

# TXU COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

## DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

MEETING	<b>TXU CLG MEETING</b>	MEETING NUMBER	5/2004
HELD AT	TXU SITE, WOLLONGONG	DATE	20/10/04
PROJECT			
ATTENDEES	John Osseweyer Doug Prosser Andrew Knowlson Chris Brandis Ray Chapman Neil McGaffin Kara Lamond Milly Hobson Stewart Russell Graham Dowers Nicola Ryan Ian Kinlough Barry Ford  Brian Elton Sharon Burke	Scout Group Lake Illawarra Authority Duck Creek Catchment Group Illawarra Bird Observers Club Winten Property Group DIPNR Wollongong City Council NSW Fisheries University of Wollongong TXU TXU TXU TXU  Elton Consulting (arrived 6.05pm) Elton Consulting (arrived 6.05pm)	
PRESENTERS	Milly Hobson Andrew Knowlson	NSW Fisheries Duck Creek CLG Representative	
APOLOGIES	Rita Webb Graham Towers Rod Oxley Ben Grounds Greg Newman	Dapto Chamber of Commerce DIPNR WCC Healthy Cities EPA	
DISTRIBUTION	To all invitees		

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ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	ACTION	DATE
<b>1.0</b>	<b>WELCOME &amp; INTRODUCTIONS</b>		
<b>1.1</b>	<p><i>The meeting commenced at 5.45 PM. Nicola Ryan welcomed all those present. Apologies were received from:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>Rita Webb (Dapto Chamber of Commerce)</i></li><li><i>Graham Towers (DIPNR)</i></li><li><i>Rod Oxley (WCC)</i></li><li><i>Ben Grounds (Healthy Cities)</i></li><li><i>Greg Newman (EPA)</i></li></ul>		
<b>1.2</b>	<p><i>Doug Prosser endorsed the previous minutes, seconded by Andrew Knowlson. Barry Ford was introduced, Manager Production Assets. Once operational, the Tallawarra Power will fall within Barry's portfolio of assets.</i></p>		
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Development Report –Graham Dowers TXU</b>		
<b>2.1</b>	<p><i>TXU/SPI arrangements</i></p> <p><b>GD:</b> TXU and SPI are separated businesses. The business is split into Regulated and Market sections. SPI Australia consists of SPI Powernet and TXU with a CEO for each business. <b>Len Gill, previously the GM Wholesale Energy is now CEO of the Energy Business</b></p>		
<b>2.2</b>	<p><i>Plant Civil Works – Stage 1</i></p> <p><b>GD:</b> The works are practically complete. Continuing aspects are the installation of Security and Monitoring Systems; installation of Sydney Water metering station and Clean Up works.</p>		
<b>2.3</b>	<p><i>Landscaping and Communications</i></p> <p><b>GD:</b> TXU are currently preparing Technical and Commercial Tender Documents for Landscaping and Communications works. These works will be carried out early in 2005.</p>		
<b>2.4</b>	<p><i>Pipeline Status</i></p> <p><b>GD:</b> TXU applied for a Pipeline Permit under the Pipelines Act in February 2004. We have conducted preliminary meetings with all stakeholders, including RailCorp, RTA and private landowners. A draft permit has been received from DEUS – the grant of the Permit is imminent. The Permit provides right of access for surveys of the pipeline route (environmental, cultural heritage, geotechnical and route mapping). We will negotiate final route with stakeholders and then submit the licence application. The licence provides the right to build and operate the pipeline.</p> <p><b>CLG:</b> <i>Is there an easement? Is it freehold land?</i></p> <p><b>GD:</b> There is some valuable vegetation in the area. We can obtain some advice from the relevant authorities. Most of the pipeline will be on our land.</p> <p><b>CLG:</b> <i>What size easement is required for the pipeline?</i></p> <p><b>GD:</b> Not sure, I will provide the answer at the next meeting. Answer: TXU will be</p>		

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seeking a 25m easement for the pipeline.

### 2.5 *NSW Market overview*

**GD:** It is suggested that NSW could be short capacity as early as 2008, and continuous energy post 2012. Retailers have a significant NSW Greenhouse Abatement Certificate requirement until 2012 (to encourage carbon reduction).

There is significant uncertainty in the NSW energy market due various models currently being pursued by Treasury – an announcement is expected before the end of the year as to the direction they will be taking. We are still targeting commissioning of a 400MW CCGT by early 2008. Negotiations have commenced with NSW retailers – the initial feedback has been relatively positive.

### 2.6 *Plant Development*

**GD:** We are taking the next steps in developing the Energy Facility. These steps involve drafting works to assist with foundation engineering and development of plant technical and commercial tender documents, required to build for a 400MW CCGT. Additionally works to assist with Network planning, Circulating Water modelling and council approvals will be carried out over this period. Contracts to support the commercial operation of the plant and manage the market exposure are being sought with the NSW Power Retailers. The estimated total cost of the facility is \$350 million. We are aiming to have a fully scoped Energy Facility by end of the first quarter of 2005.

### 3.0 **CLG Communication Survey Findings – Nicola Ryan TXU**

**3.1 NR:** Responses are still coming in, but a draft report has been completed. No-one has declined future involvement. Most are happy to switch to email and all believed the current engagement process to be effective and appropriate at this stage of the project. Some agencies tended to be less aware of TXU's efforts to engage the wider community. TXU acknowledges they will have to broaden communications channels as process progresses.

**BE:** We will have a full report ready for the next meeting.

### 4.0 **LIA Foreshore Report –Nicola Ryan TXU**

**4.1 NR:** TXU has formed a partnership with LIA to develop some of the foreshore that was previously owned by Pacific Power. It is an exciting proposal for the local community to increase use of the foreshore at the front of the power station that is now owned by the LIA.

We are proposing two picnic shelter sheds, children's playground, timber bollards, landscaping, share way/footpath and some foreshore protection works. As further projects happen along the foreshore, TXU will be seeking input from the CLG and other stakeholders into the planning.

**DP (LIA):** We are very happy with TXU's contribution. We hope that people benefit from the facilities and come into the area.

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	<p><b>NR:</b> As the development of the foreshore continues, we will be looking at what else we can do and will look to the group for input.</p> <p>GD: We are really pleased to be working with the LIA on this project for the benefit of the community.</p>		
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Site Coordinators Update: Ian Kinlough - TXU</b>		
<b>5.1</b>	<p><b>IK:</b> My discussion with Moss Vale Rural Lands Protection Board confirmed baiting is the most appropriate method to use to eradicate foxes, when carried out in a systematic manner. It is safe, effective and utilised broadly across the Illawarra. Control of unauthorised use of firearms on site is more difficult. MVRLPB suggest four times in a 12 month period and then twice per year. They will go out and bait, monitor and select appropriate sites. They suggest the Spring/Autumn period would be the best time. Following discussions with police and other relevant organisations, TXU will be adopting the baiting program rather than shooting.</p> <p><b>CLG:</b> <i>Are they buried or surface baits?</i></p> <p><b>IK:</b> I think they are surface baits.      Answer: The bait will be buried.</p> <p>1080 baits will be buried in a shallow hole dug with a mattock or similar instrument and cover with earth. If practicable, the 1080 baits are tied to a fence with a cord and the burial spot is marked so that the 1080 baits can be easily found and replaced and at the end of the program, picked up or destroyed.</p> <p><b>CLG:</b> <i>Most of the time they are partly underground.</i></p> <p><b>IK:</b> They are the experts, I don't have the training, but will work with them to find the best solution. They will survey the area, look at housing proximity and take flora/fauna into account when planing the baiting program.</p>		
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Proposal to explore the removal of Duck Creek Crossing – Milly Hobson</b>		
<b>6.1</b>	<p><i>A handout was distributed.</i></p> <p><b>MH:</b> There were several outstanding questions from last meeting. Last time there was a question about what would happen to creek water levels if the structure is removed. The levels will depend on the climate further up stream. There are several natural control points, these points pool the water through the system forming a chain of ponds. In some areas the flow is minimal now, so immediately above the crossing the water level will change, but we are getting someone to look at survey points (DIPNR is helping with this – advice from DIPNR will help surveyors carry out their work if funding is available). So it won't affect the whole creek, beyond a few 100 metres upstream the creek should behave as it is now.</p>		

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**CLG:** *Who else have you talked to?*

**MH:** We have spoken to those who have an active role in the protection of creeks: DIPNR (for technical advice), the Council (who is now involved in the process), the Heritage Commission and DEC (to talk about Aboriginal artefacts in the area), and the Southern Ocean Bird Group.

There were also other concerns at the last meeting about the large amount of silt built up behind the weir. We will consider this when developing the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) – we will know more after survey work is undertaken, one option may be to remove the silt; sediment control measures may also be used. There was another question about heritage value. The Heritage Council has searched the site and the site is not of significance.

**NR:** There were also concerns at the last meeting about commercial fishing in the area – are they allowed to be there?

**MH:** They are allowed at the entrance, they won't often enter as there is a sandbar at the entrance of the creek but basically a large vessel wouldn't choose to go into Duck Creek. I don't think the commercial fishing boats will impact too much but if they have a permit they are allowed.

**6.2 BE:** Can you remind us what the timing for the final decision making process is in terms of consulting with agencies and making sure everything is done?

**MH:** Basically I'll help TXU form and construct the EMP. This will outline the process in detail. Council have advised that a DA is not required; DIPNR will need to review issue of a 3A permit to allow the work to be done. Fisheries also have requirements. Provided there is support for the project, the timeline will depend on preparation of the EMP (couple of weeks for approval) then it will depend on TXU to help make it happen.

**CLG:** *Will you be monitoring the fish after this work is done?*

**MH:** The cost of sampling and monitoring fish is about \$1500 a day so it won't be feasible. We have done case studies in the past eg. Branch river crossing, and the same things apply here. We will be relying on anecdotal evidence – e.g. Fishing groups, conservation groups, and looking at that sort of monitoring. One of the key species is the Bass so one way to monitor these might be to determine if the Bass move upstream (we will rely on fishermen to report) but it wouldn't be comprehensive monitoring.

**CLG:** *Could you tag the fish?*

**MH:** This is also an expensive exercise, it's used in the Murray but it is a big project and not appropriate on a small scale.

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I just want to make it clear that people can contact me if they have any questions following this meeting.

**BE:** Graham, Nicola any comments?

**GD:** TXU has the position that if it turns out that removal will be a positive thing, we will assist, in conjunction with Fisheries to get it done. I was concerned about the effects of removing the weir but it makes sense that if you remove the structure the water will still flow through and I will have more confidence once I see the results of the survey report.

**MH:** Yes pulling it out won't be like pulling a plug out of a bath of water. There will be natural pooling effects upstream maintaining normal flows.

**BE:** Any comments (from CLG)?

**CLG:** *From a landowners perspective we wanted to bring Duck Creek into as natural a state as we can, to have the opportunity for fish to go through there is important – it is not a regularly flowing stream (previously it has been) but most of the time it will be like it is. I would encourage TXU from a landowner's perspective to remove the weir.*

**MH:** There are many things to be improved by opening up a weir. We want to take a holistic approach.

**BE:** So general support has been received?

*No objections noted.*

**BE:** Do we have any dates?

**MH:** There is still communication and technical work including the survey to be done. DIPNR said as long as EMP meets requirements, it will be a few weeks for approval and works can commence by Christmas.

**CLG:** *Are there any off periods where you can't work in the stream?*

**MH:** Not really, it depends where you are and what you are doing. It is not going to have as big an impact as a bigger project. We are moving into a time where there will be more water in the creek. It has to be a low flow period and at the moment the flow is ideal.

**CLG:** *By March there will be a lot of rain in the area.*

**MH:** It is a short-term low impact project, we will know within a day or two if you

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can do it.

**GD:** We are reassured by the efforts undertaken, the depth of your research is impressive.

*Neil McGaffin had to leave at 6.45pm.*

### 7.0 Duck Creek Catchment Landcare Community Group presentation – Andrew Knowlson

#### 7.1

**AK:** The Duck Catchment Landcare group started in 2000. Their role is primarily to coordinate and support landowners by providing information, networking etc. The groups' vision is to aim to achieve a productive, healthy and clean catchment.

Grants were received for 5 demonstration projects. These included:

- Planting above a dam to control erosion and improve dam water quality;
- Constructing a creek cattle crossing to reduce downstream siltation and improve water quality;
- Weed removal and planting in a rural living estate;
- Riparian vegetation planting in the upper duck creek catchment; and
- Fence out a dam to provide a stock watering system and plant the dam surrounds to improve dam water quality.

We hope in the future there are more catchment improvement projects and good company. We've learnt some practical lessons from the Demonstration Projects, we've learnt more about planting, and are hoping there are more successes coming.

*AK pointed out relevant areas for the demonstration projects on an aerial map.*

**NR:** Can I just clarify, are you a Landcare Group?

**AK:** Yes we are part of Landcare.

**NR:** We need to think about how we can work with the DCCC group. We could combine the work we are doing at Duck Creek with the proposed weir removal and approach the work in a holistic way. There has been a lot of work done in the area, but there is more to be done. Perhaps if people are interested in volunteering they could contact the presenter?

**CLG:** *Yallah TAFE, Scouts or the primary school may want to run a project? Or the Conservation Volunteers Australia group.*

**NR:** Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) and TXU have been talking and we are keen to work with them on a projects basis. . They have submitted a letter to join the CLG and we have accepted their membership. Damien Sterling will be the

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	representative member, and he hopes to join us for the next meeting.		

*There was no other business.*

### 8.0 Next steps/meeting dates: Brian Elton

Brian thanked all those present for their participation in this evening's meeting.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

**24 November 2004, 5.30pm at the LIA Function room on the Foreshore, for dinner and drinks. Enter through the cyclone fencing gate beyond the current TXU electronic security gate and follow the road along the foreshore and you will eventually see the tennis court. Parking is available just beyond the tennis court on the left hand side. The function room is located up the steps adjacent to the tennis court.**

The meeting closed at 7.10pm.

If you have any questions in relation to these minutes please contact Sharon Burke at **Elton Consulting**.

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