

Meeting Record

Name	Mt Piper & Wallerawang power stations	Meeting Date	27 August 2014
Meeting / Subject	Community Reference Group	Recorded By	MB
	Meeting 29	Total Pages	2

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

Meeting

Business Arising:

A request was made at the last meeting to get some further information relating to Catherine Tanna's career. Details were provided in the presentation.

Operational Update

Mt Piper - Unit 1 in outage with approximately 150 extra contractors on site working mainly on the boiler and air heater. This will assist with the different generation profile that Mt Piper is planned to deliver. Unit 2 is in service and operating reliably.

Wallerawang – Unit 7 no longer in service and is being deregistered. Unit 8 remains on three month recall with no plans to generate at the moment.

The new business planning cycle is just beginning and future operational requirements will be discussed and finalised in this process.

The 66/132kV Switchyard decommissioning and demolition is now complete. No further work will be necessary on site.

There is now a broader focus for Site Safety. While there has been no lost time employee injuries since July 2011 across both power stations the new focus now brings contractor safety up to the same level. ZERO HARM is the target which means no injuries for anyone working or entering our sites. This will be assisted by the current work to have our safety systems accredited under Australian Standard. The audits are about to begin and we hope to advise at the next meeting that we have achieved accreditation.

Rail Unloader

There has been no change with the status of the rail unloader site with environmental monitoring and the agistment lease continuing. EnergyAustralia are assessing their coal options.

1. Water Management

Oberon Dam is down slightly from last report to 65.59% with the Sydney Catchment Authority using the water to service the Blue Mountains. EnergyAustralia NSW's total active storage is at 89.9%. Thompsons Creek Dam is filling at the moment with 3 pumps in operation.

Alex Preema was interested to see how Lake Wallace will develop as a fishery with no operational impacts from EnergyAustralia on the lake. The Forum was advised that the levels would fluctuate with the natural inflows as we saw last summer.

The Blue Green algae alert has been lifted from Lake Wallace and Lake Lyell.

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Some discussion was conducted regarding lake levels and the continued health of the river system. Salinity levels for Lake Wallace, Lake Lyell and eventually Thompsons Creek Dam were touched on and we advised that the EPA were looking into the matter with Centennial but we were not privy to those discussions. It is understood that the EPA is using a modelling contractor to advise them on salt concentration and the impact on fish and their biodiversity. It was noted that EnergyAustralia NSW are not discharging at all at the moment.

2. Transition to EnergyAustralia

Some of the early business plan information was shared with the forum relating to the Demand Outlook and the uptake of solar across the NEM. The demand for electricity has declined since 2008/09 with a reduced manufacturing industry and the increase in solar panels in both the domestic and commercial/business sectors of the market. EnergyAustralia believe this trend will continue.

The proliferation of solar panels and the development of battery backups will continue to have a large influence on the market with big growth already indicated for Queensland. The amount of generation from the number of solar panels installed per year is equivalent to a Wallerawang generating unit. This growth will continue as more councils set building standards requiring solar panels. In the next decade people will review their decision to have a network connection for their home. This is a huge issue for TransGrid and Ausgrid.

Future developments may mean a domestic refrigerator will come with a battery back-up. Battery technology is the next development for homes and appliances.

All this change will require a review of the Federal Governments REC scheme in the near future.

Further detail was provided on the progress of the voluntary redundancy offer. 46 people have left the business to date with a further 23 confirming they will leave the business prior to 31 December 2014. Another 16 offers are still outstanding, awaiting the outcome of job interviews in other businesses.

3. General Business

An objection was raised to the development application for open cut mining adjacent to the Ben Bullen State Forest. The objection was received from Julie Favell and the Lithgow Environment Group (LEG). The objection was shown to the forum and discussed. Rob Baigent concurred with the objection. It has been given to our Corporate Office for formal response.

It was discussed to visit the Coalpac site for our next meeting. Luke indicated that there had been a lot of work on rehabilitation that the Forum should see. The Forum believed that rehabilitation could not return the site to its natural state and asked if the development went ahead what rehabilitation would be done? A botanist is advising Coalpac on endemic plants and using natural resources to build habitat and canopies to enhance tree growth.

Does Coalpac have the same water issues as Centennial. No as it is higher and above the water table.

EnergyAustralia have not yet purchased Coalpac. This is awaiting the result of the development application process.

Feral Goats continue to be a problem at Thompsons Creek Dam. The Forum asked if EnergyAustralia could enlist the assistance of the neighbouring property owners to get better results on any cull that is organised.

Meeting closed at 6.45 pm.

4. Next Meeting

Wednesday 26 November 2014 at 5 pm, venue to be advised.