

Meeting Record

Name	Mt Piper & Wallerawang power stations	Meeting Date	26 August 2015
Meeting / Subject	Community Reference Group	Recorded By	MB
	Meeting 33	Total Pages	3

Members:	Jim Whitty, Julie Favell, Alex Preema, Rob Cluff, Sue Graves , Jamie Giokaris	
EnergyAustralia	Luke Welfare	General Manager EnergyAustralia NSW;
	Michelle Blackley	Commercial Manager NSW
	Peter Griffiths	Environment Manager EnergyAustralia NSW
Apologies	Boris Hunt, Helen Riley, Ron Bidwell,	
Minute Taker	Michelle Blackley	Support Services Leader

Meeting

Business Arising:

Send the customer code referred to during the last meeting out with the minutes if this meeting. **ACTION**

Market Recap

The updated rolling average demand trend has increased in both peak and base demand. This is mainly due to demand in Queensland. The consistency of this demand was queried but Mr Welfare advised that with LNG plants using more power would suggest that this increase may be sustained.

South Australia has made some announcements about older power station plants closing down. Ms Favell mentioned that rehabilitation costs could prove to be quite high on these older sites and their related mines. Some new projects for wind generation are in the pipeline. However the South Australian market suffers wild fluctuations as the wind varies. This creates large swings in electricity prices.

Solar thermal generation was explained and the high costs involved. A plant is being built at the moment.

Ms Graves asked if solar installations are still replacing 1 generation unit per year. At the moment this is still the case but this will slow as the Government subsidies re removed. This will happen state by state at different times. It becomes more difficult to recover the cash outlay of the installation for each householder. Mr Cluff agreed with this from his own investigations into this investment for his business.

Solar installations will require battery storage in future which will add more cost. This will be needed to avoid instability to any network which includes a high level of decentralised solar generation. Technological change will improve to enhance alternative energy generation. For example, silicon cells being talked about at the moment are a 40 year old technology which has reached its ultimate technological viability.

EnergyAustralia is looking at all sorts of complementary services to energy retail. For example, Appliance services and the issue of solar installations for high-rise apartment blocks. EnergyAustralia are looking into how we can assist with this issue. Perhaps installing solar panels on Mt Piper power station roof is a solution. Ms Favell was happy to hear of such an initiative. Ms Favell suggested that EnergyAustralia do media releases on these matters because they are good news which is largely unknown.

Meeting Record

■ Operational Update

Mt Piper is running under coal conservation conditions because of local supply issues. Unit 1 is currently in service. A two week maintenance outage is planned for later in the year for Unit 2.

Wallerawang – Plant disconnections and dismantling continues. Maintenance and Shift personnel are doing all the work in preparation for sales by EA auctions.

DA is being prepared for the removal of Unit 7 cooling towers. This will go through the normal process with the Lithgow City Council including public exhibition. Any DA for the rehabilitation of the site will be conducted at the State level.

We have an ongoing relationship with Treasury to monitor transactions for salvage item sales and ongoing service costs. Legacy issues of ash and asbestos management must be managed and any activities of EnergyAustralia must not worsen these conditions.

Treasury and EnergyAustralia work together with the financial cap to best manage costs. Deconstruction will be conducted piece by piece in such a way to maximise a return on value and continue to protect the environment in accordance with EPL in particular the Coxs River.

Mr Cluff advised that the community wanted to know who was paying for the deconstruction. The general public think the State is paying for everything. EnergyAustralia must pay up to the cap and this includes the value returned on sale of any plant and equipment. We are working as the State's agent in the rehabilitation project, hiring consultants and conducting quantity surveys etc. For example, it is probable that we will sell some of the buffer zone lands.

The timeline of the deconstruction project will be around 5 years including full documentation of several development applications. The first of which will be the Unit 7 cooling towers in the not too distant future as mentioned before.

Are there possible reuses for Wallerawang as it stands? For some parts there will be. For example the warehouse building could be a warehouse for another application, the dry coal storage area could be used by the organic industry. Offers to buy the reverse osmosis plant are being considered for another local use.

■ Site Safety

Site Safety figures indicating year to date figures up to the 31 July 2015 were displayed and the medical treatment and first aid treatment incidents were explained. We still have experienced one LTI and three First Aid treatments so far this calendar year. We are still working towards zero harm for every employee, contractor and visitor.

■ Rail Unloader

There has been no change with the status of the rail unloader site with environmental monitoring and the agreement lease continuing. EnergyAustralia are continuing to assess all our options. Ms Favell asked about the viability of alternate fuel sources. It was explained that a single source is a risk. The Capertee Mine is another local option with a 25 year life and rail links could be beneficial. Of course this mine is owned by Centennial as well.

Ms Favell asked when we expected any movement on the rail unloader. The committee was advised that it may be possible in the next 1 to 2 years.

Meeting Record

■ Water Management

Oberon Dam currently at 60.2% which is its first increase in some time. Our active storage is at 97.5% with Lake Wallace and Lake Lyell spilling. The catchment area is algal alert free. The Council and EnergyAustralia staff are working out the appropriate methodologies for algae testing in preparation for the coming season.

The Lithgow City Council being fined for the failure of the sewerage plant impacting Lake Wallace was discussed. It was noted that the fine pertained to not reporting in a timely manner. The Committee felt it was quite concerning to have the Lake impacted this way when the local community use it so much.

The quality of Lake Wallace was queried given the 25 ML of mine water that is being discharged. Could EnergyAustralia continue to treat this water with their RO plant? The Committee was advised that unfortunately the plant does not have the required capacity. It was expressed that it did not seem even handed when one company treated the water and the other did not. Business such as B & Bs depend on the lakes in the area for their income offering swimming, fishing and other water sports.

■ Sponsorship Process

A new plan is being drafted for 2016. The community program will be advertised in September and application will be assessed by this committee at the next meeting. Of course confidentiality is necessary and to using the agreed criteria. We will advise the applicants and provide a media release for general community information.

It was mentioned that the EnergyAustralia sponsorship application is rather difficult to complete.

■ Mt Piper Ash Repository at Lamberts North

- Commenced ash placement in September 2013 at Lamberts North
- Independent Environmental Audit performed in September 2014- compliant with requirements of approval
- Annual Environment Management Report for 2013-2014- compliant with requirements of approval with the exception of:
 - ❖ Biodiversity Offset- currently awaiting approval from Dept. Planning and Environment. 5ha Thompsons Creek Reservoir proposed as offset site.
 - ❖ Tracking of compliance to be available on website- minutes from this meeting will be available on EnergyAustralia website.
- 359,910 Tonnes of ash placed at Lamberts North ash repository covering area of 276,854m³ in 2013-2014 period.
- No complaints or incidents reported.

■ General Business

The infrasound complaint was discussed. This is the first complaint of this type that EnergyAustralia NSW have received. Mr Griffiths advised that he has met the complainant and that we are taking the matter seriously. We have found some issues with the report submitted to Centennial and we will conduct our own testing around Mt Piper.

The biodiversity offset project for Thompsons Creek Dam was discussed further. Ms Favell has asked for the list of species to be planted in the area. She wanted to see that there was a varied list and understory plants would be included. **ACTION**

Meeting Record

The Springvale Mine Extension was discussed. EnergyAustralia will speak at the upcoming public meeting. We are not working with Centennial on this project but we are working together on our contract negotiations. The Clarence Mine fine would have impacted negatively on this development application.

This issue has a lot of men out of work at the moment and is causing a lot of ill feeling in Lithgow. Are there any new jobs? NuRock will provide a few new jobs if its development application is approved by Council sometime next month.

We continue to work with NuRock to improve their safety and environment plans. We are developing terms and conditions for the agreement for supply of ash. They have got further down the development consent process than anyone else and it is possible once they get started others will follow. At the moment they are investigating downstream markets and other possibilities for the sale of their product lines.

There are no jobs available at the power station. It is likely that more employees will leave as the employment guarantee ends. A few people have been leaving the business over recent months. Any available labour will be used in the DDR project sporadically.

Meeting closed at 7.15 pm.

- **Next Meeting**

Wednesday 25 November 2015 at 5 pm, Mt Piper Seminar Room.