

Western Region Community Reference Group
Notes from the meeting held on 25 February 2009

Attendees: Jim Whitty, Julie Favell, Nino Di Falco, Steve Saladine, Margaret Miller, Ron Bidwell, Warwick Peckham, Alex Preema, Barbara Milne, Fay Vandermeer

Apologies: Jamie Giokiaris, Sue Graves

Steve Saladine, GM Production welcomed Warwick Peckham. He noted also the usefulness of identifying an alternate if members were unable to attend.

Operational report:

It was noted that extremely hot weather and high demand resulting from air conditioner usage saw new record high levels of demand across the National Electricity Market on 20 January 2009. Then on Thursday 5 February, NSW achieved a new summer record, of 13,981MW.

All Wallerawang and Mt Piper units have been operating since December to meet summer demand.

Outages to ensure reliability during the winter months are planned.

New developments:

The opening of a renewable energy project comprising two 30MW units at Condong and Broadwater sugar mills on the Central Coast was held in November. Built as a joint venture between Delta and NSW Sugar Milling Co-operative, these two units produce enough renewable energy for around 60,000 average homes per year.

The Colongra Gas Turbine plant being built on the Central Coast will shortly begin commissioning. This is a four unit, 667MW facility with a gas supply provided from from the Sydney to Newcastle gas pipeline. Delta has purchased its first gas supply to commission the pipeline and compressor station in March.

Approval is still being awaited from the Minister for Planning for the Rail Coal Unloader proposed for Pipers Flat. It was noted that the Baal Bone option was assessed but was found not to be viable.

A short presentation was made about the outcome of a dust incident at Kerosene Vale Ash repository. (See attached copy of presentation)

It was noted that a new ash management contract service has been appointed and that their contract terms and conditions reflect Delta's emphasis on a high standard of environmental management.

The issue of Centennial Coal's plans to mine coal from underneath Stage Two of Kerosene Vale Ash Repository and a number of related issues were discussed. It was agreed that there would be an update on the status of the Centennial Coal proposal at the next meeting.

A short presentation was made about the Springvale Mine Water Transfer scheme and a proposed water treatment plant to improve the quality of the water. (See attached copy of presentation).

Community members report

Issues raised were as follows:

Delta's environmental responsibility – it was noted that it was excellent that the water treatment plant is being put in.

The Clarence Transfer Scheme. It was noted that this proposal is now under the control of the Lithgow Council which was seeking funding from the Federal Government to complete the works.

Change of licensing for Mt Piper and Wallerawang from a joint to two licences. Mt Piper has a new number while Wallerawang Licence Number is unchanged. Delta was one of the first organisations to do it to have a combined license, however as this model has not been picked up in other industries it was proposed by DECC to return to two separate licences. It was considered that this made it easier for community members to understand the limits of discharges imposed by the water management licences.

Feral goats have again been sighted at Thompson Creek, especially in the evening. It was agreed this matter would be followed up.

Fingerlings were released on 10 January 2009 and Delta security guards did not seem to realize they were permitted to be on the land to do this. Steve Saladine observed that we have a new corporate security manager and he is reviewing all our security processes and systems to ensure our security is of a very high standard.

Centennial Coal discharge point at the head of their workings discharging into Sawyers Swamp Creek. It was agreed that Nino Di Falco, Environment Manager, would seek advice on Centennial water quality.

Review of first 12 months of the Reference Group

A discussion was then held on the effectiveness of the group after one year and what else could be done to improve effectiveness including enabling other community members to raise issues with a representative for discussion at the reference group meetings.

It was agreed that

- A media release would be prepared to publicise the group and its members and who they represent. This would be circulated to Lithgow Mercury and local radio stations.
- all Reference Group meeting notes and copies of presentations would be uploaded into the Community Pages on Delta's websites
- The 1800 115 277 Recorded Information Line number would also be promoted so that people would have a number to call. In the event of an incident, advice is provided on this line.
- Complaints line number would be circulated Mt Piper 63548111 and Wallerawang 63528611, noting that it is switched through to the Security or Shift Manager after hours.