

Western Region Community Reference Group

Mt Piper Power Station

Notes from the meeting held Wednesday 25 August 2010

Attendees: Jim Whitty, Ron Bidwell, Don Barton, Steve Saladine, Margaret Miller

Apologies: Sue Graves, Julie Favell, Alex Preema, Barbara Milne, Boris Hunt, Warwick Peckham,

1. Welcome

Steve welcomed attendees noting that there had been a number of apologies. Don Barton shortly after the beginning of the meeting, as an alternate for Alex Preema of the Acclimatisation Society.

2. Notes from the Previous Meetings - approved.

3. Action Items

- Update on Operations – Mt Piper is in service and running well. A major outage for Wallerawang Unit 8 will see a number of improvements, including the repacking of the cooling tower. The 5,000 tonnes of fibro sheeting have been safely disposed of in the licensed asbestos waste facility on Delta land and is being replaced with plastic sheeting. Steve noted that due diligence activities in preparation for the Energy industry reforms has resulted in a significant workload for many staff members.

- Update on Rail Unloader Project - Delta is currently negotiating long term contracts and in the event a local coal supplier is selected, the construction of the rail coal unloader will be deferred.

- Update on Water Management – Rainfall has meant the Delta storage system is gradually recovering and the Oberon Dam is around 20% of capacity and climbing. State Water recommissioned the Duckamaloi Weir and Delta is currently sourcing sufficient water supplies from that to operate the plant without being as reliant on Oberon Dam. The more rain there is the more the salinity in the Coxs River and Lake Wallace is reduced.

Update on access to Thompsons Creek Dam – The initial period of access to Thompson's Creek dam was envisaged as a trial. Following this, and the resolution of relevant insurance issues, a document is being finalised with the Fisheries Department to ensure permanent access.

Update on Wallerawang Biomass Trial – To trial the co-firing of biomass fuel at Wallerawang, a standard coal mill was modified to grind up the biomass pellets including pellets made from Mallee. Mallee is of a higher calorific value but produces less ash, and as it is a renewable source of fuel, it results in lower levels of greenhouse emissions. Delta is also conducting a trial of growing mallee as a cash crop that will be harvested after five years, and every two years after that, to be processed into biomass fuel pellets.

Update on Mt Piper ash placement proposal - Based on planned operations at Mt Piper, the present ash placement area is expected to reach capacity by around 2015. Wherever possible, Mt Piper's ash is sold for re-use mainly in cement manufacture. Currently around 18% of ash is re-used.

An Environmental Assessment for the four new ash placement areas will shortly be submitted to the Department of Planning which will then place it on exhibition and advertise its availability for public comment. A community newsletter will be

distributed to residents of Blackman's Flat and Lidsdale. (A copy was distributed to attendees at the meeting)

4. Presentation – NSW Government's Energy Reform Program

The NSW Government's Energy Reform current form consists of three elements – that sale of electricity retailers, the sale of wholesale electricity trading rights and the sale of new power station development sites to the private sector. Binding bids from interested companies are due on November 1. (See slide presentation)

5. There were no issues raised by the community members for consideration.

Next meeting – 24 November 2010 at Mt Piper Power Station.

Action Items

1. Provide an update to the next meeting on the Government's Energy Reform Program.