

Consultation - Summary of Key Outcomes

AGL has worked in collaboration with relevant government agencies, Upper Lachlan Council, local landowners and the community since late 2008.

In accordance with the Environmental Assessment Requirements, consultation for the Project has targeted the following groups:

- State government agencies;
- Upper Lachlan Shire Council;
- Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Affected land owners; and
- Other community stakeholders.

AGL is committed to maintaining regular contact with the regulatory authorities, neighbouring land owners, the Dalton community and other interested parties during the exhibition and assessment of the Project.

Stakeholder and community engagement has informed AGL's identification of risk throughout project inception and the environmental assessment and approvals stages. Consideration of stakeholder and community feedback has informed the draft statement of commitments that AGL has proposed within this Environmental Assessment in order to manage the impact of works during construction and operation stages, should approval be granted. AGL would maintain ongoing dialogue with affected stakeholders to monitor and manage the social and environmental impacts of the development over time.

6.1 Introduction

AGL has been committed to community and stakeholder engagement throughout the development of the Dalton Power Project and has worked in collaboration with relevant government agencies, and the local community, since late 2008 to identify issues that impact local environmental amenity.

AGL has a commitment to working collaboratively with all interested stakeholders for the Project. With the typical life of a gas power project being at least 25 years, and as a long-term owner operator, AGL is committed to being a valued member of the local community, as well as developing constructive working relationships and communication channels with the community in line with AGL's Community Charter.

The principles of the AGL Community Charter are:

- to deliver on promises made to the community;
- to endeavour to respond to all queries within 5 working days;
- to work to solve all perceived problems put to AGL where possible, and to investigate and aim to find practicable solutions, and to communicate any outcomes;
- being committed as a valuable member of the community by using AGL's resources to build a stronger local community; and
- to leave a positive legacy in the community that extends beyond the life of the Project.

Additionally, AGL offers face to face briefings with interested stakeholders should they be requested, throughout the life of the Project.

6.1.1 Stakeholder Identification

In line with the Environmental Assessment Requirements (**Appendix A**), consultation for the project has included the following groups:

- Office of Environment and Heritage (formerly DECCW);
- Upper Lachlan Shire Council;
- NSW Department of Industry and Investment;
- TransGrid;
- Air Services Australia;
- Lachlan Catchment Management Authority;
- Local land owners;
- APA Group – the gas pipeline owner.

Additionally, there has been consultation with the Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities regarding the referral under the EPBC Act, issues arising out of this referral and subsequent assessment requirements for the Project.

6.1.2 Purpose of Consultation

In order to undertake a comprehensive Environmental Assessment of the Project, appropriate emphasis needs to be placed on those issues that are likely to be of greatest significance which may impact the local environment, neighbouring landowners and the wider community. To ensure this has occurred, a program of community and Government consultation, preliminary environmental studies and review of previous technical reports was undertaken to identify relevant environment issues and potential impacts.

6.2 Consultation Activities to Date

Consultation for the Project has been led by AGL, and has consisted of direct consultation with local authorities and government agencies. Consultation with the wider community has taken a variety of forms to date. The consultation strategy is outlined below.

6.2.1 Agency Stakeholder Consultation

Planning Focus Meeting

A Planning Focus Meeting (PFM) was held on the site 25 March 2010, and included stakeholders from DECCW, DoPI, Upper Lachlan Shire Council and AGL. The key issues raised were reflected in the Director General's Requirements (DGR's) issued by the DoPI. These issues have informed the Environmental Assessment and have been addressed throughout the EA as outlined in detail in **Chapter 1**.

Ongoing Government Agency Consultation

AGL has sustained consultation with a number of agency stakeholders throughout the preparation of the environmental assessment. The flora and fauna investigation, in particular, has been guided by agency input, with various meetings and correspondence between AGL, URS, and both the Office of Environment and Heritage (formally (DECCW) and SEWPAC (Commonwealth) between 2010 and 2011.

The Environmental Assessment has also been updated to respond to comments from various government agencies consulted by AGL prior to adequacy review, and by the DoPI during the adequacy review period (April 2011).

Table 6-1 offers a summary of Government Agency Consultation undertaken to date.

Local Government Consultation

Consultation between AGL and the Upper Lachlan Shire Council has included formal involvement in the PFM, as well as a number of face to face meetings. **Table 6-1** below details that the most recent meeting between the Council and AGL was on the 29th April 2011 to discuss water sourcing options for the Project.

AGL also provided the State and Federal Members of Parliament with information and extended the offer of a Project Briefing to them, as outlined in **Table 6-1**.

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Table 6-1 Summary of agency and local government consultation

Stakeholder	Form of Consultation	Date	Key issues raised	Where issues are addressed in the EA
State Government				
Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW), [now Office of Environment and Heritage]	Various meetings and correspondence. Draft Flora and Fauna Assessment provided to DECCW for comment prior to adequacy review submission.	Between 2010 and 2011	Outcomes of additional survey effort. Comment provided on Flora and Fauna Assessment and comments have been incorporated.	Throughout Chapter 13 and Appendix H
NSW Office of Water	In addition to AGL seeking input directly, DoPI sought feedback from the NSW Office of Water during the adequacy review period.	10 March 2011 April 2011	Issues related predominately to reducing the level of uncertainty around potential water sourcing options discussed within the EA.	AGL have addressed these requirements throughout Chapter 14
NSW Department of Industry and Investment	DoPI sought feedback from Department of Industry and Investment during the adequacy review period.	April 2011	No response received to date	N/A
Air Services Australia	AGL sought feedback on the project and provided the PEA for review	10 March 2011, April, May 2011	Will provide comment following provision of the plume rise study to CASA	Plume rise assessment Chapter 9 and Appendix D
Civil Aviation Safety Authority	AGL sought feedback on the project and provided the PEA for review	10 March 2011	CASA outlined the plume rise study requirement	Plume rise assessment Chapter 9 and Appendix D
Lachlan Catchment Management Authority	AGL sought feedback on the project and provided the PEA for review	10 March 2011	Vegetation Offsets Water sourcing	Chapter 13 Flora and Fauna and Appendix H Chapter 14
Rural Fire Service	AGL sought feedback on the project and provided the PEA for review	10 March 2011	Asset protection zones Location of adequate water supply for bush fire suppression Future management regimes for the AGL site	Fire protection provisions will be incorporated into facility design. Water for bush fire suppression discussed in Chapter 14. Commitment towards further assessment of bushfire hazard (Chapter 19)
TransGrid	Commercial negotiation of Connection and Negotiation Agreement, Connection Application and Offer to Connect	Various	Connection Investigations and network studies. Upgrade plans by TransGrid in the immediate vicinity of the Dalton Power Project	Chapter 3 Alternatives to the Proposal
Department of Defence	AGL sought feedback on the project and provided the PEA for review	10 March 2011	Dept. responded with no comment to provide as no Defence assets are located within the area.	N/A

Stakeholder	Form of Consultation	Date	Key issues raised	Where issues are addressed in the EA
Commonwealth Government				
SEWPaC	Referral under EPBC Act. Various meetings (on site (URS, AGL, SEWPaC, June 2010), face-to-face and teleconference (Feb 2011) to discuss management of EPBC issues for the Project and the Flora and Fauna Assessment. Draft Flora and Fauna Assessment provided to SEWPaC prior to submission for Adequacy Review (Jan 2011). Feedback provided by SEWPaC prior to and during the adequacy review period. Additional face to face meeting (URS,AGL, SEWPaC, June 2011) held to discuss outstanding issues.	Various	Reflected in the Supplementary Director General's Requirements (DGR's). Amendments to Flora and Fauna Assessment following comment in response to adequacy review and face to face meeting have been incorporated.	Throughout the EA (refer to Chapter 1). Chapter 13 and Appendix H.
Local Government				
Upper Lachlan Council	AGL gave a Project briefing to Senior Staff at Council offices on 16 March 2010. Council attended the PFM on 25 March 2010, and a further information and question session with Senior Staff and all Councillors (with the exception of one) was held on 19 May 2010. AGL provided Council with a face to face project update briefing on the 29th April 2011.	Various	No specific issues raised Potential water sourcing options for the project.	N/A Discussions have informed the refinement of discussion around water sourcing options (see Chapter 14)
State and Federal Members of Parliament				
Alby Schulz, Federal Member for the seat of Hume, and Katrina Hodgkinson, State Member for the seat of Burrumbidgee.	On 4 May 2010, AGL forwarded an information pack to both the local State and Federal members of parliament, offering a briefing session. Alby Schulz requested a briefing, and this was undertaken by AGL on 3 June 2010.	Various	No specific issues raised	N/A

6.2.2 Community Consultation

Consultation with the wider community has taken a variety of forms to date including direct face to face meetings with landholders during the initial project stage in late 2008, issuing newsletters, and facilitating community comment through establishing a public website (www.agl.com.au/dalton) in March 2010 when the PEA was submitted for the Project. AGL has endeavoured to keep the

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community informed at various stages of the project via letters to neighbouring lot holders, the wider Dalton community and to residents within Gunning and Biala. A copy of one such letter is included in **Appendix B**. In addition, the first of a number of planned open day community meetings was held in Dalton on the 16 April 2011 to coincide with the submission of the draft Environmental Assessment to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DoPI).

Newsletter

Australia Post mail drops were organised in April 2011 to provide a newsletter to residents in proximity to the AGL Site, as well as within the wider areas of Dalton, Gunning and Biala. The newsletter provided an outline of the proposal and an update on progress, as well as extending an invite to the planned Community Open Day. A copy of this newsletter is included within **Appendix B**.

Community Open Day

AGL held a Community Open Day in Dalton on Saturday morning, 16 April 2011. The event was held in the Dalton Church Hall, and was widely advertised through the newsletter distribution, as well as through adverts placed within the Yass Tribune and the Lions Club of Gunning Noticeboard (**Appendix B**).

The open format of the day provided the community with direct access to AGL representatives who were able to engage on a one-on-one basis with residents to provide project information and address specific concerns. AGL ensured that representatives across the business were available, from personnel involved at the feasibility and design stage of power projects, through to construction manager representatives. Two URS personnel also attended specifically to address technical environmental queries. Materials to assist in information dissemination included the following:

- Copies of the newsletter;
- Poster displays of various project aspects and environmental assessment findings; and
- Acoustic monitoring equipment to demonstrate sound pressure levels and explain how attended monitoring for noise is carried out.

The Open Day was attended by at least 41 people who signed the attendance sheet, with 20 of those people indicating their interest in receiving future communication from AGL about the proposal. It is estimated that between 50 and 60 people dropped in during the course of the morning.

AGL was made aware that some interested residents could not attend the community open day. AGL representatives have endeavoured to accommodate requests for alternative meeting times and have subsequently met with residents within Dalton as well as the Upper Lachlan Shire Council during the period 28 – 29 April 2011.

6.2.3 Feedback tools

Website Enquiries

AGL has maintained a public website (www.agl.com.au/dalton) since March 2010 to facilitate public comment and requests for project information. The general issues of importance to the community as expressed through enquiries received via the website have included;

- Noise concerns;

- Flora and Fauna impacts;
- Air Quality impacts;
- More general requests for information from AGL;
- Visual Impacts;
- Project justification queries (particularly about renewable energy alternatives);
- Enquiries regarding design safety; and
- Property rental and other local business opportunities.

AGL has responded to each website enquiry in a timely matter. Where AGL could provide responses prior to the completion of environmental studies, AGL has done so.

Community Open Day Feedback

The following project issues were raised by community members and discussed with AGL representatives on the 16 April 2011 and on the 28 – 29 April 2011:

- Generation of dust and other construction phase impacts;
- Traffic impacts;
- Potential impacts of noise and vibration;
- Visual impacts;
- Air Quality and emissions and odour impacts;
- Water sourcing and availability;
- Enquiries regarding design safety and hazard;
- Flora and Fauna impacts including impacts to threatened species known to occur within the CMA;
- Land use change and future use of the AGL site;
- Weed management;
- Fire hazard and hazard reduction burning;
- Local employment generation and opportunities;
- Accommodation provision for the workforce; and
- AGL contribution to the community.

Only a small number of feedback forms were filled out by community members during the course of the Community Open Day held on the 16 April 2011. A much greater proportion of the visitors to the hall signed the attendance sheet upon entry to the hall, and about half of these people had already indicated their interest in receiving further project updates from AGL in due course.

AGL representatives particularly encouraged people to utilise the feedback forms if their questions could not be addressed immediately, or if they required AGL to respond to their query prior to the release of the full Environmental Assessment during the Public Exhibition Period.

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Table 6-2 below cross references the sections in the Environmental Assessment where these community concerns and interests have been considered and assessed.

Table 6-2 Summary of community concerns raised during consultation

Issue	Comments	Location within EA
Generation of dust and other construction phase impacts	The distance to the nearest residential dwelling is approximately 2 km which is considered to provide a sufficient buffer zone between the main work area to prevent nuisance dust impacts. The minimisation and control of dust emissions during the construction period would be implemented through the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to be developed for the Project.	Chapter 9 Air Quality Section 9.5.1 Emissions During Construction Appendix C Air Quality Impact Assessment Section 16.5.1 Construction Phase Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Traffic impacts	The traffic and transport assessment found that the arterial road network can satisfactorily and safely accept the additional traffic generated by the development during the construction, operational and maintenance phases. Temporary works may be required along approved routes for these over-mass and over-dimensional loads and would be defined in further consultation with the RTA and relevant Councils.	Chapter 11 Traffic and Transport Appendix F Traffic Impact Assessment
Potential impacts of noise and vibration	On the basis of the noise and vibration assessment carried out for the Project, it is concluded that noise impacts of the proposed construction and operation of the plant and proposed gas pipeline and access road are not expected to degrade the existing acoustic environment nor create annoyance to the residential receptor locations surrounding the Facility.	Chapter 12 Noise and Vibration Appendix G Noise Impact Assessment
Visual impacts	The visual assessment concluded that overall the Dalton Power Project would have a low visual impact on people in areas surrounding the Site.	Chapter 10 Landscape and Visual Appendix K Landscape and Visual
Air Quality and emissions and odour impacts	<p>The results of the dispersion modelling showed that the predicted impacts on ground level concentrations of NO₂, PM₁₀, CO and SO₂, when added to peak background concentrations, were within the OEH regulatory criteria. In addition, the predicted incremental concentrations of formaldehyde were found to be within OEH criteria.</p> <p>Given the undeveloped nature of the site, there is considered to be no significant potential for any dust emissions from construction activities to contain contaminants, or for the works to give rise to odorous emissions</p>	Chapter 9 Air Quality Appendix C Air Quality Impact Assessment Appendix E Greenhouse Gas Assessment
Water sourcing and availability	The Facility has a small essential water demand, comprising domestic water, utility water and firewater water. Water for the Project can be sourced through a number of options that are outlined in the assessment.	Chapter 3 Alternatives to the Proposal Chapter 14 Water Management

Issue	Comments	Location within EA
Design safety and hazard	The preliminary hazard analysis (PHA) assessment has been carried out for the Project. The main hazard associated with the proposed Project is associated with the handling of natural gas (predominantly composed of methane gas), which is a flammable gas held under pressure.	Chapter 18 Preliminary hazard Analysis Appendix J PHA
Flora and fauna impacts including impacts to threatened species known to occur within the CMA	A Flora and Fauna Assessment of the proposed development footprint has been undertaken. The results of the assessment indicate that there are a number of ecological values associated with the Site. The design of the project was prepared so as to avoid impacts wherever possible. A range of mitigation are proposed to minimise impacts to native species within the locality. Further, a Biodiversity Offset Strategy (developed in consultation with OEH and SEWPac) is proposed to offset potential impacts. The offset area falls within the AGL Site and is proposed to be set aside for protection of biodiversity values in perpetuity.	Chapter 13 Flora and Fauna Appendix H Flora and Fauna
Land use change and future use of the AGL site	AGL would implement the proposed Biodiversity Offset Strategy (prepared in consultation with OEH and SEWPAC) to compensate for clearing impacts associated with the Project and in line with the requirements of the offsetting policies of those bodies to provide management the offset area for environmental purposes in perpetuity . While a number of potential impacts have been identified as part of this Environmental Assessment, none of them will negatively impact surrounding land uses, nor will they have an effect on those land owners being able to continue using their land for rural purposes.	Chapter 16 land Use and Property Impacts Chapter 13 Flora and Fauna Appendix H Flora and Fauna
Weed management	A Weed and Pest Management plan would be developed and implemented. AGL have also taken on board community concerns regarding the current condition of the AGL Site and have implemented further weed management strategies involving strategic weed spraying.	Chapter 13 Flora and Fauna Appendix H Flora and Fauna Chapter 16 Land Use and Property impacts (Section 16.4)
Fire hazard and hazard reduction burning	AGL have committed to further assessment of the impact of bushfires on the power station and bushfire ignition threats from the power station during the design stage.	Chapter 18 Preliminary Hazard Analysis
Local employment generation and opportunities	The Project will require up to approximately 250 construction workers. AGL would endeavour to source as much of this construction labour from the local region, in particular from Goulbourn, the largest major town within close proximity to the Project site. Once operational, the facility would require approximately 5-10 full time employees, and AGL would seek local workers to operate the Dalton facility wherever possible.	Chapter 17 Socio Economic Impacts

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Issue	Comments	Location within EA
Accommodation provision for the workforce	AGL would endeavour to source as much of this construction labour from the local region, in particular from Goulbourn, the largest major town within close proximity to the Project site. AGL is currently investigating existing accommodation options in and around Dalton.	Chapter 17 Socio Economic Impacts
AGL contribution to the community.	AGL has an active community engagement philosophy that involves support of particular community initiatives. AGL commits to examining potential involvement in community engagement initiatives within the local communities in which it would operate the Dalton Power Project.	Chapter 17 Socio Economic Impacts

6.3 Aboriginal Consultation

In accordance with the DGRs, specific consultation targeting Aboriginal communities has been undertaken by Navin Officer Heritage Consultants as outlined in the NSW DECCW *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

An advertisement was placed in the Yass Tribune on 19 May 2010 to identify, notify and register Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and or places in the area of the proposed project.

Three responses were received. Responses were received from:

- Upper Lachlan Council;
- DECCW - advising potential Aboriginal Land Councils that may be interested in the Project;
- Office of the Registrar of the Land Right Act NSW - advising that the Project site does not have any registered Aboriginal land owners.

The Onerwal Land Council is the Local Aboriginal Land Council (OLALC) for the Dalton Project. Representatives of the OLALC were invited to accompany the heritage consultants on their field surveys. Although arrangements were made for attendance of OLALC representatives for the field surveys, they did not attend the survey. The heritage assessments will be forwarded to the OLALC for their consideration and comment. Further detail of Aboriginal consultation is provided in **Appendix I**.

No other registrations of interest were recorded.

6.4 AGL's Consideration of Consultation Inputs

Throughout the environmental assessment stage, stakeholder and community engagement has informed the development of the project, the identification and siting of a preferred option, as well as AGL's identification of risk. It has subsequently been a driving factor in the environmental studies commissioned, and the preparation of the Environmental Assessment. Consideration of stakeholder and community feedback has informed the draft statement of commitments that AGL has proposed to manage project impacts during the construction and operation stages, should approval be granted.

6.5 Commitment to Ongoing Consultation

AGL is committed to maintaining regular contact with the regulatory authorities, neighbouring land owners, the Dalton community and other interested parties during the assessment of the Dalton Power Project.

In accordance with the provisions of the EP&A Act, the Environmental Assessment will be on exhibition for a minimum period of 30 days. This period enables stakeholders to comment on the proposal through the exhibition phase of the Project. All submissions received will be considered as part of the assessment process.

AGL will foster full community engagement in the exhibition process – including support for the community to make submissions – by organising additional consultative measures such as additional meetings on request, and correspondence / literature distribution to the local area as required.

Following exhibition of the Environmental Assessment, copies of all submissions, or a report of all issues raised will be provided to AGL and relevant Government authorities. AGL will review the submissions and respond to issues raised.

The Director General of DoPI will prepare an assessment report on the Project, which will take into account the comments from relevant Government authorities as well as other interested stakeholders. The assessment report will be provided to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure who will determine whether to grant approval for the Project and any conditions under which the Facility will operate in accordance with the EP&A Act.

While this initial phase of consultation completes the planned consultation activities for inclusion in the Environmental Assessment, AGL would continue to respond to concerns raised by the community. AGL would maintain ongoing dialogue with affected stakeholders to effectively monitor and manage the social and environmental impacts of the development over time. This may include initiatives such as:

- Notifying adjoining landowners and the Dalton community of when construction is likely to be initiated;
- Reporting progress via the local community newspaper, and
- Maintaining project information on the AGL's dedicated project website.