

Issue 09, December 2008

## TRUenergy Tallawarra community update

After two years and over 1.7 million hours work, the Tallawarra power station is nearly complete! Pulses have been racing amongst members of the Tallawarra team as the power station has successfully passed a series of detailed tests to ensure it runs safely and smoothly when finally launched.

Further positive steps have also been made with the development of Tallawarra Lands. In November, we started a massive landscaping project to plant 10,000 native trees. A new partnership with Conservation Volunteers Australia has also been launched. Together, we will be working to restore the natural environment of Duck Creek, an important waterway that crosses the site. Please read on for more information.

*Anthony Savenkov, Project Manager, Tallawarra Lands*

### Tallawarra A Power Station fires up

The biggest test of our new power station project took place on 4 October, when the power station's electricity generator was started up for the first time. During the test the massive generator and turbine shaft (weighing over 800 tonnes in total) ran smoothly, successfully reaching the 3000 revolutions per minute working speed.

As equipment heated up, residues from the construction process ignited and some white smoke was discharged via the station's emissions stack. Residents were alerted that this was a one-off event – to date no further smoke has appeared. As expected, the station has been extremely quiet – even on site it can be hard to tell it's running!

### Jobs for local workers

It's worth highlighting that TRUenergy's approach is to hire local workers wherever possible. Thirty-five full time employees are now working onsite, 95 percent of whom are from the Illawarra region.

Our commitment to supporting the Illawarra extends further through our efforts to support local suppliers. At last count, TRUenergy and its major development

partner, ALSTOM, had engaged over fifty local businesses to provide the products and services needed to help complete the Tallawarra power station project.

### Looking after the lake

With the power station now running, water from Lake Illawarra is being used to cool the plant. Residents that have been over our side of the lake will have noticed a boom across the outlet canal to limit foam, a natural occurrence when seawater is churned up. Tallawarra's innovative 'fish escalator' is also working well at capturing live fish that occasionally get taken up the outlet canal and depositing these back into the lake.

### Tallawarra B Power Station application

TRUenergy is well advanced with an application to develop another power station adjoining Tallawarra Stage A. The environmental assessment required by legislation to ensure the cumulative environmental impacts of both these gas-fired power stations meet all regulations is now with the Department of Planning for an adequacy review. More information will be provided as we move through the development process, including the timing of the public exhibition process.

### Did you know?

The Tallawarra power station will produce enough clean electricity to power over 200,000 homes and produce 70 percent less greenhouse gas emissions than a traditional coal fired power station.



## Partnership for Illawarra's 'Big Backyard'

For generations, much of Tallawarra Lands has been clear of vegetation, and what remains of the native vegetation is generally degraded.

Now, through a partnership with the keen and dedicated Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA), TRUenergy is working to restore the banks of Duck Creek, an important waterway that crosses the site.

This is an initial two year partnership that aims to help return Duck Creek to a more natural state.

Volunteers are needed! If you are interested in lending a hand, please call CVA on (02) 4228 9246.

## Massive tree planting program

Local Illawarra contractors have started a massive tree planting program to plant over 10,000 native plants around the perimeter of the new TRUenergy Tallawarra power station.

The initiative, part of TRUenergy's plans to rejuvenate degraded lands and ensure the power station facilities blend into their surrounds, will be completed in stages and take approximately three weeks to complete.

Local Dapto business, R.K Evans, won the right to manage the project. Local, indigenous trees and shrubs grown from locally sourced seed stock will be supplied by another local business, Jamberoo Native Nursery.

Selection of Illawarra indigenous trees is a priority. We are keen to boost the quality and supply of local indigenous plant species within the region.



CVA community volunteers start work on Duck Creek

Exotics and non-indigenous growth will also be removed as part of this program.

Announcing the tree planting program, Tallawarra Project Manager, Geoff McEntee, said all TRUenergy employees onsite were very keen for the project to get underway. "In the coming months, TRUenergy will invest significant resources in projects to rehabilitate degraded lands and restore the ecological value of the site."

TRUenergy is fully funding the \$400,000 initiative.

## Community consultation

TRUenergy holds regular meetings with a formal Community Liaison Group every few months to provide updates on all Tallawarra projects and to hear feedback and answer questions from representative members of the community.

At our last meeting in October, members of the Community Liaison Group were treated to a 'sneak preview' of the new Tallawarra power station and given a talk on how the power station will generate up to 400 megawatts of clean electricity.

A public tour of the power station is being planned for early to mid 2009.

### Community Information Session

We encourage you to attend a community information session on TRUenergy's plans for **Tallawarra Lands** and **Stage B** power station.

This will be a casual, drop-in session where you can find out more about our plans for Tallawarra and share with us your thoughts on these projects. Your feedback is important as it will help to ensure the projects are developed in a sustainable way.

Details of the session are:

Date: **Wednesday 10 December**

Time: **Anytime between 5.30pm and 8.00pm**

Where: **Heininger Hall, Dapto Ribbonwood Centre, 93-109 Princes Hwy, Dapto**

## Need more info?

For more information or copies of earlier updates, please visit [www.truenergy.com.au/tallawarra](http://www.truenergy.com.au/tallawarra). Alternatively, you can call us on 1800 336 003 or send us an email at [talktous@tallawarra.com.au](mailto:talktous@tallawarra.com.au)