

Meeting note

Tallawarra Community Liaison Group Meeting DISTRIBUTION DRAFT

Project	EnergyAustralia Tallawarra	Date	22/02/2018
Ref No.	06/34	Time	17:00
Purpose	Project update		
Chair	Brendan Blakeley, Elton Consulting	Recorder	Georgia Heighway, Elton Consulting
Attendees	<p>Andrew Knowlson, Resident/Dapto Neighbourhood Forum</p> <p>Nicole Ashton, Wollongong City Council</p> <p>Rob Heyer, Illawarra Amateur Radio Society Inc</p> <p>Keith Bradshaw, Illawarra Amateur Radio Society Inc</p> <p>Paul Knight, Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council (ILALC)</p> <p>Michelle Rower, Illawarra Birders</p> <p>Gleniss Wellings, Illawarra National Parks Association</p> <p>Phil Straw, Avifauna Research and Services Pty Ltd</p> <p>Darryl Goldrick, Illawarra Bird Observer's Club</p> <p>Kristy Blackburn, Lake Illawarra Environmental Strategy Officer</p> <p>Cheryl Lappin, Shell Harbour City Council</p> <p>Justin Courmadias, EnergyAustralia</p> <p>Jason Lee, EnergyAustralia</p> <p>Kristen Lee, EnergyAustralia</p> <p>Bianca Graham, EnergyAustralia</p>		
		Apologies	Garry Doughty, Illawarra Cyclists Trevor McNally, Bridgehill

Welcome and Introductions (Brendan Blakeley)

- » The meeting commenced at 5:00pm.
 - » Brendan Blakely welcomed all participants.
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Minutes of previous meeting

- » Brendan called for comments on the previous meeting notes.
 - » No comments were provided.
 - » The notes would therefore be taken as being an accurate reflection of the previous meeting and will be placed on the EnergyAustralia Tallawarra website.
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Tallawarra Safety Performance presentation (Kristen Lee)

- » Kristen Lee provided an overview of safety performance data for the station.
 - » The station will be out of service for major maintenance from April. There will be 200 contractors on site.
 - » Safety can be a challenge with contractors due to limited communication opportunities, but identifying safety issues can help. There is currently a focus on working on communicating all aspects of safety to contractors on the site.
 - » EnergyAustralia is working with its key contractors to undertake an Outage Risk Assessment before works begin. This is to ensure safety throughout the extended servicing period.
 - » There will be a temporary elevator installed on the site to reduce manual handling risks.
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Tallawarra Lands (Kristen Lee)

- » There have been no recent reports of waste being dumped on the Lands.
- » The number of instances of people accessing private areas has risen in the past few months.

ACTION: If anyone becomes aware of anyone suspicious on the Tallawarra site, they are asked to let Energy Australia know. This can be done by calling the Gatehouse Number on 1800 336 003, or by emailing tallawarra@energyaustralia.com.au

Saving our species project (Kristen Lee)

- » In November 2016 the Saving Our Species Management Project was launched by the Office of Environment and Heritage.
 - » Infra-red cameras are used to pick up disturbances to the Solanum Celatum plant, which is an endangered species of plant found around Mount Brown.
 - » Wallabies, deer and cattle are being monitored to see how they impact this species of native plant.
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Operating Performance 2017 (Jason Lee)

Tallawarra remains one of the most thermally efficient power stations in Australia.

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- » The Energy Market has peak periods so EnergyAustralia is still looking at ways to improve Tallawarra's operational flexibility.
 - » EnergyAustralia looks to Tallawarra to bridge/balance the load of energy.
 - » The three key outcomes for EnergyAustralia are affordability, reliability and sustainability.
 - » EnergyAustralia is looking for options to address each of these elements.
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Maintenance Outage (Jason Lee)

- » The maintenance outage will start from the 1st of April and run for 58 days in total.
 - » The focus during this time will be about improving operational flexibility and further reinforcing reliability.
 - » There will be a substantial rise in people on the site during this time which requires a concerted focus on safety.
 - » The primary objective is to replace the high-pressure drum and recondition the high pressure and intermediate pressure steam turbines.
 - » At the moment the drum will most likely be sent away to be turned in to scrap metal, but there was a discussion on alternative uses such as an art space.
 - » There was a unit trip reported on the 12th of January. A faulty sensor was located and in less than 2 hours the plant was safely returned to service.
 - » *A CLG member noted that CASA may need to be advised of the height of the crane that will be on site over this period.*
 - » *There was also a suggestion to reuse of the pressure drum as public art rather than recycle it as scrap.*
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Community Grants (Jason Lee)

- » EnergyAustralia is again providing community grants this year
- » Applications will open from April
- » The grants will be allocated for activities related to social inclusion and education
- » There will be a total of \$20,000 to be allocated.
- » The CLG was asked to kindly spread the work to anyone they think would be interested in applying for a grant.

Update on Tallawarra Lands development (Justin Courmadias)

- » Bridgehill has lodged a s75W application to amend the Tallawarra Lands Concept Approval.
- » It is anticipated that the process will take several months and include consultation with a number of relevant authorities and agencies.

ACTION: The CLG would like an update on the public consultation process to be undertaken by Bridgehill Group at the next meeting.

Updates on the nursery

- » There is currently discussion underway with EnergyAustralia to move shipping containers to the site for use as temporary storage.
 - » The nursery will grow species endemic to the Illawarra for revegetation projects.
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- » There is interest from conservation groups about the nursery, including from National Parks and Wildlife Services.
 - » An exact date for completion is not available but there is work continuing in the following weeks.
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Illawarra Birders:

- » There have been 6 sightings of new birds in the ash ponds area, with 116 sightings in total.
 - » Species sighted recently included: the red capped plover (a migratory shore bird), a brown cuckoo dove (which is attracted to the native tobacco on the lands), a red capped robin (which is a bird usually found in the outback), a whistling kite, concentrations of swans and pelicans, high quantities of birds of prey, a long-billed corella, Australian Bitten, Glossy Ibis, Freckled Duck, Shoveller and Pink Eared Duck and a White Throated Needletail among others.
 - » The drought has meant larger quantities of migratory birds are flocking to the site. It was reported that the Tallawarra 3 Ash Pond has dried out substantially. There has been no prolonged rain recorded for at least 6 months on the site.
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National Energy Policy (Justin Courmadias)

National Energy Guarantee:

In late 2017, the Australian Government announced its proposed new energy strategy - the National Energy Guarantee (NEG). It is proposed that the NEG consist of two parts - a reliability guarantee and an emissions guarantee and that the obligation to meet these guarantees sit with energy retailers. Development of the NEG is being driven and coordinated by the Energy Security Board. The intention of the NEG is to deliver more reliable, affordable and cleaner energy to customer.

A CLG Member asked if the NEG covered gas supplies.

Justin noted that security of affordable gas remains a particular challenge and the NEG does not address that.

ACTION: Brendan Blakeley to provide the NEG policy link www.energy.gov.au/government-priorities/better-energy-future-australia

General Discussion:

- » The Illawarra Amateur Radio Association provided a brief history of the work of their organisation. In addition to recreational activities the society plays an important communications support role in emergencies.
- » *A CLG member noted the importance of maintaining adequate buffers around the station and potential conflicts with residential uses if this buffer is reduced.*
- » *Kristy Blackburn noted that a draft Coastal Management Plan for Illawarra Lake has been released. There will be a formal exhibition in June/July. Kristy offered to provide a presentation on the plan at the next meeting.*

ACTION: The next meeting is scheduled for the 17th of May.

Meeting close

- » The CLG were thanked for their contributions. All members were encouraged to share their ideas for community engagement at any point in time.
 - » The meeting closed at 6.40pm
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