

## Western Region Community Reference Group

Notes from the meeting held on 27 May 2009  
Mt Piper Power Station

**Attendees:** Jim Whitty, Alex Preema, Sonia Kolar, Steve Saladine, Margaret Miller, Julie Favell, Jamie Giokiaris, Sue Graves

Steve Saladine, GM Production welcomed members and introduced Sonia Kolar, Gas and Electricity Manager, Marketing, who was invited to make a presentation on the competitive national electricity market.

### Action Items

Items from the previous meeting were addressed as follows:

#### Rail Unloader Project

Delta is awaiting advice from the Dept of Planning regarding the approval of the Rail Coal Unloader at Pipers Flat

#### Feedback on Centennial's proposed activities at Kerosene Vale

Delta's planning approval for Kerosene Vale Ash Repository Stage 2 included conditions relating to Centennial's ability to mine the coal in the area prior to ash placement. Centennial are currently exploring their options. The appropriate person to contact regarding these activities is Corporate Affairs Manager, Katie Brassil from Centennial by email on [katie.brassil@centennialcoal.com.au](mailto:katie.brassil@centennialcoal.com.au).

#### Update on Springvale Mine Water Treatment Project

Construction of the water treatment plant dedicated to removing sediments is almost complete. This project is due for completion in June 2009.

Information about the water quality of Springvale mine water was requested at the previous meeting.

Typical water quality of Springvale mine water discharged to Sawyers Swamp Creek is:

pH	8.3
Conductivity	1100 uS/cm
Sulfate	50 mg/l
Turbidity	< 10 NTU
Suspended Solids	10 -20 mg/l

Current volumes average approximately 20 ML/day.

#### Feral Goats

This issue is being discussed with State Forests to facilitate a concerted effort to manage this issue more comprehensively.

#### Fisheries Access to Thompsons Creek Dam

Delta's security contractor is aware that the Department of Fisheries are permitted to have access to Thompsons Creek Dam. This has been reinforced with all the security staff.

### Media Release re Reference Group

A media release about the Reference Group's role and membership was published in Lithgow Mercury on 24th March 2009.

### Reference Group Notes on Delta's Website

As agreed, the notes from each meeting with slides of any presentations were uploaded on to the Delta website.

### **Operational report:**

#### Wallerawang

Wallerawang Power Station has operated normally and will remain in service through the winter.

#### Mt Piper

Mt Piper Unit 1 will return to service later in the week ending 29 May '09. Both Mt Piper units are expected to operate normally throughout the winter.

### **Presentation on the National Electricity Market**

Sonia Kolar, Marketing made a short presentation outlining the functions of the national electricity system and competitive market. (See slide presentation)

### **Committee Communication Protocols**

Steve sought clarification from committee members about whether they felt questions they asked at consultative group meetings were being answered effectively. He raised the issue because on a number of occasions, questions have been raised in Parliament which directly refers to discussions held in the community group. He noted that he, like all Delta staff members, is bound by a corporate Code of Conduct that requires respect, integrity, honesty and ethical decision making.

There was surprise expressed by many members of the group that the consultative group was being discussed in Parliament. They agreed that they valued the chance to meet with senior Delta managers to ask questions directly of them, and on behalf of others in their community, and to hear first hand, information or explanations about Delta operations. Some members noted that they circulate the notes from the meeting to their networks and that questions could have arisen from those in the wider networks.

It was suggested that

- in order to ensure that the answer to any given question was appropriate, that the notes from each meeting are reviewed at subsequent meetings;
- that notes from the meeting will be completed by the end of the week following the meeting, so they can be made freely available;
- That the notes from the meeting be considered a draft until reviewed and approved or amended as needed at the subsequent meeting.

### **Community members report**

The Blackman's Flat community representative had a number of queries and provided these to Steve Saladine, prior to the meeting, for response as follows:

- A Blackmans Flat Resident has expressed concern about ash - Delta's monitoring and inspections do not indicate that ash is escaping the repository at Mt Piper. We will contact the resident directly and investigate the source of the dust further.
- Springvale Water Quality - see Action Items
- Emergency Plans for Sawyers Creek Dam - There are many scheduled dams throughout NSW and they are all required to have an emergency plan. As Sawyers Creek Dam is a scheduled dam (Category 1) it has a detailed emergency plan in place. Surveillance of the dam's structural integrity is undertaken regularly by an independent and qualified consultant and reported to the NSW Dam Safety Committee, as required. It was noted that as the dam has been storing ash for many years, it no longer stores a large volume of water, and therefore operates under conditions much less arduous than it was originally designed for.
- Wallerawang Power Station operations and access to Oberon Water - Information was sought about what would Delta do if Oberon Dam water was no longer available. The committee was referred to the media statement Delta had released in response to calls by Oberon Council that Delta's allocation of water from the dam be cut off immediately. In this statement, it was noted that there are no alternative water supplies to replace our current allocation from the dam for use at Wallerawang power station and that the power station's demineralised water treatment plant was designed on the water quality from Oberon Dam. Replacement water of a lesser quality, such as from the Coxs River system, would damage this item of plant and cause a loss of generation capacity. The Drought Management Strategy and Operating Rules for the Fish River Water Supply system have been agreed by all of the major consumers at its regular Customer Council meetings. A sudden shift from the drought management strategy would result in Delta having no alternative but to reduce generation from Wallerawang Power Station. Delta is exploring other options for future water supplies but no further detail can be released as Delta operates in the competitive electricity market and our strategies to manage water supplies in the future are commercially in confidence.
- Managing salinity in Coxs River - There was a query about the impacts of water discharged into the Coxs River. It was noted that Coxs River water salinity is a result of a range of land use activities over many years and that Delta will continue to operate the station in accordance with the relevant environment protection license.
- Arboretum – an acknowledgement of Delta's sponsorship of this initiative was noted. Suitable tree specimens have been ordered and plans are underway for school communities to be involved in planting.

Other issues raised:

It was agreed that a presentation be made on the rail coal unloader should approval be granted by the Department of Planning.

It was agreed that a presentation about options for cooling coal fired power stations be made at the next or subsequent meeting.

Next meeting is planned for Wednesday August 19, 5pm