

Meeting note

EnergyAustralia Lithgow CCC

Date	25 February 2019	Time	5:00pm – 7:00pm
Chair	Brendan Blakeley	Recorder	Alexandra Krautil, Elton Consulting
Attendees	Jamie Giokaris, CCC member Julie Favell, CCC member, via Zoom Alex Preema, CCC member James (Jim) Whitty, CCC member Robert Cluff, CCC member Lauren Stevens, Lithgow Council Peter Griffiths, EnergyAustralia Michelle Blackley, EnergyAustralia Steve Marshall, EnergyAustralia Mick Hanly, EnergyAustralia Greg Macintyre EnergyAustralia, via Zoom	Apologies	Jill Cusack, CCC member Clr Joe Smith, Lithgow Council CCC Representative Aunty Helen Riley, CCC member Ben Eastwood, EnergyAustralia

Item	Discussion Point
1.	Welcome and introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">» The meeting commenced at 5:05pm.» Brendan Blakeley welcomed all participants, including an acknowledgement of country, and noted apologies.
2.	Review of notes from meeting three <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Brendan called for comments on the previous notes.» Brendan noted Julie had requested a clarification in relation to the discussion of surplus treated water being discharged into the Coxs River. Julie noted the LEG and other environmental groups asked that discharge water be treated to the same background levels by desalination and then released. Instead, DPE determined to not permit any discharge into the waterways leading into the river.» ACTION: December meeting notes to be updated to reflect this clarification.» Brendan asked group members to try to provide their feedback about the notes prior to them being posted on the website as required by the Department. <p><u>Answers to questions/actions arising from December meeting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">» <i>Q – Julie: Please provide an explanation of what an Exploration Licence is and a map of the area currently under the Pinedale Mine Exploration Licence.</i>» <i>A:</i> Peter noted an Exploration Licence gives the licence holder the exclusive right to explore for petroleum or for specific minerals within a designated area, but does not permit mining. It also does not guarantee that a mining or production lease will be granted. Only a very small percentage of the land that is subject to exploration licences ever proceeds to a mine. Licences are approved and regulated by the NSW Department of Industry, Resources & Energy, and exploration activities may include geological mapping, geotechnical surveys and drilling.» Refer to pp. 7-8 of the attached presentation for further details and the map of the area.

Julie noted she understands with the licence they are currently at an exploration level, however she believes the community surrounding the area should be made aware of the process and that companies are looking into potential for the area.

- » Brendan noted this will be part of the meeting notes so will be publicly available.
- » Greg highlighted EnergyAustralia is not currently carrying out many activities under this Exploration Licence, however committed that the company would consult people in the surrounding area and keep the community well informed if activities are carried out.
 - > The Exploration Licence enables the licence holder to do exploration deemed necessary, however at this point in time there are no immediate plans to undertake such work.
- » Chair's Addendum: Useful information on Exploration licencing is available at <https://www.resourcesandgeoscience.nsw.gov.au/landholders-and-community/minerals-and-coal/exploration>
- » *Q – Julie: Could EnergyAustralia please provide a species list for the ash repository?*
- » A: Peter noted the list is not yet finalised, but in this process EnergyAustralia is considering the naturally occurring species, and have determined the dominant vegetative species of the area.
- » Refer to p. 8 of the attached presentation for further detail of these species.
- » *Q – Julie: What metals are not removed when SSCAD discharge is dosed for pH?*
- » A: Peter highlighted dosing for pH correction is the only treatment undertaken with the water discharged from SSCAD. This treatment does help lower the levels of aluminium.
 - > There was no discharge from SSCAD in 2018.
- » *Q – Julie: Have the ground water chlorides detected in the Mt Piper Ash Repositories, as noted in the last meeting, been listed?*
- » A: Peter noted EnergyAustralia continues to progress an independent groundwater investigation for the Ash Repository. These consultants have been working for 18 months and are now mid-way through development of a new groundwater model which considers groundwater flows from both upstream and downstream. There are currently two data points informing this information, and a third is being actively sought. This will enable the final calibration of the ground water model.
 - > The model is expected to be delivered in the fourth quarter of 2019.
 - > EnergyAustralia is working to determine if there are any plumes through the ash repository ground water network, from there will be able to build a model determining the forces behind or cause of the plumes.
 - > The area under Mt Piper has been mined meaning a significant amount of ground water is flowing through the area. EnergyAustralia is working to ensure they have the appropriate data points to be able to manage what may or may not be coming down through the system.

Julie asked if the ground water flow is being recorded now? She noted previous reporting had discovered some form of leaching, is there data now that says this is still happening?

- » Greg responded that there are a number of monitoring bores throughout the area around the repository. These are being examined to ensure they are at the correct depth, and the appropriate amount of water is being extracted to make these assessments.
- » The drilling of the other bores to ensure an extra set of data will enable EnergyAustralia to move forward and determine the speed at which any leaching may be occurring and also the extent and the force behind any plumes that are identified.

Julie asked whether EnergyAustralia knew why this flow could be occurring?

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- » Greg noted this is what these studies are trying to discover. Taking into consideration the Station is 25 years old with ash being deposited over 25 years into the repository, it is likely not moving quickly. Once they have the appropriate data points, EnergyAustralia will do what they can from an operational aspect to ensure any flow is limited.

Julie asked if the method is still used where dye is put in to the water to see where it comes up on the surface?

- » Greg highlighted EnergyAustralia has not seen any water come to the surface. Newbeck's Creek is the potential end point, the ground throughout the area is very disturbed so a lot of work needs to be done to understand the flow patterns and course that water follows.

Jim asked whether EnergyAustralia have determined what level the natural water table is?

- » Greg noted these are the questions the consultant is presently investigating.
- » Steve highlighted they have recently extended the perimeter of the bore analysis further north to see how the groundwater is behaving, the next step is the analysis of the ash itself and further bores to see what is driving any plumes and where they are being driven from.

Julie asked whether the water supply is being brought up from the ground and accessed by the local community?

- » Steve noted this has already been assessed, there are no domestic or agricultural bores which could be affected.
 - » **ACTION:** EnergyAustralia to provide update to the CCC as data becomes available.
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3. **Site update from EnergyAustralia**

- » Peter provided a general site update, covering a range of topics.

Site Safety:

- » Since January there has been one injury on site, with a foot injury in the coal mills resulting in the worker having restricted duties for a period.
 - > The crew was lifting a 70-90 kg plate with an electro-magnet but did not get a decent enough grip on it so the plate dropped on the workers foot. Luckily was wearing steel cap boots.
 - > This work has been redesigned for a trolley to move heavy plates rather than EnergyAustralia staff, so the company is learning and improving from this mistake.
- » During February, Mobile Skin Doctors came to site and undertook 120 skin checks of EnergyAustralia staff and contractors – cost \$11,000 for their two-day visit, and they identified about a dozen people needing to go for a further check-up.

Jim asked if the need for these skin checks were related to their work?

- » Peter highlighted they were not related, just a health check as part of the employee's benefits.
- » Refer to p. 11 of the attached presentation for detailed safety performance data.

Update – Water Management:

- » Peter noted Oberon Dam missed most of the recent rain and is still falling. Thompsons Creek is slightly down to complete the erosion work which will be discussed later in the meeting.
 - » Oberon Dam level is at 45.1%.
 - » Total active storage is at 89.4% with:
 - > Lake Lyell at 92.4%.
 - > Lake Wallace at 110.6%.
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- > Thompsons Creek Dam at 83.8%.
 - » Lake Wallace continues to spill.
 - » Green alert for Blue-green algae below Lake Wallace only. This is a good outcome for this time of year - green is the lowest level of any detection.

Market Update:

- » Steve discussed the 12-month rolling average demand graph, alongside January figures.
- » January peak demand was relatively high, being a higher peak during summer than EnergyAustralia has had for some time. The average demand remained fairly stable.
- » The January graph also indicated Mt Piper's generation amounts highlighting a comparison through the year, and that the Station remains a strong player in the market.
- » Greg noted the demand is likely to be similar for February, and there has been a key focus on managing loads, as generation has needed to be provided across the eastern seaboard from Queensland to South Australia. Have been setting records for loads.
- » In this time the focus has been on responsibly using resources throughout the month to ensure prices are not being pushed up.
- » Refer to p. 15 of the attached presentation for the rolling demand and January figures graphs.

Operations (Site) Update – Mt Piper Operations:

- » Steve explained MP1 has had a brief outage since the last meeting for air heater lubrication issues.
- » MP2 has been running reliably since the last meeting.
- » Fuel handling problems have been reduced since the last meeting.
- » Stockpile levels are reducing due to a lack of reliable supply from Springvale as they are working through some engineering issues in their operations. Springvale have ceased deliveries multiple times.
 - > EnergyAustralia is working on ways to rectify these issues.

Rob asked about the quality of the coal supply - will it become easier to handle? How is the outlook for the rest of the year?

- » Steve noted the longwall move scheduled for the middle of the year is expected to be a better quality than the last. Now moving back towards where started at Springvale.
- » EnergyAustralia is taking measures at the moment with lower market prices to conserve where possible to manage any risk.

Alex and Julie asked to clarify where the new longwall will be?

- » Steve responded it will be out close to Clarence area working back under towards Newnes.

4. **Project updates from EnergyAustralia – existing and planned**

Pinedale Mine update:

- » Peter noted that Yarraboldy continues to be in care and maintenance while its future is assessed. Rehabilitation is progressing in areas where mining is complete as noted in the last meeting.
 - > The pending planning application for the next phase has been withdrawn. EnergyAustralia plans to put forward a revised proposal once the feasibility study is finalised.
- » Exploration Lease 7621 update – desktop assessment is continuing with a renewal application to be submitted to extend the term.

Mt Piper Turbine Upgrade

- » Steve noted that the EnergyAustralia Board has approved the Mt Piper turbine upgrade.
- » EnergyAustralia are now in negotiations with the preferred tenderer, determining system requirements and stability reviewing – these can impact on frequency and system response thus EnergyAustralia are trying to determine the best option for the system prior to the upgrade.
 - > The upgrade will allow additional MWs to be generated for the same coal burn. This effectively means the difference in power generated is essentially carbon free MWs, and will be delivered at a lower installation cost than wind power per MW. The upgrade will make Mt Piper the most efficient coal fired Station in Australia.
 - > Will be an investment of nearly \$90 million over 2019, 2020 and 2021. Currently in the process of negotiating final commercial contracts with Toshiba. Works are anticipated to begin in 2020.

Update – Thompsons Creek Foreshore Erosion:

- » On site work commenced on the Eastern Foreshore Erosion Protection on 28 January 2019. Completion is scheduled for June.
 - > Sediment control fabric has been installed, pedestrian walkway fenced, haul road and water pond access track completed, embankment shaping 50% completed, temporary stockpile site completed, delivery of aggregates (hard rocks) has commenced.
- » EnergyAustralia consulted with neighbours regularly during beginning of works, which included getting the mobile plant into the area and fixing roadways to ensure they were safe for the mobile plant.
 - > To date there has been one complaint about dust. In response to these concerns, Willowvale Lane has been graded and dust is being suppressed by using water carts as needed.
 - > The complainant is now happy and the issue is resolved, however the Willowvale Lane area will continue to be monitored to ensure environmental and community requirements are being met.
- » Refer to pp. 23-24 of the attached presentation for images showing progress at the site including shaping of the foreshore.

Wallerawang DDR:

- » Development applications for an [Asbestos Repository](#) and [Demolition and Rehabilitation](#) works have been submitted to Council.
- » Exhibition for both applications closes on 18 March.
 - > The demolition and rehabilitation DA includes flexibility to ensure areas of the site that are suitable for re-use can be retained. Some of these works are required to allow repurposing, but also give flexibility if rehabilitation is required prior to repurposing.
 - > It is worth noting asbestos is part of how the plant was built. No asbestos will be put into the ash dams, there will be a separate repository.
- » Decontamination will also include cleaning out acid pipes and flushing out tanks. There is no change on the ground.
- » Remaining inventory is being auctioned publicly. The last items will be completed tomorrow (26 February), and bids have been placed for all items put up for sale.

Jim asked how the asbestos will be handled?

- » Greg noted there are very strict guidelines around asbestos and these must be followed. The new asbestos repository will be state of the art. Any asbestos will be contained within sealed containers, similar to a large shipping container, and welded shut. The repository will be built so if in the future the containers ever broke down, any asbestos
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would be contained within a solid, confined area. It will be like an 'underground fortress', designed for containment and built on part of the Kerosene Vale repository. There is definitely no possibility of any demolition related asbestos going into the ash dam.

Julie noted the method was discussed at a past meeting, and herself and the LEG are comfortable with this, as long as it remains monitored into the future.

- » Steve noted whilst anything is completed on EnergyAustralia land, it will need to be licensed, registered by the EPA and will have to be reported on a regular basis.

Jim asked how the asbestos removal will be undertaken?

- » Greg responded EnergyAustralia will be employing expert contractors to complete these works. The tender will be released to a number of contractors who must have extensive and proven experience in managing asbestos removal. The tender responses will provide information regarding the options for handling the asbestos. Once we have selected the successful Contractor EnergyAustralia will know which method will be used and inform the community.

Julie noted it would be beneficial to make these processes known to the public. Explaining how works will be completed would reassure the community.

Wallerawang DDR: Ash Dams Area Rehabilitation:

- » Peter highlighted Aurecon have been engaged to finalise the closure and rehabilitation plan. Treasury are a third party in everything to do with the project as they will eventually assume responsibility of the area, including any treatment required to de-water the ash dams.
- » [Approval](#) has been granted to import a natural material for use in capping the ash dam. Towards the end of March EnergyAustralia will begin stockpiling this capping material in anticipation of rehabilitating the area.

Jim asked who will organise the handing back of the lands to Treasury?

- » Peter noted that this is essentially the same process used for decommissioning a power station on the Central Coast.
- » Refer to p. 28 of the attached presentation for further details on the status of the ash repository rehabilitation.

Rail Unloader Project:

- » Steve highlighted EnergyAustralia received [planning approval](#) for the design modification of the Pipers Flat Rail Unloader project in January 2019.
 - > This project was originally planned to feed Mt Piper Units 3 and 4 at a consumption of eight million tonnes/year. Looking now at sizing for Mt Piper's actual consumption of three to four million tonnes/year. The process of bringing imported material in has been streamlined and some of the bulk of the plans reduced.
 - > Key changes outlined as in the previous meeting, gives the option for the trains to go east, the ability to line up the train unloading facility with the overland conveyer and has taken out transfer points that would have generated noise, dust etc. Overall the modified DA is a design that better suits Mt Piper's needs.
 - » Work on the business case for the project is now in progress to seek full Board approval.
 - » While EnergyAustralia's preference is to continue to source coal locally, we need to look at other coal supply options.
 - » To assist with this work, TfNSW will be undertaking a feasibility study in relation to the reinstatement of the Kandos-Gulgong line. This will potentially give more scope for spreading the coal reach further afield, and was funded through a grant as part of the Transforming Rail initiative.
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- » Refer to p. 31 of the attached presentation for a recap of the previously discussed modified Rail Unloader design.

Alex asked whether any works have already commenced for the loop?

- » Steve noted it is still all in planning at this stage, but there have been consultants out there.

Alex noted there is a very important trout stream running in this area. In the past such projects have ruined some of the best areas for fishing.

- » Steve highlighted there will be erosion controls and the project will require a complete Construction Environmental Management Strategy. The planning approval conditions in the above document also speak to the environmental controls.

Rob asked whether there are any plans to begin within the next two years?

- » Steve responded there is still lots of design work and financial modelling to be completed, which will be undertaken in this time.

Jim noted there could be issues with the rail line going through properties, and with the condition of the timber trestle bridges on the Kandos line.

- » Steve responded these considerations will be part of feasibility study. It is likely the bridges will need to be updated.
- » **ACTION:** EnergyAustralia to keep the CCC updated as studies progress.

Lamberts North Ash Placement Project:

- » Peter noted this update is a requirement from the project approval of Lamberts North.
- » Ash Placement Volume:
 - > December 2018 to January 2019 estimate 132,346 tonnes.
 - > Ash placement will continue at Lamberts North in March, April and May 2019.
 - > No complaints have been received or incidents recorded.
 - > DP&E accepted the Annual Environmental Management Report for 2017-2018.
 - > Lamberts North Operational Environmental Management Plan is being reviewed.

Water Treatment Project:

- » Steve highlighted the workforce on the Water Treatment Project has been increased to 280 staff and EnergyAustralia has extended working hours to enable electrical cabling to occur swiftly.
- » The inter-connecting pipework between the station and the plant is set for hydrotesting.
- » Plans are being developed for the pre-commissioning phase. This will include flushing different pipeline sections, the water will come to Mt Piper for treatment.
- » With hydrotesting, the final flushing of the line will commence from the end of February.
- » All the RO units are now on site and are assembled and the site run pipework is well underway.

Julie noted she had met on site with Centennial Coal and an engineer and understood the project had been delayed by six months. Also noted it is an amazing project and people are looking all around the world at it.

- » Greg noted there are a number of stages that still need to be considered, initial pre-filtering of water will still occur on time with project.
- » There may be a minor delay in commissioning the RO plant with water and the final step of brine crystallisation. These are late and are expected to be commissioned between October and December. Commissioning is in a number of stages and mitigation plans will be implemented during this.

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- » Overall, there are some delays, and the entire project delivery may not be complete for the planned timing, however separable portions will enable recovering, treating and utilising water prior to all works being completed. Planning processes are still being worked through, but treating of water from the mine will occur in July as scheduled.
 - » Peter noted that turning off of Centennial's LDP9 in July is absolute and will not change.

Community Engagement Program:

- » Michelle introduced the Program for 2019 to encourage members to advise anyone interested to apply. Any enquiries can be passed onto Michelle.
- » Round One of the 2019 Program will be open for applications from 1 March – 29 March.
 - > Advertising will commence in the Lithgow Mercury from 26 February.
 - > \$30,000 will be available.
- » Round Two of the 2019 Program will be open for applications from 1 August – 30 August.
 - > Advertising will commence through local channels in late July.
 - > \$30,000 will be available.
- » The CCC will be updated with grant application results at the next meeting.
- » **ACTION:** Copy of the advertisement, application form and guidelines circulated to members alongside these meeting minutes to send to their networks.
- » All of the 13 local schools received sponsorship from EnergyAustralia over the past year. Refer to p. 38 of the attached presentation for the list of schools. This slide also shows EnergyAustralia employees helping students of Coerwull School with their reading assignments.
- » Refer to pp. 39-40 of the attached presentation for the full list of Community organisations that received sponsorship from EnergyAustralia during 2018.
- » Michelle highlighted the apprentice program is running successfully and growing, with two new mechanical apprentices and a new electrical apprentice beginning a four-year program. This involves six months of four days per week at Lithgow TAFE to get work ready, and one day per week at the Station. This is then reversed for the second six months.
 - > There are a further 10 apprentices in different stages at Mt Piper.

Rob highlighted the importance of having this program running as the district is running very low on tradesmen, it is becoming a problem. It is great to see this program.

Alex agreed noting that a shortage of skilled tradespeople was becoming an Australia-wide problem.

- » There have also been six new employees join Mt Piper from December 2018 to February 2019. All but one of these employees have come from interstate and settled in the local community with their families. It is good to see the local community grow.
- » The majority of these positions are in the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering fields.

Julie congratulated EnergyAustralia on their programs for training and employment, and hopes they can continue to increase these numbers.

Mt Piper Energy Recovery Project:

- » Greg highlighted EnergyAustralia is still completing a feasibility study with ERP.
 - » Looking at providing an additional 30 MW to the Station, and supplementing the use of coal through energy from waste. There is still a reasonable amount of work to do in understanding the environmental impacts of that, and the EIS is still currently in development. As a fairly revolutionary project in the area, EnergyAustralia is working to
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fully understand the impacts, how it would work and the best way to go about the project.

- » Ideally the aim is to have Development Approvals in place by 2022 subject to feasibility. This feasibility will be determined by looking at how much energy would be used in producing the waste vs. how much could be recovered, as well as limiting any environmental effects.
- » Overall, if it is financially viable and can reduce landfill in a responsible and clean manner with no undue environmental impacts it is a good project.
- » Refer to pp. 44-45 of the attached presentation for further details of the range of studies that will be undertaken as part of the EIS.
- » Once those studies have advanced, they will be shared with the CCC and input will be sought.

Julie noted her reservations about the desirability of this technology.

- » **ACTION:** EnergyAustralia to provide CCC with an update on the project at next meeting when the assessments have progressed.
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5. **Projects in focus:**

Wallerawang Re-purposing: Bettergrow Proposal

- » Greg explained in late January EnergyAustralia entered into an 'exclusive dealing' agreement, and non-disclosure statement, with Bettergrow to enable the company to undertake due diligence and submit a proposal regarding the Wallerawang Power Station site and buffer lands.
 - > This gives Bettergrow a six to eight-week opportunity to gather the data required under due diligence to determine whether their proposal is feasible.
 - » The repurposing has been subject to much discussion since the station's closure four years ago, however work has not progressed beyond some demolition and recovering salvageable items. During the initial Expressions of Interest period post closure, Bettergrow noted their interest for repurposing the site. At this time, it was decided to pursue other proposals but these have not come to fruition. In December they approached EnergyAustralia again with a firmer proposal around repurposing.
 - » Bettergrow's proposal is expected to comprise a 'Greenspot Eco-Industrial Park', including intermodal facilities, consistent with Bettergrow's operations at other rehabilitated sites. This has provided a real and tangible plan for the site, and Bettergrow have indicated a degree of confidence that they would be able to take over the site and do something with it.
 - > Bettergrow do not intend to operate on the entire site and would be looking for partner businesses.
 - > Their proposal could include intermodal facilities, which would include rail and freight and high-tech agriculture plans.
 - > EnergyAustralia is unable to speak for Bettergrow on this, but provided they get through due diligence correctly, they will be able to make an offer for EnergyAustralia and Treasury to evaluate.
 - » The site arrangements and any future binding agreements are expected to be complex, with multiple parties involved, so success is not guaranteed.
 - » At this stage, EnergyAustralia have a credible partner in Bettergrow looking at repurposing the site. If the plan goes ahead, will need to demolish parts of the site and maintain some infrastructure such as rail siding and water management equipment. The two stacks and cooling tower would still have to go through the demolition process.
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- » Neil Schembri from Bettergrow has led discussions with us to date and talked with us about similar operations his company has up and down the Eastern seaboard. They have extensive experience in taking disturbed land and sites and repurposing it. They are not just a company that produces potting mix and compost, but have a number of other arms and elements to their business.
 - » Once due diligence is completed, both EnergyAustralia and Bettergrow will be able to talk in more detail about the plans.
 - » If this arrangement does progress then Bettergrow need to go through its own planning approvals process. This would involve all the usual assessments and community consultation to enable use of the site.

Julie asked if Bettergrow are not taking over the whole site, which areas are they talking about?

- » Greg responded they are applying for the whole site including buffer land. Use of these lands and how they are utilised by other parties would need to be discussed with Bettergrow.

Julie asked if EnergyAustralia knows what else is in Bettergrow's vision for the project beyond composting?

- » Greg answered that in discussions to date composting has not been proposed as a potential use within the repurposed site. It is more of an eco-industrial park, with several intermodal truck to rail type activities. Bettergrow has also talked about high-tech agriculture such as protected agriculture, utilising waste streams to undertake agriculture and hydroponics. Bettergrow will be better positioned to answer such questions after the due diligence period.
- » Greg also noted he was the General Manager of Sundrop Farms in Port Augusta, and from speaking with Bettergrow understands that their aspiration is to look at something similar for Wallerawang, which would be an exciting opportunity for the area.

Jim noted the proposal area is close to the Sydney catchment. Are there restrictions of what activities could occur on the site due to risk of contaminating water supplies?

- » Greg responded he is unable to provide an answer to that question.
- » Chairs addenda: Information on development within catchment areas is available at <https://www.waternsw.com.au/water-quality/catchment>.

Jim noted David Ryan has stated in public meetings that Real Access had put forward a plan to repurpose the whole site with a business park and research facility but received no reply. Why did they receive no reply, were their proposals unsuitable?

- » Greg noted he is unable to fully answer that question as he was not involved in any conversations with Real Access. However, Bettergrow has been the company to put before EnergyAustralia a tangible and credible offer for the site, so has proceeded.
 - > At the moment Bettergrow is in an exclusivity arrangement whilst they undertake due diligence, pending outcomes and EnergyAustralia assessment of this the proposal may or may not advance from there.
 - > Companies like Real Access could potentially have the opportunity to partner with Bettergrow if their proposal does go ahead.

Jim reiterated Real Access said they intended to bring Bettergrow into the fully repurposed facility that they were proposing to create on the site. Given they had earlier meetings and discussions with EnergyAustralia, why did they not receive a reply?

- » Greg highlighted again he is unable to talk to conversations Real Access had with people in EnergyAustralia, but he has had no conversation with them.
 - » In terms of being able to repurpose items on site such as the stacks, major boiler structures and cooling towers, this is not feasible. The stacks require constant
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maintenance – at least \$1 million/year to ensure they stay standing. They are not a structure able to be re-purposed.

- » The large buildings containing the boilers are also structures that are unable to be re-purposed. They are specifically designed to house boilers and turbines, and will need to be taken down for safety due to contamination with a level of lead dust and asbestos.
- » The cooling tower is in the same situation as these, which is why they are being focused on in terms of demolition.
- » The other parts of the site are the key areas to be determined whether they can be retained, repurposed and maintained.
- » A solid and credible proposal allows EnergyAustralia to proceed with the demolition proposals, while pinpointing which items need to be removed and which can be used in the future.

Rob noted at the moment it is a commercial decision as to who EnergyAustralia choose to access the site. He, and the broader community he thinks, only want the best option to proceed with the site. He offered hopefulness that something good comes from this proposal, noting on Facebook at the moment there are a lot of negative comments due to the lack of clarity with the proposal.

Jim agreed the community is unsure about what the proposal entails.

- » EnergyAustralia encouraged CCC members to provide these meeting notes as a clear statement of the status of the project that can be provided to the community.
 - » Pending the outcome of the due diligence, Bettergrow could come and talk to the CCC to discuss their long-term plans. The exclusivity will finish on 27 February, and after this EnergyAustralia aims to quickly determine next steps.
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6. General discussion

Revised meeting dates to allow for Council participation:

- » Brendan noted the current 2019 CCC meeting schedule clashes with Council meetings, which is why Cllr Smith was unable to be present tonight. He proposed the two affected meetings in May and August be moved forward one week, and asked if any members had concerns with this date change?

Multiple CCC members agreed with the date change.

- » The revised remaining 2019 meeting dates will be:
 - > Monday 20 May.
 - > Monday 19 August.
 - > Monday 2 December.
- » **ACTION:** Alex to distribute new meeting dates via email and outlook invites.
- » Brendan called for any general discussion or questions to be tabled.

Julie tabled correspondence from Mr Peter Drinkall regarding the decommissioning of LDP9. This currently discharges around 30ML per day of water into Coxs River through Sawyers Swamp, and there is also 10ML coming from Angus Place, meaning 40 ML is currently running down above Lake Wallace. Once the transfer pipeline to Mt Piper is connected as well as Angus Place, Coxs River and Lake Wallace will be down 40ML of water per day.

This decrease may have broader effects on the area, impacting various activities such as sailing, fishing and canoeing. It is critical that there are adequate inflows to maintain natural flows downstream. As EnergyAustralia is responsible for the Lake itself, what are they planning to do?

Julie also noted there is a lack of understanding of the natural flow before underground mining commenced. There has been no modelling to understand what the eventual flow will

be. There should be an interim plan to ensure adequate flows for recreation and environmental needs.

Jim agreed this is an important consideration.

- » Refer to the letter on pp. 14-15 of these notes.
- » Greg noted that water management in this area is very complex with WaterNSW owning the water, and EnergyAustralia owning the land underneath the Lake. The water going into the lake is managed by Centennial Coal and the application for the water treatment plant is Centennial's, thus this question is primarily one for Centennial Coal.
- » Peter noted EnergyAustralia have an access license to the water to extract for the purpose of power generation at Wallerawang. There have been no extractions since the Station was turned off five years ago, so EnergyAustralia currently has no extraction or input into Lake Wallace.
- » We also need to look at what is meant when referring to natural flows. The 40ML discharge being referred to is not part of natural flow regime.

Alex noted that surface water originally in the natural flow could now be going underground due to mining.

Julie agreed whether or not the area will return to the natural flow is guess work, and the community needs to be assured something will occur to ensure the lake levels and water flows in nearby creeks remain adequate. WaterNSW should be involved in the discussions.

- » Greg noted they cannot speak for WaterNSW, but can ask for them to be involved in the conversation.

Julie noted that would be a good first step, but it is also up to individual group members to speak to the community and ring WaterNSW to ensure this issue is addressed.

Alex commented that this should be Centennial Coal's issue to deal with.

- » Steve noted when Wallerawang was still operational EnergyAustralia extracted from Lake Wallace prior to the Springvale discharge being moved into Lake Wallace, and there were no problems with water levels.

Julie advised she is also on the Centennial CCC, however they advised the decisions had been made in Government departments and were out of their control.

Julie noted in her email, there is discussion of bringing discharge water from Clarence as a long-term plan. It would not offer the same flow but would be better than nothing. This is currently in the proposal stage and there is not yet a DA meaning there would be at least a 12-month gap from when the pipeline is closed to when an alternative water supply could be accessed.

Jim highlighted whether Sydney Water would be concerned if the water level dropped dramatically in Lake Wallace as this could affect their catchments.

Julie noted either way the Lithgow Community needs to be protected and asked that local voices are heard. She requested that WaterNSW come to the table?

- » Greg highlighted that EnergyAustralia is part of the equation but many of the matters raised are not within the organisation's direct control. In particular mine water issues need to be taken to Centennial Coal.

Julie noted Centennial Coal have said it is not their issue, and she would have thought both organisations would like to support their members voice.

- » Greg responded he will make contact with Centennial Coal and see if he can get an answer.
- » **ACTION:** EnergyAustralia to provide update to CCC at the next meeting.
- » Brendan called for any further general discussion or questions to be tabled.

Lauren raised she has been receiving calls about the demolition at Wallerawang, asking what vehicles are currently doing on James Parade coming through the back entrance of site?

- » Michelle confirmed after the meeting that the TransGrid team are upgrading poles on one of their transmission lines that traverse the buffer zone of Wallerawang Power Station, and were entering through their right of way.

Julie raised the LDP6 running on EnergyAustralia's land which had been discussed in the previous meeting. Although it is Centennial's discharge, the water is flowing onto EnergyAustralia land so as an organisation EnergyAustralia should be concerned about quality and the potential for human health risks. Could there be signs put up to say the water may be contaminated? Still waiting on the full analysis of the LDP6 discharge from EPA. Is there any change in EnergyAustralia's response that has been given at previous meetings?

- » EnergyAustralia noted there is no change to their response, and advised Julie direct questions to EPA and Centennial Coal.
- » Greg responded he would take the question on notice and get back to the group.
- » **ACTION:** Greg to provide response to Julie.

Julie asked is EnergyAustralia going ahead with the 24/7 ambient air monitoring by June?

- » Steve noted the 24/7 monitoring was installed last year as mandated by EPA requirements. It has been operating since then.
- » The results of the monitoring will go into Mt Piper's Annual Report.
- » **ACTION:** Whenever the Annual Report will be in the range of the meetings, the next meeting notes will provide a link to the report to facilitate information access.

Julie asked about the licence requirements for monitoring the emissions coming out of the Mt Piper stacks?

- » Steve noted EnergyAustralia has a new operating licence with the EPA, which requires reports are provided on a yearly basis.
- » **ACTION:** Refer [here](#) for Mt Piper's current EPA licensing conditions and details.
- » Mick Hanly is the primary point of contact for any community issues.
- » For items raised as part of the CCC, contact Alex or Brendan. Please provide any questions by two weeks prior to the next meeting to give EnergyAustralia time to prepare responses.

7. Meeting close

- » The next CCC meeting is scheduled for Monday 20 May 2019.
 - » Meeting was closed at 6:40pm.
-



EnergyAustralia

LIGHT THE WAY

8th February 2019

Peter Drinkall
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Dear Mr Drinkall,

Firstly, allow me to introduce myself. I am the newly appointed Head of Mt Piper and our Managing Director Ms Tanna has requested that I respond to your enquiry.

Thank you for raising your concerns with EnergyAustralia both through this letter and your interactions with staff at Mt Piper Power Station.

I understand from your letter that you are concerned about the flow and ongoing health of the Coxs River system once the Springvale mine water is redirected to Mt Piper.

As you probably know, the Development Application for these works is a joint project between EnergyAustralia and Centennial. The Development Application went through a lengthy approval process which included consultation with the local community.

You may also recall initially it was proposed to discharge the excess treated water into Wangcol Creek via a new licenced discharge point which would have subsequently fed into the Coxs River system. However, an amendment to the Development Application was made after both the Community and Government Agencies raised concerns about the potential impacts of treated mine water discharges on the Coxs River catchment. The amendment involved the transfer of the treated mine water to Thompsons Creek Reservoir for reuse by Mt Piper.

Community consultation was also conducted on the amended development application and it was subsequently approved in July 2017. Since this approval was granted, EnergyAustralia and Centennial have been required to design, construct, operate and maintain the water treatment facility in accordance with its conditions and we are currently advancing through the construction phase of this process.

I can also advise that the proposal with Regis Resources does not involve the use of the treated water but instead the cooling tower waste water. We believe that this project may provide further environmental benefits to the local community and catchment but this is only a proposal at this stage.

EnergyAustralia is committed to consult with the local community on all our projects and we want to hear any concerns and take the appropriate actions to mitigate adverse impacts any of these proposals may present.

While I commiserate with your concerns, we believe that we have acted appropriately with the projects that you have mentioned in your letter.

I would encourage you to continue to raise any future concerns through our Lithgow Region Community Consultative Committee. I am happy to meet with you and discuss any concerns that you may have about EnergyAustralia's operations in the Central West Region.

Please contact Ms Kristina Linhart on (02) 6354 8149 to schedule an appointment.

I hope this reply addresses the matters you have raised and I look forward to meeting you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. McIntyre', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Greg McIntyre
Head of Mt Piper
EnergyAustralia NSW

25 February 2019

EnergyAustralia Lithgow Region Community Consultative Committee

Greg McIntyre
Head of Mt Piper

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review of Notes From Meeting Three
3. Site Update from EnergyAustralia
4. Project updates from EnergyAustralia – existing and planned
5. Projects in focus:
 - Wallerawang Repurposing – Bettergrow Proposal
6. General Discussion
 - Revised meeting dates to allow Council participation
7. Meeting close

Welcome and Introductions

**Review of Notes from
Meeting Three 2018**

Answers to Questions/Actions Arising from December 2018 meeting

Response to Questions

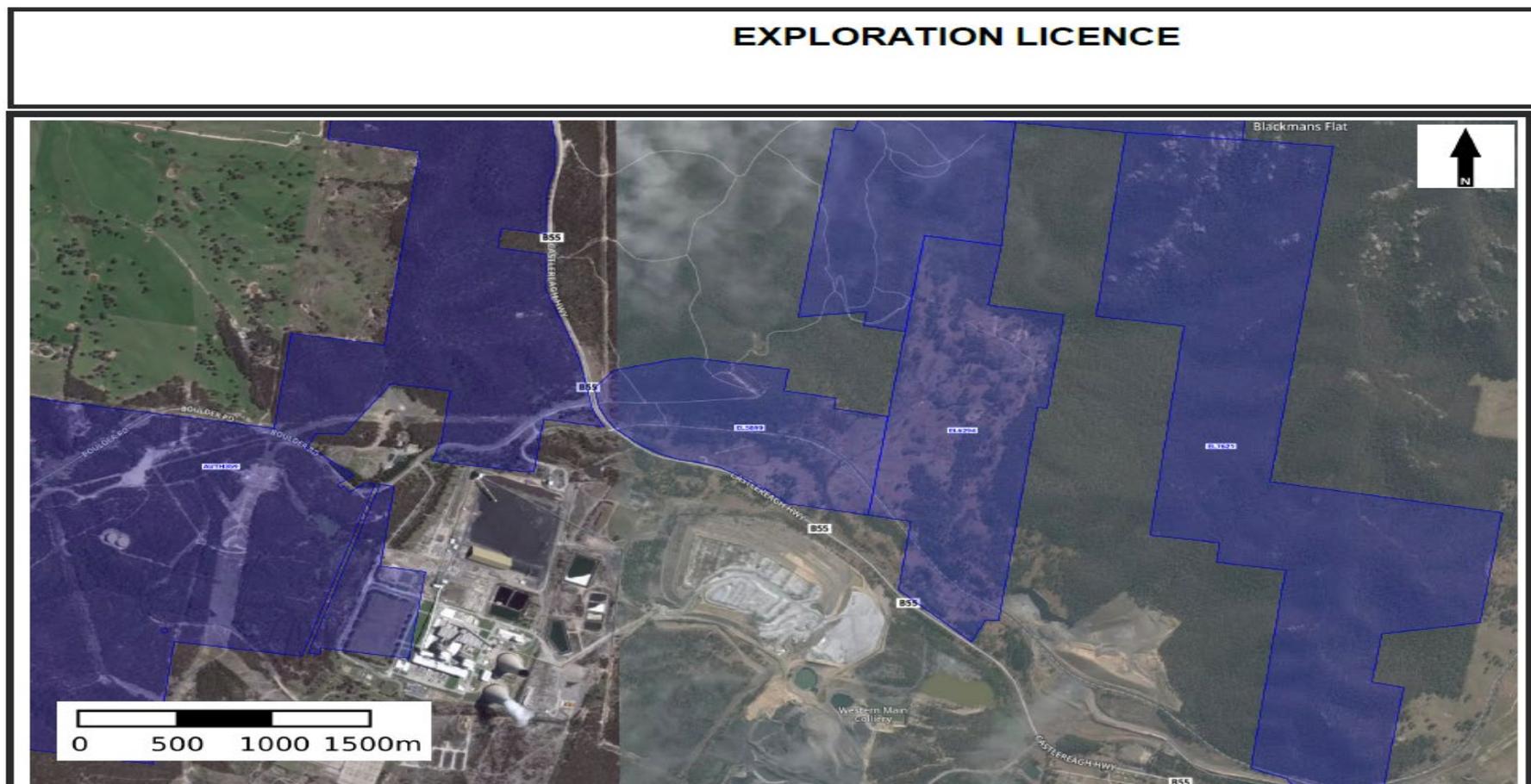
Pinedale Mine Exploration Licence – *explanation of what an Exploration Licence is and map of area.*

- An Exploration Licence gives the licence holder the exclusive right to explore for petroleum or for specific minerals within a designated area, but does not permit mining, nor does it guarantee that a mining or production lease will be granted.
- Only a very small percentage of land that is subject to exploration licences ever proceeds to a mine.
- Before exploring for minerals or petroleum in NSW, an explorer must first obtain an Exploration Licence (EL) under the Mining Act 1992 or a Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL) under the Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991. These licences are approved and regulated by NSW Department of Industry, Resources & Energy.
- Exploration activities may include, but are not limited to:
 - Geological mapping
 - Geotechnical surveys
 - Drilling

Response to Questions (cont.)

Pinedale Mine Exploration Licence – *explanation of what an Exploration Licence is and map of area.*

- For further information regarding exploration licences refer to: <https://www.resourcesandgeoscience.nsw.gov.au/landholders-and-community/minerals-and-coal>



Response to Questions (cont)

Species List for Ash Repository

- The species list for the Ash Repository rehabilitation plan is yet to be finalised.
- The dominant vegetation species adjoining the ash repositories is Cassinia (*Cassinia aculeate*). Grass species identified in areas adjoining the ash repository include Phalaris (*Phalaris aquatica*) and Couch (*Cynodon dactylon*) with a sparse minor component of native grasses including Austral Rush (*Juncus australis*) and Barbed Wire Grass (*Cymbopagon refractus*).

SSCAD Area – What Metals are Not Removed?

- Dosing for pH correction is the only treatment of water discharged from SSCAD. There was no discharge from SSCAD in 2018.

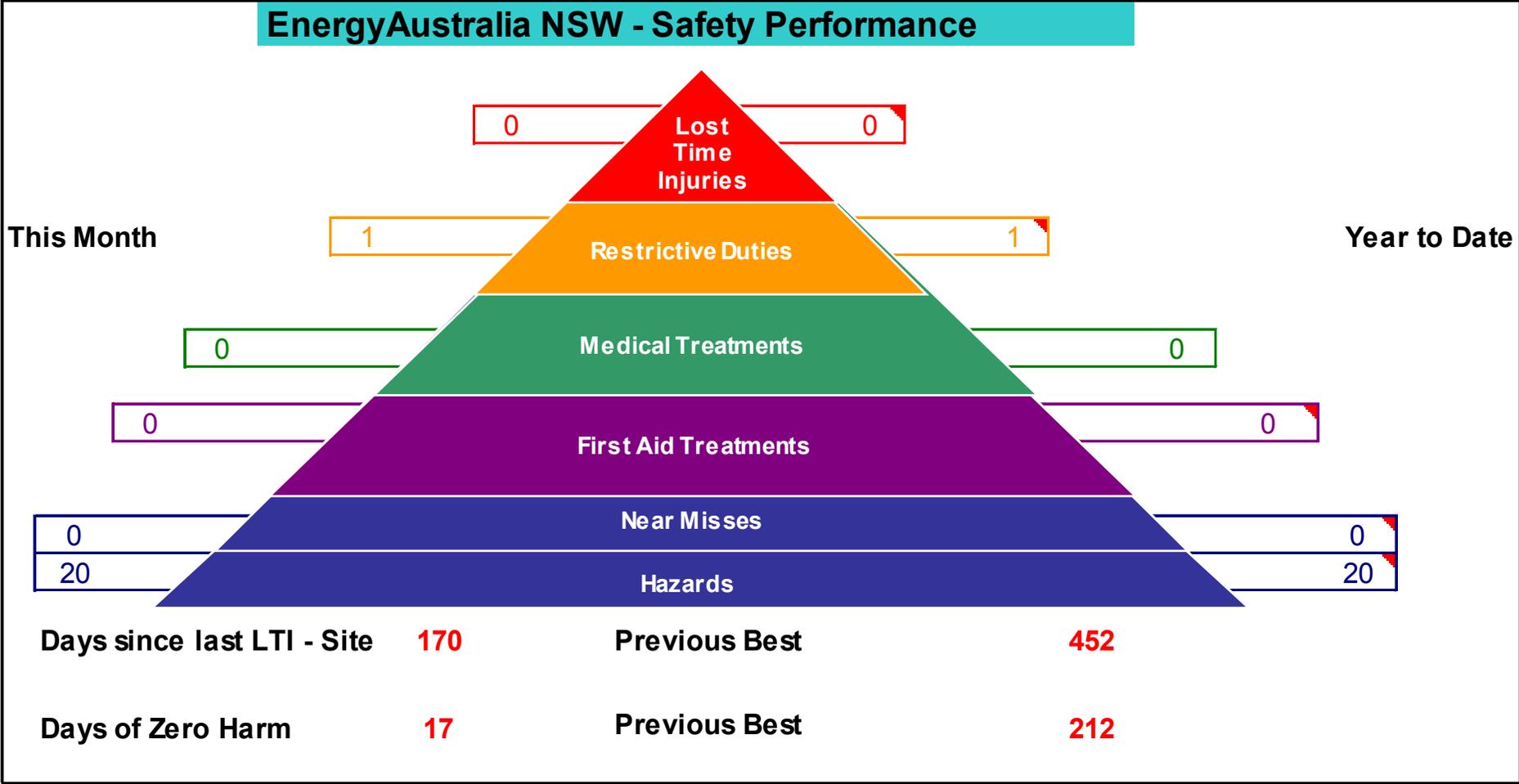
Response to Questions (cont)

Ash Repository – Have the ground water chlorides detected in the Mt Piper Ash Repositories as noted in the last meeting, been listed?

- EnergyAustralia NSW continues to progress an independent groundwater investigation for the Mt Piper Ash Repository.
- The key output from the independent investigation will be the development of a new groundwater model for the ash repository that will guide new management actions for the site.
- The groundwater model is anticipated to be delivered in the 4th quarter of 2019.

Site Safety

Site Safety – January 2019



Update - Water Management

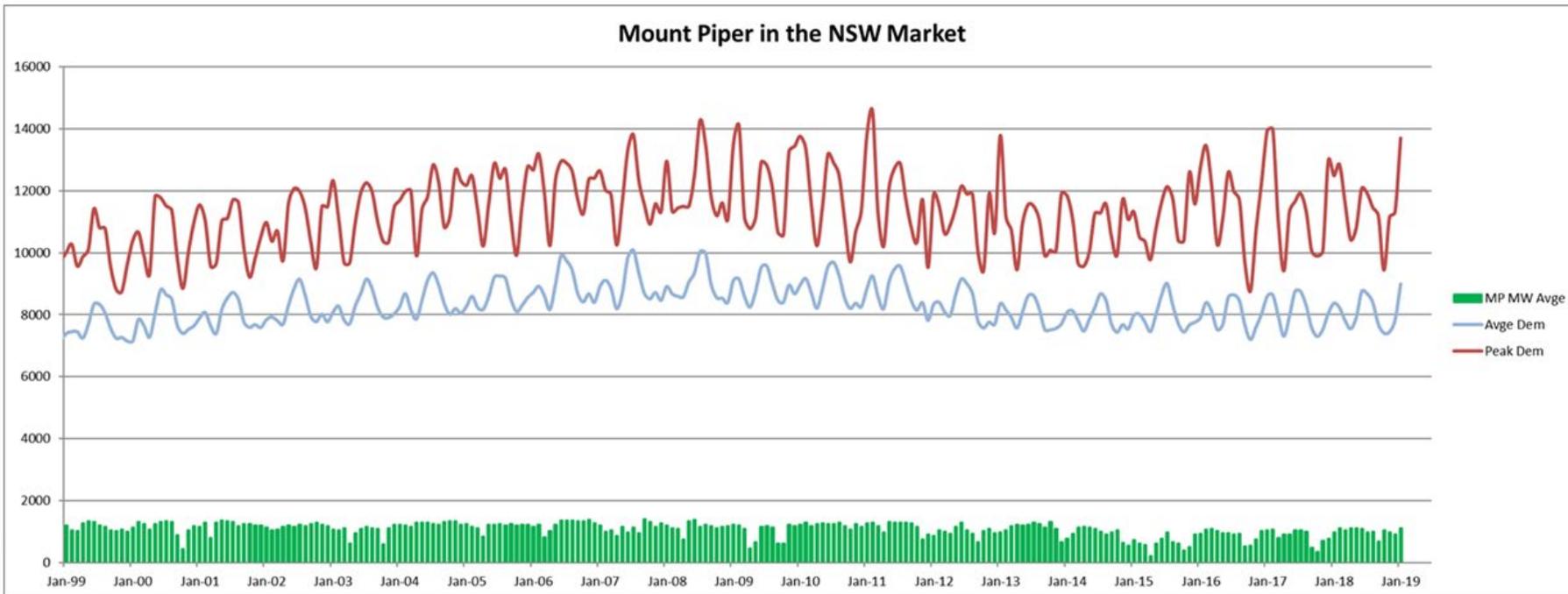
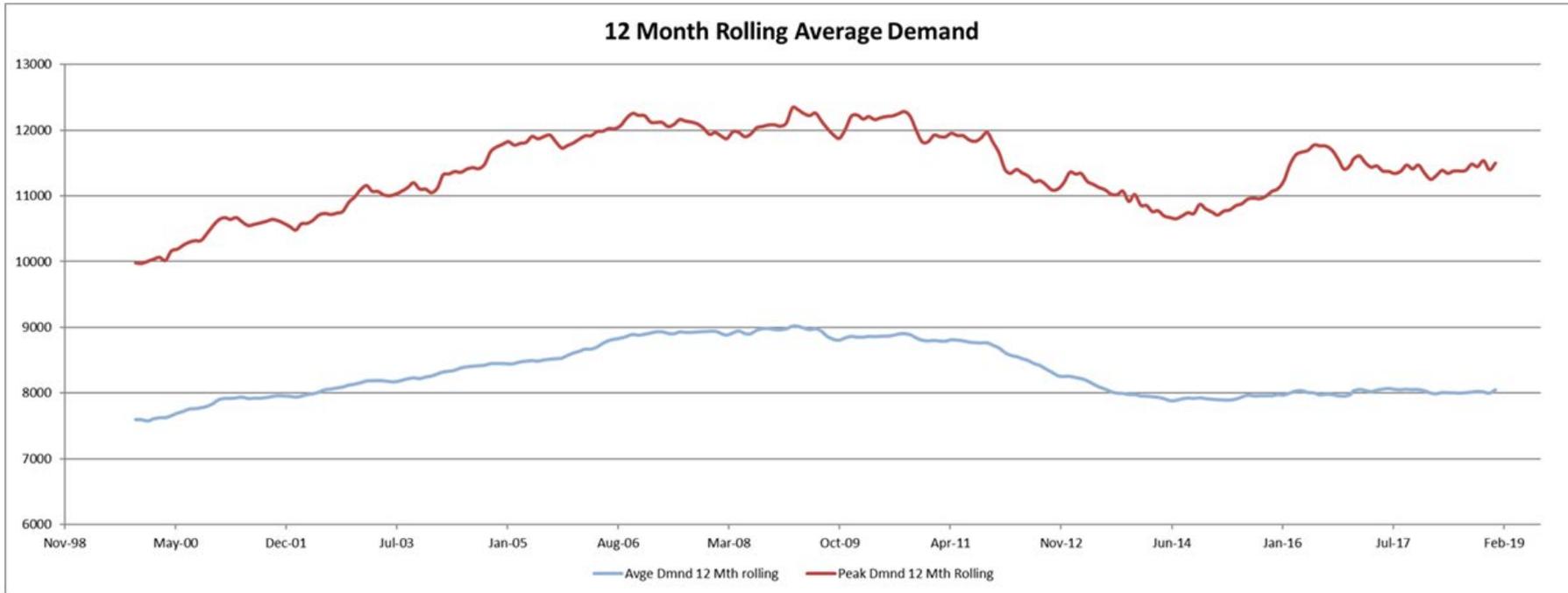
Update on Water Management

- Oberon Dam level is at 45.1%
- Total Active Storage is at 89.4% with:
 - Lake Lyell at 92.4%
 - Lake Wallace at 110.6%
 - Thompsons Creek Dam at 83.8%
- Lake Wallace continues to spill
- Green alert for Blue-green Algae below Lake Wallace only.



Market Update

Market Update



Operations (Site) Update

Mt Piper Operations

- MP1 has had a brief outage since last meeting for air heater lubrication issues.
- MP2 has been running reliably since the last meeting.
- Fuel handling problems have been reduced in quantum since last meeting.
- Stockpile levels are reducing due to lack of reliable supply from Springvale. Springvale have ceased deliveries multiple times.



Pinedale Mine Update

Yarraboldy project update:

- In care and maintenance while future is assessed.
- Progressing rehabilitation in areas where mining is complete,
 - SLR study indicates soil has achieved benchmark levels,
 - Positive outcome for rehabilitation efforts.
- Pending planning application for next phase has been withdrawn. Planning to ultimately put forward a revised proposal once feasibility study is finalised.

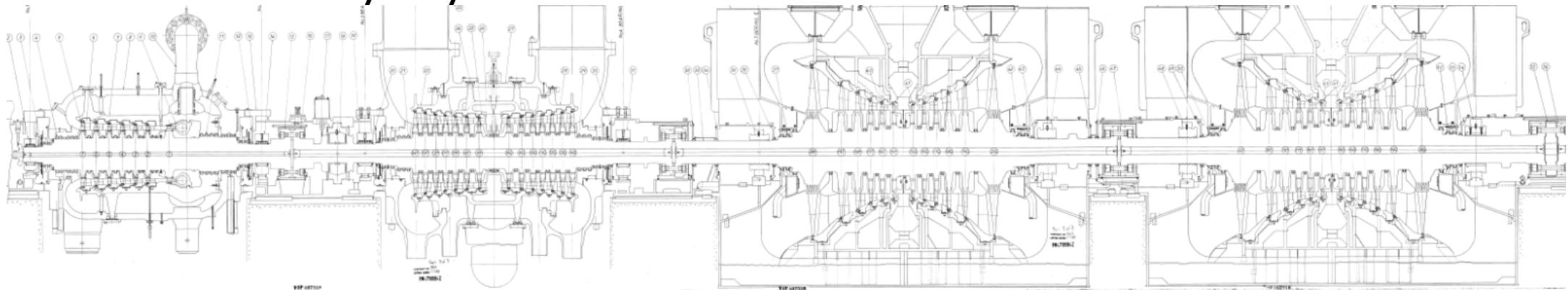
Exploration Lease 7621 update:

- Desktop assessment continuing,
- Renewal application to be submitted to extend term.

Mount Piper Turbine Upgrade

Mount Piper Turbine Upgrade - Current Status

- Mount Piper have received board approval to proceed with the turbine upgrade. (Previously advised)
- Negotiations with preferred tenderer are well in progress.
- Currently reviewing the project with AEMO for system requirements and stability.
- Lower Cost per MW installed than wind - equivalent daily generation to over 60 1.5MW wind turbines, or 140 of the size at Blayney.



Update – Thompsons Creek Foreshore Erosion

Thompsons Creek Dam Foreshore Erosion

Eastern Foreshore Erosion Protection

- On site work commenced 28 January. Completion June

Progress

- Sediment control fabric installed
- Pedestrian walkway fenced
- Haul road and water pond access track completed
- Embankment shaping 50% completed
- Temporary stockpile site completed
- Delivery of aggregates (hard rocks) has commenced

Response to Community Dust Concerns

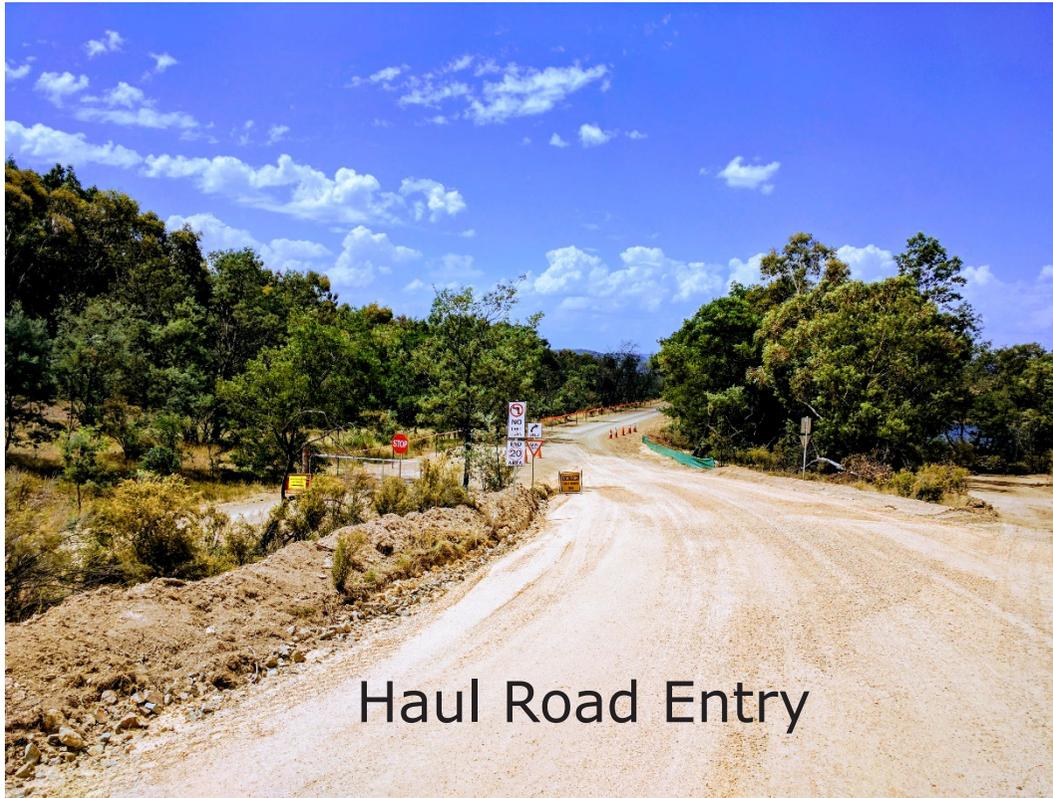
- Willow Vale Lane graded & dust mitigation using water cart as needed

Thompsons Creek Dam Foreshore Erosion

Erosion Effects



Thompsons Creek Dam Foreshore Erosion



Haul Road Entry



Wallerawang DDR

General Update

Wallerawang DDR

- DA for an Asbestos Repository submitted to LCC
- DA for Demolition and Rehabilitation submitted to LCC
 - Some of these works are required to allow repurposing, but also give flexibility if rehabilitation is required prior to repurposing.
- Site is currently being decontaminated of remnant acid from chemical processes.
- Remaining inventory is being auctioned publicly

Wallerawang DDR

Ash Dams Area Rehabilitation

Ash Repository Rehabilitation

Work Stream	Recent Progress	Upcoming Activities	Overall Status
Closure and Rehabilitation Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aurecon engaged to finalise the plan • Process well underway to hand back to NSW Treasury. Once complete, Treasury will retain responsibility of the area including water treatment requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPE to confirm position regarding dewatering SSCAD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delays to Closure and Rehabilitation Plan due to water treatment likely required.
SSCAD Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lines and pumps installed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrically connect pumps at SSCAD. • Prove Caustic Injection Plant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliant
Capping Material Approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project approval has been granted by Dept. Planning and Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post approval works required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Installation of signage (complete) - Review of OEMP (complete) - Preparation of Operational Transport Mgt Plan, submitted to LCC & RMS (complete) - Notify Department before commencement. 	<p>Post approvals documentation finalised.</p> <p>Contractor Safety and Environmental Management Plan has been approved by EANSW.</p> <p>First deliveries are expected by the end of March.</p>
New Asbestos Repository	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIS has been reviewed and is being finalised 	EIS submitted to Lithgow City Council in January 19	Progressing

Update Rail Unloader Project

Rail Unloader - Current Status

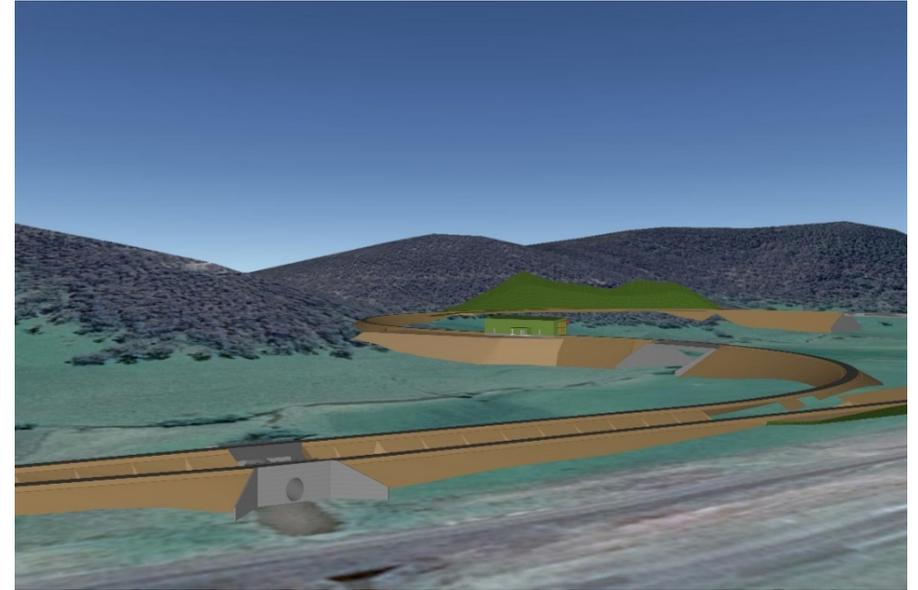
- EnergyAustralia received planning approval for the design modification of the Pipers Flat rail unloader project in January 2019
- Work on the business case for the project is in progress
- While EnergyAustralia's preference is to continue to source coal locally, we are assessing other coal supply options
- EnergyAustralia received a \$500K grant as part of the Government's Transforming Rail initiative, used to engage TfNSW to undertake a feasibility study in relation to the reinstatement of the Kandos-Gulgong line

Recap: Modified Rail Unloader Design

Aerial view

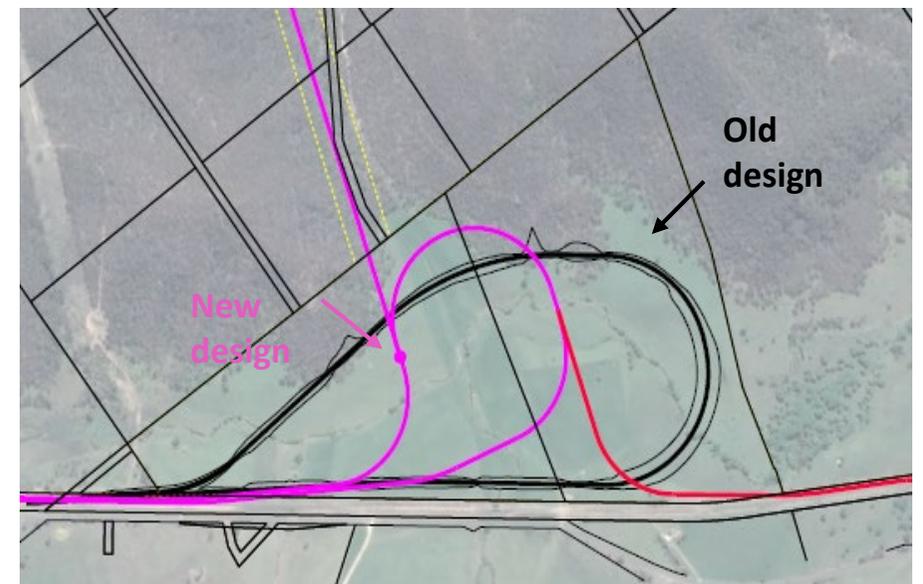


Pipers Flat Road view



The proposed modification includes:

- realignment of the rail line to reduce earthworks and reduce the height of the embankment
- relocation of the rail dump hopper to remove an intermediate coal transfer station and conveyor
- the addition of a second connection to the main rail line and a spur line to provide operational flexibility
- an additional conveyor and rill tower near the power station
- removal of trains provisioning buildings



Update – Lamberts North Ash Placement Project

Lamberts North Ash Placement Project Update

- Ash Placement Volume
 - December 2018 to January 2019 estimate 132,346 tonnes
 - Ash Placement will continue at Lamberts North in March April and May 2019,
- No complaints received,
- No incidents recorded,
- DPE accepted submitted Annual Environmental Mgt Report for 2017-2018,
- Lamberts North Operational EMP is being updated



Update – Water Treatment Project

Joint EANSW/Centennial Water Treatment Project

- Workforce has been increased to 280 staff and the shift hour for electrical cabling have been extended to push this work along.
- Inner connecting pipework between the station and the WTP is set for Hydrotesting and flushing by the end of February.
- Plans are being developed for the pre-commissioning phase
- All the RO units are now on site and are assembled. Site run pipework is well underway
- With Hydrotesting the final flushing of the line will commence end of February.

Community Engagement Program

Community Engagement Program 2019

Round 1

- Open for Applications from 1 March – 29 March.
- Advertising commences in local press 26 February.
- \$30,000 available
- Will advise CCC of submissions at the next meeting

Round 2

- Open for Applications from 1 August – 30 August
- Advertising will commence late July
- \$30,000 available

Community Engagement Program 2018 Sponsorships

The following community schools received sponsorship from EnergyAustralia NSW during 2018:

- Capertee Public School
- Coerwull Public School
- Cullen Bullen Public School
- Hampton Public School
- La Salle Academy Lithgow
- Lithgow High School
- Lithgow Public School
- Meadow Flat Public School
- Portland Central School
- St Joseph's School, Portland
- St Patricks
- Wallerawang Public School
- Zig Zag Public School



Community Engagement Program 2018 Sponsorships

The following community organisations received sponsorship from EnergyAustralia NSW during 2018:

- Barton Park Giant Tree Arboretum
- Lithgow City Council – Halloween / Lithglow
- Lithgow & District Community Nursery
- Lithgow Oberon Landcare Association
- Mingaan Aboriginal Corporation
- Portland Art Show
- Ironfest



Community Engagement Program 2018 Sponsorships (cont.)

- Lithgow Show Society
- Rydal Show Society
- Lithgow Environment Group
- Lithgow Golf Club
- Anzac Day Ceremony – Wallerawang
- Central Tablelands Mountains Bike Club
- Daffodils at Rydal
- Wallerawang Branch of Central Acclimatisation Society
- Rangers Soccer Club
- Lithgow Swimming Club



Employment Opportunities

Apprentice Program

- In 2019 EnergyAustralia employed 3 local youth as 1st Year Apprentices – 2 Mechanical Fitters and 1 Electrical Fitter. These apprenticeships are for a 4 year duration.
- Our 1st Year Apprentices spend the first 6 months at Lithgow TAFE Skills Centre, 4 days per week and 1 day per fortnight at the Power Station. During the second 6 months they attend TAFE one day per week and work at the Power Station the remaining week days.
- There are also 10 existing apprentices in various stages of their apprenticeships as either Mechanical Fitters, Electrical Fitters or Boilermakers.



L to R: Lachlan Gaylor – Apprentice Mechanical Fitter & Machinist; Griffin Houston – Apprentice Electrician; Jack Baxter – Apprentice Mechanical Fitter & Machinist

Employment Opportunities

New Employees

- In the period December 2018 to February 2019 Mt Piper has welcomed 6 new employees.
- All but one of these employees have come from interstate and settled in the local community with their families.
- The majority of these positions are in the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering fields.

Mt Piper Energy Recovery Project



Energy Recovery Project Development Update

Studies indicate the project is technically and economically viable

Studies concluded the project should proceed to the development stage and seek development approval.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- Steinmuller Babcock Environmental (SBE) has been selected as a technology provider.
- SEARS have been received and an independent consultant (ERM) has been appointed to prepare the EIS.
- The SBE reference plants and technical capability is part of the EIS assessment to ensure that EfW Policy and relevant regulatory requirements will be met.
- EIS commenced on 4 February and is scheduled for completion by mid 2019.

Community and stakeholder consultation ongoing

- Current focus is to make community and stakeholders aware of the Project.
- Following on from the Mt Piper Open ay on 15th April, celebrating 25 years of operation, a Community Information Day was held on Thursday, 22 November at the request of Council.
- These opportunities provide information and updates to the public on this and other Mt Piper projects.
- More consultation will be part of the formal EIS process and before it is submitted to Dept of Planning & Environment (DPE).

Commissioning

- If the project receives development approval it could be operational in 2022.

EIS and Planning Approval Update

- To recap, the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) were issued for the Project in 2017 and updated in mid 2018. The areas of study are:
 - Community & Stakeholder Engagement
 - 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
 - Social and Economic
- Some preliminary and baseline studies have been completed by the independent consultant (ERM), further information from the technology provider is required for next stage of EIS. This work has commenced in parallel with preliminary design work, and is expected to complete by early/mid 2019.
- Community and stakeholder consultation and feedback throughout the project is an important input to the EIS assessment and the means by which matters important to individuals, stakeholders and the wider community interests are considered.
- The EIS will be a public document and all stakeholders to the Project may review and provide feedback to the EIS when it is exhibited by the DPE.

PROJECT IN FOCUS

Wallerawang Repurposing – Bettergrow Proposal

Wallerawang Re-purposing

- EnergyAustralia has entered into an 'exclusivity' agreement with Bettergrow to enable Bettergrow to undertake due diligence and submit a proposal to EnergyAustralia regarding the power station site and buffer lands
- Bettergrow's proposal is expected to comprise a 'Greenspot Eco-Industrial Park', including intermodal facilities, consistent with Bettergrow's operations at other rehabilitated sites
- The site arrangements and any future binding agreements are expected to be complex, with multiple parties involved.
- Bettergrow supports the DA for demolition, with a caveat that valuable infrastructure be retained if required.