

TRUenergy COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 2009

MEETING	TALLAWARRA COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP MEETING	MEETING NUMBER	4/2009
HELD AT	TRUENERGY TALLAWARRA SITE, WOLLONGONG	DATE	19 AUGUST 2009
PROJECT	TALLAWARRA		
ATTENDEES	<div> <div> Doug Prosser Cheryl Lappin Tony Gardiner Chris Brandis Rhonda Sikky Bill Sikky Graham Dowers Anthony Savenkov Debbie Walker Robin Barclay Nam Quach Carl Kitchen Lloyd Townsend Lucy Greig Brendan Blakeley </div> <div> Lake Illawarra Authority Shellharbour Council Concerned Residents of East Dapto Illawarra Bird Observers Club Sea Bird Rescue Sea Bird Rescue TRUenergy TRUenergy TRUenergy TRUenergy TRUenergy TRUenergy TRUenergy Elton Consulting (Note-taker) Elton Consulting (Facilitator) </div> </div>		
APOLOGIES	<div> <div> Graham Towers David Bartlett Andrew Knowlson Sarah Stent Rita Webb </div> <div> Department of Planning Rural Fire Service Duck Creek Catchment Group TRUenergy Dapto Chamber of Commerce </div> </div>		
DISTRIBUTION	To all invitees		

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	ACTION	DATE
1.0	Welcome & Introductions – Brendan Blakeley, Elton Consulting		
	<p><i>The meeting commenced at 4.30pm. Brendan welcomed all, introducing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Nam Quach – Project Manager, TRUenergy</i> <i>Carl Kitchen - Head of Corporate Relations, TRUenergy</i> <i>Debbie Walker - Operations Team Coordinator, TRUenergy</i> <i>Rhonda Sikky - Acting Coordinator for Sea Bird Rescue and Bill Sikky.</i> <p><i>Apologies were received from Graham Towers, David Bartlett, Andrew Knowlson, Sarah Stent and Rita Webb.</i></p> <p><i>The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted with one amendment (John Osseweyer was listed twice in attendees); adoption was moved by Doug Prosser, seconded by Chris Brandis.</i></p>		
2.0	Lands Management - Lloyd Townsend, TRUenergy		
	<p>Site maintenance update</p> <p>Lloyd Townsend made the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current focus of the weed management programme is lantana. An area of lantana 		

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	<p>has been cleared in the northern part of Tallawarra Lands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stages 1 and 2 landscaping around the power station is in good condition and growing well. • Illawarra Vocational Services has continued mowing around the site and Yallah Bay Road. • Rabbit baiting is currently underway. This is being carried out by Cumberland Livestock Health and Pest Authority (the former Rural Protection Board). • There has been no significant vandal damage during the period since the last CLG meeting, however a number of trespassers have been removed from the Tallawarra Lands site (ie shooters, motorbike riders, etc). • The power station security cameras are operational. • TRUenergy contacted Seabird Rescue to assist with an injured pelican. Unfortunately the bird had to be euthanised, as it could not be rescued. <p>Lands Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new short video on Tallawarra Lands has been prepared for use as part of the updated site induction process, which seeks to ensure the safety of people accessing the TRUenergy site. Once implemented, all workers and visitors will need to complete the induction process prior to entering the property. • There was a small bushfire on Mount Brown adjacent to the fence line, near TRUenergy property. This was quickly extinguished with minimal damage occurring. • The bollards at each end of the shared pathway bridge across the inlet canal have been modified. This follows input received from Werner Steyer of the Illawarra Bicycle Users Group. • The Illawarra Bird Observers Club recently undertook another successful field trip on Tallawarra Lands, with approximately 18 people attending. Chris Brandis noted that over 70 species of birds were sighted. • The Lake Illawarra Authority and Wollongong City Council have completed the jetty on Lake Illawarra Authority foreshore. • Conservation Volunteers Australia is continuing its rehabilitation works in the area around the entrance to Yallah Bay Road. 		
3.0	Special presentation: Rhonda Sikky, Seabird Rescue		
	<p>Rhonda Sikky made the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seabird Rescue has rescued a total of 480 birds, of many species (including ducks, swans and pelicans) over the last four years. • The organisation was established in Ballina and is seeking community involvement. The role is a full time commitment from Rhonda and Bill Sikky. They often need to travel considerable distances to rescue birds and have a rehabilitation facility at their home for birds such as penguins, cormorants and seagulls. • Most of the birds survive. The longest they have ever had a bird in care is a fortnight – with many stitches in its leg. The rescued birds are given an identification number (recorded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service) before being released. • The Sikkys are also involved in cleaning up waterways – around boat ramps, fishing 		

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	<p>areas, etc. There are about 25 volunteers in the local area, of which around five are active. The Sikky's are holding a workshop on Saturday 23 August at the Yacht Club to garner additional local support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Debbie Walker: TRUenergy has sponsored Seabird Rescue for a period of 2 years. Part of the funds were used to prepare an education package for K1-6 school children. The material was age-appropriate. Rhonda Sikky: Liaison with local schools has commenced. TAFE and a home school have also expressed an interest in the information kit. Seabird Rescue has received positive feedback from a local school principal. TRUenergy funding has been Seabird Rescue's only funding support to date. Previously Seabird Rescue has been self-funded and has done its own fundraising. Funds are used for feed (approximately 4 kg fish per bird), medication (eg to treat respiratory illnesses and pneumonia), petrol (for travel purposes), and other items needed by the birds such as electrolyte supplements and dressings. <p><u>Questions and comments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLG member: Does Seabird Rescue have a relationship with WIRES (NSW Wildlife Information and Rescue Service Inc)? Rhonda Sikky: Yes, WIRES will call them if their expertise is needed. Doug Prosser: Has there been any difference in the incidence of botulism since the new lake entrance was installed? Bill Sikky: Uncertain, as it is difficult to ascertain difference between botulism and other conditions. It is not the fault of the lake, rather, it is the nutrients in air, runoff and other sources. Once birds have botulism, they spread it quickly. This is why Seabird Rescue seeks to treat it quickly. Brendan Blakeley thanked Seabird Rescue for attending the meeting. He noted that there may be opportunities to promote Seabird Rescue through Clean Up Australia Day activities. Doug Prosser asked if the Seabird Rescue DVD could be shown. He thanked TRUenergy on behalf of the community for supporting Seabird Rescue and praised the organisation's efforts in producing the education kit. 		
4.0	Power Station Operation Update – Robin Barclay, TRUenergy		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robin Barclay: At present there a few contractors on site. Quite a few tour groups have toured the power station recently. Cheryl Lappin: Have recent readings been at expected levels, in terms of pollution/emissions? Robin Barclay: Yes. Doug Prosser: Does TRUenergy expect the authorities will apply the same baseline data for Stage B or raise the bar further? TRUenergy: Although the environment controls for Stage A are already very strict, and an excellent environmental result has been achieved, the government recognises 		

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	<p>that since Tallawarra A was permitted, advances in technology have been made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Brandis: Have you communicated the low noise readings to the people who were most concerned? TRUenergy: Two of the Community Updates stated that noise emissions were lower than anticipated. Noise levels are being monitored by the EPA, including ambient noise levels. 		
5.0	Tallawarra Power Station Stage B - Graham Dowers, TRUenergy		
	<p>Graham Dowers made the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRUenergy's plans for Stage B are on exhibition until 3 September 2009. A Community Information Session will be conducted on Tuesday 25 August. All CLG members, and the broader community, are invited to attend. As part of the Environmental Assessment, TRUenergy has a CD available and a printed copy of the documentation (this was made available to all interested parties at the meeting). Following the public exhibition period, feedback will be compiled by the NSW Department of Planning and provided to TRUenergy, to be addressed. A Submissions Report will be provided to the Minister for Planning. In relation to other sites, TRUenergy is looking to establish a pipeline of works for up to four power plants over the next few years. It is seeking to gain more control over the construction process in these future projects. <p><u>Questions and comments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bill Sikky: How does the output of Tallawarra A compare to those from other power stations or the former Tallawarra power station? Graham Dowers: Tallawarra has a nominal capacity of 400W, which is comparable to other new power stations. The former (coal-fired) Tallawarra power station had a capacity of approximately 400MW. Additional generators can be added, as is proposed with the addition of Tallawarra B. The former power station and newer power stations use a similar amount of water. Tallawarra A generates approximately 70% lower carbon (Co2) emissions than other coal-fired power stations. The nitrous oxide outputs generated by Tallawarra A are also much lower than for coal-fired power stations. Carbon emissions (Co2) are far lower than for coal. Chris Brandis: Is there an adequate gas supply? Graham Dowers: Transport capacity for gas is adequate. In terms of the volume of gas available, there is a lot more coming on stream from gas fields other than Bass Strait, providing an adequate supply for the foreseeable future. In Queensland, coal-seam gas is also available. Cheryl Lappin: Approval was recently granted for a gas-fired power station at Appin. Is this anticipated to have a commercial impact on Tallawarra Stage B? Graham Dowers confirmed the Minister has approved a power station to be developed in Leaf's Gully, near Appin. The new power station may or may not have a commercial impact on Stage B. There are a range of factors that need to be considered before this can be determined. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheryl Lappin: There needs to be forward planning for infrastructure development, to ensure a planned rather than an ad hoc approach is taken. Infrastructure needs to fit with the regional planning framework to enable appropriate zonings and so forth. The Leaf's Gully proposal does not need to be located near a major water source? Graham Dowers: The Appin OCGT does not need to be co-located with a water body. Carl Kitchen noted there is an increasing demand for gas. Brendan Blakeley noted that the City of Sydney is currently developing a Decentralised Energy Master Plan. 		
6.0	Special presentation: Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme – Carl Kitchen, TRUenergy		
	<p>Carl Kitchen gave a PowerPoint presentation on TRUenergy's portfolio in relation to the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme ("CPRS") (key slides attached).</p> <p>He made the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRUenergy's coal-fired power station at Yallourn is likely to close much earlier than its intended life (around 2015 rather than 2032), in line with the government's proposed CPRS. TRUenergy's credit rating has been impacted as a result of the proposed CPRS (as its assets include the coal-fired Yallourn power station), even prior to the scheme's implementation. The federal government is currently undertaking the Morgan Review (by Morgan Stanley). The findings are likely to be broadly consistent with studies already undertaken by KPMG and Ernst & Young. We believe that they will likely lead to a review of the CPRS. Until we know what the scheme will look like, it is difficult to plan for the future. New finance 'future contracts' are also becoming more difficult to obtain. There may be more spikes in the national electricity market, higher electricity bills, and potentially reduced reliability. We all agree with the objective. We disagree on how to get there and how long it will take. TRUenergy is actively pursuing a mix of technologies including solar, gas and geothermal. Solar energy is currently not a viable alternative. The proposed scheme may also make it difficult for TRUenergy to meet its prior commitments which include a new wind farm in Waterloo (SA) and the Paralana geothermal energy project (NW of Roxby). TRUenergy believes two key factors are required for appropriate implementation of the CPRS – an appropriate transition process and a greater level of certainty about the scheme. In its current form, it represents a significant sovereign risk. 		
7.0	Tallawarra Lands Update – Anthony Savenkov, TRUenergy		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anthony Savenkov thanked the people who had made formal responses regarding Tallawarra Lands to Council's draft Local Environmental Plan ("LEP") exhibition. Council has now passed the draft LEP onto the NSW Department of Planning for approval and gazettal. Our estimated timing for gazettal of the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan is towards the end of 2009. The next major step in the development application and assessment process is for TRUenergy to prepare an Environmental Assessment addressing the Director 		

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	<p>General's Requirements. If it is considered adequate by the Department of Planning, (following consultation with the relevant government agencies), it will be placed on exhibition for public comment. Wollongong Council will be one of the key stakeholders in the development application process to be led by the Department of Planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The telecommunications tower of approximately 35m on Mt Brown is being upgraded. In the process, it will be moved about 10-15m north-east. The upgrade will help the telecommunications providers maintain and improve their network services in the area. The highest point of the new tower will sit at almost the same height as the highest point on the old tower. 		
8.0	Discussion and next steps		
	<p>TRUenergy in the community</p> <p>Debbie Walker of TRUenergy made the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Debbie Walker noted that Mark Rigby from the Police-Citizens Youth Club ("PCYC") was unable to attend the CLG meeting. TRUenergy has recently sponsored the Health Helps pilot program, which involves local children in a six-week program. In an initial session, children were provided with an information kit and food diary, and enjoyed a range of activities. This initial session will be followed up in several weeks time. There are plans to run the program in a number of schools around the Lake Illawarra area. TRUenergy also continues its involvement with Conservation Volunteers Australia (onsite rehabilitation activities) and the Illawarra Yacht Club (skiffs and learn to sail program). <p>Other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doug Prosser: The current Lake Authority expires in one week and there has not yet been any announcement about the structure of the new Authority. The Authority has been moved from the Department of Environment and Climate Change to the Department of Lands. 		
9.0	Close – Next meeting		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting closed early at 5.30pm. <p>NEXT REGULAR MEETING: 4.30 pm Wednesday 18 November 2009, onsite.</p>		
<p>If you have any questions in relation to these minutes please contact Brendan Blakeley at Elton Consulting. Tel: 02 9387 2600 Fax: 02 9387 2557 Email: brendan@elton.com.au</p>			

Attachments: Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme – key slides presented