



Meeting **AGL Hunter/Bayswater Power Station - Community Consultative Committee**

Venue Future U Hub

Time 3:00pm – 5:00pm

Date 27 February 2025

Chair Lisa Andrews

Attendees **AGL representatives:** Seth Pathiyil (*left at 4.26pm*), Michael Musca, James Coventry, Jo Ferguson, Polly Yuille, Mel Cleary, Kate Schultz (*via video*), Andrew Speechly

CCC Members: Stephen Thatcher, Mike Kelly (Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce & Industry), Cr Graeme McNeill (Muswellbrook Council) Derek Finnegan (Muswellbrook Council) Cr Sue Moore (Mayor, Singleton Shire Council), Vicki Brereton (Singleton Shire Council), Kevin Timpson, Ged Elphinstone and Jennifer Lecky

Apologies Len McLachlan, Rob Cooper, Laurie Perry & De-Anne Douglas.

Agenda items and minutes

Item	Discussion
01	<p>Welcome, Introduction and Apologies – Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Meeting opened at 3.07pm, Lisa Andrews introduced Cr Graeme McNeill as Muswellbrook Council's new delegate for the CCCAcknowledgment of Country <p>Apologies – as listed above.</p>
02	<p>Safety Share – Michael Musca (Slide 4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Provided information regarding the year-long Hand Safety Campaign underway at Bayswater.
03	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>No changes to previous declarations.</p>
04	<p>Confirmation of previous minutes</p> <p>- Confirmation of previous minutes from 27/11/24 with amendments. Moved: Mike Kelly Seconded: Stephen Thatcher</p>
05	<p>Business arising</p>



Action Items:

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	DUE BY	COMMENTS
AGL to provide details when available on contribution Bayswater makes to local economy and community, and contribution of proposed new renewable and Hunter Energy Hub projects	Rob Cooper Jane Callinan		Held over
Provide response to questions about the Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro	Mel Cleary	Q1 2025	Complete 27/2/25

In relation to Action Item 2 – MC responded to questions raised at the previous CDG regarding the Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro Project. A hard copy Fact Sheet was provided to all attendees that hadn't attended the previous meeting:

1. How many homes will be powered by Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro? (Sharon Pope).
Response from AGL ESG Team is: Muswellbrook pumped hydro can produce up to 3200 MWh over 8 hours when discharging. If the asset discharges fully once a day for a year, it would export enough electricity to power approximately 210,000 average Australian households for a year.
2. Is the 2030 target for start of operations still feasible? (Mike Kelly).
Response: [Targeting late 2030](#)
3. Are you developing an accommodation strategy for workforce? (Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr)
Response: Yes, and MPH remain in consultation with Council regarding accommodation requirements for the project. Due to existing accommodation pressures in the area, MPH propose to include a construction accommodation camp on MCC owned land, connected to the project site, in the EIS to provide flexibility. If alternative worker camps have been developed in the region and are available at the time of construction, these would be utilised rather than building a camp.

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Correspondence as sent out with the meeting notice on 11/2/25 with 2 additional items (reminder on 20/2/25 & draft Terms of Reference on 24/2/25).

- 14/12/24 – Email to members with the draft minutes for review. (comments received & incorporated into final draft)
- 11/2/25 – Email to members with meeting notice and agenda for this CDG.
- 20/2/25 – Email to members with reminder for this meeting
- 24/2/25 – Email to members with draft Terms of Reference for this committee.



Questions were asked and answered throughout the presentation.

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AGL and Site Operations – Michael Musca (Slides 7-15)

Slides presented with additional commentary:

- **Financial Performance:** Michael reported a strong financial performance for AGL in the first six months of the financial year, with narrowed guidance for the business reflecting a strong strategy and successful execution of the Climate Transition Action Plan.
 - **Transition to Renewables:** Michael emphasized AGL's commitment to transitioning to renewable energy, with significant investments in renewable projects and a focus on reducing carbon intensity.
 - **Asset Flexibility:** Michael highlighted the importance of flexibility in AGL's assets, including the ability to flex power station units up and down to capture better market prices and improve operational efficiency.
 - **Capital Investment in Power Stations:** Michael discussed the significant capital investment in power stations, including a \$110 million investment in the last Bayswater outage and similar amounts expected for future outages.
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Bayswater Environment – Andrew Speechly (Slides 16-20)

Slides presented with additional commentary:

- Andrew Speechly provided an update on environmental performance and incidents, including four incidents since the last meeting, two of which were notifiable to regulators.
 - Link to environmental monitoring information for EL779 on AGL website: [Environment | AGL in the Hunter Region | AGL](#)
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Liddell Transition – James Coventry (Slides 21-25)

Slides presented with additional commentary:

James provided updates on the demolition and site preparation at Liddell Power Station, including the removal of hazardous materials, clearing land, and preparing the site for full-scale demolition.

- **Hazardous Materials Removal:** James detailed the removal of hazardous materials, including asbestos, from the site. The materials are being safely stored in a temporary facility before being transported to a containment site.
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- **Land Clearing:** James explained that land clearing is underway to prepare the site for full-scale demolition. This includes removing transformers and other infrastructure to create space for demolition activities.
- **Site Preparation:** The site preparation involves significant groundwork, including the removal of asbestos-containing materials and other hazardous substances, to ensure the area is ready for demolition.
- **Demolition Timeline:** James mentioned that the full-scale demolition will commence once the necessary approvals are obtained, with initial demolition activities expected to start in the coming months.

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Liddell Battery – Seth Pathiyil (Slides 26-27)

Slides presented with additional commentary

Seth provided an update on the battery project, including the agreement with principal contractor Fluence, the current status of site preparation, and the timeline for completion. The project is expected to be fully operational by mid-2025. Discussions regarding battery recycling and manufacturing former part of this conversation.

- **Battery Recycling Facility:** Seth discussed the anticipated life cycle of batteries, which is around 20 to 25 years, and the expected increase in battery volumes over the next three to five years. They emphasized the importance of having a battery recycling facility to handle the growing number of batteries.
- **Battery Life Cycle:** Seth mentioned that the anticipated life cycle of batteries is around 20 to 25 years. This information is crucial for planning the recycling process and ensuring the facility can handle the expected volumes.
- **Volume Increase:** The volume of batteries is expected to almost double in the next three to five years. This increase underscores the need for a robust recycling facility to manage the growing number of batteries effectively.
- **Recycling Technology:** Discussed the current technology available for battery recycling, emphasizing that it is the only technology currently available in the country. This technology will attract a number of batteries for recycling.
- **Exporting Process:** the facility would enable the recycling process to happen domestically, rather than exporting batteries to other countries for recycling. This would streamline the recycling process and potentially reduce costs.

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Hunter Hub - Seth Pathiyil (Slides 28-30)

Slides presented with additional commentary

Team Growth and Locations:

- Seth provided an update on the Energy Hub team's growth, mentioning that they now have teams in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, and this site, with a total of



around 23 employees. They also mentioned the Power Development team, which has about 70 members, making the total team size close to 90 or 100.

Approvals and Funding:

Seth mentioned that they have applied for LED approvals for two precincts, with approval expected by March 17. They are also working on securing funding through government applications to boost investment and carry out projects at a faster rate.

Energy Hubs and Manuka Honey Project:

Seth discussed the progress of the Manuka Honey project, which involves bringing bees to the site by spring. They also mentioned the possibility of bringing an expert to explore the manufacturing side and the potential for more production from other areas of the site.

International Delegations:

- The team has hosted visits from various international visitors, including Danish, Polish, and Chinese delegations, to learn from each other and explore synergies.

Front End Engineering Design:

- Completion of the front end engineering design for Stage 1 of the Energy Hub. The aim is to have a business case ready for board approval by June this year.

Master Plan and Council Presentation:

- A master plan for the whole site is being developed and has already been presented to Council. It is planned to combine the two presentations and move forward with the master plan.

Deputy Secretary Visit:

- Seth mentioned that the Deputy Secretary is visiting the site on Monday to discuss the need for activities and how they can help the region. Also visits by the Future Jobs Australia team and interactions with various departments to gain support.

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New Projects – Mel Cleary & Kate Schultz (Slides 31-33)

Slides presented with additional commentary:

Project Updates:

- Katie Schultz provided an update on the joint venture project, mentioning the completion of drilling campaigns, the lodging of the EPBC referral, and the



progress of the EIS. They also discussed the biodiversity stewardship survey and the need for additional boreholes.

Community Engagement:

- Mel mentioned sending out notifications to local residents about fieldwork, starting regular email updates, and planning a community drop-in session. Also discussed the importance of community engagement and addressing any concerns.

Water Pipeline and Landowners:

- Katie discussed the water pipeline for the project, mentioning that it would be fully underground and that they are in discussions with private landowners about easements. It was emphasized that the landowners must agree for the project to proceed on their land.

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AGL in the Community Jo Ferguson (Slides 34-35)

Slides presented with additional commentary:

- Jo shared a video showcasing the recent opening of a world class vet facility donated and built by employees at Bayswater to assist Aussie Ark with their conservation work.
- The facility is a game-changer for Aussie Ark staff who can now treat animals on site, minimising stress on animals.
- Jo mentioned there has been extensive media coverage from the opening event.

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General Business and Future meeting items

- Lisa provided a briefing on the transition from the Community Dialogue Group to a Community Consultative Committee (CCC), as a requirement of the EPL. The draft terms of reference for the committee for the CCC were prepared in accordance with the Department of Planning guidelines. LA sought feedback on the use of Microsoft Copilot for the recording of, and preparation of the minutes. **Agreed – no objection.**
- Ged raised the issue of the proposed lay down pad at the recreational area, stating that he was unable to get information from AGL & NSW EnergyCo. Derek invited Ged to email him with questions and he would follow-up.
- Participants discussed the potential for recreational use of the lake, including water skiing, now that "amoeba" and the water temperature has reduced. AGL continue to test to see if amoeba is still present. Ged explained that he receives a number of enquiries. **Action: JC to obtain clarity from AGL as to future of recreational use of Lake Liddell.**



- Cr Sue Moore noted this would be last meeting for Vicki Brereton who is taking up a role as General Manager of Central Coast Council in Tasmania. LA wished VB all the best in her new position and thanked her for her contribution on this CCC over the years.
- Mike Kelly provided an update of the Muswellbrook Chambers' activities over the past few months:
 - Sydney Rum Distillery proposal for the Oak Factory site Chamber Business Awards in April
 - ACorp Cyber Security Training
 - Muswellbrook Careers Day
 - The Great Cattle Dog Muster in September
 - Renewable Energy Zone consultation by EnergyCo at the Upper Hunter Show
 - Hosting of the Chamber Breakfast with presentations by Ausgrid & Work Force Australia.

Mel advised that 20 AGL employees from the project hub attended a 2 day cultural awareness training course, organised by the Local Aboriginal Land Council.

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Next Meeting:

- ✚ Thursday 29 May on site at the Future U Hub, commencing at 3pm. No PPE required, however, inductions will need to be current. Access via main gate.

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Meeting closed at 5.13pm – LA thanked all for their attendance.

Action Items

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	DUE BY	COMMENTS
AGL to provide details when available, on contribution Bayswater makes to local economy and community, and contribution of proposed new renewable and Hunter Energy Hub projects	Rob Cooper	Next meeting	Held over
AGL to provide clarification on the potential future recreational use of Lake Liddell	James Coventry	Next meeting	



Send email to MSC GM seeking information on proposed laydown pad proposed by EnergyCo at Lake Liddell Recreation Area	Ged Elphinstone	After meeting	
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