



AGL NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING No.17 HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS VIDEO-CONFERENCING ON THURSDAY 3 MARCH 2022 AT 10am

PRESENT	NAME	ORGANISATION
	Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chairperson
	Mayor, Cr Ryan Palmer (RP)	Port Stephens Council
	Corina Sabatini (CS)[Guest]	Department of Employment (federal)
	Ken Page (KP)	Hunter Region Botanic Gardens
	Kourosh Maleklou (KM)	AGL - Asset Manager for NGSF
	Kevin Taylor (KT)	AGL – Head of Generation (Gas & Renewables)
	John Simpson (JS)	Hunter Water Delegate
	Joanne Ferguson (JF)	AGL – Community Relations Coordinator
	Audrey Koosmen (AK)	Hunter Wildlife Rescue (NATF)
	David Mudd (DM)	Environmental Business Partner – NSW Gas Operations
APOLOGIES	Alison James (AJ) [Guest]	Department of Employment (federal)
	Robyn Parker (RoP)	Tomago Aluminium
	Peter Gesling (PG)	Hunter Business Chamber Representative
ABSENT	Carmel Northwood	Port Stephens Koalas
	Dianne Ball	Wahroonga Aboriginal Corporation

The CDG meeting was opened at 10.03am.




Acknowledgement of Country - "AGL recognises the Traditional Owners of the lands on which they work and they pay their respect to their Elders past, present and emerging."

WELCOME	LA welcomed all attendees to the AGL Newcastle Gas Storage Facility Community Dialogue Group (CDG) and acknowledged all members joining the meeting via video-conferencing, due to the inclement weather.										
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 on 16/12/21 were finalised and emailed to member on 11/1/22. There were two action items from that meeting:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>ITEM</th> <th>ISSUE</th> <th>BY WHOM</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Advise CDG when Round 2 of Y22 Local Community Investment Program is open.</td> <td>JF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Keep CDG informed of sale of NGSF.</td> <td>KT</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ITEM	ISSUE	BY WHOM	1	Advise CDG when Round 2 of Y22 Local Community Investment Program is open.	JF	2	Keep CDG informed of sale of NGSF.	KT	1 Complete – emailed to members on 17/1/22. Closing date for applications is 24/3/22. Community Groups encouraged to apply.
ITEM	ISSUE	BY WHOM									
1	Advise CDG when Round 2 of Y22 Local Community Investment Program is open.	JF									
2	Keep CDG informed of sale of NGSF.	KT									

	<table border="1" data-bbox="475 129 1145 230"> <tr> <td data-bbox="475 129 571 230">3</td> <td data-bbox="571 129 1145 230">Update on highway upgrade and coordination between AGL and Transport for NSW.</td> </tr> </table> <p data-bbox="475 271 1145 304">No other business arising from members.</p>	3	Update on highway upgrade and coordination between AGL and Transport for NSW.	<p data-bbox="1169 136 1385 226">2 Included in presentation. See update.</p> <p data-bbox="1169 232 1385 450">3 AGL continuing discussions with Transport4NSW. Meeting proposed in mid-March to look at the site and prepare plans.</p>
3	Update on highway upgrade and coordination between AGL and Transport for NSW.			
CORRESPONDENCE	<ul data-bbox="475 456 1145 952" style="list-style-type: none"> • 20/12/21 – Email to members with the draft minutes for review. • 11/1/22 - Email to members with the final version of the December minutes • 17/1/22 – Email to members advising that the latest round of community grant funding application is open. • 11/2/22 – Email to members with AGL’s half yearly announcement. • 16/2/22 – Email from PSC advising that the Mayor, Cr Ryan Palmer will continue on this CDG as its delegate. • 16/2/22 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice & Agenda for this meeting. • 2/3/22 – Email to members with a reminder for this meeting and the video link. • 3/3/22 – Email to members advising that CDG would be held via video-conferencing due to inclement weather. 	<p data-bbox="1169 456 1385 607">As provided with meeting notice – emailed 16/2/22 with 2 additional items.</p>		
NEWCASTLE POWER STATION - GENERAL	<p data-bbox="475 965 746 999">KM informed the CDG:</p> <ul data-bbox="475 1005 1145 1444" style="list-style-type: none"> • Several plant critical improvements have been completed. • Liquefaction has commenced. • Several major plant critical improvements have been completed. • Some major power dips tripped the plant. These AusGrid dips have created issues on site for a couple of weeks, which was unfortunate, as the site is reliant on good and consistent power supply. • Ausgrid have been contacted and an investigation is in progress. • COVID restrictions relaxed on site and staff are back in the office. 	<p data-bbox="1169 965 1345 1066">See attached presentation. (Slide 6)</p>		
NEWCASTLE GAS STORAGE FACILITY - ENVIRONMENT	<p data-bbox="475 1458 624 1491">DM advised:</p> <ul data-bbox="475 1498 1145 2047" style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2020-2021 Annual Return Report was submitted to the NSW EPA in September with no non-conformances recorded during the reporting period. • Nationally Pollution Inventory (NPI) and Sustainability Data was submitted in September to all relevant stakeholders and made publicly available. FY22 data is progressively being compiled ready for review in July and submission in September. • 6-monthly groundwater and surface water monitoring was completed in September, with no exceedances reported. Next round of monitoring will be conducted in March. DM commented on the results of the nitrate investigation, which have shown that levels have decreased, indicating a systematic trend downwards. Whilst the previous nitrate levels 	<p data-bbox="1169 1458 1262 1491">Slide 7</p>		

	<p>where compliant, AGL undertook a proactive investigation to try and eliminate the source of the higher readings being recorded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2021 Annual Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Compliance Report was submitted in November with the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment confirming compliance in February. • FY22 Annual Air Emissions testing for H101 Heater planned for completion in March. Working of the back of liquefaction stage and emissions testing. • FY22 Annual Air Emissions testing on Heaters H501A, B and C is planned for June. These 3 heaters are used to turn the liquefied gas into a gas again to put back into the grid. • JS advised that Hunter Water has held discussions regarding the nitrate plume. Whilst technically correct with no exceedances; it made them think about how the compliance numbers are set. There are no issues with Hunter Water at the moment, however it was an issue of concern for Station 20. Not just for the NGSF but for all other developments in the area and being mindful of setting the appropriate criteria. Commenting that hopefully the nitrate plume will continue to disperse. 	
NGSF COMMUNITY	<p>JF provided an update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Community Investment Program FY22 Round 2 closes on 24/3/22. Details are available on the website. Encouraging community groups to apply. Happy to provide assistance. • The Newcastle Show is proceeding this weekend. • The Fringe Festival is gaining momentum with 1,000 tickets sold to date, with 10,000 available. Double the size of the previous festival. Following AGL's support, the Fringe Festival provided tickets, which AGL has donated to Soul Kitchen, in acknowledgement of the good work that they do in the community. • KP advised that the Tool Grant that the Gardens received in the last round is nearly all spent. • JF advised that she has forwarded photographs to KP on a container that she has sourced to assist with storage. KP thanked JF and confirmed that the Garden's engineers will inspect the photos to determine its suitability. • AK asked for JF's contact details, so she could discuss a LICP application. AK also advised that donated fluffy toys have been sent to the Lismore Salvation Army and handed out to children affected by the recent and current flooding. 	Slide 8
AGL UPDATE	<p>KT provided an overview of AGL's results, activities and future plans: 2022 Half Yearly Results</p>	Slides 10-12

	<p>Whilst the underlying numbers are down, figures are still in line or over the analysts' estimates. This has driven down the wholesale prices. The uptake in recent months in NSW and QLD in wholesale prices, haven't seen the price reflected yet, but if prices go up, the benefits won't be seen immediately.</p> <p>There have been a lot of changes with systems updated. The sale of the NGSF is slow with AGL unable to find anyone interested in acquiring it.</p> <p>The generation fleet went well over summer, with power available when required and generation met the needs and expectations of customers.</p>	
DEMERGER	<p>KT provided an update on the demerger:</p> <p>AGL Energy Limited (AGL Energy) will be split into two entities – AGL and Accel Energy, which will concentrate on large thermal assets, gas, NGSF etc.</p> <p>Between now and June 2022, a booklet will be prepared to describe both the entities and submitted to the Corporate Regulator.</p> <p>AGL will remain customer focused and provide additional services, such as internet, mobile phones, insurance, etc. Its assets will include the Coopers Gap Wind Farm (QLD), Silvertown Wind Farm (NSW), the Nyngan Solar Plant (NSW), hydro in VIC, which provide low emissions and low carbon businesses.</p>	Slides 13 - 17
CLIMATE COMMITMENTS	<p>It is likely that the closure of AGL's power plants will be sooner:</p> <p>Liddell – April 2023 Bayswater – 2030-2033 Loy Yang – 2040 – 2045.</p> <p>Accel will have the large coal plants, Bayswater, Liddell, Loy Yang and the wind farms in SA and western VIC, creating energy hubs, such as Liddell, which will be repurposed as an energy hub (Fortesque partnership)</p> <p>KT updated the members on the proposed takeover bid by a consortium (Mike Cannon-Brookes and Brookfield Asset Management who offered \$7.50 per share. The AGL board rejected the offer as it materially undervalued the business. KT recommended members read the papers to keep abreast with this issue as it is likely that further bids will be made.</p> <p>The announcement by Origin to close Eraring Power Station in 2025 will have a material impact on the electricity market, so AGL are looking at how it will affect them, especially in relation to the NGSF and the proposed Newcastle Gas Power Station. The power</p>	Slides 18-19

	<p>station remains on hold, however, changes in the market may change the requirement for a gas peaker.</p> <p>JS enquired about the Kurri Kurri power station proposal and how it may have an impact on AGL's Newcastle Gas Power Station. KT advised that it was his understanding that the project will proceed under the auspices of Snowy Hydro (federal government). KT is not involved in this project, so it will be up to the investors to decide what to do.</p> <p>AK commented that the site of the Kurri Kurri Power Station has a lot of endangered species on it and her organisation is concerned about the environmental studies currently being undertaken. AK advised that there has been 3 koalas come out of that area in the last two months. It has been difficult to speak with anyone about these concerns.</p>	
GENERAL BUSINESS	AK mentioned that there is a campaign, partnering with Coles to accept non-perishable food for people and animals impacted by the floods.	
NEXT MEETING DATES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Thursday 9 June  Thursday 8 September  Thursday 8 December, all at the Hunter Region Gardens, commencing at 10am. (COVID restrictions dependant.) 	

Meeting closed at 10.43am with LA thanking members for their attendance and participation.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Keep CDG informed of the sale of NGSF (ongoing)	KT
2	Keep CDG informed about the highway upgrade (ongoing)	KM
3	Keep CDG informed regarding the outcome of LCIP Round 2 FY22.	JF