



Issue 06, February 2008

TRUenergy Tallawarra community update

Welcome to an update from the TRUenergy Tallawarra team. In the past few months, local residents will have observed major developments taking place at the Tallawarra power station site, with the emission stack and generator turbine shed now in place. Extensive vegetation works around the site are underway to ensure the power station blends in to the natural landscape. This revegetation work is just one of the ways we work to protect the environmental features of the Tallawarra site. For more detail on what we do to restore, redevelop and rejuvenate surrounding lands and waterways, please read on.

Anthony Savenkov, Project Manager TRUenergy Tallawarra Lands

Weeds!

As custodians of 565 hectares of land surrounding the Tallawarra power station, we regularly monitor for pest animals and plants and carry out revegetation works to prevent erosion and land degradation.

Noxious weeds pose a big problem. Unchecked, weeds can spread rapidly to surrounding properties, including native reserves and parklands such as the Tallawarra wetlands and bushland on Mt Brown.

Our site manager, Lloyd Townsend, oversees a team of gardeners who visit the site every week to mow, weed, trim and rake. This valuable scheme provides employment to participants of Illawarra Vocational Services, at the same time as maintaining the natural amenity of our site.

A government-supervised program is also in place to manage pest animals like foxes, deer and rats. In the past year, there has been a visible decline in the number of pest animal sightings. Other components of our site management program include rubbish removal, prevention of vandalism, bushfire hazard reduction according to regulations, and tree planting.

In coming months, revegetation and tree planting works will increase as the power station nears completion. Native trees grown from local seed will be a feature of our overall landscaping plan.



~Lloyd gets stuck into some serious land care.

Clean Up Australia Day

Sunday 2 March is Clean Up Australia Day. TRUenergy Tallawarra is calling all volunteers to help keep our Lake Illawarra foreshore area beautiful. Gardening gloves, hats, sunscreen, refreshments and a sausage sizzle will be provided. To register, please visit our website and follow the Clean Up Australia Day link.

Lake Illawarra seagrass survey

TRUenergy, in co-operation with the Lake Illawarra Authority, is currently surveying lake seagrasses. This study will help us better understand this delicate marine environment and ensure its ongoing protection. If boating in the vicinity of the research vessel, please be mindful that there may be snorkellers under the water measuring the sea grass.

Open space and bushland plan

While plans are progressing to develop Tallawarra Lands for a variety of uses the important fact remains - over one third of the site (equal to almost 400 football fields!) will be set aside for environmental, recreational and community purposes. Major open space and conservation areas will be focused around ridgelines, the Duck Creek area and wetlands as well as Lake Illawarra foreshore.

Site rezoning plans will go on exhibition in coming months – public comments are invited. Further details and exhibition dates will be announced in the next community update.

Contact us

For more information or copies of earlier Updates, please visit <u>www.truenergy.com.au</u> and click on Generation then Tallawarra for more information.

You can send a question to us via the 'Talk to Us' link on this website or by calling Brendan Blakeley on 9387 2600.