

# Meeting Record

<b>Name</b>	<b>Mt Piper &amp; Wallerawang power stations</b>	<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>22 February 2017</b>
<b>Meeting / Subject</b>	<b>Community Reference Group</b>	<b>Recorded By</b>	<b>MB</b>
	<b>Meeting 39</b>	<b>Total Pages</b>	<b>6</b>

<b>Members:</b>	Julie Favell, Rob Cluff, Helen Riley, Sue Graves, Jim Whitty,	
<b>EnergyAustralia</b>		Head of Mt Piper
	Michelle Blackley	Support Services Leader EnergyAustralia NSW
		Wallerawang DDR Project Leader EnergyAustralia NSW
	Ben Eastwood, Coleen Milroy	Environment Specialist EnergyAustralia NSW
	Sarah Neville	Community Engagement Lead
<b>Apologies</b>	Boris Hunt, Ron Bidwell, Beverly Gilbert, Alex Preema, Jamie Giokaris, Malcolm Murphy, Ralph Gunness	
<b>Minute Taker</b>	Michelle Blackley	Support Services Leader

## Meeting

### ■ Welcome to Country

Welcome to Country was conducted by Helen Riley.

### ■ Business Arising:

Introductions were conducted for Ben Eastwood as the newly appointed Environment Specialist for Mt Piper and Wallerawang and a new member of the Community Reference Group.

Mr Malcolm Murphy's apologies were passed to the meeting.

The Action Table was reviewed by the committee. The update is in the Action Table at the end of these notes.

Julie Favell requested the meeting notes to be sent to the Committee membership.

**ACTION:** Michelle Blackley to organise a distribution list for the meeting notes.

Julie Favell advised that he Pinedale Community Committee information was difficult to find on the EnergyAustralia website. Rob Cluff used his mobile to find the information successfully using a different search reference. It was discussed if a vanity URL could be used to make access simpler.

**ACTION:** Sarah Neville to investigate the creation of a vanity URL and advise.

### ■ Market Update

Mrs Blackley discussed the market changes since the last Committee meeting. The Hazelwood Power Station closure in 5 weeks was discussed and the tension this will bring into the market. Later in the year the aluminium smelter at Portland Victoria will come back on line and further tighten the available supply of energy.

The open letter from EnergyAustralia's Managing Director was discussed. This was viewed favourably by the Committee as a way to open the debate about a managed industry-wide transition towards alternate generation methods in the future. Many members believed that coal was plentiful in the region and could be used for base load generation but recognised that a transition to alternate methods should be discussed. It was also highlighted that capital investment was not going to occur until the national policy regarding electricity generation was stabilised.

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Jim Whitty asked if the plan to increase the number of units at Mt Piper was being revisited with the tightening market. Mrs Blackley advised that it was unlikely to get anyone to invest at the moment until the future direction of the industry was more certain.

Julie Favell mentioned that she read that the part owner of Centennial – Banpu were entering into renewable energy projects in particular solar power investments. This is showing that industry transition is an international issue and Australia needs to look to its future similarly.

Jim Whitty felt that coal-fired generation technology had also improved to decrease carbon emissions and that these options should be considered to continue base load generation. We thought that everyone knew that brown coal was less clean than black coal. Current technology with carbon capture improved operational efficiency by 35% - 40%. He did not believe that solar and wind generation could work locally and he wanted to maintain the employment and economic benefits of the power generation industry within the local area.

Sue Graves mentioned that recent operation problems at Tallawarra and the Snowy Mountains scheme further complicated the supply of energy to customers. Rob Cluff stated that it was an embarrassment for the state of NSW that Tomago was recently wound down to cover a high peak in the market during recent hot weather. He believed the State and Federal Governments needed to get organised along the lines of Ms Tanna's open letter and not let this circumstance occur again. This situation had the potential to impact employment and profitability of businesses.

Mrs Blackley put forward that Ms Tanna wanted to open the debate about a managed and sustainable transition to alternate generation methods progressing with an affordable and reliable supply being available to all throughout the transition.

## ■ Operational Update

### Mt Piper

Both units are currently in service and operating reliably. Currently we have been generating at high levels to supply the market.

We are preparing for a works package on the brine concentrator at Mt Piper.

A new transformer has just arrived to replace the contaminated transformer. The Committee were reminded of the situation that happened about a year ago where a contractor contaminated the then newly arrived transformer with the wrong oil. This led to the ordering of this new transformer as a replacement at the supplier's cost.

We are currently planning for the Unit 2 Outage later in the year. Mrs Blackley advised the Committee that the works package would be similar to last year's outage. Further the turbine works have recently been proved to be quite successful and we are hoping for similar results with Unit 2. The increased efficiency was noted by Rob Cluff through the market app on his mobile phone.

### Wallerawang Repurposing Project

EnergyAustralia are continuing to work with the 4 proposals, providing information to these proponents when requested. The Committee was advised that this process would take quite some time before we would be aware of any advancement of these proposals as the prospective projects are highly commercial in confidence. The proposals cover manufacturing, transport and recycling activities.

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## Wallerawang DDR

EnergyAustralia has developed a strip out plan for the all the plant at Wallerawang, with something like 4000 to 5000 items to be removed from site. Unfortunately, we have found some small deposits of asbestos in and around plant items which may delay the dismantling process. We are being conservative and have placed barriers to stop entry to parts of the plant areas until we can analyse samples and reformulate our removal methodologies for each item with identified asbestos traces.

The DDR Owner’s Engineer Aurecon continues on site and is assisting with the development of the program including assisting with the asbestos management. They are developing plans as a contingency if the repurposing does not come into fruition. There is a lot of work to be done in this area. Julie Favell stated she thought it was a good idea to have a plan B.

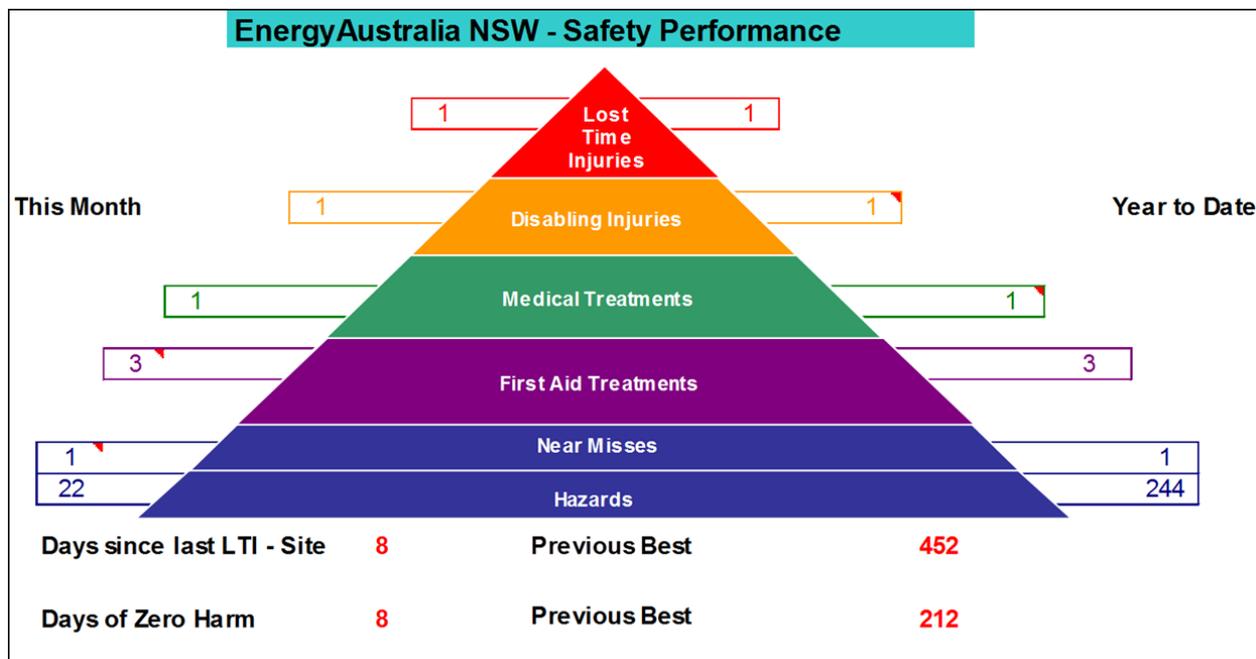
Treasury visited recently and were pleased with the progress and status of the project,

EA Auctions equipment packages are still being processed.

Wallerawang’s Transformers were sold and shipped off site last week. The community will start to see some changes to site we have been talking about. Again if anyone would like a tour of the works we can organise this but you are welcome to view the work from a safe location outside the fence line.

Deconstruction of Unit 7 Cooling Towers has begun this week. The cooling tower will be removed within 8 weeks. Any issues please contact us on 6354 8111 or [community@energyaustraliansw.com.au](mailto:community@energyaustraliansw.com.au).

### ■ Site Safety



The January 2017 safety statistics were shared with the Committee. The Lost Time Injury was explained and Jim Whitty advised that he knew of the injured person and had been visiting him at home.

Sue Graves asked whether the hazards were an issue and it was explained that these were hazards that had been identified and remediated.

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Mrs Blackley advised that Mr Murphy was taking a serious look at our approach to safety and with his objective eyes was seeing some areas for improvement. This fresh approach will be a healthy refresh of our commitment to safety and will enhance our safety performance for 2017.

## Infrasound Investigation

The Committee were advised that there had been no change as neither complainant had been in contact with EnergyAustralia since the last meeting with the Committee. Ben Eastwood has had some limited experience with infrasound in the past and was now taking on this issue. The Committee was assured it was still an open matter and EnergyAustralia would continue to respond to any questions raised by either complainant.

Ben Eastwood further advised that we had provided a proposed methodology for the continued investigation but have yet to get any feedback from either complainant.

Julie Favell mentioned her discussions with the Dept. of Planning indicated that the draft amendment to the Industrial Noise Policy included infrasound. This might be some information that could assist in this matter.

### ■ **Rail Unloader**

There has been no change with the status of the rail unloader site with environmental monitoring continuing. The agreement lease is no longer in place. EnergyAustralia are continuing to assess our options.

### ■ **Water Management**

Oberon Dam's level has decreased to 97.48%. Our Total Active Storage has also decreased to 91.7% with:

- Lake Lyell at 97.4% and spilling sporadically,
- Lake Wallace at 108.8% and spilling,
- Thompsons Creek Dam at 83.5%.

A Red Algal Alert applies to Lake Lyell for Blue Green Algae and an Amber Algal Alert applies to Lake Wallace.

### ■ **Lamberts North**

- Ash Placement Volume
  - Ash placement in Lamberts North ceased in November 2016
  - Due to re-commence in March 2017.
- No complaints have been received
- No incidents recorded
- 2015-16 Annual Environment Management Report was submitted 12<sup>th</sup> January.
- No non-compliances have been experienced.

### ■ **Joint EnergyAustralia NSW/Centennial Water Project**

Three separate consortiums have been asked to submit requests for price by the joint venture. The request for price closes mid-April. EnergyAustralia will evaluate the provided information.

We are currently responding to Government agencies who have requested further information for the EIS, also providing information to the consortiums to assist with their pricing development and having ongoing commercial/financial/legal negotiations between the joint venture members.

Technical design interactions within the joint venture still continue. There is a lot of work occurring in the background for this project. This project is key to the future success of Mt Piper.

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## ■ **Community Engagement** **Community Grants Program 2016 and 2017**

Michelle Blackley thanked the Committee members for their feedback regarding the applications to the second round of the 2016 Sponsorship Grant Program. All the applicants have been contacted and advised as to the success of their application.

The Committee were advised of the list of successful applicants and the amounts provided to each one. In some cases we provided smaller amounts than what was requested and in the case of the one applicant we were able to provide a used laptop for their administration requirements. The Committee approved of these results. The reasons for not supporting two applications were provided and agreed by the Committee.

The Committee were advised that the next round of Sponsorship Grant funding was being advertised on March 6. There will be \$30,000 available for each of the two rounds in 2017 which is a substantial increase from 2016.

The media release is in draft that will be published to be advised the community of the successful applicants in the second round of funding for 2016.

Sarah Neville also advised that the themes for the community engagement in 2017 were education and social inclusion. Sarah also advised that we have tried to simplify the application form. Please let us know if you think further improvements can be made to the form to make it easier to apply.

## **Community Survey Results**

Sarah Neville gave a high level summary of the community survey that was conducted in October to November last year. Community members from Portland, Wallerawang and Lithgow were involved. Four focus groups were conducted, two in Wallerawang and two in Lithgow. Of these focus groups two were with community members who held positive views toward power and the mining industry and two other focus groups were negative. We screened out those people who held extremely positive or negative views so the discussion allowed everyone to input.

EnergyAustralia also conducted 200 telephone interviews, with 100 from Lithgow, 50 from Portland and 50 from Wallerawang. These numbers are seen as statistically significant given the population of the area and can therefore be applied across the wider community.

We also held 12 interviews with local stakeholders who covered the local council, state Government, regulators, environmental groups and community leaders. These interviews lasted about 1 hour and focused on EnergyAustralia's communication and engagement.

Some key messages that came out of the survey were:

- Only 36% of the local community were aware that EnergyAustralia owned Mt Piper, Wallerawang and Pinedale,
- 90% of the local community agree long-term local businesses have a responsibility to try and build the sustainability of the local community.
- The community is keen for more news and regular updates from EnergyAustralia
- The local community want to be kept in the loop about what is happening at the Wallerawang Power Station
- The local community expect EnergyAustralia to be more intuitive in what it supports and more vocal about investments
- The local community is seeking assurance about EnergyAustralia's vision for the its future in Lithgow

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We also got a feel that we need to change the communication channels somewhat when we wanted to inform and communicate with the local community. Social media will be used more often to get our message to everyone in the community.

Sarah further advised that it was clear that our stakeholders want to see proactive and regular communications from EnergyAustralia and we shouldn't just rely on this Committee to spread information to the broader community.

Our way forward from here is to discuss and seek internal feedback on the research results. We will then review and update our community engagement and communication plans to reflect the feedback from the research. This will include a focus on increasing consultation and providing regular proactive updates about our business and site based activities.

## **Merging of Community Consultation Committees**

The merging of the Mt Piper/Wallerawang Community Reference Group and the Pinedale Community Consultative Committee is progressing with the Dept. of Planning responding to the letter we sent them late last year.

The Dept. of Planning asked for further information including who made up the membership of both committees, what was the response from both committees about the proposed amalgamation and the dates of the next meetings. We provided this information just this week. The Dept. of Planning had rung back and Michelle Blackley has tried to contact them today but was unable to reach the contact before this meeting.

We are hopeful that the new format will begin with the upcoming May 2017 meeting. Once again the members were encouraged to apply for the new Committee.

## ■ **General Business**

### Energy Recovery Project

Sarah Neville introduced the Energy Recovery Project to the Committee. EnergyAustralia is looking at how it can reduce emissions at Mt Piper by adding a new part to the plant to run on refuse derived fuel (RDF).

A feasibility study is currently being undertaken and is due to be completed in mid-2017. This study will assess impacts and gather feedback from stakeholders including the local community. If a decision is made to progress this project, further community consultation will take place before final plans are submitted for approval.

Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) is a source of energy currently used in the United States and Europe. It is a sustainable energy source as it uses materials that would otherwise go to landfill and create high levels of methane. This then makes the project attractive to EnergyAustralia as the overall carbon emissions are lower for RDF than for coal products.

EnergyAustralia and Re.Group are proposing to use RDF made from selected materials including non-recyclable paper, plastics and disused linen.

RDF burns differently to coal and is a relatively new technology in Australia, EnergyAustralia will be careful to ensure any impacts are researched in the feasibility study and would appreciate community feedback to ensure we capture any possible community concerns. The objective is to minimise or avoid these impacts entirely. Part of the work we're doing involves evaluating the technology used by other countries to protect the amenity of the local area, particularly air quality.

Should this project proceed, it will use existing proven technology and comply with NSW EPA's Energy from Waste (EfW) policy and regulations which include limits for noise, odour and air emissions. We are

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also assessing how best to transport RDF material prepared at specialist facilities in Sydney. Road is the most likely option but rail is also being explored. All the impacts of any project we do must be environmentally and socially acceptable.

If approved, the project will build a new facility at the Mt Piper power station under a separate Environmental Protection License.

This project represents an investment in the local community of approximately \$60m and in the long-term operation of the Mt Piper power station.

The timeframe for the project is around 12-18 months to complete and could generate its first electricity as soon as 2019. Approximately 120 jobs will be created during the construction period. An estimated \$3.7m contributed to local economy each year through the purchase of goods & services.

EnergyAustralia is working with Re.Group to look at potential fuel sources for this project. Re.Group has existing resource recovery facilities that are capable of providing appropriate materials

Costa Tsiolkas from Re. Group was introduced to the Committee and provided answers to the Committee as follows:

- RDF when combusted has 15% - 30% less carbon emissions than coal,
- An independent boiler will burn the RDF product and be sent into the existing heat cycle to bolster the efficiency of the unit,
- The unit will not need as much coal to generate the same number of megawatts,
- Approximately 100,000 tonnes of RDF product would be burnt in a year which would yield approximately 15 tonnes of ash,
- The ash can be reused in products such as road base but for this project it is a very small amount,
- It is likely that the ash will be disposed of separately but the feasibility study will investigate these options,
- Emissions from these plants are low and are located in residential areas in Europe,
- The RDF is supplied to site in bales which are transported in containers,
- Transport options will be researched in the feasibility study. Road and Rail are the two obvious options at the moment.
- There is likely to be approximately 10 return truck movements per day if this transport option is used.
- Re.Group has a facility in Western Sydney that recovers traditional non-recycled waste streams for reuse. For example, composting organics. There is not much we can do with batteries that are but in the kerbside waste but we are able to recover 80% of the red bin waste stream before it goes to landfill. The other 20% will be reduced further when we start to use RDF. This is a big step forward environmentally.
- There would be very strict guidelines about air quality after the combustion process applied to the plant and indeed some plants had better air coming out of the plant than what went into them.

Mr Tsiolkas said he had been working on recovery and reuse of waste streams for 10 years and was passionate about this project. He had travelled to Europe and was impressed with their approach to energy recovery from waste. It was a part of everyday life with residents segregating waste to optimise the amount of recovery that could be realised. The plants were in the middle of residential areas and one location had a recreational ski park on top of the recovery centre. He felt the time was right for one of these projects in Australia as sites for landfill were running out and there was plenty of waste that could be recovered for energy available right now in Australia.

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Further information was requested by the Committee regarding:

- What are the residuals from the project and how would they be disposed
- What green schemes could be used to benefit the project such as NGERs?
- Had any of the communities using this technology had problems with the plant?

The overall feeling from the Committee was that this was a worthwhile project to research and they were interested in hearing more about it. They also wanted information to go out the broader local community about this project in order to get the best feedback.

## Installation of a Boat Barrier at Lake Lyell

Michelle Blackley advised that EnergyAustralia are seeking tenders for the installation of a boat barrier at Lake Lyell Spillway. This installation will improve safety for staff, contractors and recreational users of Lake Lyell.

The proposed design will:

- Keep boats a safe distance from the spillway
- Have secure restricted access for authorised personnel to work in the area if necessary
- Highly visible (safety yellow)
- Modular design to allow component replacement
- Will maintain buoyancy when damaged
- Will absorb impact by watercraft/debris
- Not impact free flow of water at higher levels

The Committee agreed with this safety proposal and were happy to see this improvement.

Julie Favell wanted to hear more about the Redback solar battery partnership that EnergyAustralia was involved in.

**ACTION:** Michelle Blackley will organise this information for the next meeting.

Julie Favell noted that the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEAR's) had been renewed for Pine Dale Mine. Julie asked what the intention of the business was in developing Pine Dale Mine. Ben Eastwood confirmed that the SEAR's had been issued by the Department of Planning and Environment. Ben Eastwood noted that the business was reviewing its options with the site and that the next step in the planning process is to prepare a Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA). It was noted that there was no immediate plans to progress to the PEA stage at this time and the site would remain in Care and Maintenance.

Julie Favell wanted to know the progress made on the community partnership with the Lithgow campus of UWS.

**ACTION:** Michelle Blackley to provide an update at the next meeting

Jim Whitty asked if the work had been completed to stop the creek on the Wilkinson property in Lidsdale from flooding. Michelle Blackley advised that the work was completed and that Mrs Wilkinson was happy with the results.

Rob Cluff stated that the long grass in front of the Wallerawang Power Station needed to be mowed more regularly. Mr Cluff said "It looks like no-one cares about the power station."

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Julie Favell advised that UnitingCare run a training programme for local disabled people to teach them to mow lawns. This might be of assistance.

**ACTION:** Michelle Blackley to investigate the issue.

Rob Cluff also mentioned that the reeds in Lake Wallace were impacting on the users of the lake. Could EnergyAustralia do something about removing the reeds?

**ACTION:** Michelle Blackley to investigate the issue.

Meeting closed at 7:00 pm. A thank you cake was cut by Sue Graves, Julie Favell and Jim Whitty who have all served on the Committee since its inception ten years ago. All attendees enjoyed a BBQ to celebrate.

- **Next Meeting**

The date for the next Forum meeting is Wednesday 31 May 2017.

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## ■ Action List

Initiated	Action	Progress
March 2016	Tour of cooling tower dismantling works for May 2016 meeting	Works currently underway. Members advised to contact M Blackley if they wish to tour the works.
June 2016	Merging of Pinedale Community Consultative Committee and Wallerawang/Mt Piper Community Reference Group to be implemented.	In Progress – May Meeting
June 2016 and February 2017	Response for Pinedale Mine Community Consultative Committee questions	Sarah Neville discussed the feedback that was minuted for Pinedale. Julie Favell requested that the minutes be made available to the membership. Use of website was difficult.
June 2016	Response for use of Wallerawang Schoolhouse for Men's' Shed	In Progress
November 2016	Send letter to committee members with information about Round 2 Applications for Community Grants Program	completed
November 2016	Seek advice on the current Committee members having some input into the Dept. of Planning's nominees for the future independent Chair	completed
November 2016	Meeting Notes to be put on EnergyAustralia's website.	All notes available except November 2016. These will be added once website becomes available.
February 2017	Minutes to be sent to Membership	Distribution List to be established and minutes to be sent out.
February 2017	Provide information to the Committee regarding the Redback solar battery partnership	Provide for May Meeting
February 2017	Provide information regarding the proposed partnership between Energy Australia and UWS Lithgow campus.	Provide for May Meeting
February 2017	Investigate if the front grass at Wallerawang can be mown more often and potentially use the UnitingCare program	Advise Julie Favell re the use of UnitingCare program
February 2017	Investigate if the reeds in Lake Wallace can be removed.	