



## **Western Region Community Reference Group**

### **Meeting 23**

**27 February 2013**

**Wallerawang Power Station**

### **Present**

**Community:** Julie Favell; Jim Whitty.

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

**Apologies:** Sue Graves, Alex Preema, Elwyn Wolfenden, Boris Hunt, Jamie Giokaris, Rob Baigent.

### **Kerosene Vale Tour**

A site visit of Kerosene Vale and Sawyers Swamp Ash Dam was undertaken with the group. The Kerosene Vale Ash Repository Stage 1 reached capacity in 2008, has been capped and currently is undergoing rehabilitation including revegetating these areas with native endemic species. The group were pleased to see the work in separating out the clean water with possible repatriation in the natural system and the work to rehabilitate Sawyers Swamp. Planting with topsoil and oats (to provide good source of nitrogen) is visible on the top of Stage 1 area, with good growth. The Stage 2 Ash repository is still being filled.

Julie Favell noted the excellent work of Peter Andrews and recommended that Peter be sought to assist Delta in improving revegetation outcomes. Luke Welfare noted that Dr Jane Aiken from Lend Lease is the key environmental scientist working on revegetation of Delta's ash repositories and from time to time has contacted Peter Andrews for advice and will continue to do so as necessary.

Notes from last meeting. Julie Favell clarified elements tested for.

### **Meeting**

#### **1. Operational Update**

Mt Piper 1 & 2 are both in service and operating reliably. In February there was a partial collapse of the structure surrounding a cooling tower at Wallerawang's unit 7. There were no injuries Unit 7 will be out of service while the cause and damage is investigated the necessary repairs are undertaken. The Unit 7 planned outage will commence soon.

TransGrid is continuing with their new switchyard construction project. They are expected to energise within the next fortnight.

## **2. Rail Unloader**

Energy Australia feasibility study is taking place. Delta environmental monitoring is continuing. The land continues under agistment.

## **3. Water Management**

Oberon Dam is at 88.89% and the Delta total active storage is 96.7%.

Further discussion from last meeting, confirmed that a range of metals and substances were tested for and is not limited to the ones mentioned and that Delta tests more broadly. All of the information on the testing required and the monitoring results for Delta's licences are published each month at [www.de.com.au](http://www.de.com.au).

## **4. 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 and we await its signing. Leases for Lake Lyell and Lake Wallace have been reviewed by Lithgow Council and are close to being finalised. Delta Park license is under negotiation with the Lithgow Rangers Soccer Club.

## **5. NSW Energy Reform**

The due diligence for Delta's western assets have now been completed, with the bidder data room now open and workshops between the parties taking place.

## **6. Western Water Treatment Projects**

Work is continuing on the water treatment projects, with next milestones including finalising the Review of Environmental Factors and the expressions of interest that have been submitted.

## **7. Environment Projects**

Two projects are underway with the Hawkesbury Nepean HNCMA with direct seeding at Thompsons Creek Dam about to commence and willow eradication and native planting at Lake Wallace to take place during first half of 2013 with assistance from Delta volunteers.

Monitoring is continuing at the completed Lidsdale Cut seepage works.

## **8. General Business**

Julie Favell:

What are the new plantings along Neubecks? Luke advised that Centennial leased the land. All new plantings on the northern side of the Mudgee Rd are by Centennial. (mentioned in November 2012 meeting).

A drilling rig has appeared to be on the side of the road with ATF fencing about 300 metres north of Lamberts Flat, what is taking place? The drilling rig was for the RTA but the fence was the construction fence surrounding the work being done on Lamberts North on behalf of Delta. These are two unrelated things.

Chromium 6 was mentioned in a report in 2006, where was this from? Delta does not use Chromium 6 as a corrosion inhibitor and it is not present in water supplies. Very small amounts of Chromium 6 may be emitted when coal is burnt, however no levels have been detected outside the limits.

Julie mentioned that the community is generally concerned about emissions including fluoride – now town water is containing fluoride, is the community exposed to too much? The discharge licence limits are 3mg/L (2.3mg/L – 50percentile) and are complied with.

Uniting Care Respite doesn't get any community funds for the respite care house. Would Delta consider assistance in funding? Luke recommended that any submission put forward to Delta would be considered.

Jim Whitty:

Great tour thanks understands the water issues better and the natural flow back to Sawyers and rehab work and appreciated the work being undertaken to reduce salinity.

Meeting closed at 7.30pm.

### **Next Meeting**

Wednesday 29 May 2013