

**Western Region Community Reference Group**

**Meeting 25**

**28 August 2013**

**Mt Piper Power Station**

**Present**

**Community:** Julie Favell; Jim Whitty; Alex Preema; Jamie Giokaris; Helen Riley; Ron Bidwell.

**Delta Electricity:** Luke Welfare, General Manager Western Region; Julia Harvey, Corporate Relations Manager.

**Apologies:** Sue Graves, Boris Hunt,

**Meeting**

**1. Operational Update**

Mt Piper 1 & 2 are both in service. A major outage is coming up for Unit 2 in November 2013.

Wallerawang – review, tenders for cooling towers repairs.

The Western Power Stations have now achieved 2 years without a lost time injury.

This is a significant achievement for an industrial workplace and has been achieved by the involvement of all in the organisation setting the standards, including walk downs and DZIP observations.

**2. Rail Unloader**

Delta environmental monitoring is continuing. The land continues under agistment.

**3. Water Management**

Oberon Dam is at 85.4 % and the Western total active storage is 96.2 %.

The water management project is continuing with good outcomes expected from the technical options available.

**4. NSW Energy Reform**

The sale is now close to being completed with the scheduled date 2 September 2013.

Signage will change over time.

**5. Western Community Assets**

Luke gave an update on the Western assets that are accessed and utilised by the community. State Fisheries have the Access Agreement for Thompsons Creek Dam has now been signed. Leases for Lake Lyell and Lake Wallace have been finalised with access to 2042. Delta Park license has been signed with the Lithgow Rangers Soccer Club.

**6. General Business**

Julie Favell:

Q: Requested RO Plant update and advice on licence limits for discharge. Luke advised that good technical advice now means that the brine concentrator only needs upgrading. Work does not need to be commenced for another 12 months and still meet deadlines. Incremental improvements will continue to take place until the work is completed. Delta is continuing negotiations with EPA on licence limits.

**Action:** Luke will bring information back to the next meeting and invite Nino di Falcon to the meeting to provide technical information.

Q: What is the number of apprentices that will be maintained after the Delta Electricity sale.

A: We currently have around 26 apprentices across the 4 years. It is important to have the right quality of applicant and the right ratio of staff to support their training.

**Action:** Luke will confirm the number of apprentices at November meeting.

Q: Will community sponsorship and support remain the same after Energy Australia takes over? Julie explained the importance to the community of the support that Delta had given and asked that it be maintained.

A: Luke provided information on the different budget year that EA runs to, and that likely the remainder of 2013 will remain the same.

Q: How much ash is produced per annum?

**Action:** Around 1.4 million tonnes per annum with approximately 20% re-utilisation.

Q: Julie requested that the notes show that the community would like to see the Mt Piper extension be from renewables.

A: The type and timing of any future development at Mt Piper will come down to need, demand and government policy.

Julie asked that it be noted that the community opposes the use of open cut mining to supply power stations. She understands the economic benefit, but believes the impact on the community is too high. Is happy to see industry prosper, but with a balance.

The Community Reference Group had a general discussion took place about renewable options, infrastructure costs and transition times to new generation types as well as the need for energy choices to be part of a bigger strategic plan that the community can understand.

Meeting closed at 7.00pm.

### **Next Meeting**

Wednesday 27 November 2013