

TXU COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

MEETING		TXU CLG MEETING	MEETING NUMBER	2/2005
HELD AT		TXU TALLAWARRA SITE, WOLLONGONG	DATE	11 MAY 2005
PROJECT		TALLAWARRA CLG MEETING		
ATTENDEES	John Osseweyer	Scout Group		
	Doug Prosser	Lake Illawarra Authority		
	Ray Chapman	Winten Property Group		
	Chris Brandis	Illawarra Bird Observers Club		
	Daryl Goldrick	DIPNR / Illawarra Bird Observers Club		
	Rita Webb	Dapto Chamber of Commerce		
	Graham Towers	DIPNR		
	Graham Dowers	TXU		
	Nicola Ryan	TXU		
	Ian Kinlough	TXU		
	Brian Elton	Elton Consulting		
	Brendan Blakeley	Elton Consulting		
APOLOGIES	William Dove	EPA		
	Kara Lamond	Wollongong City Council		
	Stewart Russell	University of Wollongong		
	Ben Grounds	Healthy Cities		
	Mike Betts	Wollongong City Employment and Training		
	Vicki King	Neighbourhood Committee Number 8		
DISTRIBUTION	To all invitees			

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1.0	WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS		
1.1	<i>The meeting commenced at 4.30 PM. Brian Elton welcomed all those present. Apologies were received from: William Dove; Kara Lamond; Stewart Russell; Ben Grounds; Mike Betts and Vicki King.</i>		
1.2	<i>The previous minutes were accepted. They were moved by Rita Webb and seconded by Ray Chapman.</i>		
2.0	Plant & Business Update – Graham Dowers TXU		
2.1	China Light and Power (CLP) officially takes ownership of the TXU Energy business on May 31 2005. A new brand has been developed to integrate TXU with CLP's existing power generation operations within Australia/Asia. Once the transfer of ownership has occurred, TXU will brief the new owner about the Tallawarra project. CLP is familiar with the site as they bid for it from Pacific Power back in 2002.		
2.2	Plant Update We anticipate the tender will go out to the market around July 2005. The final draft of technical specification is now completed and the contract is drafted and being reviewed. Some preliminary discussions have also been held with NSW retailers. A network application enquiry has been submitted to both Integral and Transgrid. We have also commenced modelling of the impact upon the lake under extreme summer conditions. TXU will soon commence discussions with agencies and the EPA around some minor departures from the development consent conditions. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential modifications to orientation of the plant on the slab - work on the asbestos repository 		
3.0	Alternate Land Use Update – Nicola Ryan		
3.1	The pre-rezoning submission is in the final draft stage with the consultant team's remaining comments being incorporated into the document.. The team has recently provided an overview of the submission to Council staff and had discussions with them about the potential direction of the study. The submission is now awaiting internal approval from the new owners. The paper cannot be lodged until the briefing of CLP occurs sometime in June.		
3.2	CLG: Have Councillors been briefed as yet? NR: Not as yet. That will happen when the finalised paper is submitted. The presentation the other day was to the GM and senior planning staff.		

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3.3	<p>Sustainability</p> <p>Associated with the landuse study TXU will also be developing a Sustainability Framework to guide our activities on the Tallawarra site. This is done to ensure that policy is developed to secure quality outcomes in the areas of environment, health; safety and community, both internal and external (employees).</p> <p>URS has been engaged to prepare this framework. Part of the task will be to develop Key Performance Indicators to assess outcomes in these areas. We will also be looking at beyond compliance initiatives for TXU's operations on site. The CLG will have a role to play in helping TXU to develop our sustainability policy for Tallawarra.</p> <p>The Sustainability Framework will support the rezoning study and we will be looking at its recommendations in relation to the planning options identified within the study.</p>		
4.0	Site Leader Report - Ian Kinlough		
4.1	<p>Fox control</p> <p>A baiting program was undertaken by the Moss Vale Rural Land Protection Board from 24/03/05 – 7/04/05. Sixteen baiting stations were maintained with 27 baits taken. We will look at second round of baiting in August / September.</p> <p>Asbestos repository</p> <p>Some minor damage to the edges of the asbestos repository has been observed during routine inspections. This has been caused by rabbits digging warrens. The Moss Vale Rural Lands Protection Board has been contacted, and a baiting program will be carried out in this area to prevent further damage to the asbestos repository's integrity.</p> <p>The ground cover around the repository is growing back well following the site remediation works undertaken early this year.</p>		
4.2	<p>Land Management</p> <p>The Illawarra Noxious Weeds Authority carried out an inspection of the site in March/April 2005. A five year weed management plan has been developed from the recommendations of the inspection.</p> <p>The first round of spraying was done mid April with aquatic weeds targeted within Duck Creek and wetland areas. The next targeted area is from the Princes Highway to Gilba Road. Weeds to be sprayed will be Blackberry and Prickly Pear. A non toxic herbicide called Grazon will be used.</p> <p>The reeds with the sewerage treatment works have also been sprayed to control regrowth since cleaning last year.</p>		
4.3	<p>Security</p> <p>A meeting was held between Senior Members of the NSW Police Crime Prevention Unit and a representative from TXU and the LIA. They were sympathetic to the representation made, however police resources are to be prioritised against the needs</p>		

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of the wider community.

A Member of the Police Crime Prevention Unit is not able to attend all CLG meetings, however, can attend a CLG meeting to answer any specific questions regarding policing issues at Tallawarra.

Repairs to damaged fences were made last weekend.

Recent security incidents include:

- Three youths were discovered fishing at the inlet canal and asked to leave site
- A large hole was found in the North Fence of the caravan park at the lake foreshore
- We have also spotted some breaks in the screens that allow people to access the canal.

Security and site safety issues remain of concern to TXU.

CLG: Security breaches and vandalism will continue to occur until the site is occupied and activated.

5.0 Illawarra Bird Observers Club – Chris Brandis

Tallawarra is one of the few sites left around Lake Illawarra that provides a range of habitats for birds. It is very important part of the local ecosystem.

Only 2 of the 16 Grebe, duck and swan species recorded in this area have not been associated with the Ash Ponds. These are :

- Blue-bill Duck (sighted at Killalea)
- Great-crested Grebe (sighted on Lake Illawarra)

A very rare event occurred recently where eight Grebe nests were observed. Unfortunately a rain event washed them away.

Bird activity on the ash dam varies with water level. When the level is low wader species predominate and when levels are raised duck numbers increase. Inland dry spells also impact upon the numbers and type of bird species observed on the site.

Other facts about the site are:

- There is a remnant patch of coastal forest on the lake edge, south of Duck Ck
- Tallawarra is the southern limit for the Osprey.
- There are sea eagle nests on site.
- The pylons are used by falcon species.
- Open grassland areas are home to Rosellas.
- The population and species representation has been reasonably stable over time with no notable increases or declines in numbers of birds on site that aren't related to water levels.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Of the 700 bird species in Australia 164 have been observed around Tallawarra.- The 164th species for Tallawarra, a flock of Chestnut-breasted Mannikins, was listed on the 4/5/05.- The removal of the Duck Creek weir appears to have been beneficial to bird species as well.- The importance of the ash Ponds cannot be overstated. <p>The IBOC has been tracking and recording bird activity on site since the early 1990's. Observations and data are forwarded to the NSW Atlas. The IBOC visits the site as group twice yearly with individual members accessing the site up to six-8 times a year. 163 BIRDS SPECIES RECORDED SINCE 1990 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 14 ducks and swan and grebes.- 5 gulls and terns- 4 waterhens- 17 waders- 5 cormorants and pelican- 14 herons, egrets and spoonbills- 13 raptors- 91 others <p>Conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Ash Ponds are an important coastal drought refuge for waterbirds.- The casuarina stands and the eucalypt forest are altitudinal winter migration sites for many forest birds on the coastal plain.- The foreshore links Haywards Bay and the south end of Koona Bay wetland areas for shorebirds.		

8.0 Next steps/meeting dates: Brian Elton

Brian thanked all those present for their participation in this evening's meeting. The meeting closed at 6.00pm.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: 20 July 2005, 4.30pm at Tallawarra Site.

If you have any questions in relation to these minutes please contact Brendan Blakeley at **Elton Consulting**.
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