

# Meeting Record

<b>Name</b>	<b>Mt Piper &amp; Wallerawang Power Stations</b>	<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>23 August 2017</b>
<b>Meeting / Subject</b>	<b>Community Reference Group</b>	<b>Recorded By</b>	<b>MB</b>
	<b>Meeting 41</b>	<b>Total Pages</b>	<b>9</b>

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

## Meeting

### ■ Welcome to Country

Welcome to Country was conducted by Auntie Helen Riley.

### ■ 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

The demand levels were displayed and explained by Mr Murphy. Energy prices continue to be of concern to the Committee members. Some members advised of the increases in prices that their businesses have experienced in recent times. The Committee members expressed their belief that Australia's energy prices were one of the most expensive across the world.

The Committee understood that a balanced transition was necessary across the generation industry towards renewables but something had to be done about the price to the customer.

Mr Murphy opined that the first step needed to be a clear policy direction set by the Government to promote investment into building new generation assets. Rob Cluff believed that the process for development approvals also needed to be simplified and streamlined to minimise these costs for new assets.

Mt Piper's generation was generating in a flexible manner to mirror the daily generation supply levels to provide stability to the grid.

### ■ Operational Update

#### Mt Piper

Both units are currently in service and operating reliably.

Mt Piper's brine concentrator outage was completed to plan.

Site preparations for the upcoming Unit 2 Outage are underway. This outage will repair the normal wear and tear on the unit to bring it back to design. The unit will then be able to generate up to 700 MW. 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.

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Work packages include the turbine maintenance, air heater improvements, upgrade of the digital control system and other electrical controls. We expect to have an extra 400 people on site during the outage. The Committee asked about the work hours during this period and were advised that some contractors would have shifts working around the clock 6 days a week.

## Wallerawang Repurposing Project

As stated in previous meetings, 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. EnergyAustralia are providing their full support to the repurposing concept with dedicated staff working on it.

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

EA Auctions are working on the equipment removal for Package 5.

Aurecon is working on alternate power options to allow for the pumping of ash pumps and they are continuing to work on the demolition plans. EnergyAustralia staff continue to conduct the environmental monitoring that is required under the site license.

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

EnergyAustralia have approach the Lithgow City Council (LCC) about the construction of an asbestos containment area further away from the Lidsdale community. Large amounts of asbestos is being found in Wallerawang as the deconstruction process continues. Options were investigated about the best way to manage the asbestos. These included use of the current facilities, transport to various off-site facilities and creating a new containment area.

The Committee expressed some concern about the ongoing management and asked a number of questions relating to the depth of capping, leaching or escape of asbestos over time. Mr Eastwood advised that any non-friable asbestos in a stable condition would be buried at a depth of 3 metres. Friable asbestos would be bagged and buried to the same depth. Leaching is not a concern as asbestos is not soluble. He also advised that a full Environmental Impact Statement would be conducted and full consultation with the community would be conducted.

The committee were not entirely comfortable with an asbestos repository close to Lidsdale and would be interested in further information.

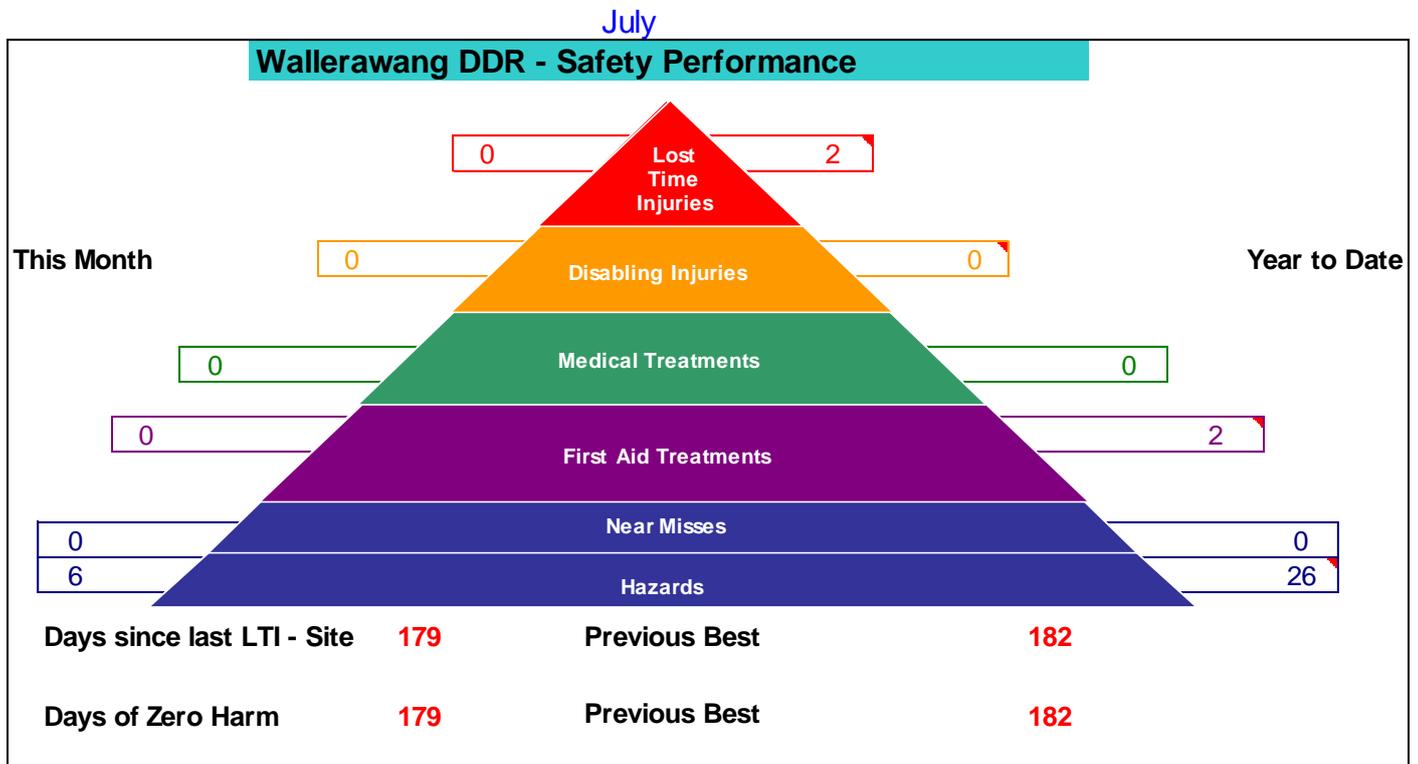
Mr Whitty asked if it was possible to get some information from the recent hydrogeological surveys conducted in the Lidsdale area. His neighbour was interested in contaminants in the area adjacent to the tennis courts.

**ACTION** : EnergyAustralia to review the available information from the hydrogeological surveys and advise if it could be shared.

The DDR team is also developing long term rehabilitation plans for the Kerosene Ash Dam area.

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- Site Safety



The July 2017 safety statistics were shared with the Committee. EnergyAustralia achieved zero harm across the business for the month of July.

### Infrasound Investigation

The Committee were advised that EnergyAustralia has contacted the complainants to organise further meetings but were asked to defer any further contact due to personal reasons.

We will continue to work with the complainants when they are available regarding the proposed methodology for ongoing studies and monitoring of the issue.

EnergyAustralia will continue to formally respond to any questions raised by either complainant. It is interesting to note that we have not been made aware of any further infrasound event during 2017.

Ms Favell did advise that infrasound was being reviewed for possible inclusion in the industrial noise policies by the Dept of Planning. Infrasound was one of the topics under discussion at a recent conference of the International Commission on Biological Effects of Noise in Zurich.

- Rail Unloader**

There has been no change with the status of the Pipers Flat rail unloader site with environmental monitoring continuing. We are negotiating the termination of the lease with the current incumbent. EnergyAustralia are continuing to assess our options and some activity may be seen on the land early in 2018.

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## ■ Water Management

Oberon Dam's level has decreased to 86.41%, a decrease of 4 percentage points. Our Total Active Storage has also decreased by 1% to 91.9% with:

- Lake Lyell at 95.3%,
- Lake Wallace at 107.7% and spilling,
- Thompsons Creek Dam at 86.6%.

Green Algal Alerts apply at Lake Wallace and for the Coxs River below Lake Wallace and below Lake Lyell. The Water Treatment project will stop the power station's use of the water out of both the Coxs and Fish rivers. The Committee remarked that this alert was unseasonal.

Mrs Graves remarked that should drought conditions occur again that the Clarence Mine Water would still be available through Lake Lyell. She believed the Lithgow City Council had only used this water twice since the development was implemented several years ago. Mr Murphy advised that the water treatment project would mean that Mt Piper would not need to draw from either the Coxs or Fish River systems.

## ■ Lamberts North

- Ash Placement Volume
  - March to May 2017 was 111,178 tonne,
  - Ash Placement 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,

Ms Favell asked if they can get a copy of this report and was advised that it is a public document and will be shared with the Committee.

In answer to a question from the last meeting, the Biodiversity Offset area at Thompsons Creek Dam will be fenced off shortly. With the first series of planting to occur this Spring. Approximately 2000 plants will be used in this offset area. Further planting on the 5 hectare area will be staged over several years. The community nursery will be used to supply the plants dependent on the availability of local providence varieties.

## ■ Joint EnergyAustralia NSW/Centennial Water Project

The preferred tenderer has been selected and the final contract is under negotiation with Veolia. Some preliminary work has been initiated in order to meet the deadline for the project in June 2019.

The PAC determination for the water treatment project was successful. The project risk assessment is still under review as further detail comes to hand. Work continues on the appropriate methodology to manage the waste stream.

Mr Murphy explained the appeal launched by 4Nature to the Committee members. The Committee had heard of the appeal but didn't understand its context or content. The Dept of Planning is gathering further information to inform the process as to the way to proceed regarding the successful appeal. Centennial advises that the appeal should have no impact on Springvale but they will need to work to the new requirements once they become known.

## ■ Community Engagement

### Community Grants Program 2017

Mrs Blackley advised the Committee that the second round of Community Grant applications were available for review. The below table set out all the applications and the projects and recipients were discussed in light of previous and/or regular funding. \$30,000 has been made available by

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EnergyAustralia to be shared among the worthy applicants. The applicants will be advised of our response and we will develop a story for the media.

Applicant	Use
Capertee Progress Association	Install more efficient heating to the Capertee Memorial Community Hall
Greater City of Lithgow Arts Council	Assist with prizes & costs of annual Award Ceremony promoting all facets of Art in the Lithgow Area
Lithgow Bears RLC	Assist with costs of Kids Disco to raise money towards awareness of mental illness/suicide prevention in the local area
Lithgow Public School	Funding Books in Homes Program for 440 students to 1 Terms- supporting literacy development
Mitchell Conservatorium of Music Lithgow	Sponsorship of Scholarship for local budding musicians
Wallerawang Branch of Central Acclimatisation Society	Assist with costs of 'Gone Fishing Day" a family fun event to be held at Lake Wallace

The Committee considered the applications and endorsed the distribution of funds during the meeting.

**ACTION:** Second Round of the Community Grant Funds to be distributed

## Merging of Community Consultative 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. At their request we have sent out invitations to people to be the Chair of the new Community Consultative Committee requesting they submit a resume. This information will be submitted to the Dept of Planning for their review and selection.

Once the Chair is in place, EnergyAustralia will advertise for the membership positions. The Chair will select the member and advise them of their selection.

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 the proposed 14 megawatt plant was almost complete. It has been discovered that the small size of the project is not economically viable and would fail to meet EnergyAustralia's investment requirements.

A public report will be presented to ARENA shortly. The technical analysis did demonstrate that the project is technically feasible and confirms the approach to co-locate at Mt Piper is sound.

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The Committee asked if they could get a copy of this report. Mr Murphy advised that we would make it available as soon as it was submitted to ARENA.

It has been decided to conduct further analysis on a 28 megawatt facility and the implications this would have on site and the community. This study is currently underway. This study will thoroughly assess all the relevant environmental, economic and social considerations.

EnergyAustralia are currently working with two technology providers who have 30 years of industry experience in this field. We will present more detail on the findings regarding the larger facility at the next community meeting when more information should be available.

If the project were to prove viable an EIS process will be conducted including extensive stakeholder consultation. The local community will be involved in this consultation process.

The Committee members asked for more information regarding this process and in particular would like to understand what emissions and waste streams would need to be managed by the facility and the processes that supported it. Further the mode of transport was of interest due to the number of trucks on local roads that the larger facility would require.

**ACTION:** Michelle Blackley to organise another speaker to attend the meeting who could provide details and potentially an independent opinion on the project.

## ■ General Business

Julie Favell advised the committee that a solar farm was being researched by Sunset Energy for the Vales Point Power Station and asked if the same could be done for the Sawyers Swamp Creek Ash Dam. Mr Murphy advised that the escarpment surrounding the dam would impact the operations of any solar installation.

Ms Favell asked what we knew of the new proposal for Invincible Mine for nut coal and would EnergyAustralia be interested in this source of coal. Mr Eastwood advised that we were unaware of any details regarding this development but he thought it unlikely for the development to go ahead.

Ms Favell asked if Pinedale could provide another source of local coal. Mr Murphy advised there was not enough coal to warrant further development of that mine.

Julie Favell requested the following:

1. Contact to be made with Corporate regarding assistance with the solar panels for Hoskins Church and other local charitable and community organisations such as the Small Arms Factory Museum.
2. Discussion relating to expanding local alternate energy pilot programs between EnergyAustralia and ARENA.
3. Investigate the use of the Sports and Social Hall at Wallerawang as a Training Centre to develop local skills required to install alternate energy equipment. This could assist in the transaction of local workers of the coal mining and coal based power generation industries.
4. Investigate the possibility of setting up a supercharge Tesla station at Wallerawang.
5. Investigate the utilisation of low flow water turbines in EnergyAustralia normal operations.

**ACTION:** Michelle Blackley to research feasibility of above suggestions.

Meeting closed at 6:50 pm.

## ■ Next Meeting

The date for the next Forum meeting is Wednesday 30 November 2017.

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## ■ Action List

Initiated	Action	Progress
June 2016	Merging of Pinedale Community Consultative Committee and Wallerawang/Mt Piper Community Reference Group to be implemented.	In Progress – November Meeting
June 2016	Response for use of Wallerawang Schoolhouse for Men's' Shed	In Progress
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	In Progress
June 2017	EnergyAustralia to provide more information to media on the progress of the repurposing and DDR at Wallerawang	In Progress
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	Complete
June 2017	Send Community Grant application information to the committee members for review and feedback	Complete
June 2017	Provide contact details of Redback Technologies to Julie Favell	Complete
June 2017	EnergyAustralia to contact the Lithgow City Council regarding the Energy Recovery Project	In Progress
August 2017	EnergyAustralia to review the available information from the hydrogeological surveys and advise if it could be shared.	New
August 2017	Second Round of the Community Grant Funds to be distributed	New
August 2017	EnergyAustralia to organise another speaker to attend the meeting who could provide details and potentially an independent opinion on the project.	New
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