

# Meeting Record

<b>Name</b>	<b>Mt Piper &amp; Wallerawang power stations</b>	<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>7 June 2017</b>
<b>Meeting / Subject</b>	<b>Community Reference Group</b>	<b>Recorded By</b>	<b>MB</b>
	<b>Meeting 40</b>	<b>Total Pages</b>	<b>9</b>

<b>Members:</b>	Rob Cluff, Julie Favell, Sue Graves	
<b>EnergyAustralia</b>	Malcolm Murphy	Head of Mt Piper
	Michelle Blackley	Support Services Leader EnergyAustralia NSW
	Ben Eastwood	NSW Environment Leader EnergyAustralia NSW
<b>Apologies</b>	Boris Hunt, Ron Bidwell, Beverly Gilbert, Alex Preema, Jamie Giokaris, , Ralph Guinness, Helen Riley, Jim Whitty	
<b>Minute Taker</b>	Michelle Blackley	Support Services Leader

## Meeting

### ■ Welcome to Country

Acknowledgement of Country was conducted by Sue Graves.

### ■ Business Arising:

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

### ■ Market Update

Energy prices have increased as the supply has dropped with Hazelwood Power Station closed. Demand has increased the most since the GFC in 2007. This is further exacerbated by the unexpected continued operation of the Portland aluminium smelter. The smelter is likely to continue to operate for a further 4 to 5 years. A back up plan for the transition of the industry is necessary to assist with the cost mitigation for our customers.

Rob Cluff asked what supply situation was forecasted for next Summer. He understood that we limped through last Summer and now Hazelwood's generation was not available. Mr Murphy advised it was EnergyAustralia's view, expressed by Catherine Tanna, that a comprehensive Energy policy was necessary to provide a consistent framework to attract investment into the industry. Ms Tanna has been invited to meetings at all levels of Government to discuss this policy issue. However, next Summer could see load shedding and brown outs if the current supply issues are not dealt with.

A high price for electricity across Australia impacts on attracting investment in this country. We compete against other countries for large capital investment opportunities for our industry. Government policy needs to be consistent and allow for planning and security for the large amount of money needed. AGL had recently expressed similar views. The EnergyAustralia representatives had not heard if Origin had entered the debate.

Clearly the local PAC meeting also has some influence on what the industry can supply. If there is no water project to keep Springvale coal mine operational then the future for Mt Piper Power Station is seriously in question.

Sue Graves asked if Mt Piper could boost generation above current capacity. At the moment this is possible, but last Summer we generated at our capacity.

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## ■ Operational Update

### Mt Piper

Both units are currently in service and operating reliably.

The outage for the brine concentrator at Mt Piper is about to begin.

The new transformer is on site and prepared for storage as a strategic spare. This would have costed around \$2M to \$3M for Toshiba. The Committee were reminded that this transformer replaced the one that had been damaged before acceptance of delivery.

Planning is in progress for the Unit 2 Outage to start in September and last for 7 weeks.

Work packages include the turbine maintenance, air heater improvements, upgrade of the digital control system and other electrical controls. Similar work was successfully completed last year on Unit 1, which has increased the operational efficiency from 640 MW to 700MW. Performance drops over the age of the unit and this leads to planned outages to maintain the major plant to improve operations. These planned outages are part of the normal maintenance process of a power station.

### Wallerawang Repurposing Project

EnergyAustralia are continuing to work with the 4 proponents for the repurposing projects. This process will take quite some time. The proposals cover manufacturing, transport and recycling activities. As we have expressed before, these projects are highly commercial in confidence and little can be advised at the moment. When any information can be provided to the public we will advise this Committee. There are memorandums of understanding agreed and they are progressing along but that is all we can say.

### Wallerawang DDR

EnergyAustralia has revised the strip out plan for the plant equipment at Wallerawang and this has been provided to EAA Power for their review.

The removal of Package 4 is now complete and Package 5 is going through detailed planning.

Aurecon is working on alternate power options to allow for the pumping of ash pits and continue the environmental monitoring. They are also developing demolition plans. It was explained that any new power would be a temporary supply so that EnergyAustralia and its contractors can continue to dismantle the plant for potential sale. The plant is older technology and is not reusable in other industries. We will recycle what we can including steel, copper, oil, chemicals to minimise the waste streams.

Asbestos assessments are being progressed on site with a full-time assessor inspecting work locations in advance of the work teams.

Deconstruction of Unit 7 Cooling Towers is now completed. A time lapse video is available and will be distributed generally when it becomes available. The towers needed to be deconstructed as they presented safety issues due to partial collapse of one and the ongoing fire risk.

Hydrogeological surveys are in progress to inform the future rehabilitation work and advise us on the structural integrity of our ash dams.

Any enquiries can be made through 6354 8111 or [community@energyaustraliansw.com.au](mailto:community@energyaustraliansw.com.au).

The committee asked what would happen if the repurposing projects did not go ahead. They were advised that the demolition of the site would go ahead and potentially end in 2018 to 2019. Wallerawang Power

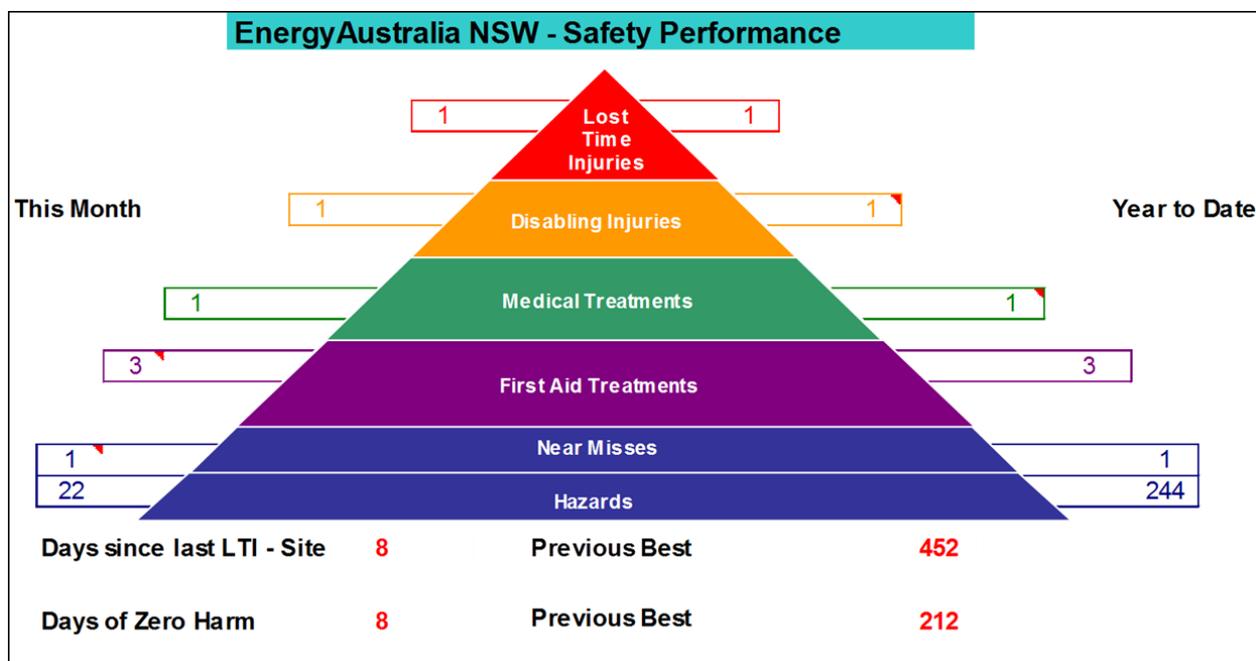
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Station would not be generating again. The project is co-ordinating between full demolition and the repurposing proposals. The Committee did ask about the reuse of Unit 8 last meeting but could the dry coal storage area be used as a Rugby League field there is plenty of space under cover.

**ACTION:** Assess the feasibility that a Rugby League field would fit under the cover of the dry coal storage area.

**ACTION:** EnergyAustralia should provide more media on the progress of the project for the local community. It would help with local confidence.

## Site Safety



The January 2017 safety statistics were shared with the Committee. We have experienced over 100 days since the serious recordable injury. It was further explained that a recordable injury is a Lost Time or disabling injury. The number of hazards identified is a positive indicator as they are recognised before an incident can occur.

### Infrasound Investigation

The Committee were advised that EnergyAustralia has contacted the complainants to organise further meetings.

We are seeking agreement over the proposed methodology for ongoing studies and monitoring of the issue. Any future studies would be based on advice from specialist noise consultants and may involve monitoring at the complainant's properties. This process can be relatively intrusive as the monitor would be located within their home and diary entries may be required to be completed by the complainant. EnergyAustralia will continue to co-ordinate any future studies with the residents concerned and will report back to the next committee meeting.

EnergyAustralia will continue to formally respond to any questions raised by either complainant.

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## ■ Rail Unloader

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

The unloader would necessitate upgrade to the rail line and its bridges which is currently shut down in parts. The line could then become available for general usage and other businesses could come to the area because of the improved transport hub.

The local mines could be impacted by this proposed project. EnergyAustralia can only pay so much for its fuel. Centennial and EnergyAustralia work well together but ultimately Mt Piper is of benefit to the local community and generates approximately 15% of the national electricity market.

## ■ Water Management

Oberon Dam's level has decreased to 90.63%, a decrease of 7 percentage points. Our Total Active Storage has also increased by 1% to 92.8% with:

- Lake Lyell at 90.3%,
- Lake Wallace at 104.7% and spilling,
- Thompsons Creek Dam at 94.8%.

No Algal Alerts apply across our storage dams. The Water Treatment project will stop the power stations use of the water out of both the Coxs and Fish rivers.

## ■ Lamberts North

- Ash Placement Volume
  - March to May was 111,178 tonne,
  - Will continue through to August 2017.
- No complaints have been received,
- No incidents recorded,
- No non-compliances have been experienced,
- 2016-17 Annual Environment Management Report development to commence in September,
- An industrial noise survey was complete last month.

A biodiversity offset area is required to offset the disturbance created by the Lamberts North ash placement project. A 5 hectare area at Thompsons Creek Dam was identified as being suitable as a biodiversity offset area. The future conservation of the area is to be secured in perpetuity using the NSW State Government bio-banking arrangements. The area will be fenced to stop cattle accessing the site and will require supplementary tree planting. EnergyAustralia are currently seeking quotes for this work to be completed. The tree planting is planned for Spring 2017 and local providence species will be used.

The Committee asked for an explanation of bio-banking. Mr Eastwood advised that it was developed by the NSW State Government as a tool to quantify the ecological impacts of proposed projects and determine the level of compensation (offset) required. For example for every hectare that a particular project will disturb, the bio-banking methodology is applied to determine how much offset area is required, this may be in the order of 3 to 4 hectares of land being set aside for conservation purposes. Biodiversity offset areas are required to be protected under a voluntary conservation agreement or similar type arrangement.

Julie Favell advised that the Red Stem Wattle should be planted first to provide Nitrogen to the soil.

**ACTION:** Provide the number of plants to be planted in the area. Can the community nursery be used to provide the tube stock?

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## ■ Joint EnergyAustralia NSW/Centennial Water Project

Tenders have been submitted and the detailed evaluation is currently underway across technical, financial, legal and commercial data. Interactive sessions with the tenderers are being facilitated to ensure a consistent evaluation.

The PAC determination is expected next week. The project risk assessment is being reviewed tomorrow now that tender designs are known. Work continues on the appropriate methodology to manage the waste stream. This is occurring in conjunction with the tender assessment.

EnergyAustralia staff attended and spoke at the meeting and were speaking from their personal point of view. Sue Graves attended the meeting and she opined that the meeting was very positive. Julie Favell thought that ceasing to use the local natural water was a positive move and enhanced its use for recreation. Centennial, she believes, makes good profits from the area and they should look after it better. Centennial's LDP 6 is not included in the project and it is the worst in the area at 5000 plus microsiemens.

Springvale's water is at 1200 microsiemens so its discharge being removed from the local water is a really good start. EnergyAustralia will use 20 megalitres a day of Springvale's water and purify it.

Rob Cluff agreed that it was a win/win. Someone at the meeting asked about moving the water with trucks but this is just not possible. He understands that Wyong Council is looking into using treated mine water from the Newstands colliery.

Malcolm Murphy was pleased with the amount of community support. Rob Cluff stated that it was the biggest meeting with the biggest number of speakers that he had attended in the local area. It appeared that only three or four speakers were against the project. He was disappointed that 400 form letters were counted when it was clear that they were copies just signed by someone who may not even represent the local area. He believed that the PAC meetings cost businesses a lot of money.

## ■ Community Engagement

Mrs Blackley advised the Committee that EnergyAustralia conducted a letter box drop in April. EnergyAustralia were attempting to gather contact details of anyone wanting to be contacted if Mt Piper were to experience an onsite emergency. We also offered to contact those community members interested in our various projects:

- Water Treatment Project
- Wallerawang DDR
- Wallerawang Repurposing
- Energy Recovery Project

Unfortunately this got confused with a scam that was occurring at the same time and many locals did not respond in fear that their details would be misused. The members were assured that any personal details of community members would be secure and privacy would be respected.

## **Community Grants Program 2017**

The first round of the 2017 Community Grants applications have been received and the information will be sent out to all the members to advise EnergyAustralia of their preferred funding requests.

\$30,000 is available to be shared among the successful candidates. The next round for a further \$30,000 will be advertised in July. The August meeting of this Committee will consider those applications.

A list of the funding proposals was presented to the committee for consideration. The committee was advised due to unforeseen circumstances that the Portland Colts Rugby League Club's successful funding application had not been paid until 2017 and was therefore taken from this round of funding. The remaining \$29,000 was available to be shared.

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Applicant	Use
Portland Colts (Round 1 2016)	Funds paid through Corporate and ran into 2017 financial period
Lithgow City Tennis Club	Upgrade Undercover Seating Area
Catholic Care Social Services	Assist with costs of the Recover Wellbeing Group
Lithgow Tidy Towns	Laneway Art Project Lithgow CBD
Wallerawang/Lidsdale Progress Association	Pyrotechnic Display at New Year's Eve Celebration – Lake Wallace
Lithgow Library Homework Zone	Creation of Tech Lab for Adults and Young Children at Library
Barton Park Arboretum	Funding for 10 Year Celebration at Arboretum

Sue Graves and Rob Cluff advised the committee of potential for conflict of interests relating to Lithgow Tidy Towns and the Wallerawang/Lidsdale Progress Association respectively. These concerns were noted. The committee had some discussion about the applications but due to the low attendance it was thought best to send information about the applications to all the committee members seeking their feedback.

**ACTION:** Michelle Blackley to send application information to the committee members.

## Power to Engineering Support

The project aims to encourage regional high school students to participate in iSTEM subjects on offer within their school curriculum. It supports tertiary pathways by connecting local schools, university students and industry.

In 2017 EnergyAustralia will support two events, one in Lithgow and one in Wollongong. The programme provides opportunities to explore, experience and understand engineering careers and applications. This first event is planned for 31 July at Lithgow. Further details will be communicated to the local schools to get their cohort involved.

## University of Western Sydney Partnership

EnergyAustralia and the university are working to develop this partnership with discussions in the early stages. We wish to provide local students with practical work experience to enhance their employability. The pilot programme aims to engage 6 students to work on the refurbishment of the Energy Expo.

The work experience will be offered in different fields such as IT, Education, Graphic Design, Communications and Electrical Engineering. We are hoping to start the programme early 2018.

## Redback Technologies

This project was announced in 2016 by EnergyAustralia who formed a \$9.3M partnership with a solar inverter system developer – Redback Technologies.

The Redback Smart Hybrid Solar Inverter system combines a smart solar inverter, battery enclosure and intelligent energy management software. The system helps customers manage the efficient use and consumption of energy in their homes and businesses.

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The users are informed on how they can use, save and sell their solar energy, reduce their carbon emissions and manage their system through their smart phones. Servicing of the Redback installations is another avenue for EnergyAustralia to provide services to their customers. More information can be found on Redback's website.

## **Merging of Community Consultation Committees**

The merging of the Mt Piper/Wallerawang Community Reference Group and the Pinedale Community Consultative Committee has been approved by the Dept. of Planning just in the last week. We are awaiting the placement of the Chair to begin the applications for the membership of this new Committee. With the requirements for advertising of these positions we believe the selection and approval will take some time.

We are now hopeful that the new Committee will be in place by the November 2017 meeting. Once again the members were encouraged to apply for the new Committee. We will advise as soon as possible with direct contact to all sitting members of the current Committees.

## **Energy Recovery Project**

The committee were informed that the feasibility study for this project is underway. This study is expected to take about 16 months to complete.

If the project is approved it will be the first time RDF has been used at an Australian power station. It will assist Mt Piper to improve its efficiency.

The proposed RDF material for Mt Piper is made from selected materials including non-recyclable paper, plastics and disused linen. RDF is a sustainable energy source as it uses materials that would otherwise go to landfill and create high levels of methane.

Overall carbon emissions are lower for RDF than for coal. The Australian Clean Energy Regulator classifies RDF as a zero-emissions technology.

Any Development Application for this project will involve a thorough assessment of any environmental impacts including:

- Strategic and statutory context,
- Air quality and odour,
- Human health risk,
- Waste management,
- Soils and water,
- Traffic and transport,
- Noise and vibration,
- Biosecurity,
- Hazards and risk,
- Visual,
- Greenhouse gas and energy efficiency,
- Flora and fauna,
- Aboriginal and non-aboriginal cultural heritage,
- Bushfire risk,
- Contributions.

The EIS is planned to commence later this year including extensive stakeholder consultation. The local community will be a substantial part of this consultation.

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Mt Piper could commence using RDF in 2019 if the project was approved. Local economic benefits would be 120 construction jobs and \$3.7M per annum boost from purchasing goods and services for the installation.

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.

## ■ General Business

Julie Favell brought up the recent local meeting of the Blue Mountains Renewable Energy Conservation Cooperative. This meeting discussed how a preschool at Winmalee paid for solar panels.

**ACTION:** Michelle Blackley to provide the contact details of Redback Technologies to Julie Favell.

Julie Favell asked if it was possible to train local EnergyAustralia staff in the engineering involved in alternate energy supply. It seemed likely that the local staff would already know 70% to 80% of what was needed. This way the industry could transition into renewables more smoothly with employment maintained for those currently in the industry. She was advised that once the initial installation of renewables was achieved there was little maintenance and what was involved was not the same as for a coal fired power station. Ms Favell pressed that with automation how can the area attract other industry that will employ local workers. Port Kembla did achieve this through the installation of local wind farms.

Malcolm Murphy advised that EnergyAustralia provides opportunities for staff to rotate to different sites at peak times to learn about different generation methods. The high-end skills of workers in power stations translates quite well to other industries and is a good base for employment. The issue of transition is bigger than EnergyAustralia. The transition needs to occur across the market and provide funds for transition to Lithgow.

Sue Graves advised that the Lithgow City Council were concerned about the Energy Recovery project's impact on the coal industry and wanted to discuss it further. She asked if EnergyAustralia had been contacted yet about the proposed discussion. We advised that we had already spoken to the Council representatives about the project and were unaware of these concerns. However, we were open to discuss with Centennial and the Council so that the Councillors were advised appropriately about the Energy Recovery project.

**ACTION:** EnergyAustralia offered to contact the Council to share information with them about the project.

Meeting closed at 6:40 pm.

## ■ Next Meeting

The date for the next Forum meeting is Wednesday 23 August 2017.

# Meeting Record

## ■ Action List

Initiated	Action	Progress
March 2016	Tour of cooling tower dismantling works for May 2016 meeting	complete
June 2016	Merging of Pinedale Community Consultative Committee and Wallerawang/Mt Piper Community Reference Group to be implemented.	In Progress – November Meeting
June 2016 and February 2017	Response for Pinedale Mine Community Consultative Committee questions	complete
June 2016	Response for use of Wallerawang Schoolhouse for Men's' Shed	In Progress
November 2016	Meeting Notes to be put on EnergyAustralia's website.	complete
February 2017	Minutes to be sent to Membership	complete
February 2017	Provide information to the Committee regarding the Redback solar battery partnership	complete
February 2017	Provide information regarding the proposed partnership between Energy Australia and UWS Lithgow campus.	complete
February 2017	Investigate if the front grass at Wallerawang can be mown more often and potentially use the UnitingCare program	being considered once contract expired
February 2017	Investigate if the reeds in Lake Wallace can be removed.	In Progress
June 2017	Assess the feasibility of a Rugby League field being placed under the dry coal storage area	New
June 2017	EnergyAustralia to provide more information to media on the progress of the repurposing and DDR at Wallerawang	New
June 2017	Provide the numbers of plants to be used in the biodiversity area at Thompsons Creek Dam. Can the Community Nursery be used to provide the tube stock	New
June 2017	Send Community Grant application information to the committee members for review and feedback	New
June 2017	Provide contact details of Redback Technologies to Julie Favell	New
June 2017	EnergyAustralia to contact the Lithgow City Council regarding the Energy Recovery Project	New