

Final MEETING NOTES

Tallawarra Community Liaison Group Meeting 10 December 2025

Time	5.00 – 6.30 pm
Date	10/12/2025
Attendees	<p>Community members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gleniss Wellings National Parks Association • Ian Fitzgibbon Business Dapto • Michelle Rower Illawarra Birders • Nicole Ashton Wollongong City Council • Paul Ferguson Shellharbour Council <p>Energy Australia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ivan Currie • Dave Simpfendorfer <p>Chair: Brendan Blakeley</p>
Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daryl Goldrick Illawarra Bird Observers Club • Ron Cooper Neighbourhood 8 Forum • Nathan Sparks RFS
Meeting location	Tallawarra Site Offices

Item	Discussion Summary
1. Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm. • The Chair welcomed all and acknowledged Country. • The Chair noted apologies as above.
2. Minutes and Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no comments on the previous minutes
3. Station Operations Update	<p><u>Overall operations</u></p> <p>Ivan noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been no injuries onsite across 2025 and now at 364 days without an incident • No community complaints have been received • There have been 3 environmental incidents in 2025, and these were primarily of an administrative nature. <p><u>Market context</u></p> <p>Ivan noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar is now dominating the overall energy mix during daylight hours • Battery storage is also starting to make an impact • Gas power is increasingly used to meet peak demand in winter when solar drops off • Gas generation is also used to fill in when there is network volatility or constraints such as stations or transmission lines being out of operation • Since the planned outages earlier in 2025, both gas stations at Tallawarra have been consistently supplying power when needed into the grid.

Final MEETING NOTES

Tallawarra A

- Is operating very reliably and had 153 starts to date in 2025
- The station plays an important role during periods of low solar/wind generation or when there is volatility or constraints in the network
- The team is now planning for a short 14-day outage in May 2026 for general maintenance
- May is typically a low demand period.

Tallawarra B

- Tallawarra B is also operating very reliably and performing better than expected
- It had 127 starts to date and is hitting all targets
- It is operating like a peak power station reaching full load in around 30 minutes - which means it can readily respond to short sharp spikes in demand
- Typically, Tallawarra B runs for 2 -3 hours
- The next planned outage for Tallawarra B will occur in September 2026
- This 14-day outage will be for warranty work and some outstanding building works.

CLG members' questions and comments:

Michelle asked what usually causes demand spikes?

Ivan replied that often it is a problem with a transmission line, for example a recent spike occurred when an interconnector failed or there is an atypical hot or cold spell.

Gleniss asked whether diesel is used for generation on site?

Ivan replied that there is a small diesel back-up generator to supply power to station communications and safety systems in the event of a power failure. All power generated at Tallawarra that goes into the network is from natural gas with provision for hydrogen in the future. At one point around 15 years ago there was an option to investigate diesel as a fuel for Tallawarra B, but this was quickly discounted in favour of gas.

Projects

Ivan noted the following points:

- EnergyAustralia has recently finished an investigation into safety and security of the inlet canal bridge and is considering a range of options
- Repair will be the likely option
- All options indicate that from a security and safety perspective public access across the bridge is no longer feasible
- Awaiting finalisation of the eventual option which will be implemented across 2026
- Works on the gas pipeline went very well
- It was good we advised the community about this to reduce any concerns people may have had if they heard the pipeline being vented
- We didn't receive any enquiries. And the regulator was satisfied with the way the works were undertaken.

Environmental update

Ivan noted the following points:

- Dam management activities are ongoing, with a recent Dam repair being completed on the buffer lands
- Weed management is active and ongoing

Final MEETING NOTES

- EnergyAustralia is talking with Bridgehill about coordinated land management activities
- We have noted increased presence of foxes and deer on Tallawarra Lands and are looking to increase pest management activities in early 2026
- Third party access to the lands is under review. The risks we have identified will require changes to how we keep people off the lands and manage authorised access
- EnergyAustralia is committed working with CLG members to look at an option that enables controlled access to areas such as the wetlands but addresses the risks associated with such a large site.

Following discussion members agreed that at next meeting the CLG should workshop options and solutions.

It was suggested that relevant staff from Wollongong and Shellharbour Council could also be invited. Particularly in view of Tallawarra South being noted in a recent study about a continuous access path around Lake Illawarra.

Michelle expressed her support for Council's plan to enhance access to the lake but noted concerns for the ecology of the wetlands if large numbers of people were to be brought into the areas around the old ash dams.

Gleniss asked if Council had spoken with EnergyAustralia about these plans.

Ivan noted he was aware of the process, but EnergyAustralia hasn't been involved to date.

Nicole Ashton stated she didn't know the detail of this project but could get more information from relevant staff within council. She understood that at the moment the proposal was more focused on a vision for enabling continuous access for pedestrians and cyclists around the lake.

Community Update

Dave Simpfordorfer noted that the following groups had recently visited Tallawarra:

- Marulan community members
- Electric Energy Society of Australia
- Business & Commercial customers
- Energy & Utility Services Functional Area (EUSFA) subcommittee
- EnergyAustralia's parent company CLP
- Multiple other industry groups

He also spoke to the following points:

- Round 2 of the community grants in late 2025 was well subscribed with 42 high quality applications
- The successful applicants were:
 - Green Connect
 - Autism Spectrum Australia
 - Solar Buddy
 - Shellharbour Surf Lifesaving Club
- The next round of community grants will open in March 2026.
- Brendan will advise CLG members when they are advertised.

Other business

Michelle Rower presented the latest survey of the wetlands noting:

- *The overall population of birds and diversity of species were increasing.*

Final MEETING NOTES

- *The site is now seen as one of the most important along the eastern seaboard*
- *Information from surveys and observations is uploaded to BIONET for all to share.*

Gleniss asked about the status of the wetlands in Council's local mapping noting that they are mapped at the state level under a State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP 14).

Nicole Ashton noted she would get more information on the how wetlands are mapped within Council, but any local mapping or policy would be likely to defer to the SEPP.

4. Next meeting

Dave Simpfendorfer from EnergyAustralia noted:

- the next CLG meeting is likely to occur after Easter in 2026.
- this meeting will focus on access and security matters across Tallawarra Lands
- EnergyAustralia would stay in touch with CLG members via the CLG Chair

Brendan's contact for CLG members is brendan@elumni.au

5. Meeting close

It was agreed that there would be two meetings in 2026 and the best timing for these is the second Wednesday of the month to avoid clashes with the Neighbourhood Forums.

Brendan thanked members for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 6.30 pm.

Tallawarra Power Station Community Liaison Group Meeting

10 December 2025



EnergyAustralia
LIGHT THE WAY

Acknowledgment of country

Tallawarra power station is on the traditional Country of the Dharawal peoples.

We respect and acknowledge their continued connection to Country, culture and community.



1. Welcome and introductions

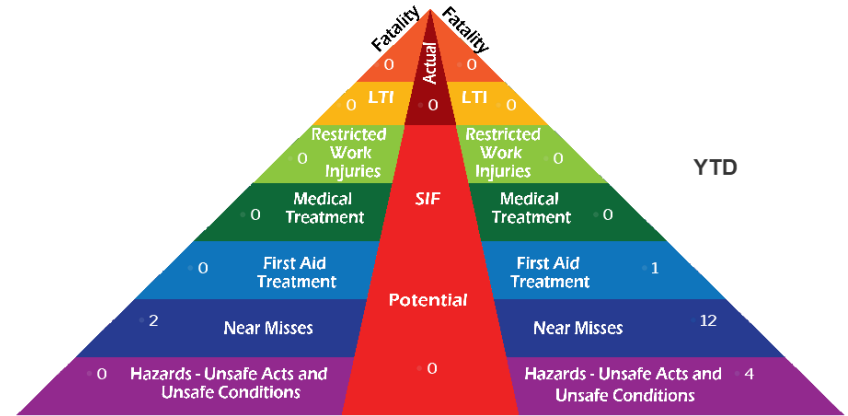
2. Tallawarra Operations Update



Tallawarra Power Station – December 2025

- HSE Update

- **No injuries in 2025**
- **No community complaints**
- **3 environmental incidents in 2025**
 - **Weather Station (administrative)**
 - **Reporting extension (administrative)**
 - **Wollingurry Buoy (administrative)**
- **Days since last injury**



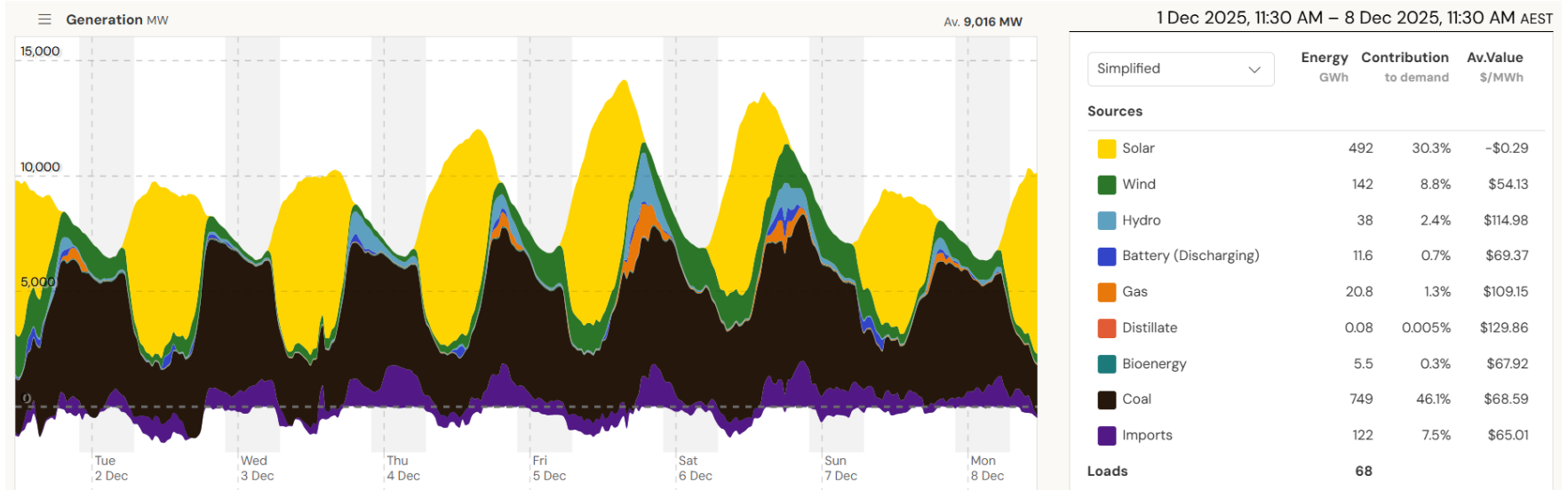
YTD is calculated to the end of the previous month

Days Since Last Injury



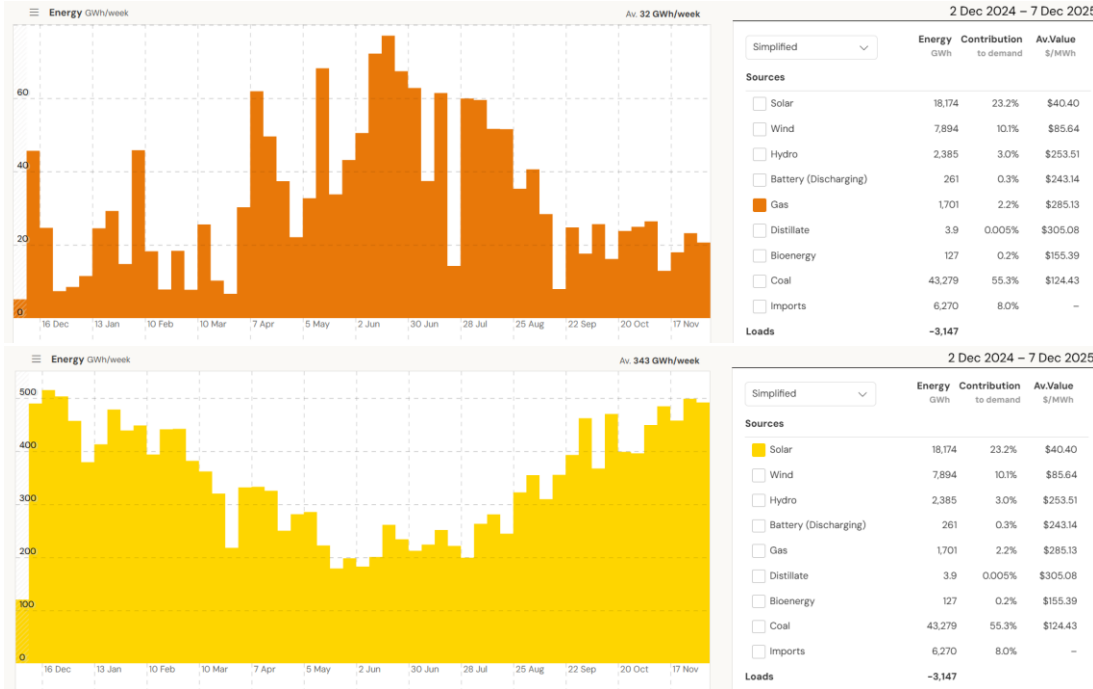
Tallawarra Power Station – December 2025

NSW Energy Mix – Last Week



Tallawarra Power Station – December 2025

Shoulder seasons are periods when Gas Fired Generation is lower



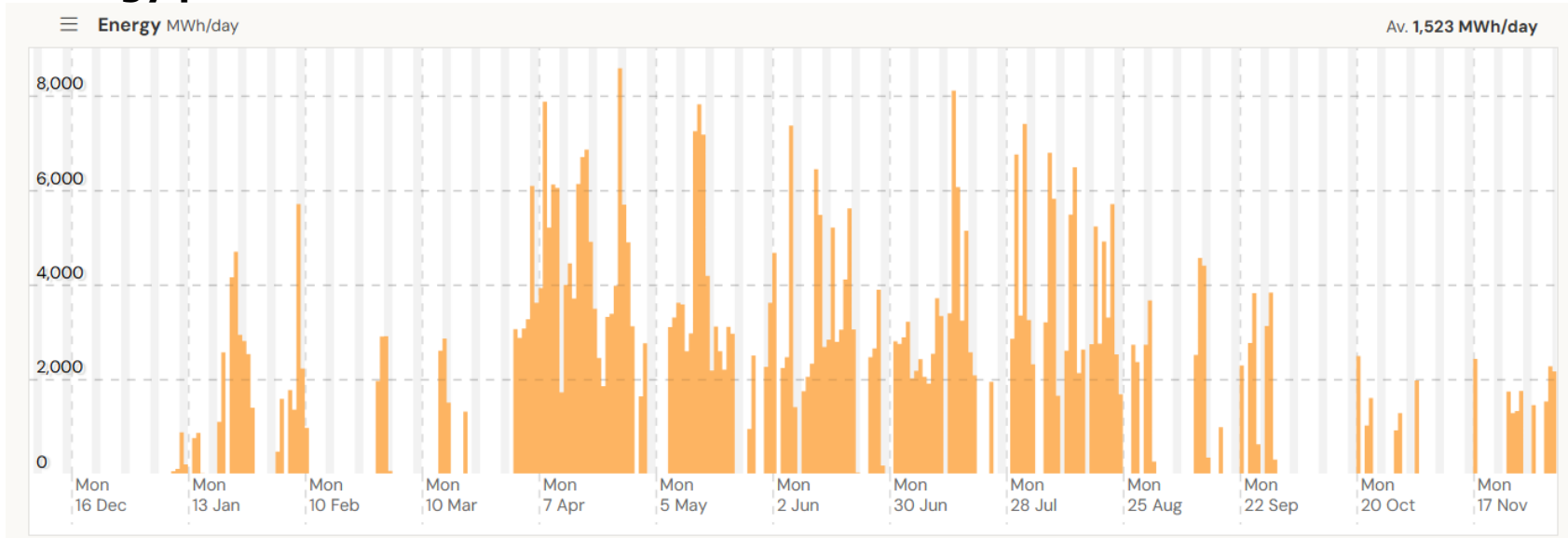
Demand for energy is lower, and solar generation starts to increase

Tallawarra A



Tallawarra A – 2025

Energy produced



Tallawarra A unit has been operating reliably, supporting periods of volatility and network constraints in NSW.

Tallawarra A

- **Upcoming May 2026 Outage**

- This outage has been planned during a period of lower demand and risk.
- A short outage Tallawarra A focussed on general integrity maintenance.
- Target is to complete in 14 days. Detailed planning is underway to understand the requirements for 24hr work.

- **The Unit is operating reliably**

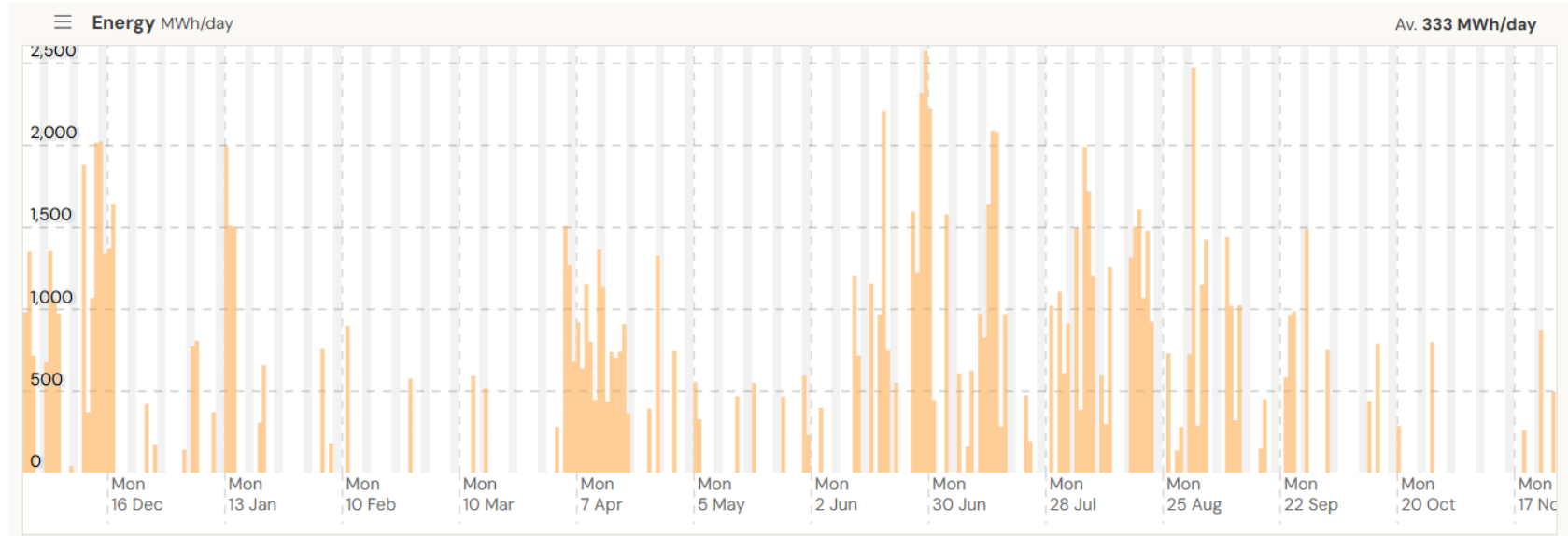
- Tallawarra A has completed 153 starts so far in 2025.

Tallawarra B



Tallawarra B – 2025

Energy produced



Tallawarra B unit has been operating reliably and has started during unexpected spikes in demand.

Tallawarra B

- **Upcoming September 2026 Outage**

- This outage has been planned during a period of lower demand and risk.
- A short outage Tallawarra B focussed on any warranty repairs.
- Target is to complete in 14 days. Detailed planning is underway to understand the requirements for 24hr work.

- **The Unit is operating reliably**

- Tallawarra B has completed 127 starts so far in 2025.

3. Tallawarra Projects Update


Projects

- Inlet Canal Bridge

- Preliminary engineering assessment complete and options of removal, repair or replacement considered.
- Options finalised and implemented in 2026. None of the options consider public access as feasible.

4. Tallawarra Environmental Update

Lands Maintenance Work

- **Dam** management activities are ongoing, with a recent Dam repair being completed on the buffer lands.
 - **Weeds** management active and ongoing
 - EA looking to increase **pest** management activities in early 2026
 - Third party **access** to the lands under review. Risks identified means there will need to be changes
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5. Tallawarra Community

2025 in review

Tours of Tallawarra included:

- Marulan community members
- Electric Energy Society of Australia
- Business & Commercial customers
- Energy & Utility Services Functional Area (EUSFA) subcommittee
- Parent company (CLP)
- Multiple other industry groups

42

Community
Grant
applicants

2500

Newsletters
letterboxed

2

Community
Liaison Group
Meetings

Illawarra
LALC
Engagement

1

Tallawarra
newsletter
issue

\$52.5k
Tallawarra
Grants funded

2

Formal
notifications of
new work

8

Community
Grants funded

5

Direct Social
Media posts



The
Heart
of
EA

TALLAWARRA GRANTS 2025

Congratulations to our round 2 community grant recipients



Green Connect



Upgrade to cool room condenser, improving energy efficiency and reducing food waste to support fresh produce delivery and employment pathways for young people and former refugees in the Illawarra region.

Shellharbour Surf Life Saving Club



Replace its outdated canteen refrigerator with an energy-efficient model, reducing emissions and operational cost.

SolarBuddy



Deliver a hands-on STEM education program to 125 students in the Illawarra region, empowering them to build solar lights for communities experiencing energy poverty.

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)



Autism-specific motor skill resources for over 110 students at Aspect South Coast School in Corrimal.

Community Grants

2026 Round 1 Grants open for applications 1-31 March

- Up to \$30,000 available for the Illawarra area



Pursue objectives that benefit the local or regional communities in which EnergyAustralia operates;



Deliver projects that address our selection criteria and align with our focus areas; and



Require funds for the project up to a maximum of \$10k

Newsletter

- The 2025 newsletter was issued in August.
- The next community newsletter issue is planned for February 2026 and a second in August 2026
- Each issue will be letterboxed to around 2500 local residents in Dapto, Koonawarra & Haywards Bay areas



6. General Discussion

Thank you