



AGL NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING 15 HELD AT THE HUNTER REGION BOTANIC GARDENS, HEXHAM ON THURSDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 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 <i>arrived at 10.40am</i>
APOLOGIES	Andrew Smith	Worimi Aboriginal Land Council
	Cr Ryan Palmer	Mayor - Port Stephens Council
	Peter Gesling	Hunter Business Chamber Representative
	Robyn Parker	Tomago Aluminium
	Kourosh Maleklou	AGL's Operations Manager for NGSF
	Andrew Carman	AGL – Power Station Project Manager
	Nicola Gardner	AGL – HSE (<i>on maternity leave</i>)
	Carolyn Chenery (Guest)	Department of Employment (federal)
	David Mudd	Environmental Business Partner – NSW Gas Operations
ABSENT	Carmel Northwood	Port Stephens Koalas
	Audrey Koosmen	Hunter Wildlife Rescue (NATF)
	Dianne Ball	Wahroonga Aboriginal Corporation

*Participated in the meeting via Microsoft Teams (video conferencing).

The CDG meeting was opened at 10.05am.

WELCOME	LA welcomed all attendees to the AGL Community Dialogue Group (CDG) and introduced all attendees joining the meeting via video-conferencing, thanking them for participating in this forum. LA confirmed that the meeting was being held in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines, social distancing, hand sanitiser, health declarations, etc.			
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	ITEM	ISSUE	BY WHOM	Held over as DM not in attendance.
	1	Keep CDG members updated on Hunter Bush Fire Management Plan	DM	
CORRESPONDENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17/6/20 - Draft minutes to members for review. 30/6/20 – Email to members with the finalised minutes. 22/8/20 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice, Agenda, Correspondence Report and the proposed Power Station EIS amended report. 31/8/20 – Email to members with the log-in details for video/tele-conferencing, as well as the ASX & Media Release about AGL's agreement for the acquisition of Click Energy. 			As provided with meeting notice – emailed 22/8/20 with 1 additional items.

<p>NEWCASTLE POWER STATION PROJECT (SLIDES 5-8)</p> <p>WORKSTREAM UPDATE</p>	<p>EC provided members with an update on the Newcastle Power Station Project.</p> <p>PLM enquired whether there was anything outstanding with Port Stephens Council. AH advised that there was a meeting scheduled this week with AGL & Council's Legal Team to finalise matters; thanking PLM for his assistance.</p> <p>The assessment timeline for the Newcastle Power Station Project was explained. (Slide 5)</p> <p>AH advised that AGL staff and consultants have been busy behind the scenes since June preparing the Response to Submissions. Some of the reports have been updated and minor changes made (lay down areas, crushing screens, air monitoring, etc). There will be no additional impacts to these works. The reports have been sent to the agencies for a two week period for them to respond. AGL hope to receive draft conditions of consent by December 2020. The Department of Agriculture, Water & Environment have 30 days to add its conditions, as the development is a controlled activity.</p> <p>PLM commented that it may be presumptuous of AGL to say that it will be receiving an approval. AH responded that AGL has been working very closely with the Department of Planning and remain confident in the project being granted approval with conditions applied.</p>	<p>See separate presentation.</p>
<p>EIS – AMENDMENT REPORT</p>	<p>The 'Amendment Report' was lodged with the Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE) on 14th August 2020 and was accepted on 27th of August 2020. It makes small amendments to the original EIS submission, including provision of two lay-down areas.</p> <p>The report is supported by seven expert studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Biodiversity Development Assessment Report ○ Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report ○ Air Quality Impact Assessment ○ Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment ○ Preliminary Hazard Assessment ○ Traffic Assessment ○ Political Donations Disclosure Statement <p>The report details engagement that AGL has undertaken to address the concerns of key stakeholders, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW Environment Protection Authority • RAAF • Transport for NSW. <p>Further notification included the following stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port Stephens Council • Transgrid • Newcastle Gas Storage Facility • Landholders in the vicinity within a 2 km radius. 	
	<p>What's Next:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal DPIE assessment of the NPSP proposal. • DPIE has sent the amendment report to agencies for further comment, which could prompt more queries. • Once the potential additional queries are resolved, DPIE will proceed with recommendations and final determination, expected to take place by the end of this calendar year. • Tenderers are contacting local businesses and industry bodies assessing the level of local participation. • AGL will keep stakeholders and the community informed of the project's progress. 	
<p>NEWCASTLE GAS STORAGE FACILITY (Slides 10 & 11)</p>	<p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plant has completed liquification in March. • Gas send out (vaporisation) to supply NSW started in June. • COVID-19 slowed down all maintenance and capital project activities. • We have been mainly in SENDOUT mode since June. • Several plant critical process safety tests and routine inspection and maintenance completed. • In July, the mercury guard bed replaced with a new bed to capture mercury in the gas. • NGSF recognised as one of the best prepared plants in dealing with COVID-19. • NGSF new warehouse is complete. <p>Environmental Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Emissions testing was undertaken on H-101 Unit in April with no exceedance reported. • 6-monthly groundwater and surface water monitoring was undertaken in September with no exceedance reported • Air Emissions testing being undertaken on F-501A, B & C Heaters in June/July. • National Pollution Inventory (NPI) and Sustainability Data being collated and submitted at the end of July. 	
<p>LOCAL COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM (Slides 12 & 13)</p>	<p>EC provided CDG members with an update on the LCIP financial year 2021 – Round 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AGL Newcastle Gas Storage Facility's Local Community Investment Program is open. • Applications will be received until the 30th of September 2020. • Promotion: • Online ads on Facebook within the Port Stephens, Maitland and Newcastle areas. • Printed ads on Port Stephens Examiner and Maitland Mercury. • Request for further promotion to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member for Port Stephens • Port Stephens Council • Maitland Council • Newcastle Council • Following COVID-19 restrictions, supporting presentations won't take place on this occasion. Applications and summary will be sent to CDG members to request their advice. <p>AGL NGSF Bushfire Support for Wildlife</p>	<p>Action: EC to send through information for LCIP FY 2021 – Round 1 for distribution to CDG members.</p>

	<p>EC advised that it is calculated that more than a billion animals died in Australia during the bushfire season between 2019 and 2020, with at least 800 million of these losses in NSW and VIC. Still, these numbers are very conservative.</p> <p>AGL established a partnership with the Biodiversity and Conservation Division of the DPIE. We jointly assessed organisations that were best positioned to make the most of relief funds.</p> <p>Organisations selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port Stephens Koala Hospital • Hunter Wildlife Rescue Currently evaluating future collaborations. <p>PLM informed the group that the Koala Hospital was operational and was a wonderful facility, providing sanctuary to injured and sick koalas. He is confident that countless numbers of people will visit this resource to see the good work that the volunteers are doing.</p> <p>EC advised that some initiatives approved the last round of community grants for the financial year needed to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restriction not enabling the projects to proceed. Accordingly some community groups were identified to receive funding from AGL to assist them in their response in supporting members of the community during the pandemic.</p> <p>Photographs were shown of the community groups who received COVID-19 Relief Funding from AGL NGSF (Tomaree Neighbourhood Centre, Yacaaba Centre & Port Stephens Family and Neighbourhood Services).</p>	
GENERAL BUSINESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLM commented that he has not heard anything negative about the AGL Newcastle Gas Storage Facility or the proposed Gas Fired Power Station and therefore was of the opinion that the community must be comfortable with them. 	
NEXT MEETING	<p>📅 Thursday 3 December, 2020 at the HRBG, commencing 10am. Arrangements will be confirmed by LA closer to the date, based on the current government directives for the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	

Meeting closed at 10.32am with LA thanking members for their attendance and contribution.

Note: JS arrived just after the closure of the meeting due to a previous engagement. JS went through the presentation with EC who answered questions posed and took the following question on notice:

- 1 *Could further information be provided on the Mercury Guard Bed replacement that captures mercury in the gas; including its management, what controls in place and the volumes that are anticipated. (Comment from JS: Mercury is a hazardous material and would be dangerous if it was to leak from the site.)*
- 2 *In relation to the power station development application; is everything proceeding okay with the commonwealth Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) process? (Comment: The pre-approval conditions can take some time to work through.)*

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	ISSUE	BY WHOM
1	Keep CDG members updated on Hunter Bush Fire Management Plan	DM
2	AGL to send through information for LCIP FY 2021 – Round 1 for distribution to CDG members (complete 3/9/20).	EC
3	Further information to be provided on the Mercury Guard Bed	KM
4	Provide update on EPBC process	AH