

Western Region Community Reference Group

Meeting 22

28 November 2013

Present:

Community: Julie Favell; Alex Preema; Rob Baigent; Elwin Wolfenden; Jim Whitty.

Delta Electricity: Greg Everett CE; Luke Welfare, General Manager Western Region; Chan Sinnadurai; Nino de Falco; Steve Marshall; Jane Aiken Ash Repository, Soil Scientist Lend Lease.

Lambert North Ash Repository

A site visit to the new Lamberts North Ash Repository was undertaken with information on the extent of the repository, the site works to be undertaken, the time frame for construction and use of the site. Jane Aiken from Lend lease updated the forum on the techniques to rehabilitation for the site.

Meeting

New member

Luke welcomed the community and introduced a new community representative Elwin Wolfenden who gave an acknowledgement of country of the Wiradjuri people and paid respects to elders past and present.

1. Operational Update

Mt Piper 1 returned to service after outage. The outage was well run and managed safely. Unit 2 is operating reliably. Wallerawang Unit 2 outage deferred to December and will be back in service in early January. TransGrid switchyard work is now above ground.

2. Rail Unloader

Energy Australia feasibility study is taking place. Delta environmental monitoring is continuing. The land continues under agistment. The group discussed when a decision might be made and were advised that the consent for the unloader is for 10 years and that the long term plan is up to Energy Australia.

3. Water Management

Delta has undergone a 13 month process with the EPA and draft conditions and draft licence has been agreed and will be likely to be published at the end of the month. Delta will use some Fish River water to dilute discharge. Units 7 & 8 cooling towers will be connected, a water recovery project will be put in place and ANZECC guidelines will be used.

Nino DiFalco presented information on the ANZECC guidelines, background levels already in our receiving waters, how testing takes place and what processes are in place when trigger values are reached.

The group discussed what is in the receiving waters and the sample locations. Questions were raised about salinity levels and that they should be improved. Information was provided to show that Delta will be at the 50th percentile for conductivity levels the majority of the time.

A question was raised about what aquatic life survives at this level. Information will be provided on this at the next meeting.

Luke confirmed that the draft licence is an interim step until 2015 when all blowdown will be treated.

Questions were raised about the amount of metals that we test for. The licence specifies what is required and this information is published monthly on www.de.com.au. Arsenic, boron, fluoride, sulphate and selenium is tested (not silver).

4. NSW Energy Reform

The NSW government has identified that Delta's western assets will be sold in 2013, with price and terms agreed to in the first quarter, then transition arrangements will be put in place with likely mid-year transaction. Delta is currently doing due diligence. Goldman Sachs has been appointed to manage the sale on behalf of the owner. Worley parsons are doing the technical assessments.

Question was raised about how the sale affects competition.

Greg Everett advised that it has been an unusual arrangement not to have control of inputs and outputs as is currently the case. The ACCC will restrict the amount of energy assets one owner can have. They will look at the big picture. The group discussed completion policy generally.

a. Western community assets

Delta is ensuring that current community assets and access to lands will be maintained. Leases and access agreements are being finalised for Thompsons Creek Dam, Lake Lyell, Lake Wallace and the Lithgow Rangers' Soccer Park.

Luke Welfare confirmed that the Arboretum was secure with a 99 year lease granted earlier this year.

Discussion also took place on why DPI was slow in finalising the Thompsons Cr Dam access agreement. Community members will take this up independently. It was identified that recent signage had been vandalised. It was confirmed that security visit Thompsons Creek Dam twice daily, but that Delta staff will discuss further with Alex on signage requirements.

5. Wallerawang RO Plant

The plant is fully available, but operation is limited whilst the brine concentrators are being upgraded. Mt Piper B brine concentrator upgrade work is now complete with A upgrade underway to increase capacity. The upgrade is scheduled for completion at end of December 2012.

6. Dust collection Project

Two rounds of expressions of interest have been completed looking at best way to proceed.
This work is ongoing.

7. Environment Projects

- a. Lidsdale Cut seepage works are complete, with monitoring continuing. No groundwater will go into the creek as seepage pipes are sealed.
- b. Hawkesbury Nepean Willow eradication will take place early 2013.
- c. Centennial have planted trees on Delta land along highway as a screen for the Neubecks Coal Mine Development Project.
- d. Hawkesbury Nepean direct seeding at Thompsons Creek Dam about to commence.

8. General Business

Elwin Wolfenden tabled a brochure on NSW Aboriginal Water Initiative. He identified that water was important to Aboriginal people and the initiative will be launched at local workshops. A discussion took place about the significance of water to culture and that they were seen as female and givers of life.

Action: A copy to be circulated by email to group with the minutes.

Julia Favell thanked Delta for organising the visit to the future ash repository at Lamberts North, but would like it noted that it was still not wanted in the area. Appreciation was also expressed for the ANZECC flow chart presented by Nino to assist in understanding the issues.

Julie requested information on whether Centennial are taking their water back.

Luke advised that Centennial have transferred the licensed discharge point back to their licence and will use our settling ponds. It was agreed that this was a good solution as other options would have affected Wolgan.

Alex Preema requested that a future visit to Springvale Rehabilitated Ash Dam take place.

Action: Luke advised that this could take place in Feb next year (or other convenient time) and could start at Wallerawang.

Goat population at Thompsons Creek has grown again, with two mobs of around 60 goats, they need to be culled.

Action: Delta will investigate the goat issue.

Greg Everett and Luke Welfare thanked the Community Reference Group for their input during 2012 and wished everyone a Safe and Happy Christmas and New Year.

Meeting Dates 2013

The WRCRG meets on the last Wednesday of the month on a quarterly basis.

27 February 2013 29 May 2013

28 August 2013 27 November 2013.