or provided comments. Overall the outcome was considered positive. AGL's response to submissions (RTS) will take place until mid-2020. <p>Engaging local and Aboriginal industry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPSP partnered with industry bodies in the Greater Newcastle area in order to inform the local and Aboriginal businesses about the project and ways in which they could participate. It was agreed to provide an industry brief with the support of the University of Newcastle and its research and innovation division. Approximately 150 representatives attended the industry brief. Industry bodies Hunter Business Chamber, the AI Group, Industry Capability Network, The Department of Education, Skills and Employment and Hunternet will help build links between the local industry and the select tenderer. <p>What's Next</p> <p>Keep a fluent communication both with the community and stakeholders. Provide transparent information that's easy to understand. Provide news, not surprises.</p>	<p>See separate presentation.</p> <p>KP commented that HRBG met with TfNSW, who will be amending its design so it doesn't go through their property.</p> <p>Action: PLM to make relevant enquiries.</p> <p>PLM commented that a new policy has replaced SEPP 44 as of 1/3/20. Known as SEPP 44 – Koala Habitat Protection.</p> <p># See link at end of minutes.</p> <p>PLM also commented on the front page of the Newcastle Herald regarding Nuclear Power, which could be a direct competitor for AGL.</p> <p>*See link to article at end of minutes.</p>

NEWCASTLE GAS STORAGE FACILITY	<p>EC provided a presentation on the NGSF commencing with TA's apologies due to his involvement in an on-site audit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plant has been running in liquefaction mode for some time now. AGL is filling the tank ready for the increase in customer demand leading into winter. • Several plan process safety upgrades have been undertaken to take advantage of new monitoring and shutdown technologies. • The facility has weathered the bushfire season with no threats or issues. Audits were undertaken on safety systems to ensure the site was ready for any environmental threats that the fires may have posted (heat, flames, smoke, air quality, etc) • Upgrades to power back-up systems have been completed at the site. • Working at heights recovery system (tank) has been installed for increased personal safety. • SafeWork NSW Major Hazard Facility Division completed its audit on the 28th February 2020. • Environmental Update • Air emissions testing being undertaken in the coming weeks in accordance with project approvals. • Six monthly groundwater and surface water monitoring being undertaken in accordance with project approvals. • Autumn flora and fauna monitoring and maintenance being undertaken at AGL's offset property and around NGSF. 	<p>See presentation.</p> <p>PLM enquired about the site's bushfire preparedness regarding possible ember attack. Comments were provided from the previous minutes where the Bush Fire Management Plan was discussed.</p> <p>Action: Question taken on notice regarding embers.</p>
GENERAL BUSINESS	<p>PLM advised that DB had received an Australia Day honours award and congratulated her on her commitment and contribution to the community of Raymond Terrace and broader outreaches. DB advised that she will be receiving the Order of Australia medal at a formal presentation at Government House, Sydney.</p> <p>JS advised that he noticed on the DA tracker that AGL NGSF had lodged a development application with PSC for storage shed to be located on the western part of the facility and was curious to know what it would be used for.</p> <p>PLM stated that AGL must be a good community neighbour as he has not heard any negative comments regarding its projects.</p> <p>JS further observed that at the stakeholder engagement forum, which included the Ethics Council, this was also the general sentiment.</p>	<p>LA congratulated DB on behalf of the CDG.</p> <p>Action: Question taken on notice – TA to advise.</p>
NEXT MEETING	<p>🚩 Thursday 4 June, 2020 at 10am. (The venue for the CDG is usually the HRBG, however, with the COVID-19 (coronavirus) situation, it is likely to hold the meeting remotely via internet connection. ARRANGEMENTS TO BE CONFIRMED CLOSER TO THE DATE.</p> <p><i>This section of the meeting closed at 10.52am with members taking a 10-minute break for morning tea, prior to consideration of the Local Community Investment Program presentations. CC left at this time.</i></p>	
LOCAL COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM	<p>Meeting recommenced at 11.03am.</p> <p>EC advised that the Local Community Investment Program was advertised in December 2019 in the following publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🚩 Port Stephens Examiner 🚩 Maitland Mercury 🚩 Newcastle Herald and 	

	<p>🚩 Facebook paid advertising for three LGAs.</p> <p>10 applications were received from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bikers for Kids – 2020 Newcastle Toy Run 2. Centre for Hope – The Drop, Wallsend 3. Hunter Region Botanic Gardens – Safety & Signage 4. Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council – Youth Basketball 5. Medowie Christian School – Agriculture System 6. Medowie Christian School – Renewable Energy 7. Port Stephens AF Club – Equipment 8. Samaritans Foundation – Aboriginal Art Program 9. Stockton Sharks JF – Training goals 10. Tomaree Neighbourhood Centre – Early Intervention Project <p>The CDG received presentations from 9 of the applicants, who were provided 5 minutes to explain their proposed project.</p> <p>All applications met the criteria and were worthy of support, however, the CDG were clear in advising organisations that the amount of applications received, outweighed the money available in the fund.</p> <p>Whilst the decision to allocate sponsorship of the groups remains with AGL, the members of the CDG provided its comments and recommendations to the company for its consideration and final determination.</p>	<p>AGL to advise CDG of final outcome.</p>
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Meeting closed at 1.05pm with LA thanking members for their attendance and contribution.

SEPP 44 – Koala Habitat Protection link:

<https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/EPI/2019/658>

NEWCASTLE HERALD ARTICLE LINK:

*<https://www.newcastleherald.com.au/story/6661832/bombshell-call-as-nationals-back-hunter-nuclear-reactor/?cs=7573>

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	ISSUE	BY WHOM
1	Advise purpose of proposed storage shed at NGSF	TA
2	Provide advice on NGSF's bushfire preparedness against possible ember attack	TA
3	Enquire with PSC Legal Team on expediting easement applications	PLM
4	Report back to CDG with outcome of LCIP applications	EC