



Western Region Community Reference Group

Meeting 24

27 May 2013

Mt Piper Power Station

Present

Community: Julie Favell; Jim Whitty, Ron Bidwell, Sue Graves, Alex Preema

Delta Electricity: Greg Everett, Chief Executive; Luke Welfare, General Manager Western Region; Julia Harvey, Corporate Relations Manager; Steve Saladine, General Manager Production.

Apologies: Boris Hunt, Jamie Giokaris

Notes from last meeting

Julie Favell would like some more info on Peter Andrews work. Luke will organise Dr Jane Aiken to come to a future meeting to discuss.

Meeting

1. Operational Update

Mt Piper 1 & 2 are both in service and operating reliably.

Wallerawang Unit 7 is back in service with the outage successfully completed.

Temporary cooling towers have been installed but will require some more work. B tower is working well, (as evidenced by the mist). EA has put unit 7 back into service. Unit 8 is running continuously.

Some noise complaints have been received and Delta has undertaken noise monitoring and made changes to the operation of the temporary cooling tower units to reduce impact.

Noise monitoring has indicated that the noise is within approved limits, however Delta is conscious aware that the quality/resonance of the noise has changed. Some of the units will be relocated to the other side of the cooling tower structure which should improve the situation. Delta will continue to monitor the noise and work with those affected.

JF: Will Wallerawang Units 7 & 8 continue to run?

LW: That will be up to Energy Australia and their strategic direction.

Further discussion took place on coal supplies/stockpiles. Luke confirmed that the purchasing of coal is the responsibility of Energy Australia.

The construction of TransGrid's new switchyard and transmission lines is complete.

2. Rail Unloader

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

3. Water Management

Oberon Dam is at 85% and the Delta total active storage is 95%. Delta is pleased with the level of water supplies.

4. Western Water Treatment Projects

Work is continuing on the water treatment projects, with the tenders closing early June 2013. The project will be implemented. WW Units 7 & 8 RO connection is in operation. To achieve our licence requirements we need to use less mine water, however alternate water from Fish River is probably not the best use of good water. Delta is looking at ways that it can maximise mine water usage whilst maintaining water quality.

JF: Are the readings the same?

LW: Volume of blowdown water will reduce as we are recycling water. We are currently installed new measuring devices. The water from Unit 8 is more diluted. Graphs and data explaining this will be presented to the next meeting.

5. Western Community Assets

Luke gave an update on the Western assets that are accessed and utilised by the community. Some good outcomes have been achieved and finalised prior to the sale of Western stations. Long term leases for Lake Lyell and Lake Wallace have been approved by Lithgow Council. The license agreement for Delta Park has been negotiation with the Lithgow Rangers Soccer Club with the support of Lithgow Council.

State Fisheries have the Access Agreement for Thompsons Creek Dam and we are waiting for it to be signed by them.

6. Environment Projects

A staff activity day was held with 14 staff volunteering to plant native trees and shrubs at Lake Wallace. The environmental volunteering was held with the support of the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority. The planting followed eradication of willows at the Lake. Over 500 native species were planted on the day and it was a great success despite the pea soup fog.

Luke confirmed that both trees and shrubs were planted, with the shrubs providing for perching birds.

7. NSW Energy Reform

A presentation was delivered with information on the NSW Energy Reform process and the current sale activities for Delta's Western Assets.

The bidder data room is still open and workshops are continuing between the parties.

Various independent reports and audit processes have taken place. All staff at site are being transferred to the new owner.

Discussion took place around the process of binding offers, negotiations and agreement signing and the broad timeframes as well as coal supplies, employment guarantees and any possible future impacts in the region.

General Business

Julie Favell: She will shortly put in a submission for some sponsorship for a local respite care service. A question was raised in relation to the new owner and opportunities for pilot solar plants and new industry/manufacturing opportunities.

A discussion took place about requirements for renewable targets for all owners and also wind and other renewables.

Sue Graves: Noted that she is pleased to be a community representative. Delta has always been open to feedback and thanked the people involved. It is a great opportunity for the community. Delta's track record is being responsive reduces local anxiety. Sue also requested that it be placed on the record that Delta had been very generous and supportive to Tidy Towns and that the community is very appreciative. Delta's generosity has ensured that council funds and other funds then became available, ensuring that local projects could be completed.

Alex Preema: Alex expressed his disappointment that the Thompsons Creek Dam Access Agreement had not been signed by Fisheries yet after such a long period. The Reference Group supported Alex in his frustration about the agreement has not been signed by Fisheries and that this situation had been going on for years.

Meeting closed at 6.30pm.

Next Meeting

Wednesday 28 August 2013