

Meeting Record

Name	Mt Piper & Wallerawang power stations	Meeting Date	25 November 2015
Meeting / Subject	Community Reference Group	Recorded By	MB
	Meeting 34	Total Pages	3

Members:	Jim Whitty, Julie Favell, Alex Preema, Rob Cluff, Sue Graves , Ron Bidwell,	
EnergyAustralia	Luke Welfare	Head of NSW
	Michelle Blackley	Support Services Leader EnergyAustralia NSW
	Peter Griffiths	Environment Manager EnergyAustralia NSW
Apologies	Boris Hunt, Helen Riley, Jamie Giokaris	
Minute Taker	Michelle Blackley	Support Services Leader

Meeting

- **Business Arising:**

Customer code was sent out in the minutes. Action completed.

The list of plants to be used for biodiversity offset areas will be provided at the next meeting.

- **Market Update**

The NSW market hit a new normal for August. Peak Demand has followed seasonal trends. Our second Unit came back on line today to meet market demand.

- **Operational Update**

The Mt Piper unit 2 outage is almost complete with a lot of work on the boiler and air heaters being accomplished. Only the clean-up is underway at the moment. Unit 1 is now running well.

Wallerawang – the dismantling of the condenser tubes is underway. The copper material should provide a good return in salvage. Part of the station dismantling will include a re-routing of power for the site environment equipment. The removal of large electrical cables will start soon. This is attractive due to the lead and copper recycling return.

The staff has been consolidated onto the ground floor in an office space created in the canteen and the ground floor workshops. This allows more power to be turned off and cost reductions to be realised. Maintenance and Shift personnel are continuing with the dismantling work so items can be sold to EA Auctions.

We have been given verbal feedback that the DA to dismantle the Unit 7 cooling towers will receive a green light. We are awaiting the consent conditions and expect the work to begin early in 2016.

The DDR overall plan will not be made public but any resulting development applications will be put on public display and will seek public comment. A tender is being drafted for an owners engineer to manage further dismantling of Wallerawang. This work will include consultation, surveys and gathering of various reports. The work will include the proper closure of the Wallerawang ash repository to minimise any possibility of leaching over time.

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■ Site Safety

Site Safety figures indicating year-to-date figures up to the 30 October 2015 were displayed and the one loss time incident at Mt Piper and the minor injury at Wallerawang were discussed. A worker at Wallerawang lacerated his finger and need nine stitches.

An issue from the Mt Piper outage was dust in eyes as people removed their PPE for work breaks. Some further work is underway to find a way of stopping this from happening in future.

■ 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 continuing to assess all our options.

■ Water Management

Oberon Dam currently at 64.9% which is a further increase. Our active storage is at 98.5% with Lake Wallace still spilling. Lake Lyell has stopped spilling for the moment but the lake is still quite high and could spill again with a rain event. There is a green algal alert for Lake Lyell at the moment but the remainder of the catchment is algal free.

The committee asked if the algae affected the station and Mr Welfare advised that this was not the case.

We are still using and treating Springvale Mine water. We use 50 megalitres a day at full load. A project is being proposed to increase the piping capacity. This project will likely be managed by an Owners Engineer and could last for up to 18 months. Easements along the existing pipeline will be checked to ensure the appropriate conditions are in place.

This project is being developed cooperatively with Centennial Coal as their pumps will also need to be upgraded to increase their capacity. There is a lot of hard work from both companies being conducted to gain a mutual benefit for our businesses and the local community. The water can be taken from the mine except during outages, breakdowns or emergencies. This could mean that the pumping from Lake Lyell to Thompsons Creek Dam may decrease as soon as mid-2016 and the water in the catchment can be more constant. Also our reliance on Oberon Dam will be decreased.

■ Lamberts North

- 148,679 tonnes of Ash was placed in Lamberts North from September 2014 to August 2015
- No complaints have been received or incidents recorded in these period
- The Annual Environment Management Report has been drafted and is being reviewed for submission.
- All ongoing conditions of approval have been met
- Biodiversity Offset Management Plan has been approved by Department of Planning & Environment
 - Flora & Fauna survey planned for offset site early December
 - Tree planting planned to commence in early 2016

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■ Sponsorship Process

In the last quarter we have sponsored the Halloween event with Lithgow Council and been involved in the joint State and Federal Government announcement about disabled access for fishing in the local lakes.

The 2016 Sponsorship Plan being sent for approval and it is expected that a media release to introduce the Community Program will occur in January 2016. Community applications will close date Mid February for their review by this Committee at our next meeting.

Of course information about the criteria and confidentiality will be provided to assist the Committee with their decisions.

Applicants will be advised directly and a media release will be sent out to the local community about the successful applications

The application form is currently being reviewed to make it more straight forward to provide the required information.

■ Infrasound Investigation

The infrasound issue continues to be investigated. Infrasound is low frequency sound of less than 20 hz/second which has a long wave length and is usually ground based. This sound cannot be heard but some people can feel the sound and can find this disturbing as they feel pressure and nausea. Unfortunately, there is very little science on this subject.

EnergyAustralia holds regular discussions with complainant on our progress and have advised that low frequency noise testing was performed Wednesday 18 November on Unit 1. The report is due early in December 2015. Unit 2 will be tested once it is in service. We have responded formally to all questions raised by the complainant and will continue to do so.

We don't believe that Mt Piper is the source of the infrasound as our plant would not generate such a low frequency sound. However, we will advise the Committee and the complainant once the information comes to hand and we can see if any improvements that can be made.

■ General Business

A new market development in the next 6 to 12 months will be complementary services related to solar panels. Services such as after sale service and maintenance.

Also new products were being investigated to be more energy efficient and intelligent in their service delivery such as toasters that would toast bread in a more consistent manner automatically.

Ms Favell queried whether Springvale Mine met the fuel needs of Mt Piper. Mr Welfare advised that it did. Ms Favell also wanted to know if Mt Piper would be taking coal from Mt Airlie. Mr Welfare advised that this was not the case.

Ms Favell also asked about the Pinedale Mine Community meetings and asked if the two meetings could be combined. She advised us of the membership of the Pinedale Mine committee. Mr Welfare advised that it was likely that he would attend these meetings as well but he did not foresee the merging of the two committees.

Mr Preema advised that the feral goats were still prevalent around Thompsons Creek Dam. EnergyAustralia will look into this matter. **ACTION**

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The progress of the NuRock development was discussed. We advised that NuRock has received DA approval from Lithgow Council. We are still awaiting some information before the project can be started. We are investigating how to provide the ash and are developing a set of terms and conditions under which this will be achieved. A downstream market still needs further development. The construction of the plant may be started around mid-2016. We certainly see this as a project that is favourable to EnergyAustralia and will be a sound business development for the local community.

The retirement of Kerosene Vale Ash Repository was discussed. EnergyAustralia is investigating an engineering solution to maintain the dam level and integrity. This will need to include a sustainable solution for draining water and maintain ash placement for the long term. The capping and rehabilitation using plants to stabilise what is a Class 1 Dam will remain a legacy issue for EnergyAustralia with continued monitoring over an extended period by our Environment team.

Mr Welfare wished the committee members a merry and safe Christmas and New Year and thanked them for their continued involvement on the Community Reference Committee.

Meeting closed at 7.15 pm.

■ **Next Meeting**

The dates for the Committee meetings in 2016 were discussed and were tentatively established as

Wednesday 25 February 2016

Wednesday 25 May 2016

Wednesday 31 August 2016

Wednesday 30 November 2016.

All meetings will be held at 5 pm in the Mt Piper Seminar Room unless advised differently in the invitations EnergyAustralia send to committee members prior to each meeting.